League of Women Voters Calls for Greater Diversity of Independent Redistricting Commission

The League of Women Voters has called on legislative leaders and appointed members of New York’s first Independent Redistricting Commission to prioritize gender and racial diversity when selecting the remaining two Commission members.

Currently, only one woman has been nominated to serve on the 10-member Commission. New York State’s population is comprised of more than 50% women. The League feels that more women must be appointed to the Commission to meet the constitutional mandate of gender diversity representing the current population of the state. Having only a single woman on the 10-member Commission fails to address the need for gender diversity.

In addition to gender diversity, the League is supporting NALEO Educational Fund and the LatinoJustice PRLDEF in their call for greater Latinx representation on the Commission. LatinoJustice PRLDEF has cited that more than 20% of the state’s population are Latinx yet no Latinx members have been appointed.

Although census counts have been delayed, the New York State Independent Redistricting Commission is required by the state constitution to release its proposed maps in April of 2021. In order to fulfill this mandate, the remaining two commissioners must be appointed in a timely manner.