



# Office of the County Executive

Monroe County, New York

**Adam J. Bello**  
*County Executive*

October 21, 2022

The Honorable Sabrina LaMar, President  
The Honorable Steve Brew, Majority Leader  
The Honorable Yversha Roman, Minority Leader  
Monroe County Legislature  
410 County Office Building  
Rochester, New York 14614

Dear President LaMar, Majority Leader Brew, and Minority Leader Roman:

Two weeks ago, I announced the results of analysis conducted by voting rights experts concerning the Monroe County Legislature redistricting process. Based on that analysis, I expressed my concerns that the map under consideration by the Legislature would weaken and dilute minority voting rights, and that it was deeply flawed, both equitably and legally.

Since I raised those concerns, additional independent experts have highlighted the flaws in the proposed map. In an article published in the Democrat & Chronicle, the Manager of the Redistricting Project at the NAACP Legal Defense & Educational Fund, Stuart Naifeh, explained that by creating five majority Black districts at the expense of a sixth minority-opportunity district, the plan now before the Legislature “potentially reduces representation for communities of color.” Mr. Naifeh further noted that the “Supreme Court has said you can’t use a racial target trying to create a majority Black district if the voting patterns say you don’t need to.” The expert analysis of racial voting patterns conducted by Dr. Lisa Handley has confirmed that the existing map already contains five districts that enable Black voters to elect candidates of their choice. Packing additional Black voters into these districts, while stripping minority voters out of another district that could elect minority candidates of choice, likely violates racial gerrymandering principles outlined by the Supreme Court in *Cooper v. Harris* and other cases.

In an open letter to President LaMar, Susan Lerner, the Executive Director of Common Cause New York, further emphasized exactly these concerns. Ms. Lerner wrote that the “proposed map appears to pack Black voters into 5 districts in order to eliminate a sixth district which provides minority voters with an opportunity to elect a representative.” She noted that Common Cause was “alarmed at the way in which partisan interests have dominated” the Legislature’s redistricting process and “urge[d] the County Legislature to reject the proposed map.”

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When I shared the results of our expert analysis two weeks ago, I committed to creating an illustrative map using a process that is data driven and legally compliant. My Administration's illustrative map is enclosed with this letter, along with a table summarizing key demographic information for the prospective districts within the City of Rochester. This illustrative plan demonstrates what a map with a sixth minority-opportunity district, along with other districts that are compact and appropriately drawn under State and federal law, could look like. This map can serve as a starting point for discussions and negotiations to arrive at a map that truly empowers minority voters and serves our community's interests.

I urge the Legislature to cancel tonight's planned Special Meeting and reject the proposed map. Instead of holding that Meeting, I invite you to meet with me to reset the dialogue and renew negotiations based on the illustrative map I have enclosed.

Sincerely,



Adam J. Bello  
Monroe County Executive

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**Six District Illustrative Map  
Voting Age Population for Illustrative City of Rochester Districts**

District	NH White*	Hispanic**	Black***
21	43.58%	16.13%	39.20%
21	60.81%	12.42%	24.38%
21	34.74%	19.63%	45.55%
22	13.61%	33.85%	51.85%
22	10.53%	36.56%	53.78%
22	19.87%	31.12%	47.59%
23	79.79%	5.16%	10.35%
23	75.63%	5.61%	10.42%
23	81.31%	4.78%	9.10%
24	69.90%	5.86%	11.44%
24	59.98%	6.59%	16.54%
24	70.52%	5.71%	11.18%
25	34.86%	10.61%	46.86%
25	25.80%	14.02%	55.63%
25	32.32%	10.82%	52.10%
26	58.63%	13.26%	24.24%
26	58.09%	14.07%	23.96%
26	56.51%	14.12%	26.00%
27	23.94%	9.29%	64.01%
27	25.44%	8.84%	59.92%
27	26.15%	8.12%	59.30%
28	23.99%	21.03%	48.35%
28	24.21%	19.51%	51.49%
28	24.45%	21.49%	47.52%
29	19.98%	35.24%	45.90%
29	15.28%	32.61%	53.04%
29	21.43%	33.55%	45.44%

**Key:**

Current Districts Map	*Non-Hispanic white
Legislature Proposal Map	**Hispanic
Illustrative Six District Map	***Black, including Black/Hispanic and multi-race Black