

**MAJORITY MINORITY SUBCOMMITTEE
MEETING**

October 19, 2022

In Attendance

Commissioners	Intern	Vendors
Campbell, Marie Allen, Chair-P		Mathur, Priti (ARCBridge)-E
Bulluck, Dona S.-P		Mathur, Sam (ARCBridge)-E
Graves, Constance -P		Wice, Prof. Jeffrey-P
Kissee, Adrienne-A		Zanfardino, Marissa-P
Mauldin, Larry-P		
Mazza, Dominic-P		
Owens-Cody, Keshana- E		

Agenda Items

I. Call to Order & Roll Call

Meeting was called to order by Chair Campbell at approximately 5:10pm and the roll was called.

II. Return of Local Law

Professor Wice advised that based on discussion with the County Attorney and the County Legislature Attorney the Local Law is deemed to have been returned by the Legislature on October 14, 2022 and is due back to the Legislature on or

before December 12, 2022. Commissioner Campbell clarified that if it was determined that no changes would be made to the map, December 12th would still serve as the response date. Professor Wise concurred that December 12th would indeed be the response date and the Commission would send notification to the Legislature that no changes had been made to the recommended map.

In discussing feedback received from the legislature, Professor Wise indicated that the feedback received was minimal. The legislature stated that the recommended map would dilute minority voting strength but provided no analysis or rationale for this assertion. The recommended map will likely elect 5 minority preferred candidates and possibly two more as determined by Dr. Lisa Handley's effectiveness analysis. There appears to be some concerns relating to incumbent protection, however Local Law 8 prohibits the Subcommittee's consideration of this issue.

Professor Wise, in discussing our options going forward, said that the Subcommittee could stay with the recommended and/or review the possibility of offering an alternative map reflecting a compromise that supports 6 districts (five districts likely to elect and one district which is a majority minority district). He also reiterated that the recently enacted New York State John E. Lewis Voting Rights Act goes into effect June 2023, and the Subcommittee should be mindful of the provisions under the act that could give rise to legal challenges.

Finally, Professor Wise noted that seven districts were requested via public input both orally at public hearings and submitted written statements. Dr. Handley's effectiveness analysis indicated that seven districts would likely work. Professor Wise highlighted Judge Khan's 2015 decision with respect to the recommended map, as well as the *Gingles* factors that must be considered. And, further reference was made regarding Dr. Handley's racial voting and effectiveness analysis.

The Subcommittee discussed various aspects of the recommended local law, the Legislature's rejection of the recommended local law, and the need to continue to review and analyze the local law. This included a discussion about population and voting age statistics, and a discussion of the options available to the Subcommittee regarding the recommended local law. These options include making no changes to the recommended local law and/or to going back to the drawing board to reconfigure the districts. Commissioner Campbell advised that such alternatives will be discussed and explored with ARCBridge upon their return.

For those that may have missed it, Commissioner Campbell informed the Subcommittee that Lars Dahl had submitted another six-district map comprised of districts 1, 2, 3, 4, 6 and 7.

III. Future Meeting Schedule

Commissioner Campbell informed the Subcommittee that the ACRC has scheduled a meeting for October 27, 2022 at the Guilderland Library which will include a public comment period. Commissioner Volk has submitted an editorial to the Times Union and also sent a letter to the Legislature regarding the public comment period.

Commissioner Campbell stated that the Subcommittee needed to establish a meeting schedule and stated that she would be on vacation from November 9th through November 20th, but would be available to attend meetings as needed. Given tight timeframe which includes the Thanksgiving Holiday and a lead up to the Christmas Holiday, she suggested that we try to meet every week, and possibly two times a week going forward. It was agreed that we would continue to meet on Saturdays, at 10:00am, and on Wednesdays at 6:00pm as needed. Professor Wice advised that he is unavailable on November 16th from 6:30pm - 8:00pm. There will be no meeting on Saturday November 26th following Thanksgiving. Commissioner Campbell will prepare a meeting schedule through December 10, 2022.

Commissioner Mazza moved that the meeting be adjourned. Commissioner Graves seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 6:10pm.