

STATE OF NEW YORK LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE
ON DEMOGRAPHIC RESEARCH AND REAPPORTIONMENT

PUBLIC MEETING
LEGISLATIVE REDISTRICTING RECOMMENDATION

State Capitol Building, Room 123

Albany, New York

Wednesday, March 14, 2012

11:00 a.m.

Legislative Redistricting Recommendation, 3-14-2012

TASK FORCE MEMBERS PRESENT:

SENATOR MICHAEL F. NOZZOLIO, Co-chair

ASSEMBLY MEMBER JOHN J. MCENENY, Co-chair

SENATOR MARTIN M. DILAN

ASSEMBLY MEMBER ROBERT OAKS

ROMAN HEDGES

DEBRA LEVINE

WELQUIS LOPEZ

INDEX

	Page
MICHAEL F. NOZZOLIO SENATOR, CO-CHAIR NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE ON DEMOGRAPHIC RESEARCH AND REAPPORTIONMENT	4
WELQUIS LOPEZ NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE ON DEMOGRAPHIC RESEARCH AND REAPPORTIONMENT	4
JOHN J. MCENENY ASSEMBLYMAN, CO-CHAIR NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATURE TASK FORCE ON DEMOGRAPHIC RESEARCH AND REAPPORTIONMENT	5
MARTIN M. DILAN SENATOR NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATURE TASK FORCE ON DEMOGRAPHIC RESEARCH AND REAPPORTIONMENT	5
ROMAN HEDGES NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE ON DEMOGRAPHIC RESEARCH AND REAPPORTIONMENT	11

1 Legislative Redistricting Recommendation, 3-14-2012

2 (The public meeting commenced at 11:00
3 a.m.)

4 SENATOR MICHAEL F. NOZZOLIO, CO-CHAIR,
5 NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE ON
6 DEMOGRAPHIC RESEARCH AND REAPPORTIONMENT: Good
7 morning. Good morning. The meeting of the New
8 York State Legislative Task Force on Demographic
9 Research and Reapportionment will come to order.

10 My name is Mike Nozzolio. I am the
11 Senate Co-chair of this task force along with my
12 colleague and dear friend Assemblyman Jack
13 McEneny. This meeting is an important one.
14 Without further ado, I would like to introduce
15 the Senate representatives on this task force.
16 To my immediate left is Senator Martin Dilan. To
17 his left is our citizen representative on the
18 task force, Welquis Ray Lopez.

19 WELQUIS LOPEZ, NEW YORK STATE
20 LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE ON DEMOGRAPHIC RESEARCH
21 AND REAPPORTIONMENT: Thank you.

22 SENATOR NOZZOLIO: And to his left is
23 co-executive director of the task force Debra
24 Levine.

1 Legislative Redistricting Recommendation, 3-14-2012

2 Assemblyman, would you be so kind as to
3 introduce the assembly--

4 ASSEMBLY MEMBER JOHN J. MCENENY, CO-
5 CHAIR, NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE ON
6 DEMOGRAPHIC RESEARCH AND REAPPORTIONMENT:

7 Assemblyman Jack McEneny, Co-Chair. I'm
8 representing the assembly. To my right, Bob
9 Oaks. Member of the Assembly representing the
10 minority in the assembly. To his right, Dr.
11 Roman Hedges who is the citizen representative on
12 the task force.

13 SENATOR NOZZOLIO: This task force has an
14 important responsibility, an obligation today.
15 It's a culmination of over 23 hearings in every
16 area of New York State, a plan that has been
17 proposed and proffered, and before consideration
18 I'd ask members of the task force if they have
19 any comments. Senator Dilan.

20 SENATOR MARTIN M. DILAN, NEW YORK STATE
21 LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE ON DEMOGRAPHIC RESEARCH
22 AND REAPPORTIONMENT: Good morning, everyone.
23 I'd just like to make several comments. First of
24 all, I was seriously considering boycotting this

