



CITIZENS UNION OF THE CITY OF NEW YORK

REFORM NOT REVENGE: End Partisan Gerrymandering and Enact Redistricting Reform

Presentation on S.1614-A and Redistricting Reform

to the
**New York State Senate Investigations and
Government Operations Committee**



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Tuesday, May 4, 2010

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Brief History of Redistricting Reform in New York State

- **2005 – State legislation is developed.** Citizens Union and the Brennan Center crafted state legislation with Assemblymember Gianaris that would statutorily establish an independent nonpartisan redistricting commission to draw state legislative and congressional district lines (now A.5279 of 2009/10). The legislature would have the ultimate authority to approve the recommended lines, as required under the State Constitution. The legislation also would require district lines be drawn to established criteria. The legislation is endorsed by three other good government organizations: Common Cause/NY, the New York Public Interest Research (NYPIRG), and the League of Women Voters N.Y.S.
- **2007 – Constitutional amendment is considered.** Newly elected then Governor Spitzer, working with Citizens Union and other good government organizations, as well as voting rights groups, developed a constitutional amendment which would transfer the legislature’s authority to draw district lines to a new independent commission, avoiding the need for legislative involvement as is necessary under the Gianaris legislation. The commission would be required to follow established criteria in the drawing of lines, which included language developed by the voting rights community with regard to minority representation. After the resignation of Governor Spitzer, this proposal did not move further.
- **2009/2010 – State legislation is revisited.** Citizens Union and its good government colleagues, working with Assemblymember Gianaris and Senator Valesky, have developed a new legislative proposal which contains favorable elements from both A.5279 and the Spitzer constitutional proposal. While the proposal integrates criteria for drawing lines from the Spitzer proposal, it retains the ability of the legislature to ultimately draw district lines, and therefore, does not require a constitutional amendment. S.1614-A/A.5279-A currently has the support of 37 Assemblymembers and 10 Senators.
- **2010 – Statewide campaign being launched.** Citizens Union is working to assemble a statewide campaign to create public awareness and political pressure on candidates for state office, specifically gubernatorial candidates and state legislators. Campaign will be led by a leadership team of business and civic leaders.
- **2010 – Current Elected Official/Candidate Support**
 - **Attorney General Andrew Cuomo** – Indicated support for redistricting reform as one of “two key measures to combat the dysfunction in Albany” during Citizens Union’s 2006 candidate evaluation process for the Attorney General’s race and pledged to veto any redistricting plan that is not proposed by an independent commission in a letter to NY Uprising, which Citizens Union is working with.
 - **Republican Gubernatorial Candidate Steve Levy** – Pledged to NY Uprising, which Citizens Union is working with, that he would veto any redistricting plan that is not proposed by an independent commission.
 - **Republican Gubernatorial Candidate Rick Lazio** – Pledged to NY Uprising, which Citizens Union is working with, that he would veto any redistricting plan that is not proposed by an independent commission.
 - **Republican Gubernatorial Candidate Carl Paladino** – Pledged to NY Uprising, which Citizens Union is working with, that he would veto any redistricting plan that is not proposed by an independent commission.

Key Elements of Redistricting Reform

The Need for Redistricting Reform

Elections are supposed to allow voters to choose their representatives, but too often in New York, elected officials have succeeded in turning the tables by drawing district lines that allow them to choose their voters before the voters choose them.

New Yorkers want their elections not to be a forgone conclusion regarding the election of incumbents who are well entrenched in districts with lines that are drawn to protect them and fend off natural challengers. Unfortunately, the winners of New York State legislative elections are typically elected in contests that discourage competition as a result of gerrymandered districts. Consequently, New York's state legislature has one of the highest rates of incumbent re-election in the nation.

Under the current system of redistricting in New York State, the majority party in the state assembly and senate are essentially given the power to draw district lines through their appointment powers to the legislative task force on demographic research and reapportionment (LATFOR). In practice, the leaders of both houses, with input from fellow majority members, determine how district lines will be drawn independently of one another. The houses then pass each others' plans to preserve their own majorities and the seats of incumbents in their party, and the plan is typically passed with little input from the Governor who has essentially accepted them as presented.

With an eye towards maintaining power and incumbency, political leaders use a myriad of tools and careful calculations to craft districts that minimize not only the electability of an opposition party or insurgent candidates within the majority party, but also communities that have grown in electoral strength that can potentially threaten an incumbent's hold on power.

Key Elements of Reform

Citizens Union has worked with Senator Valesky and Assemblymember Michael Gianaris in crafting legislation that contains the following key elements to reform the redistricting process:

- Creates a **new, independent citizens redistricting commission** that is fairly chosen to draw congressional and legislative district lines that do not favor any incumbent or political party and employs **even-handed and sensible redistricting guidelines** that provide for fair and effective representation of racial and language minority groups.
- Ensures adequate **disclosure and opportunities for public input of redistricting proceedings and data.**
- Preserves and creates an **effective mechanism for legislative approval** of the independent redistricting commission's plan.

Forming an Independent Civilian Redistricting Commission

The Valesky/Gianaris legislation would create a civilian apportionment commission that would draw maps for congressional and state legislative district boundaries every ten years following the U.S. Census. The commission would propose district boundaries that would be submitted to the legislature for approval. Maps drawn by the commission and rejected by the legislature would trigger public hearings for review and feedback before a new map was redrawn. A nominations committee would be created to vet candidates for appointment to the apportionment commission.

The nominations committee would be composed of eight members, one each appointed by the presiding judge of the court of appeals, attorney general, state comptroller, governor, temporary president of the senate, speaker of the assembly, minority leader of the senate, and minority leader of the assembly. Members could not serve who currently hold or, in the past two years, have held elective or public office, a position as a lobbyist, a political party position, or are a relative or spouse of an elected or public official.

The nominations committee would develop a list of 40 persons known as the “nominations pool” who are vetted for conflicts of interest (such as having held or holding public office, being a registered lobbyist, among other items described above), and consist of the following members: 15 persons enrolled as Democrats, 15 persons enrolled as Republicans, and 10 persons not enrolled as Democrats or Republicans. Members would also be selected to represent the geographic, racial, ethnic and gender diversity of the state.

The apportionment commission would be selected from the members of the nominations pool, with each legislative leader (majority and minority) appointing two members, for a total of eight members. The eight members would then appoint three additional members, one of whom would serve as Chair of the commission. No more than four members of the apportionment commission would be enrolled in the same political party, and members would be selected to represent the diversity of the state as described above. The commission would be charged with developing reapportionment plans and would make such plans and corresponding data available to the public using the best available technology.

