NEW YORK STATE KICK OFF WEBINAR
What is the People Powered Fair Maps (PPFM) Campaign?
The People Powered Fair Maps Campaign

Official Campaign Description: PPFM is a national redistricting program of the League of Women Voters that focuses on creating fair political maps in all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

Depending on the state, forms of advocacy work may look different. The focus areas include:

(1) Ballot Initiatives or Referendums
(2) State Constitutional Options
(3) State Legislative Fixes
(4) Federal Legislative Fixes
(5) Civic Engagement & Education
What is Redistricting?
Redistricting is the process of drawing legislative districts. By federal law, redistricting must occur following the census (every 10 years) for two reasons.

- First, new districts must be drawn when a state gains or loses congressional districts as a result of the apportionment of congressional districts to the states.

- Second, even if the number of districts does not change, governments must redraw districts so that the districts have equal populations. These are the reasons why redistricting must occur.
How often does redistricting occur?

• Redistricting occurs every 10 years, following the national census

• After the Census Bureau releases its new data (in years ending in "1"), redistricting begins.

• New congressional districts and state legislative districts must be drawn according to the new data, to ensure roughly equal population.
"Support redistricting processes and enforceable standards that promote fair and effective representation at all levels of government with maximum opportunity for public participation."

LWVUS Impact On Issues 2018-2020
LWV Redistricting Criteria

- Substantially equal population
- Geographic contiguity
- Promotion of partisan fairness,
  - Preservation and protection of “communities of interest,” and
  - Respect for boundaries of municipalities and counties.
  - Compactness and competitiveness may also be considered as criteria so long as they do not conflict with the above criteria.
How will LWVNYS engage in the PPFM Campaign?
New York State PPFM Campaign Plans

- Educate the Public
- Build Partnerships with Diverse Stakeholder Groups
- Engage in Community Mapping
- Advocate for Fair Maps
Map Drawing

Weighing in on Maps

Map Drawing with Community Members
Identifying League Leaders

- Soliciting Local League Delegates on Redistricting
- Pinpointing Regional Contacts
- Support through our Fellow
What’s Next?

- Expected State Budget Release from Governor: 19 Jan.
- LWVNYS Redistricting Expert Panel
People Powered Fair Maps
Nation Day of Action: April 29th
NEW YORK STATE REDISTRICTING 101
LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NEW YORK STATE
AGENDA

- History of Redistricting in New York State
- 2014 Constitutional Amendment Process Change
- Current status of Independent Redistricting Commission
- Commission Calendar and Voting Structure
- League Advocacy
The New York State Legislative Task Force on Demographic Research and Reapportionment (LATFOR) was established in 1978.

LATFOR drew legislative lines for the senate and assembly – typically congressional lines were drawn by court.

The agency continues to operate and receive budget funding.

Senate and Assembly were controlled by two different parties, both were able to protect their own political power through cracking and packing.
“CRACKING” AND “PACKING”

- "Cracking" spreads out the voters from a certain group across many districts, so that their influence is diluted in any given district.

- "Packing" concentrates a like-group of voters (e.g., Democrats, or Black voters) together in excess. When these voters are packed into a few districts, their influence on surrounding districts is reduced. Their votes are "wasted," because there are more votes than necessary for the group to elect their preferred candidate of choice.
OLD REDISTRICTING GUIDELINES FOR NEW YORK STATE

- “Compact” and “contiguous”
- Incumbent legislators picked their voters, not the other way around
- Lax standards allowed bizarrely shaped districts
- Lax standards undermined “one person, one vote”
- Partisan mapmakers had the ability to protect incumbents and legislative majorities
NEW YORK STATE VOTERS VOTED TO APPROVE THIS NEW REDISTRICTING PROCESS IN 2014

- New criteria for drawing lines;
- New protection for minor parties and independent voters;
- Increased transparency; and
- Established firm deadlines.
2014 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT PROCESS CHANGE

Legislative Task Force for Demographic Research and Reapportionment (LATFOR)

- 6 Members:
  - 2 from Senate Majority Party
  - 1 from Senate Minority Party
  - 2 from Assembly Majority Party
  - 1 from Assembly Minority Party
  - 4 of the 6 members of LATFOR are Legislators

Under the Amendment: Independent Redistricting Commission

- 10 Members:
  - Each of the 4 legislative leaders appoints 2 non-legislative members
  - 2 additional members:
    - Appointed by a vote of not less than 5 of the original 8 members
    - Must not have been enrolled in either of the two major political parties in the preceding 5 years
  - 0 of the 10 Commission members are Legislators
Members shall represent the diversity of residents of this state with regard to race, ethnicity, gender, language, and geographic reference.

