



# New York Redistricting

# ABOUT US

LatinoJustice works to create a more just society by using and challenging the rule of law to secure transformative, equitable and accessible justice, by empowering our community and by fostering leadership through advocacy and education.



# What is Redistricting?

Redistricting is the redrawing of electoral district lines to reflect changes in population as measured by the U.S. Census.

- Redistricting happens at the congressional, state and local levels.
- This process is used to ensure that everyone's vote counts equally – one person, one vote.



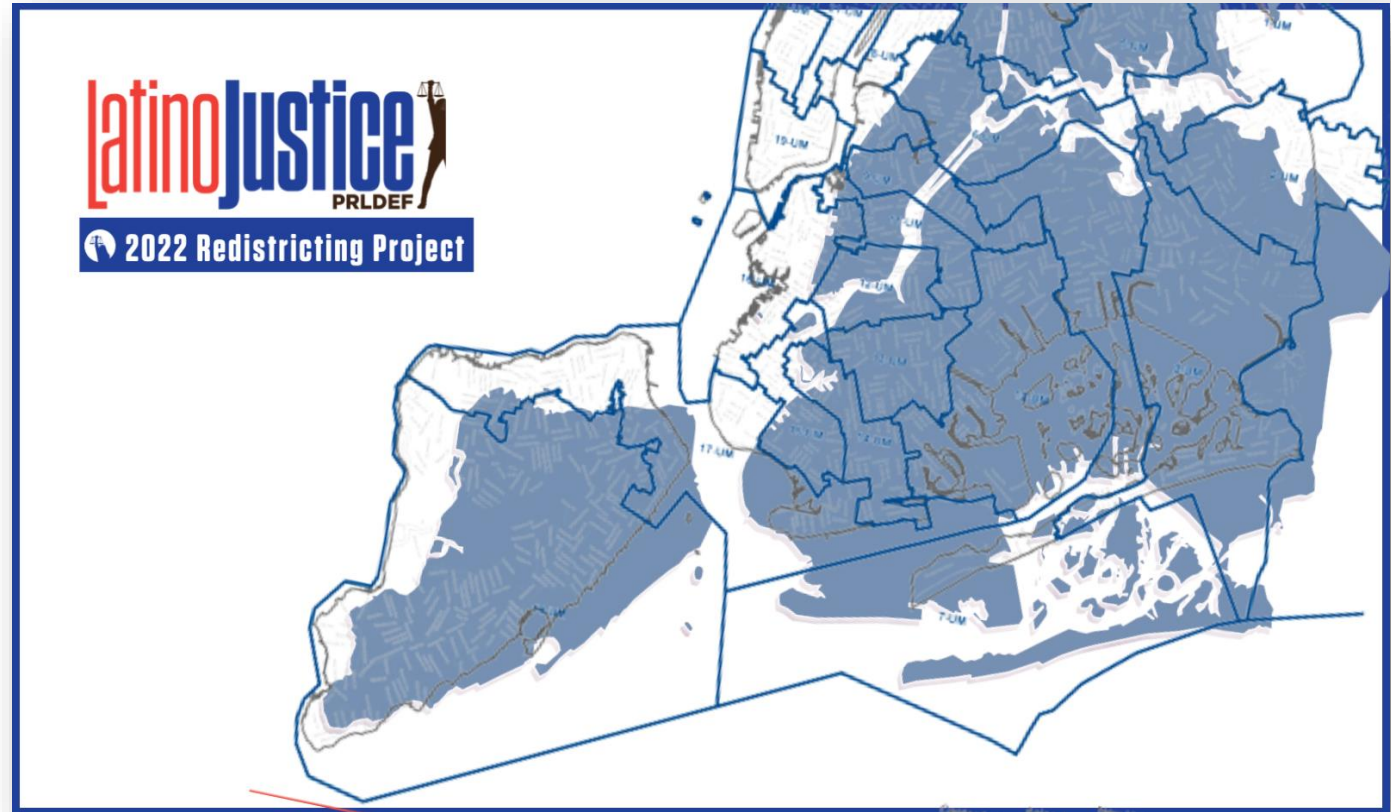
# Why Redistricting Matters

- It shapes your ability to elect your representatives and who will represent the interests of you and your community.
- It determines what resources your community gets, how much funding is provided for things like transportation, roads, schools, hospitals, libraries and community organizations;
- Redistricting can impact the quality of your air and water, your schools, access to housing stock and transportation, business and residential development in your community as well as your taxes.
- Importantly these boundaries are set for 10 years! The districts drawn now will govern your community until 2032 and determine what representatives will be accountable to you and your community.
- Lastly redistricting can determine/effect:
  - If your community is represented by the same person(s).
  - Whether a representative feels responsible for your concerns.
  - Who wins an election, controls the legislature and even what laws are enacted.