Criteria for Fair Redistricting

The district lines for all plans would be drawn according to a set of prioritized principles and guidelines including alignment with local boundaries and community character to ensure the even-handed drawing of lines. All apportionment plans would be drawn according to the following principles (as summarized from the legislation):

- a) All congressional district shall be as nearly equal in population as practicable;
- b) Districts shall be contiguous;
- c) Districts shall not be established that abridge or deny minority voting rights;
- d) Districts shall not be drawn to favor or oppose any political party, incumbent, or candidates for office;

Subject to the requirements of the previous principles (a – d), the principles below shall be followed, with a lower number having precedence over a high number (as summarized from the legislation):

- i. The most and least populous senate and assembly districts shall not exceed the mean population of districts for each house by more than one percent;
- ii. Counties and county subdivisions shall not be divided in the formation of districts, and where it is unavoidable, more populous counties or subdivisions will be divided in preference to those with smaller populations;
- iii. Villages shall not be divided;
- iv. Districts shall be as compact as possible; and
- v. Districts shall unite communities of interest.

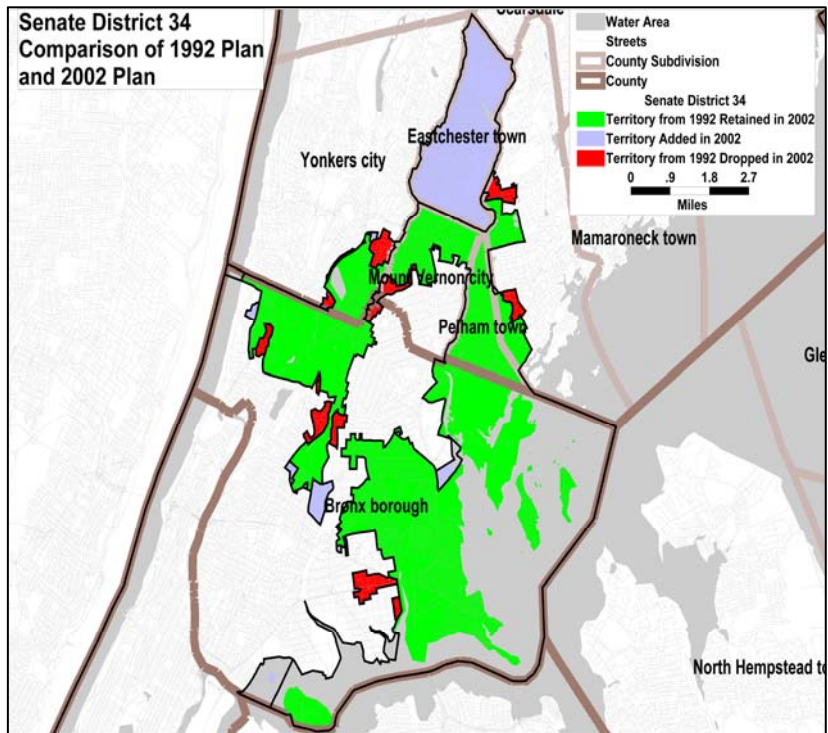
Approval Process

The commission would submit the first apportionment plan to the legislature after holding public hearings throughout the state. The plan would require a vote of the legislature without amendments. If the proposal is rejected, the commission would submit an amended proposal after hearing the reasons given by the legislature regarding the first plan's rejection at a public hearing. The second plan, again, would be voted upon by the legislature without amendments. If the second proposal is also rejected, the commission would submit a third plan following a second public hearing at which the legislature would testify. The third plan would be subject to the normal amendment process, given the legislature's ultimate authority over redistricting under the State Constitution.

CASE STUDY: THE BRONX, WESTCHESTER

Protecting Guy Vellela

Former State Senator Guy Vellela in 2000 had to fight off a spirited challenge from Democratic challenger Lorraine Coyle Koppell, wife of city council member and former Attorney General Oliver Koppell, who received 46 percent of the vote that year. In order to avoid this level of competition in 2002, the redistricting plan added Republican-leaning Eastchester to the district, avoided minority communities in Mt. Vernon, Yonkers and Co-op city, while including the Republican community in east Yonkers, and including portions of Riverdale, yet craftily slicing rival Lorraine Coyle Koppell out of the district by one block.



Lorraine Coyle Koppell, who found herself in Democrat Eric Schneiderman's district, described the districting change in her neighborhood in the following way: "Think of a balloon, and how when you put your finger in a balloon, it changes shape. That was the district, and that part of the balloon where your finger would be was my house."¹

The bizarrely shaped district won the dubious Pablo Picasso/Salvador Dali Award, awarded by the New York Public Interest Research Group, who dubbed the district, "Oops I Spilled My Coffee on the Map."²

¹ Cooper, Michael. "Civic Groups Back a Bill to Stop Gerrymandering." The New York Times. March 5, 2005. Available at: <http://query.nytimes.com/gst/fullpage.html?res=9C0DE7DF143CF932A25750C0A9639C8B63&sec=&spon=&pagewanted=1>

² Robinson, Gail. Issue of the Week: Redistricting. Gotham Gazette. April 1, 2002. Available at: <http://www.gothamgazette.com/iotw/redistricting/>

CASE STUDY: BROOKLYN

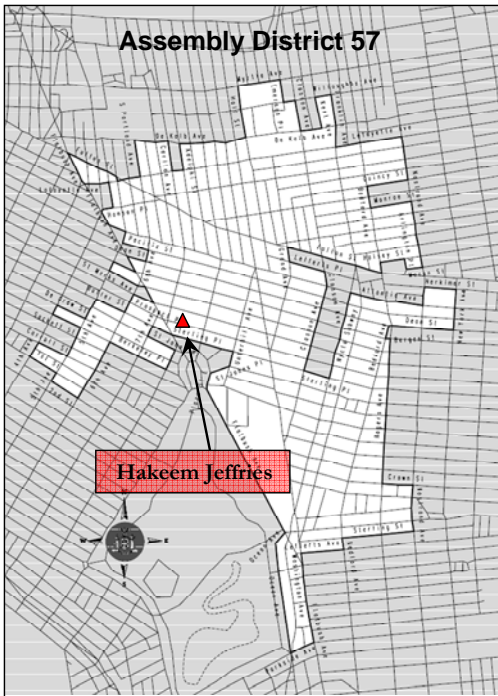
Marginalizing Hakeem Jeffries

Hakeem Jeffries in 2000 challenged nineteen-year incumbent Roger Green (D) in the Democratic primary in Brooklyn’s 57th district. Jeffries won an impressive 41 percent of the vote, an impressive showing against a longtime incumbent. When the reapportionment plans of 2002 were revealed, the district boundary had shifted a couple of blocks in Prospect Heights and Jeffries’s home was no longer located in the 57th Assembly district.