1 Legislative Redistricting Recommendation, 3-14-2012

2 meeting this morning. I know that we did hold 23
3 hearings throughout the state of New York. We
4 had several business meetings where we did make
5 several commitments to the citizens of the state
6 of New York, and the reason I was considering
7 boycotting this meeting this morning is because
8 as I indicated once before, the entire process
9 has been a farce, a sham, has been a waste of
10 money, and I believe that we have not listened to
11 the citizens of the state of New York, and the
12 plan that's being presented today to the
13 Legislature is something that's putting the cart
14 before the horse. These bills were introduced at
15 about 11:50 p.m., just before midnight on Sunday.
16 Those bills were presented to the Legislature
17 without this panel taking a vote or making any
18 sort of recommendation, so it's really not a - -
19 plan. Those bills that are being voted in both
20 houses today are McEneny Nozzoilo Bill, LES - -
21 Silver Bills, and this entire process I indicated
22 was a total waste of time and it's--we failed
23 miserably in our mission and this meeting today
24 is itself a sham. The proposed lines were

1 Legislative Redistricting Recommendation, 3-14-2012

2 introduced. The first proposals were introduced
3 to the public without a vote by this panel.
4 Again, legislation was presented without a vote
5 by this panel. With respect to the Senate, an
6 additional seat was added without any action
7 taken by this panel. So, who decided that there
8 should be a 63rd seat? We didn't do that. I
9 would like to know that. I understand also that
10 with these lines there may be a proposal for
11 reforming this entire process. When will there
12 hearings to have community input with respect to
13 those reforms--so, in essence, what we're doing
14 here today is just confirming what the two
15 leaders of respective Houses want with no real
16 input from communities of interest. I think we
17 heard people in Long Island indicate that there
18 could be an additional minority seat in the
19 Senate out in Long Island. There could be
20 another one in Rochester, and there is also the
21 splitting of Niagra and Buffalo in Erie County,
22 and again, the entire process is a total waste of
23 time.

24 SENATOR NOZZOLIO: Thank you, Senator

1 Legislative Redistricting Recommendation, 3-14-2012

2 Dilan. Any other members of the task force wish
3 to make a statement? I do wish to respond in
4 part to Senator Dilan's comments. That I
5 certainly have enjoyed working with him through
6 the past few months, in hearing from citizens all
7 across the state.

8 The measure proffered today is in full
9 compliance with the United States' Constitution,
10 the New York State Constitution, the Federal
11 Voting Rights Act, and all applicable state law
12 that--including the law that was thrust upon this
13 task force on the prison counting, and I should
14 add, that measure was established in the New York
15 State Senate without so much as a single whisper
16 of a hearing. Senator Dilan, I may remind you of
17 that. Unfortunately, though, the law is the law,
18 regardless, and we took great steps and I want to
19 personally thank - - members of the Task Force.
20 A member of the Task Force, Roman Hedges, for his
21 leadership and support and assistance in ensuring
22 that the Section 20 of the Laws of New York State
23 were fully complied with and that that prison
24 counting issue was part of the series of laws

1 Legislative Redistricting Recommendation, 3-14-2012

2 that were conduct--that this body has fully
3 complied. There is a new Asian seat created, an
4 Asian minority majority seat created in the State
5 Senate--the first time in the Senate's history.
6 That seat was a direct reflection of a number of
7 discussions, primarily in the public hearings
8 that took place twice in Queens. There were over
9 approximately ten hours of hearings in Queens and
10 then the Asian-American seat created was created
11 as a result of those discussions. There are also
12 13 minority majority districts in this state.
13 Five of those districts were under the major--
14 minority majority numbers as a result of the 2010
15 United States Census, and I'm very pleased
16 through the work of this task force that every
17 minority district was not only preserved but
18 strengthened in spite of shifting population
19 trends within the city of New York.

20 There are a number of other comments I
21 could make, but I want to make the task force for
22 their work, particularly the staff. That there
23 were a number of advertisements that existed
24 prior to the first round of hearings and prior to

1 Legislative Redistricting Recommendation, 3-14-2012

2 the second round of hearings. Those
3 advertisements were placed in foreign language
4 newspaper including Chinese, Korean, and Spanish.
5 With newspapers also utilized by the African
6 American and Indo-Caribbean American communities
7 throughout New York publicizing the hearings and
8 trying to ensure maximum participation. For the
9 first time in our State's history, LATFOR
10 established a website, and use of the internet
11 was extensive. That we took comment, posted
12 notice of public hearing and had a great deal of
13 input as a result of that website. Without
14 further ado, though, Assemblyman McEneny.

