



Albany County Redistricting Commission (ACRC)

Progress Report to the Public: Number 2, April 11, 2022

(Please see our Progress Report Number 1 for activity before February 7.)

Created by Local Law 8 of 2019, the purpose of the ACRC is to propose redistricting maps for the Albany County Legislature that will be elected in November 2023. This law also created the separate Majority Minority District Redistricting Subcommittee (“MMD”), which is tasked with proposing revised majority minority legislative districts to the ACRC. The MMD will be issuing its own Progress report separately.

ACRC continues to meet every Monday at 4 pm, posting recording of each meeting on YouTube following each session. When necessary, a second meeting time of 6 pm on Sunday is available. The ACRC official website is albanycounty.com/acrc and includes background information on each Commissioner as well as information about Local Law 8. Meeting minutes (after ACRC approval) are also posted here.

Jeffrey M. Wice of New York Law School’s New York Census and Redistricting Institute was selected by ACRC as counsel and Applied Geographics Inc. (AppGeo) as mapping contractor, and contracts have been signed by both organizations. The MMD also chose Professor Wice as its Counsel, but a different mapping contractor (ARCBridge) was selected to prepare maps for the MMD.

The first Joint Public Hearing by ACRC and the MMD was held online on Tuesday, March 8, 2022, from 4 pm to 5:40 pm. ACRC released a map of the current County Legislative districts prior to this hearing, showing changes in population for each district from the 2020 census. The YouTube recording of this first Public Hearing includes a briefing by Professor Wice on the legal issues governing redistricting, as well as a presentation on mapping by AppGeo. Watching these presentations is a good way to learn more about the mechanics of the redistricting process. Written testimony from the public was read aloud at the hearing, and a member of the public made an oral presentation and submitted a draft redistricting map.

A second Joint Public Hearing by ACRC and the MMD has been scheduled for April 14 at 4 pm at the County Office Building, 112 State Street in Albany. Members of the public are invited to speak either in person or online and may also submit written statements including proposed maps for ACRC and the MMD to consider.

ACRC’s preferred timetable is to complete all work by the end of June 2022. Local Law 8’s section L requires the Commission to submit our final report (including a draft Local Law that details each of the 39 proposed legislative districts) to the Clerk of the Legislature. We are in the process of developing a detailed timeline for the work of the next three months.

ACRC is required by Local Law 8 to hold at least four public hearings. Future hearings will be announced on our website, by legal notice in the County’s official newspapers, by paid advertising in daily and weekly newspapers, and through direct communications with municipalities, community groups, and other interested parties. The MMD will also hold its own public hearings.

Local Law 8 requires ACRC and the MMD to work closely together, and to that end all MMD subcommittee members have been encouraged to attend the meetings of the ACRC. Local Law 8's section D.4. assigns very specific tasks to the MMD, which is to report its findings to the ACRC when the MMD completes its work.

ACRC acknowledges and appreciates the assistance provided by numerous Albany County departments in facilitating our activities, including the Clerk of the Legislature, County Attorney, the Board of Elections, and County Information Services, especially given the extraordinary demands placed on the County workforce by the ongoing pandemic.