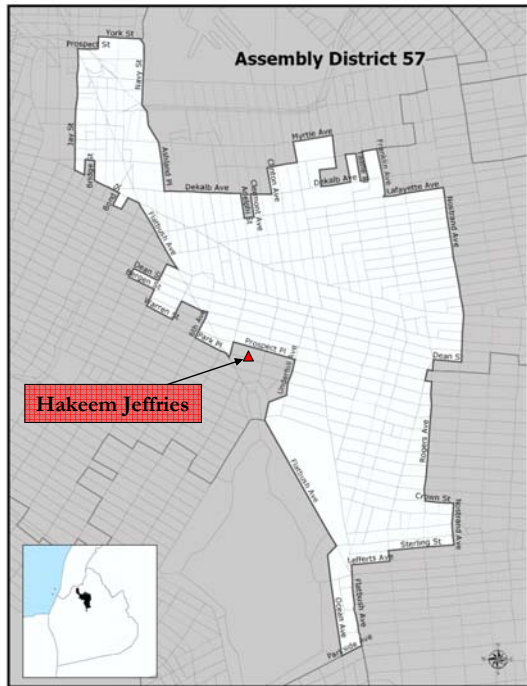
“The district was cut out by just that one block,” Jeffries said, “It’s unfortunate that the dysfunctional nature of the Legislature in Albany allows politicians to slice and dice communities to meet their own needs.”³ Most notably, the new lines split the Prospect Heights neighborhood into two districts.

As it turned out in 2004, Roger Green was found guilty of petty larceny charges and was forced to resign from the Assembly. Jeffries resided outside of the district and could not enter the race that fall. Ultimately, Green won an unopposed primary and was elected back into office. In 2006, Green did not vie for re-election, instead mounting an unsuccessful bid for Congress. Jeffries ultimately moved back into the 57th Assembly District⁴ and won the primary election for the legislative seat with 64 percent of the vote and went on to win the general election.

**Assembly District 57
Before 2002 Redistricting**



**Assembly District 57
After 2002 Redistricting**



³ Hicks, Jonathan. “In District Lines, Critics See Albany Protecting Its Own.” The New York Times. November 2, 2004. Available at: <http://query.nytimes.com/gst/fullpage.html?res=9501E4DE1F3DF931A35752C1A9629C8B63>

⁴ All district maps obtained from the Legislative Task Force on Demographic Research and Reapportionment (LATFOR), available at: <http://www.latfor.state.ny.us/maps/>

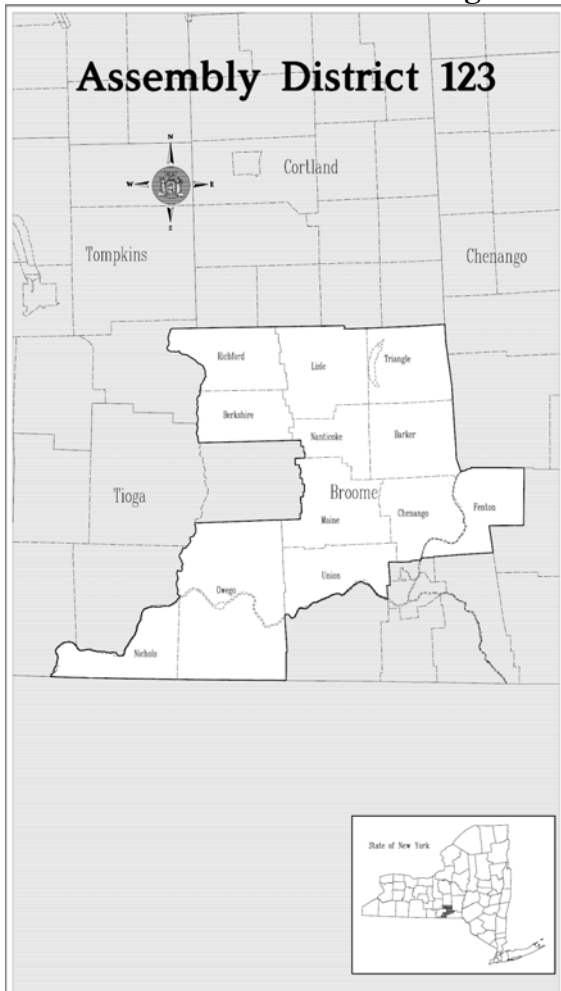
CASE STUDY: UPSTATE NEW YORK

Merging and Shifting Republican Assembly Districts

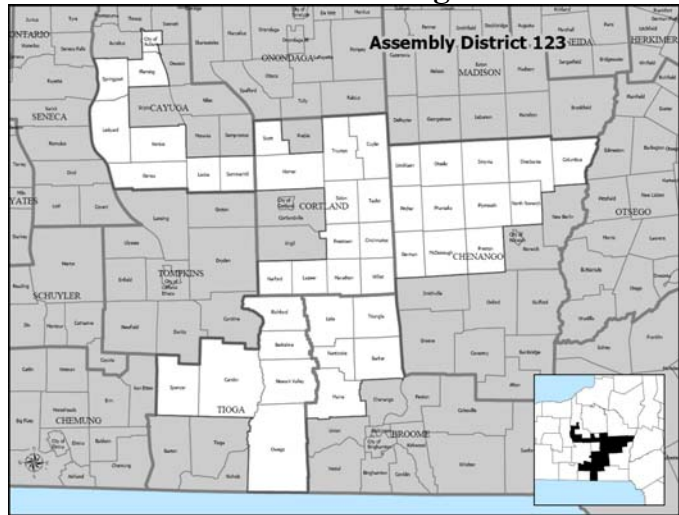
Historically districts had been drawn in the Senate to favor Republicans and in the Assembly to favor Democrats – who previously held decades-long majorities in the respective houses – meaning that after redistricting occurred, incumbents of the minority party found themselves in new districts that no longer contained a base of support for reelection. In certain cases, incumbents were pitted against each other in districts that no longer resembled their previous districts – sometimes to shift voters to create new districts for preferred candidates of the majority party – as was done with Assemblymembers Jay Dinga (R-Broome County), formerly of Assembly District 123, and Robert Warner (R-Broome County) formerly of Assembly District 124, whose districts were merged. Warner ultimately won the Primary Election for the newly constituted Assembly District 126. This move shifted another Republican Assemblyman, Gary D. Finch, to the current 123rd Assembly from the pre-redistricting 126th District.

Prior to 2002, the 123rd district’s boundaries closely tracked today’s 126th district. Finch’s district expanded from three counties to five after redistricting. Stretching from Cayuga Lake at its northernmost point to the border of Pennsylvania at its southernmost tip, it takes Finch three hours to drive across his gerrymandered district. The newly drawn 126th enabled Democrat Donna Lupardo to defeat incumbent Republican Robert Warner in 2004 following the 2002 redistricting.

