



April 20, 2023

Dear Legislative Leaders:

Enclosed is the Assembly redistricting plan that garnered the highest number of votes in support of its approval at the April 20, 2023, meeting of the New York State Independent Redistricting Commission, as detailed below, and implementing legislation for the plan. Pursuant to a court order entered on October 12, 2022 (*Paul Nichols et al. v. Governor Kathy Hochul et al.*) and the New York State Constitution, Article III, Sections 4, 5, and 5-b, the New York State Independent Redistricting Commission was tasked with the drawing and submission of election districts for the New York State Assembly.

On December 1, 2022, the New York State Independent Redistricting Commission voted unanimously to release a draft Assembly map to the public. Following a series of twelve (12) public hearings across the state, the Commission voted on a final Assembly map to submit to the New York State Legislature. On April 20, 2023, the Commission had the support of at least seven members, including at least one appointed by each of the legislative leaders, to submit the enclosed plan to the Legislature.

The Commission considered “the maintenance of cores of existing districts, of pre-existing political subdivisions, including counties, cities, and towns, and of communities of interest.” N.Y. Const. art. III, § 4(c)(5). To the extent practicable, districts were drawn to contain substantially equal populations, or as nearly as may be an equal number of inhabitants. *Id.* § 4(c)(2). All districts were drawn to consist of contiguous territory and to be as compact as practicable given the Commission’s adherence to the foregoing principles. *Id.* §§ 4(c)(3), (4).

District lines were further drawn to ensure that no district shall have the purpose of, nor result in, the denial or abridgement of racial or language minority voting rights. *Id.* § 4(c)(1). No district was drawn to discourage competition or for the purpose of favoring or disfavoring incumbents or other candidates or political parties. *Id.* § 4(c)(5).

The enacting legislation for the redistricting plan is presented in draft format to accommodate the insertion of the eventual self-referencing Senate and Assembly bill numbers. We are pleased to jointly submit this legislation for your review in accordance with our duties under the New York Constitution and pursuant to the court order referenced above.

Ken Jenkins, Chair

Charles Nesbitt, Vice Chair

Ross Brady, Esq.

Yovan Samuel Collado

John Conway III, Esq.

Dr. Ivelisse Cuevas-Molina

Dr. John Flateau

Elaine Frazier

Lisa Harris, Esq.

Willis H. Stephens Jr., Esq.