# Gerrymandering

Gerrymandering is the practice of drawing the boundaries of electoral districts in a way that gives one political party an unfair advantage over its rivals (political or partisan gerrymandering) or that dilutes the voting power of members of ethnic or linguistic minority groups (racial gerrymandering).

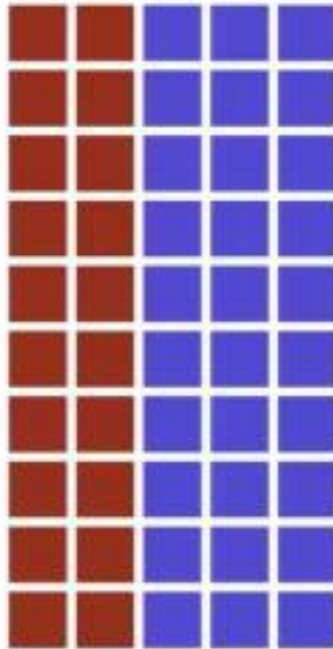




# Gerrymandering, explained

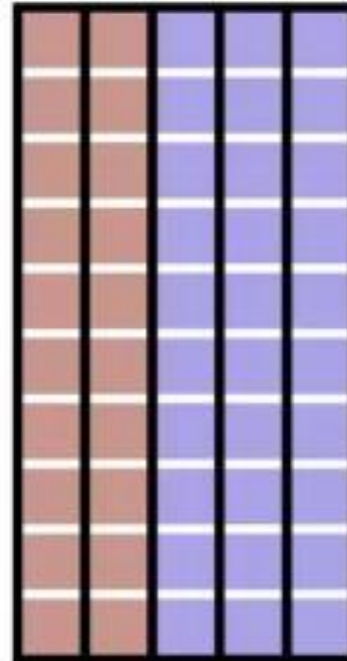
Three different ways to divide 50 people into five districts

50  
people



**60% blue,  
40% red**

1. Perfect  
representation



**3 blue districts,  
2 red districts**

**BLUE WINS**

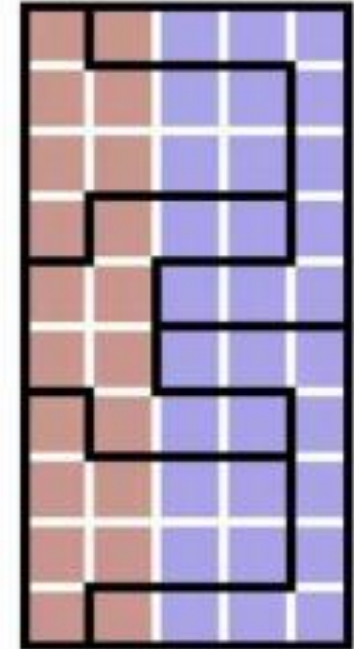
2. Compact,  
but unfair



**5 blue districts,  
0 red districts**

**BLUE WINS**

3. Neither compact  
nor fair



**2 blue districts,  
3 red districts**

**RED WINS**

# Key Terms

**Voting Age Population (VAP):** number of individuals of voting age or above 18 years old.

**Communities of Interest (COI):** Communities with similar economic, social and cultural interests.

**Majority:** where a particular racial or ethnic group represents more than 50% of the population within a particular district. (Ex: 51% of the district is made up of people who identify as Latino)

**Plurality:** where a particular racial or ethnic group does not represent a majority but does consist of a portion of population in a district. (Ex: 35% of the district is made up of people who identify as Latino)

# Latino Representation in City Council

- Latinos make up 28.3% of the total population of New York City across the 5 boroughs.
- As a community we should advocate for representation that mirrors our community representation across the city.
- As it stands now we have 15 City Council representatives that identify as Latino/have Latino heritage.