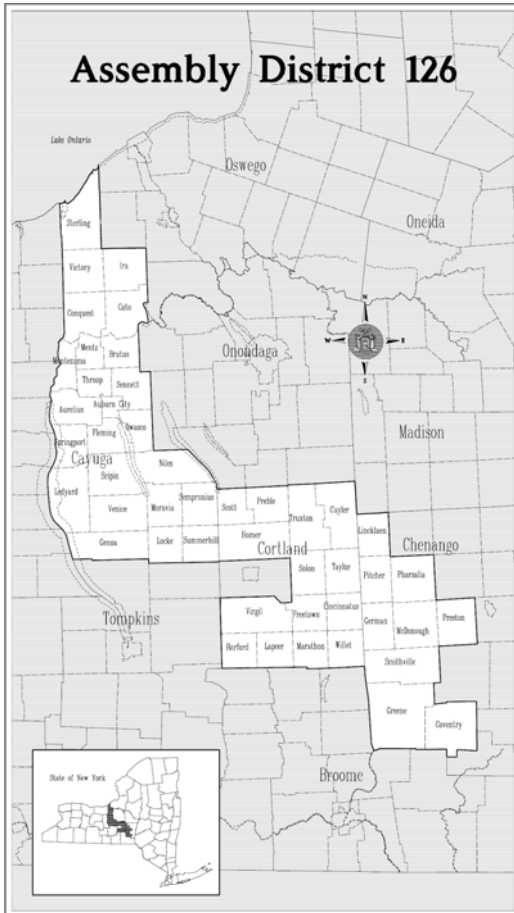
123rd AD Prior to 2002 Redistricting



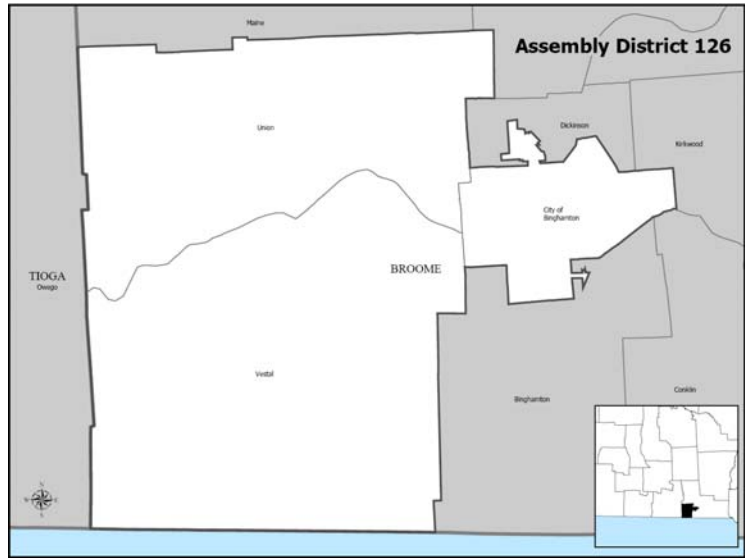
123rd AD After 2002 Redistricting



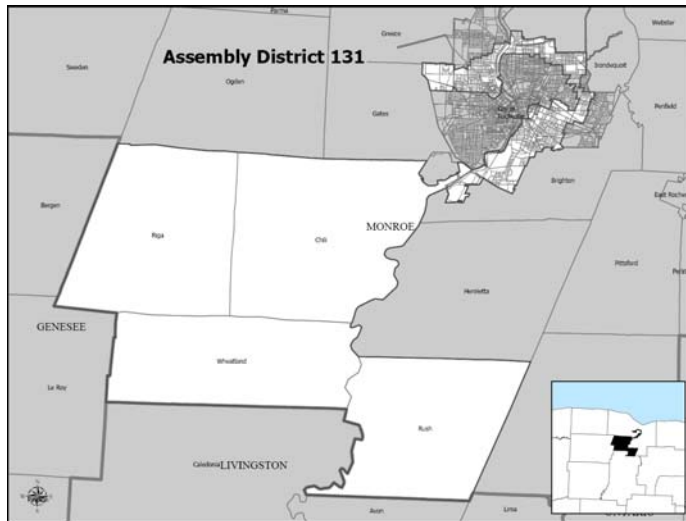
126th AD Prior to 2002 Redistricting



126th AD After 2002 Redistricting



Other upstate districts have changed over time to keep Democratic members in power, including Assemblywoman Susan John of AD 131. In 2002, the redistricting process added to the suburban towns of her district that were leaning Republican a “hook” to capture votes in the Democratic City of Rochester.⁵ Below is the current AD 131 district map.



⁵ “Redistricting, New York Style.” The New York Times. Available at: <http://documents.nytimes.com/redistricting-games-in-new-york#document/p6>

DIVIDING COMMUNITIES AND NESTING

Though both houses use the same demographic data to draw their lines, Assembly and Senate district lines often together form strange combinations, with pieces of many Assembly districts in a single Senate district and with districts' neighborhoods joined by nothing more than a strip of highway.

Under current practice and a lack of legal precedent against partisan districting, legislative leaders are afforded the ability to draw lines to protect party interests. The legislative leaders have also used the drawing of district boundaries to protect incumbents and minimize the competition they face. This has led to a confusing overlap of Assembly and Senate districts that impacts voters and their political strength. Though sometimes necessary to account for population shifts and to protect minority voting rights, this extreme parsing of neighborhoods and creative map-making results in maps lacking cohesion between the two sets of legislative district lines and the breaking apart of what could be natural alliances between Assembly and Senate constituent groups and representatives. It also complicates the ability of elected officials to effectively provide constituent and other services, as they are forced to interface with an increased number of governmental entities. This practice of "nesting" divides neighborhoods and communities of interest and leaves certain communities marginalized, without the ability to have a common voice for their community.

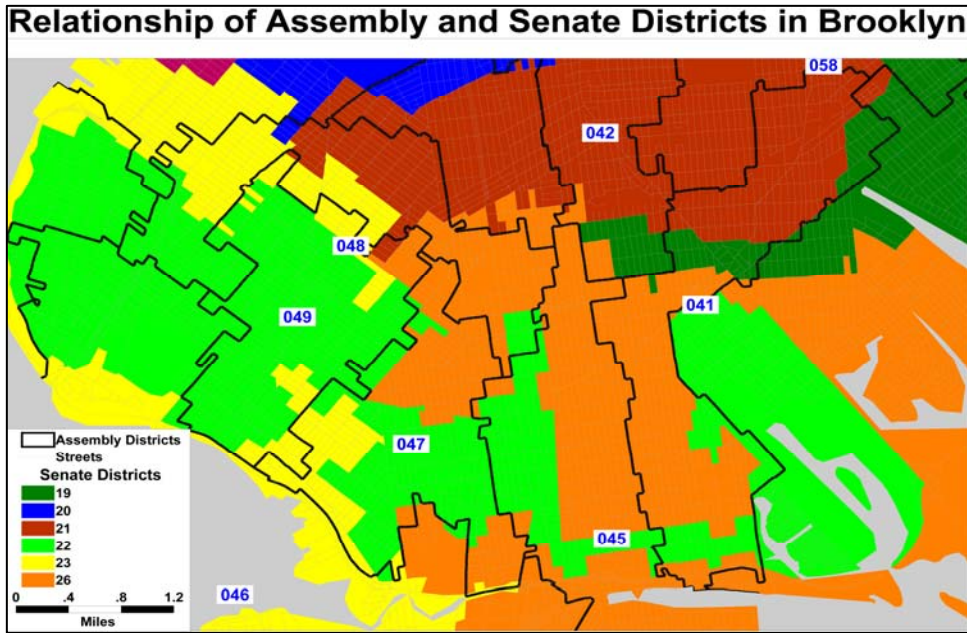
In New York City, Senate districts are particularly nested, with all containing four or more and more than half containing six or more Assembly districts. Assembly districts are also diluted, with more than half containing three or more Senate districts.

