

District 2 Individual Member Recommendations:

“What I will say now is that the recommendation of the ACRC that members of the Legislature should meet with members of the ACRC and the MMD Subcommittee to implement the part of the Local Law that says that the Legislature should give feedback and make recommendation to the Commission. This is a very complicated process with room for different interpretations of the Law. The quickest and best outcome can be achieved if the common goals are understood and the meaning of our language is understood.

As one major point there needs to be an understanding of the gap in efficacy between the Voting Age Population for MMDs versus the actual voter turnout.

Although the NYS John Lewis Voting Rights Act does not take effect until next year, the fact that the rate at which protected class members vote can be considered reinforces the idea that it makes sense to factor in the actual voter turnout in any determination of effectiveness.

Page 4 and 5 of the John Lewis Act states:

53 3. In determining whether, under the totality of the circumstances, a violation of subdivision one or two of this section has occurred, factors that may be considered shall include, but not be limited to: (e) the extent to which members of a protected class in the state or political subdivision vote at lower rates than other members of the electorate;

One additional point to make is that the Commission members need to use the Census Block tool in their Final map to see the impact that the proposed new additions to the MMDs would have, this exercise is the kind of thing that could lead to an improved outcome. The issue is not the Legislature interfering with the Commission but rather having a clear understanding of what is possible.”