



October 7, 2022

To: New York City Council Speaker Adrienne Adams

Sent via email

RE: Reducing Further Delays in the Council Redistricting Process

Dear Speaker Adams,

We write to request that you speed up the City Council’s review of the plan submitted by the New York City Districting Commission, so that the public has sufficient time to provide input on future revisions. The redistricting process, which is under a new compressed timeline set by the City Charter, has already experienced several delays. If the City Council waits the full three weeks it is allotted before voting on and possibly rejecting the current plan, we are concerned that there will be limited time for meaningful public input on the next version of the plan.

According to the City Charter, the City Council may adopt a resolution objecting to the districting plan within three weeks of receiving it. That means the Council has until October 27 to vote on the plan. However, the Districting Commission’s charter-mandated deadline to file the final plan with the City Clerk is December 7.

That leaves only six weeks for the Districting Commission to receive and process any objections from council members, develop a revised plan accordingly, hold another round of public hearings on the revised plan, and get to an agreement on a final plan.

This short time frame could potentially reduce the opportunity given to New Yorkers to comment on their district maps.

We join the Speaker in commending the record-breaking number of public comments received so far, and we appreciate your support in keeping this a community-oriented process. The broad and diverse input received from New Yorkers was essential in improving the maps that were submitted to the Council. The public should be awarded the same opportunity to testify in borough-based and inclusive hearings on future draft maps.

In addition, given the chaotic redistricting cycle witnessed for congressional and legislative districts over the last two years, it is vital that New York City avoids any problems that might arise from missing legal deadlines for the city redistricting cycle.

To ensure the redistricting process continues smoothly and to maximize public participation, we ask that you convene the City Council as soon as possible to review the proposed district plan.

Sincerely,

Betsy Gotbaum	Susan Lerner	Deborah Brodheim	Blair Horner	John Kaehny
Executive Director	Executive Director	Kai Rosenthal	Executive Director	Executive Director
Citizens Union	Common Cause NY	Co-Presidents	New York Public	Reinvent Albany
		League of Women	Interest Research	
		Voters of the City	Group	
		of New York		