The neighborhood of Borough Park in Brooklyn serves as prime example of how the splitting of a Senate district over multiple Assembly districts can impact a community. District 23, which included portions of Brooklyn, and until the redistricting of 2002 encompassed the near entirety of Borough Park. After the 2002 redistricting effort, Borough Park was split and parceled out among five disparate districts. Instead of having to deal with only one or two state senators to have their neighborhood's interests represented in Albany, residents after the redistricting found themselves "diluted" among five state senators. Having fewer Borough Park residents in each of the new districts of roughly equal size meant, in effect, that Borough Park's voice in each district became fainter and easier to discount when its residents needed to call Albany's attention to a problem.⁶ Additionally, the proposed district now contained a portion of Staten Island, connected by "a thin four-mile-long corridor running along a highway."⁷

⁶ Lachman, Seymour. *Three Men in a Room: The Inside Story of Power and Betrayal in an American Statehouse*. (New Press: New York, 2006) p. 93.

⁷ *Ibid.*

1. Current Nesting of Districts in Brooklyn



2. Nesting of New York City Assembly Districts in Senate Districts After 2002 Reapportionment

<u>Senate District</u>	<u>Assembly Districts (By District Number)</u>	<u>Number of Nested Assembly Districts</u>
10	23, 25, 27, 28, 29, 31, 32, 33, 38	9
11	22, 24, 25, 26, 27, 29, 31, 33	8
12	30, 34, 36, 37, 38	5
13	34, 35, 37, 39	4
14	23, 24, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33	7
15	23, 28, 30, 37, 38	5
16	22, 24, 25, 26, 27	5
17	40, 50, 53, 54, 55, 56, 57	7
18	44, 50, 51, 52, 54, 55, 56, 57	8
19	40, 41, 42, 43, 55, 58, 59	7
20	42, 43, 44, 51, 52, 55, 56, 57, 58	9
21	41, 42, 43, 44, 48, 51, 58, 59	8
22	41, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 51, 59, 60	9
23	46, 47, 48, 49, 51, 60, 61, 63	8
24	60, 61, 63, 62	4
25	50, 52, 57, 64, 66, 74	6
26	65, 67, 69, 73, 74, 75	6
27	41, 45, 47, 49, 44, 48	7
28	65, 68, 73, 84, 86	5
29	66, 67, 74, 75	4
30	67, 68, 69, 70	4

<u>Senate District</u>	<u>Assembly Districts (By District Number)</u>	<u>Number of Nested Assembly Districts</u>
31	67, 69, 70, 71, 72, 78, 81	7
32	76, 79, 80, 82, 84, 85	6
33	77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 86	6
34	76, 80, 82, 83	4
36	76, 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83, 86	9

3. Nesting of New York City Senate Districts in Assembly Districts After the 2002 Reapportionment

<u>Assembly District</u>	<u>Senate Districts (By District Number)</u>	<u>Number of Nested Senate Districts</u>
22	11, 16	2
23	10, 14, 15	3
24	11, 14, 16	3
25	10, 11, 14, 16	4
26	11, 16	2
27	10, 11, 14, 16	4
28	10, 15	2
29	10, 11, 14	3
30	12, 15	2
31	10, 14	2
32	10	1
33	10, 11, 14	3
34	12, 13	2
35	13	1
36	12	1
37	12, 13, 15	3
38	10, 12, 15	3
39	10, 13	2
40	17, 19	2
41	19, 21, 22, 27	4
42	19, 20, 21	3
43	19, 20, 21	3
44	18, 20, 21, 27	4
45	22, 27	2
46	22, 23	2
47	22, 23, 27	3
48	21, 22, 23, 27	4
49	22, 23, 27	3
50	17, 18, 25	3
51	18, 20, 21, 22, 23	5
52	18, 20, 25	3
53	17	1
54	17, 18	2
55	17, 18, 19, 20	4
56	17, 18, 20	3

<u>Assembly District</u>	<u>Senate Districts</u> (By District Number)	<u>Number of Nested</u> <u>Senate Districts</u>
57	17, 18, 20, 25	4
58	19, 20, 21	3
59	19, 21, 22	3
60	22, 23, 24	3
61	23, 24	2
62	24	1
63	23, 24	2
64	25	1
65	26, 28	2
66	25, 29	2
67	26, 29, 30, 31	4
68	28, 30	2
69	26, 30, 31	3
70	30, 31	2
71	31	1
72	31	1
73	26, 28	2
74	25, 26, 29	3
75	26, 29	2
76	32, 34, 36	3
77	33, 36	2
78	31, 33, 36	3
79	32, 33, 36	3
80	32, 33, 34, 36	4
81	31, 33, 36	3
82	32, 34, 36	3
83	34, 36	2
84	28, 32	2
85	32	1
86	28, 33, 36	3

POPULATION DEVIATION

The central goal of redistricting that is established by law, if not practice, is to ensure that voters are afforded fair and equal representation, and the key to this is a near equal distribution of population between districts.

In New York State, the State Constitution requires there be 150 Assembly districts and contains a formula for the determination of the number of Senate districts (currently set at 62).⁸ The average number of people represented by these legislators as of the last redistricting in 2002 was set at 126,510 per Assembly district and 306,072 per Senate district. As a comparison, each of New York's 29 Congressional districts contains 654,361 people.

All districts must contain essentially the same number of people to preserve the principle of one person, one vote.⁹ Under current law, State Senate and State Assembly districts must be drawn within 5 percent of the mean district size (with a 10 percent spread between the smallest and largest district). In practice, this margin of deviation has allowed those drawing district lines to over or under populate districts in such a manner that creates a strategic advantage for one party over the other.

