



January 7, 2022 (updated letter)

Senator Michael Gianaris
31-19 Newtown Avenue, Suite 402
Astoria, New York 11102

Senator Andrew J. Lanza
3845 Richmond Avenue, Suite 2A
Staten Island, New York 10312

Assembly Member Philip A. Palmesano
105 E. Steuben Street
Bath, New York 14810

Howard Vargas, Esq.
Executive Counsel to Speaker Carl Heastie

Eric Katz, Esq.
Counsel at New York State Senate Office of Majority Counsel

Dear LATFOR members:

This letter is endorsed by 45 organizations throughout the City and growing. Since the Independent Redistricting Commission is deadlocked, the responsibility, as you are acutely aware, to draw New York's congressional and state redistricting lines now falls to LATFOR. Given the expedited timeline to do so with the delays caused by the 2020 Census and the pandemic, we know this is an enormous undertaking. However, given the importance of this task for all New Yorkers, including marginalized groups protected by the Voting Rights Act, the undersigned groups feel it is imperative that LATFOR hold at least one public hearing AFTER it has drawn its maps.

As specified in the statute establishing LATFOR, "[t]he primary function of the task force shall be to compile and analyze data, conduct research for and make reports and recommendations to the legislature, legislative commissions and other legislative task forces." See N.Y. Legis. Law § 83-m.5. The thorough analysis and research contemplated in the statute underscores the importance of ensuring that all views be considered, particularly the views of marginalized groups protected by the Voting Rights Act.

We believe you can refer to IRC's two rounds of statewide hearings for guidance on how communities would like the lines to be drawn. However, impacted communities should have an opportunity to comment on maps after LATFOR draws them given the enormous importance your maps will have for their political, economic, and social empowerment for the next ten years. While the timeline is very tight with spring primaries approaching, we believe given the imperative for public engagement in this final stage of the 2020 redistricting process, this request can be accommodated, especially if the hearing were held virtually.

We look forward to your timely response. Please respond to lizouyang@gmail.com (coordinator of APA VOICE Redistricting Task Force).

Sincerely,

APA VOICE Redistricting Task Force:

Academy of Medical and Public Health Services
Asian Americans for Equality
Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund
Caribbean Equality Project
CHHAYA Community Development Corp.
Chinese-American Planning Council
Chinese Progressive Association
Homecrest Community Services
Korean Community Services of Metropolitan New York
Little Manila Queens Bayanihan Arts
MinKwon Center for Community Action
National Federation of Filipino American Associations-New York Chapter
OCA-NY Asian Pacific American Advocates

Shetu
South Asian Council for Social Services
South Queens Women's March
Taking Our Seat

Asian American Bar Association of New York

Center for Law and Social Justice

Common Cause/New York

#DrawDemocracy Campaign

Latino Justice PRLDEF

New York Civic Engagement Table

NYIC Mapping Our Future Coalition

Disability Rights New York

Kaurageous Love

Woodside on the Move

India Home

Coalition for Asian American Children and Families

Adhikaar

United Madrassi Association

Women's Empowerment Coalition of NYC

Hamilton Madison House

Communities Resist

Sadhana: Coalition of Progressive Hindus

Banglashi Americans for Political Progress

Korean American Family Service Center

YMCA-Queens

82nd St Academics-Jackson Heights

Lutheran Social Services of New York

Bronxworks

JASA

Voces Latinas

Brooklyn Community Services

Muslim Community Network NY

List in Formation