

Albany County Redistricting Commission [Minutes: June 13, 2022]

Attendance

ACRC Commissioners	Interns	MMD
Joan Ramsey	Nick Glass (ACRC)	Marie Allen Campbell
Warren E. Hamilton	Nassim Ramdani (MMD)	Constance Graves
Larry Volk		Dona Bulluck
Patricia Sibia		Dominic Mazza
Thomas Clingan	Guests:	Adrienne Kisse
Sita Subbaram	Jeffrey Wice	Larry Mauldin
Leif Hartmark	Priya Sankalia	
Julia Reeb	Ashley Tardif	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 FULL VIDEO RECORDING FOUND [AT THIS YOUTUBE LINK](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aIx6gcISccc&list=PLUA4HrIlg6QpZ4JkZ58obd50WPSHzlsX9&ab_channel=AlbanyCountyRedistrictingCommission). [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aIx6gcISccc&list=PLUA4HrIlg6QpZ4JkZ58obd50WPSHzlsX9&ab_channel=AlbanyCountyRedistrictingCommission]

Chairman Volk convened the meeting at 4:03 PM and called the roll (see above.) The previous Minutes from May 23rd and May 30th were approved (1 abstention).

ACRC’s legal counsel started by updating the commission on what to expect with open meeting law changes in the coming week. The commission discussed how to handle future meetings and decided a take a poll to determine the best times and locations for such meetings.

A commissioner asked Jeff Wice to explain “bellwether” district testing; he did, and also noted that the MMD subcommittee will add a column to its data to show the “DOJ adjusted” data. AppGeo will explore adding this data to ACRC’s map.

The commission then went over the mapping progress that was made at the last mapping session on June 2nd. This included discussion of changes made to the map to accommodate public comment, and the plans for the next mapping session to be held on June 7th. A commissioner asked about responding to public feedback that the commission was unable to accommodate in its mapping endeavors. This led to comments from legal counsel stating that while it would be inadvisable to engage in dialogue with every commenter, it could be helpful for the commission to include in our final report a statement briefly describing each of the 39 proposed districts in general terms. He informed the commission that having such descriptions on the record could be helpful in defending the redistricting plan in any legal proceeding.

The commission began discussion on the final public hearing. The chairman was waiting to hear back from the Clerk of the County Legislature about whether June 30th would be a viable date.

While there remain some details yet to be ironed out, the commission felt it important to move forward toward a draft full county map that would be available for at least a week (preferably longer) before the final hearing.

The commission then discussed the interactive ACRC map, asking AppGeo to incorporate the recently submitted maps to it, and to make adjustments to improve usability. AppGeo wanted to be sure that the commission understood the issue raised in the last hearing (about statistics each district not adding up to 100% in the MORE software district summary) was due to additional census categories for multiracial populations, not all of which can be displayed in MORE. The total populations for each district have been and remain correct.

While both the “Plan D” MMD subcommittee map and the final draft ACRC map to be discussed at the next meeting are unlikely to change before the June 30 joint public hearing, both maps are considered “draft” maps pending public comments and submissions received by the hearing date. The commission then voted to officially set the final public hearing date as June 30th and to stop accepting any further public comments and submissions after the close of that hearing. The vote passed (6 Yes, 1 No.) The final discussion concerned the need for more members to volunteer to draft sections of our final report to the County Legislature.

The next ACRC meeting will be on Monday June 13th at the usual 4 pm time if the Governor extends the emergency that allows virtual meetings, or on Sunday June 12 at 6 pm, most likely at the County Office Building, if the meeting is required to be in person.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:13 pm.

Meeting notes prepared by Nick Glass and Tom Clingan.