Currently, Congress uses the standard that districts must be within 1% of the mean district size, and they have successfully stayed within that limit. In New York State, only 12% of the current districts would live up to that standard.¹⁰

Table 6.1: New York State Districts Deviation from Mean District Size¹¹

Deviation from Mean District Size	Assembly Districts	Senate Districts
Less than 1%	18 (12%)	11 (17%)
Between 1% and 3%	63 (42%)	32 (51%)
Between 3% and 5%	69 (46%)	19 (30%)

Deviations from the mean district size are often great and often run right up against the legal limit, causing wide variations in population from the largest to smallest districts.

The smallest Assembly district is District 78 in the Bronx with a population of 121,111 constituents. The largest Assembly district is District 143, which makes up Erie County in western New York and houses 133,038 constituents, a difference of almost 12,000 constituents or about 10%.

The Senate district with the smallest number of constituents is District 48, which incorporates portions of Oswego, Jefferson, and Saint Lawrence County in the northwestern portion of New York with a population of 290,925. The largest Senate district is District 38, combining portions of Orange and Rockland County located just north of New York City, with a population of 320,851, a difference of almost 30,000 constituents, or about 10%.

⁸ New York State Constitution, Article III, § 4-5.

⁹ *Reynolds v. Sims*, 377 U.S. 533 (1964).

¹⁰ "Unfair Advantage: New York State's Redistricting Process," New York Public Interest Research Group, April 2006. All data regarding district sizes and deviations comes from this source and Citizens Union's analysis.

¹¹ *Ibid.*

The tendency to create districts with such a variance from the mean district size transcends party lines. The Senate Republican majority has historically fixed upstate districts to be “under-populated” and downstate districts to be “over-populated” to maximize the number of Republican districts that they can win every year. Conversely, the Assembly has a Democratic majority and under populates downstate districts while overpopulating upstate districts to create more districts in Democratic-friendly territory. This practice is done specifically by packing constituents into districts where the majority party does not have an enrollment advantage and creating less populated districts in areas where the majority party has an enrollment advantage. By carefully concentrating rival party’s voters and spreading out their own party’s voters, the parties have created wide deviations between the sizes of districts, resulting in less than equal representation for voters.

In practice, this arrangement has led to more Republican Senate districts upstate and more Democratic Assembly districts downstate. The impact this has on the public is that it gives downstate voters less than adequate representation in the Senate and conversely, upstate voters less than adequate representation in the Assembly. It also marginalizes both the upstate Democratic vote and downstate Republican vote by diluting each respective group’s voting strength.

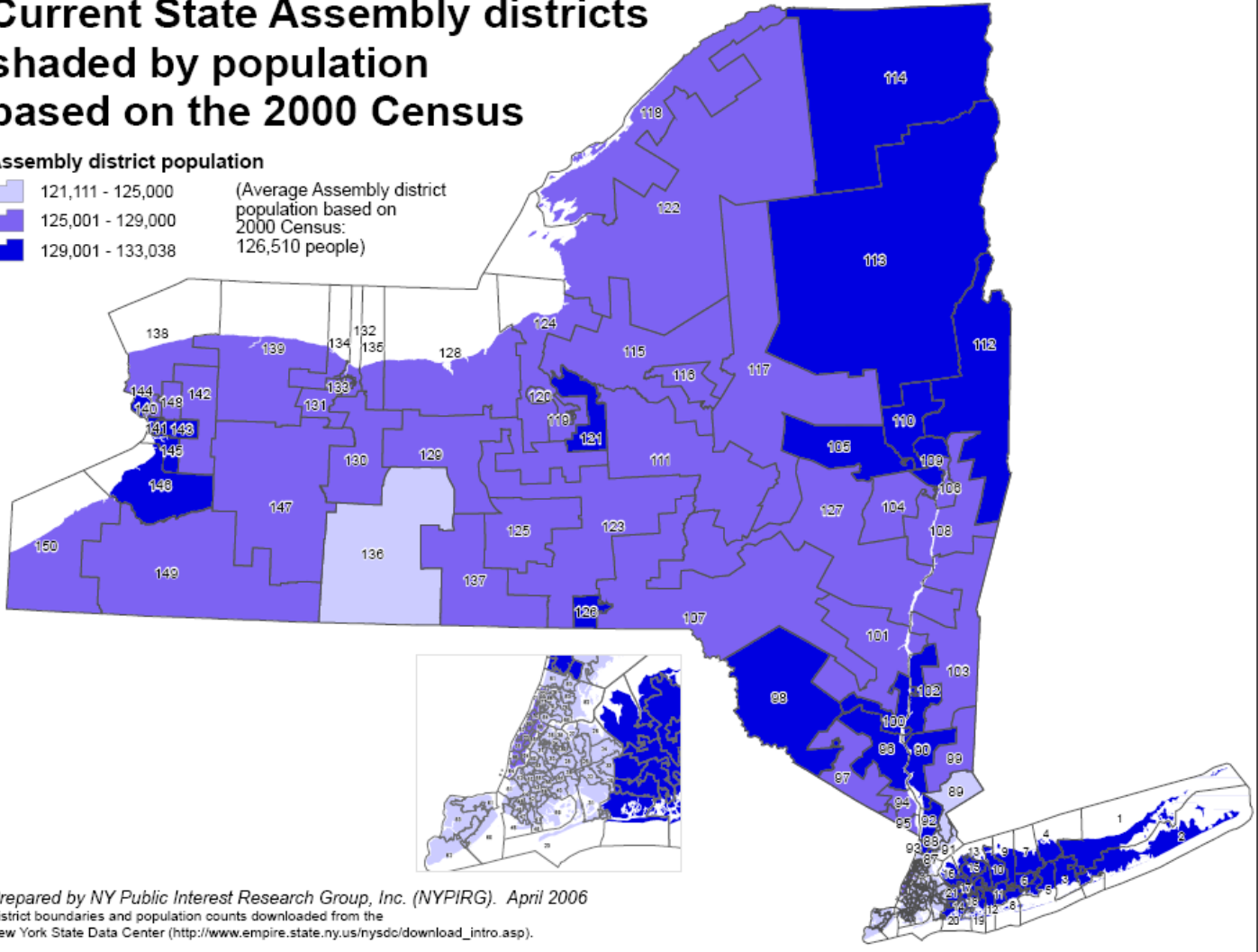
Legal challenges from both major political parties over the past couple of decades have failed to overturn this practice. In 2002, plaintiffs in the case *Allen v. Pataki* challenged the State Senate redistricting plan on the grounds that it failed to meet the equal population requirements, among other things.¹² The plaintiffs alleged that “an honest and good faith effort” could not have been made because the difference between the smallest and largest population (a 9.78% deviation) and the deviation from the ideal (2.22%) were so great that they could not have occurred incidentally. They also noted that deviations from the ideal in past Senate redistricting plans had never been as high as in the current plan. The Court found that because the deviation was within the legal limit (despite running up against it), the plan did not violate equal population requirements.

