



New York State Independent Redistricting Commission

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September 15th 2025

The commissioners and staff of the NYS Independent Redistricting Commission mourn the loss of our colleague, friend, and mentor, Elaine Frazier.

Elaine was a lifelong public servant and a strong advocate for education, equity, and fair representation. Her career included work in nonprofit organizations, the New York State Assembly, higher education, and local government, always guided by her commitment to fairness and opportunity.

On the Commission, Elaine's knowledge, integrity, and compassion made her a respected colleague and a steady voice for communities often excluded from the process. She was valued not only for her work product, but also for her perseverance—continuing to serve through illness out of a deep sense of duty and obligation.

A lifelong Democrat, Elaine worked across the aisle with respect and cooperation, building trust with her Republican colleagues. She bore no animosity toward those with different views, but this should not be mistaken for naivete. She was a fierce negotiator and strategist, unwavering in her pursuit of justice.

Chairman Jenkins said, "Elaine had a rare ability to see both the big picture and the smallest detail, and she approached every challenge with curiosity, compassion, and courage. Her presence elevated every meeting, and her absence will leave a void. We will carry forward her vision and her integrity in every decision we make."

Vice Chair Charles Nesbitt remarked, "Elaine was the most determined advocate for voting rights and fairness in the redistricting process. We will miss her candor and unique presence."

Her passing leaves a profound loss, but her example of service will continue to guide and inspire us all.