

**AD HOC REAPPORTIONMENT/REDISTRICTING COMMITTEE
MARCH 30, 2022**

Meeting convened at 10:02 a.m.

Present: Robert Brechko, Rob Schwarting, Dick Harper, Tim Cutler, Doug Paddock, Bonnie Percy, Dan Banach, Leslie Church, Ed Bronson Jeff Ayers

BACKGROUND

The ad hoc committee prepared and distributed a report in February recommending a weighted voting approach. Questions arose during Government Operations and full legislature meetings that were researched and answered in a March supplemental report.

Further discussion occurred during regular and special Government Operations Committee meetings, and, after receiving input from towns, villages and residents, the ad hoc committee was asked to further evaluate adding a legislator in District II and adjusting boundaries as necessary to achieve representation within understood total discrepancy of 7.3%.

To that end, a second DRAFT supplemental report was prepared and circulated to the members of the ad hoc committee.

GOAL

Review DRAFT supplemental report and recommend redistricting plan(s) to the Government Operations Committee.

DISCUSSION SUMMARY

- Recommended changes to the DRAFT report:
 - Add statement that voting locations will not change.
 - Assure that the document is clear when referencing “districts” – whether election of legislative.
 - Add statement that red dots on proposed legislative district plans represent addresses of current incumbent legislators.
- Reviewed plan presented in Supplement Appendix A (15 legislators):
 - Unanimous ad hoc committee recommendation not to proceed with this plan.
 - Yates County already has the second-lowest ratio of citizens:representatives in the 57 New York State counties outside New York City.
- Reviewed plans presented in Supplement Appendices B-1 and B-2 (14 legislators):
 - Both plans incorporate the Village of Penn Yan in one legislative district (District III), as preferred by the current and future mayors and the legislator on the ad hoc committee (Dan) representing that district.
 - All present recommended the plan shown in Appendix B-1 for 14 legislators.
- Reviewed plans presented in Supplement Appendices C-1 and C-2 (10 legislators):
 - Both plans incorporate the Village of Penn Yan in its own legislative district (District 5), assuring that the village is proportionally represented.
 - Five of the seven present recommended the plan shown in Appendix C-2 for 10 legislators, primarily because the plan maintains the Italy Middlesex congressional district and partitions only one town (Benton) significantly.

ASSIGNED TASKS

- Rob and Bob will review the hierarchical evaluation criteria per S5160B. (Their review is attached to these minutes as Attachment A.)
- Doug to modify supplement based on input from this meeting and circulate to all attendees for review.
- Doug to prepare and distribute supplemental report based on input received from members.

NEXT MEETING

No additional meetings are scheduled at this time.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 11:10 a.m.

**Attachment A –
Review of Hierarchical Evaluation Criteria per S5160B by Election Commissioners**

A. Districts shall consist of contiguous territory and B. Districts shall be as compact in form as practicable: – Maps show that each district is continuous and as compact as possible. Where individual election districts are created, each is contiguous, but may not be compact as it is elongated along the border between two Legislative Districts.

C. Districts shall not be drawn to discourage competition or for the purpose of favoring or disfavoring incumbents or other particular candidates or political parties – Each B series Legislative District was essentially an existing district with minor adjustments along some of the Legislative District borders. There is no impact on Legislators, parties or protected groups. The C series Legislative Districts were drawn without regard to the residences of current legislators, although the reduction of the Legislature from 14 to 10 Legislators will potentially affect incumbents in three of the five districts. Regardless of how the Legislative Districts are formed, 4 Legislators will be removed. The C-Series was created by a representative from the Board of Election and the County Planner and then presented to the Legislative Committee on Redistricting.

D. The maintenance of cores of existing districts, of pre-existing political subdivisions including cities, villages and towns and of communities of interest shall also be considered – The proposed B and C – Series of proposed Legislative Districts specially considers the Village of Penn Yan positively, and assembles all addresses in the village in one Legislative District. In the B-Series plans, the Village is included in the Legislative District including a large portion of the Town of Milo. In the C-Series plans, the Village is a stand-alone Legislative District. There are no major concentrations of protected voter groups. The largest non-protected but minority group is the several sects of the Mennonites. This is not a perceived issue as these communities are spread widely across the county and the several Legislative Districts.

E. Districts shall be formed so as to promote the orderly and efficient administration of elections – the Board of Elections is resistant to actions that raise the cost of elections for the taxpayer. Forming new election districts and especially small elections districts with very small populations raise the potential for higher staff and printing costs. Since the BOE has been successful in consolidating multiple election districts in centralized polling sites, increasing staff costs have been contained. With the capability of On-Demand Ballots and electronic Poll Books, multiple Legislative Districts ballots at a poll site is not a big issue. Once the Legislative Districts are decided, the Board of Elections will then adjust election district lines using the GIS and County Planner. Then the new shape files will require two weeks to update the registration files, all of which can occur post General Election put prior to February 1st, 2023.