¹² *Allen v. Pataki*, No. 02 Civ. 0618 (New York 2002).

Current State Assembly districts shaded by population based on the 2000 Census

Assembly district population

- 121,111 - 125,000
 - 125,001 - 129,000
 - 129,001 - 133,038
- (Average Assembly district population based on 2000 Census: 126,510 people)



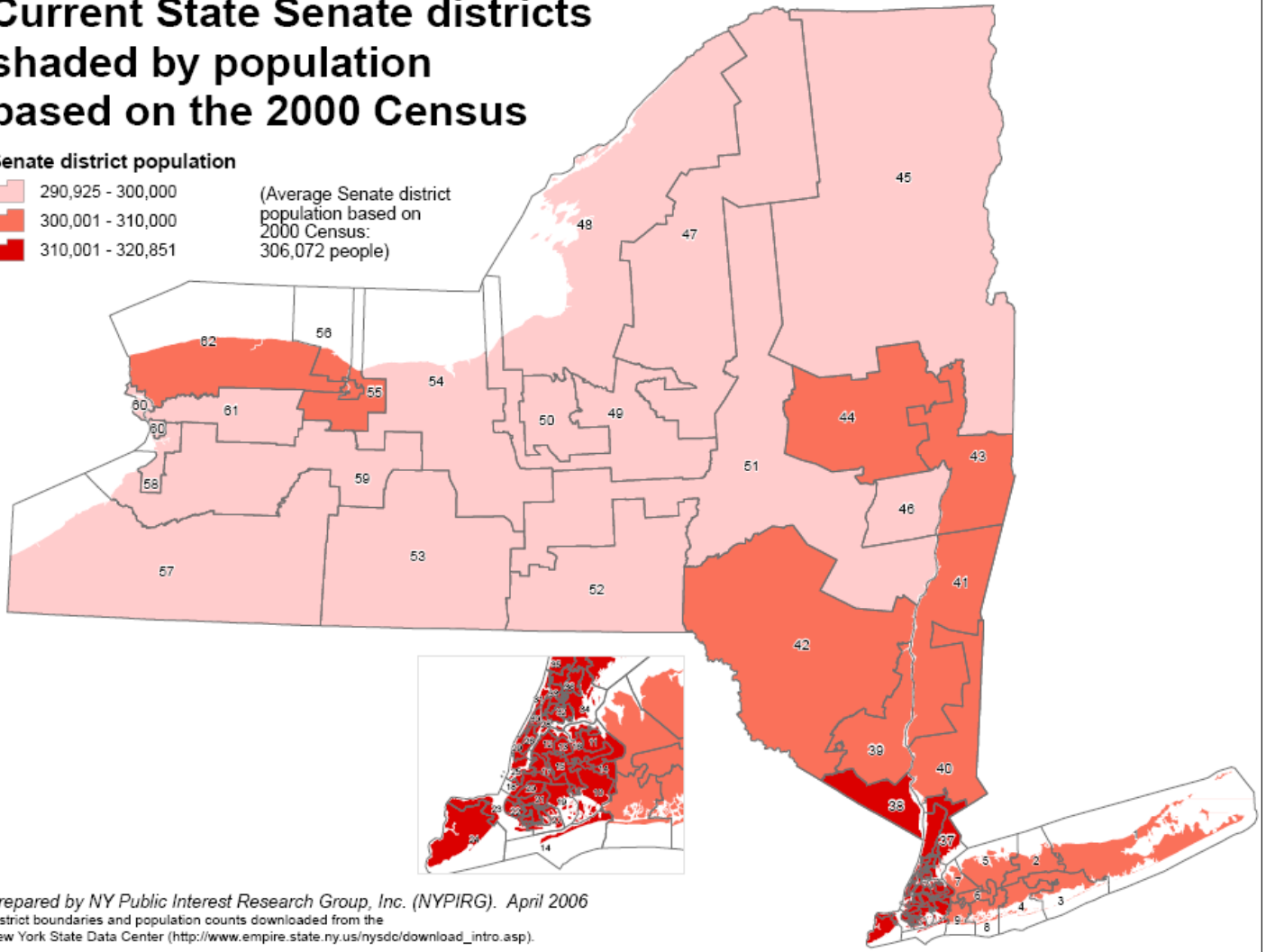
Prepared by NY Public Interest Research Group, Inc. (NYPIRG). April 2006
 District boundaries and population counts downloaded from the
 New York State Data Center (http://www.empire.state.ny.us/nysdc/download_intro.asp).

Current State Senate districts shaded by population based on the 2000 Census

Senate district population

- 290,925 - 300,000
- 300,001 - 310,000
- 310,001 - 320,851

(Average Senate district population based on 2000 Census: 306,072 people)



Prepared by NY Public Interest Research Group, Inc. (NYPIRG). April 2006
 District boundaries and population counts downloaded from the
 New York State Data Center (http://www.empire.state.ny.us/nysdc/download_intro.asp).



CITIZENS UNION STATEMENT

Thursday, April 22, 2010
Contact Dick Dadey, 917-709-2896

CITIZENS UNION ANNOUNCES SIGNIFICANT SUPPORT EXISTS in STATE LEGISLATURE FOR ENDING PARTISAN GERRYMANDERING

*107 State Legislators Support Legislation
to Create an Independent Redistricting Commission
Demonstrating Broad Support for Issue*

Citizens Union today released a list (presented below) of 107 state legislators who have expressed support over the past few years for legislation creating a nonpartisan independent redistricting commission to draw district lines for state and congressional lines in 2011 and 2012 once the census numbers have been determined. Of the 107 legislators, 81 are members of the Assembly and 26 are State Senators.

Legislators were identified as supporters of such a commission either because they co-sponsored one of several related pieces of redistricting reform legislation over the past few years, made a clear public statement in support, or answered in the affirmative to a question on the matter in either a 2004, 2006, or 2008 candidate questionnaire submitted to Citizens Union.

Information about co-sponsorship has been drawn from several different pieces of legislation that have been introduced between 2005 and 2010. Several bills have been proposed amending the state constitution to create a stand-alone redistricting commission that would require no approval of the redistricting plan from the state legislature. Presently under the state constitution, the state legislature has the authority to pass a final redistricting plan. With insufficient time remaining to amend the constitution to form a commission to draw the lines by 2012 without legislative approval, Citizens Union strongly supports legislation sponsored by Mike Gianaris in the State Assembly and David Valesky in the State Senate that creates an alternative independent process that would ultimately require approval by the state legislature of any redistricting plan drawn by an independent citizens commission.