15 ASSEMBLY MEMBER MCENENY: Thank you,
16 Senator. I wanted to thank the members of the
17 LATFOR staff, and when we get to the floor, I'll
18 mention some of the staff that have backed us up
19 as well as the members here, and I would just
20 point out that for people who feel that this
21 process was dragged out, that in fact we are
22 weeks ahead of approving of a legislative plan
23 and months ahead of approving a congressional
24 plan compared to years gone by, and the reason

1 Legislative Redistricting Recommendation, 3-14-2012

2 for that is that the change has not been in the
3 performance of LATFOR in terms of the calendar,
4 but rather the changing of the calendar as
5 ordered by the justice department. We don't have
6 the time that we've had in the past, and I think
7 our job now--and I know this will be debated in
8 greater detail because our job now is to take the
9 work, which is the latest work and the final work
10 of LATFOR and pass it on for recommendation by
11 consideration by the two Houses of the
12 legislature, and so unless someone else wishes to
13 make a comment. Did you...?

14 ROMAN HEDGES, NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATIVE
15 TASK FORCE ON DEMOGRAPHIC RESEARCH AND
16 REAPPORTIONMENT: Just in the way of information
17 about things that we've done, I'm real pleased
18 about the prison adjustment and I want to thank
19 all of you for helping in that. The staff--the
20 joint staff in particular was just
21 extraordinarily helpful all the way through.
22 Both the cartographic staff headed by Chris Ruiz
23 [phonetic] and the demographic staff headed by
24 Isaac Pheffer [phonetic] did just a great job.

1 Legislative Redistricting Recommendation, 3-14-2012

2 On substance, in the assembly side of the
3 proposal that's going to the legislature we were
4 able to create three additional majority Hispanic
5 districts, one additional African-American
6 district, two additional Asian-American
7 districts, and I think that that's a remarkable
8 accomplishment, and I'm particularly pleased
9 about that, and with that having been said, I
10 think I'm finished for the day.

11 SENATOR NOZZOLIO: Thank you very much,
12 Assemblyman. I would remiss if I didn't also
13 thank our other citizen representative on the
14 task force. Welquis Ray Lopez was invaluable
15 throughout this process, even acted as
16 interpreter during some of our hearings. We
17 appreciate his efforts and call above and beyond
18 the call of duty and thank you very much for your
19 great work.

20 MR. WELQUIS LOPEZ: Thank you very much.

21 SENATOR DILAN: May I move that the
22 final report of LATFOR be advance to the
23 legislature for its consideration?

24 SENATOR NOZZOLIO: There's a motion on

1 Legislative Redistricting Recommendation, 3-14-2012

2 consideration. Is there a second?

3 ASSEMBLY MEMBER MCENENY: Second.

4 SENATOR NOZZOLIO: Motion's been moved
5 and seconded. It's up for consideration.
6 Senator Dilan.

7 SENATOR DILAN: Is anything in writing
8 that you're presenting us today in terms of what
9 you're actually submitting to the legislature or
10 can you at least give us an outline of what
11 you're talking about?

12 SENATOR NOZZOLIO: It's the books that
13 have been distributed to all the members and
14 there are extra copies I believe on the desk to
15 the members.

16 SENATOR DILAN: So, the only thing that
17 you're forwarding to legislature is the Assembly
18 and Senate lines, nothing else?

19 SENATOR NOZZOLIO: At this time, that's
20 all I believe the law requires.

21 SENATOR DILAN: All right. Thank you.

22 SENATOR NOZZOLIO: Thank you, Senator
23 Dilan. This motion for consideration has been
24 seconded. All those in favor?

1 Legislative Redistricting Recommendation, 3-14-2012

2 ASSEMBLY MEMBER MCENENY: Aye.

3 SENATOR NOZZOLIO: Aye. Opposed?

4 SENATOR DILAN: Aye.

5 SENATOR NOZZOLIO: Senator Dilan.

6 Motion's carried. The work of the task force has
7 been completed. Thank you very, very much.

8 SENATOR DILAN: Thank you.

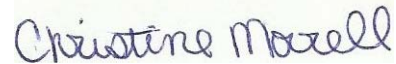
9 ASSEMBLY MEMBER MCENENY: Thank you.

10 (The public meeting concluded at 11:13

11 a.m.)

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Christine Morrell, do hereby certify that the foregoing typewritten transcription, consisting of pages number 1 to 15, inclusive, is a true record prepared by me and completed from materials provided to me.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Christine Morrell". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the typed name.

Christine Morrell, Transcriptionist

March 15, 2012 Date