Members cannot within the last 3 years:

1. Be or have been a member of the NYS legislature or US Congress, or a state-wide official
2. Be or have been a state officer or employee or legislative employee
3. Be or have been a registered lobbyist in NYS
4. Be or have been a political party chairman
5. Be the spouse of a statewide elected official or of any member of the US Congress or state legislature
# CURRENT STATE OF REDISTRICTING IN NEW YORK STATE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Appointed By</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Background</th>
<th>Region of Representation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assembly Majority</td>
<td>Elaine Frazier</td>
<td>Longtime state employee</td>
<td>Albany</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assembly Majority</td>
<td>Eugene Benger</td>
<td>Attorney with Debevoise &amp; Plimpton LLP</td>
<td>New York City</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assembly Minority</td>
<td>Keith Wofford</td>
<td>Attorney and 2018 candidate for state Attorney General</td>
<td>New York City</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assembly Minority</td>
<td>Charles Nesbitt</td>
<td>Former Assembly Minority Leader</td>
<td>Western NY</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senate Majority</td>
<td>John Flateau</td>
<td>Business professor at Medgar Evers College</td>
<td>New York City</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senate Majority</td>
<td>David Imamura</td>
<td>Civil litigator at Debevoise &amp; Plimpton</td>
<td>New York City</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Senate Minority</td>
<td>George Winner</td>
<td>Assemblyman and Senator from 1979 through 2010</td>
<td>Western NY</td>
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<tr>
<td>Senate Minority</td>
<td>Jack Martins</td>
<td>Former State Senator for District 7</td>
<td>Long Island</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commission</td>
<td>Ivelisse Cuevas-Molina</td>
<td>Professor at Fordham University</td>
<td>New York City</td>
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<tr>
<td>Commission</td>
<td>Ross Brady</td>
<td>Brooklyn attorney</td>
<td>New York City</td>
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CURRENT STATE OF THE COMMISSION

- Commission has been holding regular meetings;
- Funding will be released as a grant through SUNY Research Foundation but is being held up by unknown forces;
- The Commission is slated to receive $1 million for the remaining fiscal year (until March) and has requested additional funds.
COMMISSION COST FACTORS

- **Staffing:** The Commission has hired two co-executive directors and is planning to hire addition staff.

- **Travel:** Over the course of the Commission’s work they will be required to hold a minimum of 12 public hearings (may have opportunity to be held remotely)

- **Software:** The Commission must secure mapping software, create a public website, and live-streaming of public hearings.
<table>
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<tr>
<th>YEAR</th>
<th>MONTH</th>
<th>GOVERNMENT ACTIONS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>January</td>
<td>2020-2021 NYS budget proposals</td>
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<td></td>
<td>February</td>
<td>Commission Appointed</td>
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<td></td>
<td>March - June</td>
<td>Census</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>December</td>
<td>Population Count to President</td>
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<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>January</td>
<td>2021-2022 NYS Budget Proposals</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>February</td>
<td>Census Geographic Data to States</td>
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<td></td>
<td>April</td>
<td>NYS Independent Redistricting Commission; Mapping</td>
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<td></td>
<td>July</td>
<td>Expected Census Population Counts to States</td>
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<td></td>
<td>September</td>
<td>Maps available no later than Sept 1-15</td>
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<td>Maps must be available 30+ days before first public hearings</td>
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<td>Commission Public Hearings: Albany, Buffalo, Syracuse, Rochester, White Plains,</td>
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<td>Bronx, King, New York, Richmond, Queens, Nassau, and Suffolk Counties (these are</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>estimated times)</td>
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<td>2022</td>
<td>January</td>
<td>Must submit plan to legislature by January 1st</td>
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<td></td>
<td>February</td>
<td>If Legislature rejects maps or Governor vetoes maps, the Commission must be</td>
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<td>notified within 15 or no later than February 28th.</td>
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<td>If the Legislature rejects the second set of maps, the Legislature can amend the</td>
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<td>maps and implementing legislation as they see fit.</td>
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</table>
If the commission is unable to obtain seven votes on or before January 1st, the commission shall submit to the legislature the redistricting plan and implementing legislation that garnered the highest number of votes in support of its approval by the commission.

In the event that more than one plan received the same number of votes for approval, then the commission shall submit all plans that obtained such number of votes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Legislative Leadership</th>
<th>Commission Votes Needed</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assembly &amp; Senate Leaders of Same Party</td>
<td>Redistricting plan and implementing legislation needs approval by at least 7 commission members including one member appointed by each of the legislative leaders.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assembly &amp; Senate Leaders of Two Different Parties</td>
<td>Redistricting plan requires approval by at least 7 commission members including at least one member appointed by the Assembly Speaker and Senate Leader.</td>
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# CURRENT LEGISLATIVE VOTING STRUCTURE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Legislative Leadership</th>
<th>Legislative Votes Needed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assembly &amp; Senate Leaders of Two Different Parties</td>
<td>Redistricting plan requires approval by a majority of members in each house.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assembly &amp; Senate Leaders of Two Different Parties</td>
<td>If Commission cannot agree on plan, plans submitted with highest number of commission votes require 60% approval in both houses.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assembly &amp; Senate Leaders of the Same Party</td>
<td>Redistricting plan requires approval by a two thirds of legislators in each house. Applies to both scenarios.</td>
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**PROPOSED NEW 2021 CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT**

**EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1 2022**

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<th>Regardless of party control in either house, maps would only need to be approved by a simple majority of legislators.</th>
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<tr>
<td>Regardless of party control in either house, maps would no longer require a vote from at least one Commissioner appointed by the Minority Leaders.</td>
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LEAGUE ADVOCACY EFFORTS

- Support for funding for the Commission;
- Opposition to any constitutional amendments altering the new process.
THANK YOU