This news comes on the heels of Monday’s announcement by former Mayor Ed Koch and New York Uprising that four announced or presumed candidates for governor have pledged to support the creation of an independent redistricting commission and veto any legislation that contains lines solely drawn by the legislature.

Dick Dadey, executive director of Citizens Union, said, “The fact that 107 state legislators support the creation of an independent redistricting commission demonstrates that this issue has broad support within the legislature and that it is ripe for action. It is clear that many legislators understand the public clamor for reform which is why so many have expressed support for such an idea. Central to reforming our state government is changing the rules of the game and ending the practice of legislators choosing their voters before the voters choose them. Letting legislators draw their own lines is akin to letting banks regulate themselves. We wouldn’t let the banks do that, so why should we let legislators draw their own lines? It defies common sense.”

Redistricting reform is the top state reform priority for Citizens Union, which believes that this one change will achieve meaningful improvement of how our state government functions.

A list of those legislators who support an independent commission to draw state legislative and congressional district lines appears in the table below.

A given legislator's support for independent redistricting was determined through:		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Responses the legislator made to Citizens Union candidate questionnaires in 2004, 2006, and/or 2008, as indicated by a "Y". 2. Cosponsorship of independent redistricting legislation this year or in past years, which is indicated by an "S". 		
Assembly District	Assemblymember	Supports the establishment of an Independent Legislative Redistricting Commission charged with drawing congressional and state legislative lines
1	Alessi	S
2	Thiele	S
5	Fields	S
6	Ramos	S
9	Raia	S
10	Conte	S
13	Lavine	S
22	Meng	Y
23	Pheffer	Y, S
25	Lancman	Y, S

26	Carrozza	Y
27	Mayersohn	Y
28	Hevesi	S
29	Scarborough	Y
33	Clark	S
36	Gianaris	Y, S
40	Barron	Y
43	Camara	Y, S
44	Brennan	Y, S
45	Cymbrowitz	Y
46	Brook-Krasny	Y
47	Colton	Y
52	Millman	Y, S
55	Boyland	Y, S
57	Jeffries	Y, S
58	Perry	Y
60	Hyer-Spencer	Y
62	Tobacco	Y, S
63	Cusick	Y
65	Kellner	S
66	Glick	Y
67	Rosenthal	Y, S
68	Powell	Y, S
69	O'Donnell	Y
70	Wright	Y
72	Espaillet	Y, S
73	Bing	Y, S
74	Kavanagh	Y, S
76	Rivera	Y
81	Dinowitz	Y, S
82	Benedetto	Y
86	Castro	S
88	Paulin	S
90	Galef	S
91	Latimer	S
92	Brodsky	S
93	Spano	S

96	Calhoun	S
98	Gunther	S
101	Cahill	S
102	Miller, J.	S
103	Molinaro	S
107	Crouch	S
108	Gordon	S
109	Reilly	S
110	Tedisco	S
111	Magee	S
112	Jordan	S
113	Sayward	S
114	Duprey	S
117	Butler	S
119	Christensen	S
121	Stirpe	S
122	Scozzafava	S
123	Finch	S
124	Barclay	S
126	Lupardo	S
128	Oaks	S
129	Kolb	S
130	Errigo	S
131	John	S
134	Reilich	S
135	Koon	S
138	DelMonte	S
140	Schimminger	S
142	Corwin	S
144	Hoyt	S
145	Schroeder	S
146	Quinn	S
147	Burling	S
149	Giglio	S
Total:		81

Senate District	Senator	Supports the establishment n Independent Legislative Redistricting Commission charged with drawing congressional and state legislative lines
7	Johnson, C	S
12	Onorato	Y
13	Peralta	Y, S
14	Smith	Publicly announced support in 2006
15	Addabbo	Y
16	Stavisky	Y
17	Dilan	Y
18	Montgomery	Y
19	Sampson	S
20	Adams	Y
21	Parker	Y
23	Savino	Y, S
25	Squadron	S
26	Krueger	Y, S
28	Serrano	Y, S
29	Duane	Y
30	Perkins	Y
31	Schneiderman	Y
33	Espada	Y
34	Klein	Y
36	Hassell-Thompson	Y
37	Oppenheimer	S
42	Bonacic	S
46	Breslin	S
49	Valesky	S
57	Young	S
Total:		26



Citizens Union of the City of New York is an independent, non-partisan, civic organization of members who promote good government and advance political reform in the city and state of New York. For more than a century, Citizens Union has served as a watchdog for the public interest and an advocate for the common good. Citizens Union, which was recently described by the New York Times as “the influential government watchdog group”, works to ensure fair elections, clean campaigns, and open, effective government that is accountable to the citizens of New York.

Founded in 1897 to fight the corruption of Tammany Hall, Citizens Union helped elect the first reform mayor, Seth Low, in 1901. Over the years, Citizens Union has spearheaded efforts for improved voting procedures, home rule for New York City, campaign finance reform, historic preservation, city charter revisions that made important structural changes to city government, and state government reform. Without Citizens Union, reformers like Fiorello LaGuardia would never have been elected Mayor.

In pursuit of its mission, Citizens Union:

- Acts as a watchdog on the actions of city and state government to ensure that it values its citizens, addresses critical issues, and operates in a fair, open, and fiscally sound manner.
- Supports and advances legislation that reforms the election system, improves the functioning of government, and serves the broad public interest rather than narrow special interests.
- Evaluates and supports candidates for elected office, and through publication of its highly regarded voters directory, informs voters of those candidates who strongly embrace and effectively advance the interests of good government and political reform.

Founded in 1948, **Citizens Union Foundation of the City of New York** is the nonprofit research, education and advocacy organization affiliated with Citizens Union, though it is governed by a separate board of directors and operates with independent finances. In pursuit of its mission, Citizens Union Foundation

- Monitors the deliberations and actions of city and state government,
- Conducts research on important issues of reform,
- Analyzes the impact of proposed public policies and legislation at the city and state level, and
- Holds forums to educate and engage the public in civic issues of citywide importance.

Believing that an informed citizenry is the cornerstone of good government, Citizens Union Foundation also publishes **GothamGazette.com**, a daily news website covering local issues like no other news publication in the City. GothamGazette.com features news, commentary, in-depth analysis and links to resources on New York City. It has become a vital resource for elected officials, policy makers, advocates, community leaders, students, media professionals, and concerned citizens covering local issues like no other news publication in the City. Since 1989, Citizens Union Foundation has also monitored the New York City Council and has published *Searchlight on the City Council*, a comprehensive guide to the city’s legislative body and its action that is available on GothamGazette.com.

Working with government and a diverse group of partner organizations and coalitions, CUF has also worked to improve the administration of elections by recruiting over 15,000 election day workers to staff the poll sites since 2001. Though all these activities, CUF is in its strongest position ever to influence the policy debate and decisions in the City and in Albany affecting the citizens of New York.

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