



My name is Michele C. Lamberti. I serve as Vice President of the League of Women Voters of Nassau County Inter-League Organization (“League”) and Vice President of the League of Womens Voters of Port Washington-Manhasset. The League of Women Voters, a nonpartisan political organization, encourages informed and active participation in government, works to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influences public policy through education and advocacy. The League of Women Voters of Nassau County is an Inter-League Organization. We educate and advocate on topics of county-wide importance, conduct voter service at the county level, and are actively involved in county government issues. I live in Port Washington with my husband and three children who attend local public schools. I have been an active advocate on behalf of voting rights, redistricting and election administration since moving to Nassau County in 2014.

As an initial matter, the League was disappointed that New Yorkers did not receive one proposed plan from the INdependent Redistricting Commission (“IRC”) to review in September. Instead, the IRC released two competing, partisan redistricting plans which have made public analysis and comment challenging and much more difficult than voters ever imagined when we adopted the constitutional amendment that created the IRC in 2014. The inability to coalesce around one nonpartisan redistricting plan has been an utter failure and eviscerated any sense that the IRC is an “independent” and “non-partisan” body.

With respect to the proposed Assembly plans, both proposed plans are problematic. In the Letters Assembly plan, there are 4 Assembly districts that cross from Nassau County into Queens County. Crossing the Nassau/Queens border four times for Assembly districts is completely unnecessary. Assembly districts are more limited in size and there are many

ways to contain those districts within Nassau County. Crossing county lines for an Assembly district dilutes the voice of constituents in Nassau County. In addition, many of the issues that are critical to Nassau County residents differ in significant ways from concerns of the residents of Queens County. The Names Plan, as well as the Letters Plan, propose an unacceptable division of the Village of Freeport, dividing a strong community of color.

With respect to the proposed Senate plans, the Names Plan inappropriately crosses county boundaries. The Names Plan places 6 Senate districts within Nassau County, only two of which are wholly contained. Three Senate districts stretch into Suffolk County with an additional Senate district reaching into Queens County. The population of Nassau County is sufficient to wholly contain 4 Senate districts obviating the need for so many bi-county Senate districts. The repeated division of Senate seats across counties where there is sufficient population to contain districts appears to violate principles of compactness. Additionally, the cracking of the minority communities of Freeport and Hempstead appears to diminish the opportunity for communities of color to elect a candidate of their choice. Similarly, the division of Westbury and New Cassel, communities of color, between three Senate districts is equally unacceptable. The brunt of redistricting can not be disproportionately placed on the backs of communities of color as the Names Plan proposes.