

## Albany County Redistricting Commission [Minutes: May 23, 2022]

### Attendance

ACRC Commissioners	Interns	MMD
Joan Ramsey	Nick Glass (ACRC)	<del>Marie Allen Campbell</del>
Warren E. Hamilton	Nassim Ramdani (MMD)	Constance Graves
Larry Volk		Dona Bulluck
Patricia Sibia		<del>Dominie Mazza</del>
Thomas Clingan	Guests:	<del>Adrienne Kisse</del>
Sita Subbaram	Jeffrey Wice	Larry Mauldin
Leif Hartmark	Priya Sankalia	
Julia Reeb	<del>Ashley Tardif</del>	Guests:
Mark McCumber	Marissa Zanfardino	Priti Mathur
	Lisa Handley	Sam Mathur

NOTE: THIS MEETING INCLUDED EXTENSIVE DISCUSSION THAT CANNOT BE FULLY CAPTURED IN THIS SUMMARY. INTERESTED PARTIES MAY WANT TO VIEW THE VIDEO RECORDING FOUND AT [ACRC Meeting May 23, 2022 - YouTube](#)

Chairman Volk convened the meeting at 4:03 PM and called the roll (see above.) The previous Minutes from May 16<sup>th</sup> were approved (2 abstentions).

Professor Wice introduced Dr. Handley to the commission. Dr. Handley then gave a presentation based upon her report conducted on behalf of the MMD redistricting subcommittee. She informed the commission of the history and reasoning behind her work. She walked the commission through the statistical analysis that she used for her report, and the data that used in her analysis. After that she showed the commission a portion of the results of her report as it related to voting patterns in Albany County based on race. The major conclusion Dr. Handley shared with the commission was that there was evidence of racially polarized voting in democratic primaries. She further stated that we should maintain the 5 MMD districts that we have and that we should explore the possibility of creating additional majority minority districts.

There was extended conversation concerning the legal repercussions and possibilities associated with the creation of additional MMD districts. Dr. Handley explained the statistical reasoning for why we could not safely assume voting patterns for the Hispanic population. She then further stated that while we could act upon comments directly from Hispanic voters in Albany County, we just could not safely assume voting patterns for them.

ARCBridge then stated that they have explored the possibility of having 7 effective MMD districts but found at least initially that adding 2 additional MMD districts showed signs of making the current 5 districts less effective. They stated that they were still exploring the creation of a 7 MMD map that would have all 7 of the districts be effective. After the comments

Dr. Handley stated that she was worried that ARCBridge was relying too heavily on voting age population (VAP) and not on voting results. This led to further discussion to see if ARCBridge had all the voter data that they needed to determine the effectiveness of new MMD districts. The commission then discussed the availability of public submitted and ARCBridge created maps and it was stated that all the maps were on the website except for the most recent public submission.

The commission then discussed mapping efforts moving forward and decided to compile a list of public comments about the first draft map for easier review. The commission then decided that we would hold another meeting tomorrow (May 24<sup>th</sup>) at 8pm to go over the logistics for the hearing on May 26<sup>th</sup>.

**The next ACRC meeting will be on May 24<sup>th</sup> at 8 pm.**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:19 pm.

Meeting notes prepared by Nick Glass.