# Governing Law



- ★ U.S. Constitution (Apportionment, 14th Amendment)
- ★ Voting Rights Act (VRA of 1965; Section 2)
- ★ N.Y. State Constitution (Article III)  
UPCOMING ELECTORAL Nov. Ballot questions
- ★ City, County and Municipal Charters  
(**NYC City Charter**; Nassau County Charter, etc.)

# NYC Redistricting Ranked Criteria

The New York City Charter, under Chapter 2-A, Section 52, sets forth specific redistricting criteria as well as the order of each criteria's importance.

In order of priority:

1. Population equality (deviation between most and least populous district not to exceed 10%)
2. Fair and effective representation of racial and language minority groups protected by the VRA
3. Keep neighborhoods and communities intact (communities of interest)
4. Compactness (district shall be no more than twice as long as it is wide)
5. Not cross borough or county boundaries





# NYC Redistricting Ranked Criteria

6. Not drawn to separate geographic concentrations of voters by political party so as to diminish effective representation of such voters

7. Districting plan shall minimize the sum of the length of the boundaries of all the districts in the plan

In addition:

1. Districts shall be contiguous
- 2. If any district includes territory in two boroughs, then no other district may also include territory from the same two boroughs

Source: NYC Charter Chapter 2-A (Districting Commission) § 52



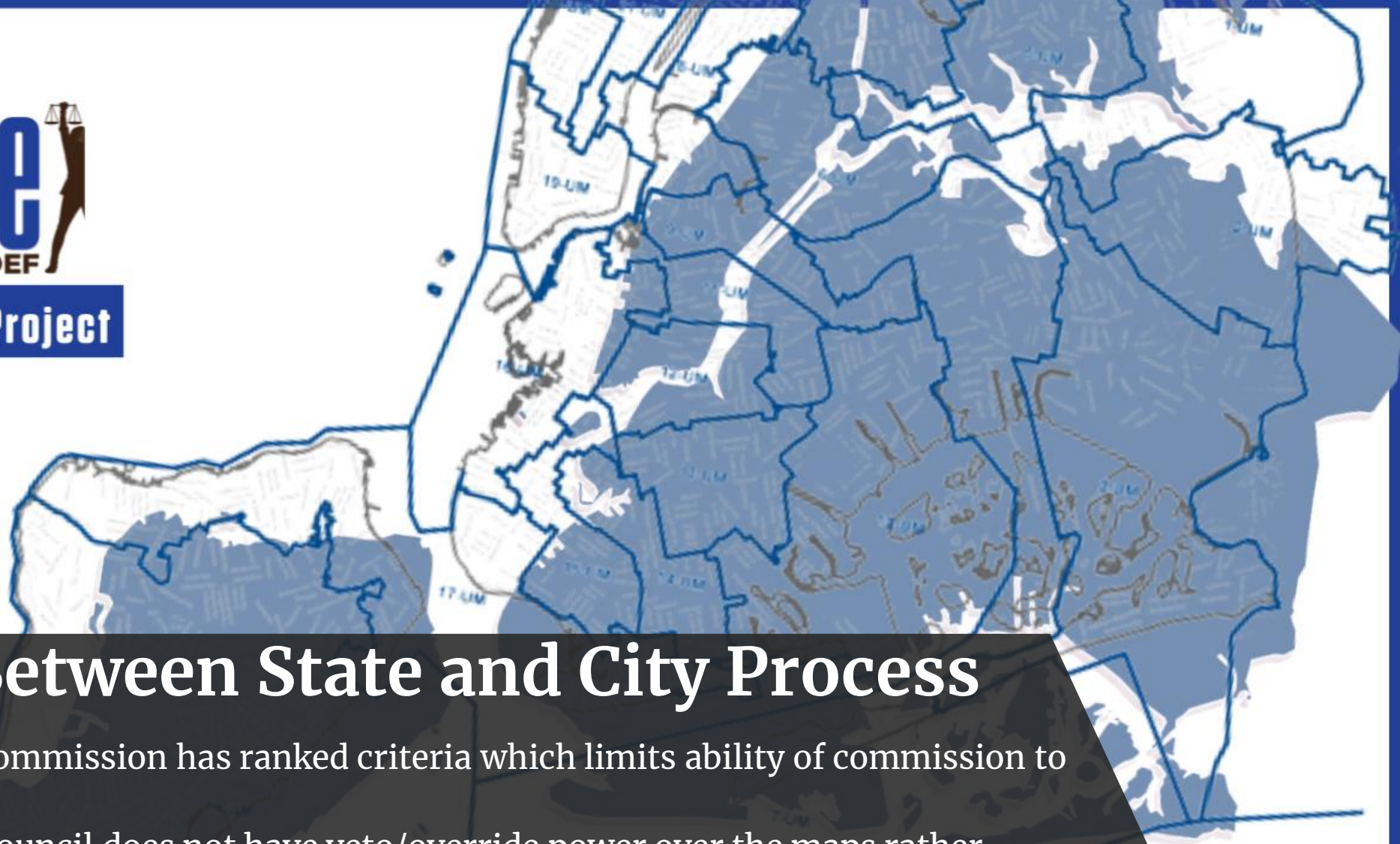
# Role of City Council

- Purely advisory in nature;
- Council may list objections which commission has to reconcile and then commission must produce additional map;
- Ultimately commission can adopt map despite Council objections with support of 9 commissioners unlike IRC which did not have override function.





 2022 Redistricting Project



## Differences Between State and City Process

- Unlike state process NYC commission has ranked criteria which limits ability of commission to distort boundaries.
- Unlike state process NYC Council does not have veto/override power over the maps rather Commission can pass map with support of 9 commissioners.
