

BACKGROUND

Redistricting is the process of drawing political districts that you must vote in for different elections. If you vote in a district where you are with like minded voters, your vote can make a difference and elect a candidate of your choosing. APA VOICE Redistricting Task Force advocated for equal access to the redistricting process and districts that keep APA communities of interest whole.

In 2014, New York City voters voted for an Independent Redistricting Commission (IRC), **NOT** elected officials, to draw redistricting lines for Congressional and State districts. 2020 was the first time the IRC went into effect. The IRC is responsible for drawing draft maps and for holding hearings throughout New York State to get public comments on its draft map. Then, the IRC submits a revised plan to the New York State Legislature for approval.

WHERE WE ARE NOW

The IRC deadlocked and submitted two maps to the New York State Legislature, but it was rejected. The IRC failed to draw a second draft plan. Instead, the New York Legislature drew its own plan for state assembly lines, exactly what voters in 2014 **did NOT want to happen**. Later, these state assembly lines were challenged. A court has since ordered the IRC to redraw the assembly lines. **On December 1, 2022, the IRC released its draft map and will hold hearings in February to hear public comments on its map.**

TAKE ACTION NOW!

WE NEED YOU TO TESTIFY AT UPCOMING 2023 HEARINGS

Why: The Assembly is one of two houses in the NY State Legislature that vote on matters concerning education, infrastructure, government funding, healthcare, affordable housing, and public safety. **These lines will be in effect for 10 years** so we need to ensure our communities are kept together and our voice is not diluted.

HEARINGS:

Tuesday, January 31, 2023 4:00 p.m. - Bronx: location TBD

Tuesday, February 7, 2023 4:00 p.m. - Manhattan: Hunter College (CUNY)

Wednesday, February 15, 2023 4:00 p.m. - Brooklyn: Medgar Evers College (CUNY)

Thursday, February 16, 2023 4:00 p.m. - Queens: Queens Borough Hall