

New York Independent Redistricting Commission Testimony Tips and Resources

I. Introduction (30 seconds)

- “Greetings to Commissioners of the Independent Redistricting Commission of New York and thank you for allowing us to speak on behalf of the communities we represent.”

II. Organizational/Individual Connection (1 minute)

- “I come today to speak on behalf of [insert organization/individual name] and the Latinx community at large in [insert area organization serves/wishes to represent].”
- “We are located/based in (area) of current Senate/Assembly/ Congressional districts ___and particular community neighborhoods_____.”
- “As a voter/constituent/resident/community-based organization in this area, I greatly appreciate the opportunity to testify and share my/our perspective on...”

III. Latinx Community Impact (1-1.5 minutes)

- “The current maps have affected our organization/community in _____ ways which have created issues in accessing and distributing critical resources/political representation/outreach/accountability.”
- “The proposed maps (Letters/Names) affect my/our community in _____ ways which creates _____ issues.”
- “I’ll get to the point since we are time limited. We support / or do not support the Commission’s _____ mapping in districts # _____ because _____”
- Here the overall goal is to explore what potential impact line drawing process will have on your organization and its work. If supporting any alternative district lines or maps from organization or other allies, want to take a chance here to emphasize the significance of those differences and why the commission should support/consider those differences.

IV. Closing (15-30 seconds)

- “Thank you once again to the Commissioners for taking time to listen.”
- Insert compelling closing statement wrapping up your testimony.

Examples of General Talking Points/Notable Facts:

- Latinx individuals represent nearly 1 in 5 New Yorkers, yet we lack meaningful representation across the state of New York in congressional and state legislative bodies, drawing these lines must ensure that the Latinx community is rightfully accounted for by ensuring access to candidates of choice that represent their community’s interests and needs.
- High proportions of the population in the community that I serve are Latinx making it imperative that the lines be drawn to maintain and respect the political representation of our community members.
- Given that a large part of our community members are Latinx our work will be impacted in [X ways] if lines were drawn to split our community.
- Our organization and constituents define our community as [insert how organization/community members define community].
- Increasing transparency is a key goal to our work within our community and beyond. Transparency in the redistricting process will allow members of my community to be engaged and aware of a process that determines their access to resources and political representation.
- Fairness must be at the center of the redistricting process. Given the increase of Latinx populations across the state in the past 10 years it is vital that the redistricting process fairly draw lines representative of changes that reflect our community’s growth.

Additional Resources/Guidance:

[LatinoJustice PRLDEF Testimony Presentation \(more in-depth testimony tips\)](#)

[LatinoJustice PRLDEF Restricting Roundtable Presentation \(Overview of NY Redistricting\)](#)

[LatinoJustice PRLDEF Redistricting Roundtable Presentation Video](#)

<https://www.nyirc.gov/draft-plans>

<https://vote.nyc/page/nyc-district-maps#p4>