- No bi-partisan party that would cause deadlock/failure to meet 9 vote threshold.





 **2022 Redistricting Project**

# Anticipated Timeline

- By or before early May 2022:
  - Districting Commission shall hold one or more public hearings to receive public testimony.
- By or before June 7th, 2022:
  - Districting Commission shall make its initial districting plan available to the public.
- By or before July 7th, 2022:
  - Districting Commission must hold at least one public hearing prior to this date.

# Anticipated Timeline (Cont.)

By or before August 7th, 2022:

- Districting Commission must submit initial plan to City Council.
- Plan submitted by Districting Commission is either deemed adopted after three weeks or majority of Council can object to the plan and submit written objections to the Commission.

By or before October 7th, 2022:

- If initial districting plan is met with a resolution of objection by the Council, the Commission shall submit a revised districting plan to the Council and make such plan available to the public by this date.



# Anticipated Timeline (Cont.)

After submission of second districting plan by November 7th, 2022:

- Commission shall hold additional public hearings and seek public comment on the revised plan.

By or before December 2022

- Commission shall submit final plan for redistricting to the Council.

June 2023:

- NYC Council Primary Elections.

January 6th, 2024

- Districting commission term ends.





## OUR GOALS

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1. Ensuring new districts are fair, equitable and capture the strength and growth of Latino communities.
2. Engaging Latino community in the redistricting process.
3. Latino advocacy during and after the redistricting process.

# Our Team at LatinoJustice



- Fulvia Vargas-De Leon Esq. Associate Counsel
- E: [fvargasdeleon@latinojustice.org](mailto:fvargasdeleon@latinojustice.org)
- P: 212-738-7580 ext. 7580
  
- Cesar Z. Ruiz Esq. EJW Legal Fellow Sponsored by Lavan-Harris Family
- E: [cruiz@latinojustice.org](mailto:cruiz@latinojustice.org)
- P: 212-392-4752 ext. 9134

