

NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE
ON DEMOGRAPHIC RESEARCH AND REAPPORTIONMENT

PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULE

PUBLIC MEETING

Hamilton Hearing Room B
Legislative Office Building
2nd Floor
Albany, New York
Wednesday, July 6, 2011
10:00 a.m.

Public Hearing Schedule-LATFOR Meeting, 7-6-11

TASK FORCE MEMBERS PRESENT:

SENATOR MICHAEL F. NOZZOLIO, CO-CHAIR

ASSEMBLYMEMBER JOHN J. MCENENY, CO-CHAIR

SENATOR MARTIN M. DILAN, MEMBER

ASSEMBLYMEMBER ROBERT OAKS, MEMBER

ROMAN HEDGES, MEMBER

WELQUIS LOPEZ, MEMBER

INDEX

	Page
MICHAEL F. NOZZOLIO, CO-CHAIR SENATOR NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE ON DEMOGRAPHIC RESEARCH AND REAPPORTIONMENT	4
JOHN J. MCENENY, CO-CHAIR MEMBER OF ASSEMBLY NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE ON DEMOGRAPHIC RESEARCH AND REAPPORTIONMENT	5
MARTIN M. DILAN, MEMBER SENATOR NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE ON DEMOGRAPHIC RESEARCH AND REAPPORTIONMENT	9
ROBERT OAKS, MEMBER MEMBER OF ASSEMBLY NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE ON DEMOGRAPHIC RESEARCH AND REAPPORTIONMENT	13
ROMAN HEDGES, MEMBER NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE ON DEMOGRAPHIC RESEARCH AND REAPPORTIONMENT	15

1 Public Hearing Schedule-LATFOR Meeting, 7-6-11

2 (The public hearing commenced)

3 SENATOR MIKE NOZZOLIO, CO-CHAIR,

4 LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE ON DEMOGRAPHIC RESEARCH

5 AND REAPPOINTMENT: Good morning ladies and

6 gentlemen. My name is Mike Nozzolio. I'm proud

7 to be a member of the New York State Legislative

8 Task Force on Demographic Research and

9 Reapportionment. Today is the first meeting of

10 the task force. I'm very pleased that members of

11 the task force are participating and that I'd

12 like to briefly introduce them. On my far right,

13 literally, is a long-term member of the task

14 force, Roman Hedges, joined by Assemblyman Bob

15 Oaks. I'm very honored to be with my co-chair of

16 the task force, a long-time friend, Assemblyman

17 Jack McEneny. To my left is Senator Martin Dilan

18 and that to his left is Ray Lopez. Thank you,

19 gentlemen, for your participation, and that I'm

20 very glad to announce the task force first

21 meeting that we have an agenda, and that I'll get

22 to the agenda as soon as co-chair McEneny has the

23 opportunity to say a few words. Assemblyman?

24 ASSEMBLYMEMBER JOHN MCENENY, CO-CHAIR,

1 Public Hearing Schedule-LATFOR Meeting, 7-6-11
2 LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE ON DEMOGRAPHIC RESEARCH
3 AND REAPPORTIONMENT: Thank you, Senator. I'm
4 glad to have people here who are interested in
5 this very important constitutional process of
6 adjusting the lines of the New York State
7 Legislature, as well as the Congress, to comply
8 with one-person, one-vote requirements for fair
9 representation in any legislative body across the
10 country. Our responsibility is to deal with the
11 legislature and the Congress. This year there is
12 particular pressure to get moving with the
13 reapportionment or the redistricting process
14 because the Justice Department has quite rightly
15 raised the specter of a high percentage of
16 service men and women, in particular those
17 serving our nation in Iraq and Afghanistan, are
18 not having their absentee ballots counted, and
19 our senatorial and congressional delegation has
20 been moving for this. It's been a full
21 generation since New York State had other than a
22 September primary, and while one way to ensure
23 the required 45 days in advance of getting
24 absentee ballots out would be to move it back to

1 Public Hearing Schedule-LATFOR Meeting, 7-6-11
2 August. Realistically, August and July are a
3 time when people are on vacation; they're
4 scattered, they're visiting friends and family,
5 and that means we are going back to something
6 that the older members here remember, which is
7 probably a June primary, and this would mean that
8 the political calendar which would be voted on
9 early in the session would actually have people
10 getting nominating petitions. They'd have to
11 know where their lines were out as early as
12 March. So, this is something that I think all
13 legislators feel we have a fiduciary
14 responsibility to address and we are doing that
15 now through the announcement, as you'll hear
16 shortly, of public hearings to bring the public
17 in across the state, and I'll leave that to
18 follow up but this is the process, this is why we
19 are doing it. We are governed by civil rights
20 law, voting rights law and the concern that New
21 Yorkers be properly represented.

22 SENATOR NOZZOLIO: Thank you,
23 Assemblyman. Before asking other members of the
24 task force if they would like the opportunity to

1 Public Hearing Schedule-LATFOR Meeting, 7-6-11
2 speak, I'd like to first focus attention to two
3 items; the agenda proposed today is for the task
4 force to agree to a hearing schedule. We've
5 proposed 12 hearings across the state that it's
6 the intention of co-chairman, and I believe all
7 the members of the task force, that this process
8 be as open and as transparent as possible.
9 Starting out with 12 hearings in every region
10 across New York is the agenda; a hearing
11 scheduled for Syracuse, Rochester, Albany,
12 Westchester, Binghamton, Buffalo, Queens, Bronx,
13 Kings, Manhattan, Richmond and Long Island, to
14 take place between now and the middle, early part
15 of the fall.

16 Before pushing before the task force the
17 agenda item, though, I would like to indicate
18 that it is agreement of the members of the task
19 force that there will be a video of each hearing
20 placed on the LATFOR website for all to see; that
21 the task force wants to maximize the ability to
22 provide information to the public and believe
23 that the hearings and the text of those hearings
24 should be totally open to the public so a video

1 Public Hearing Schedule-LATFOR Meeting, 7-6-11
2 will be taken of each hearing, and placed on the
3 LATFOR website.

4 We encourage citizens and organizations
5 from across the state to contact the website,
6 contact either through email or direct written
7 comments to the task force. Those comments,
8 whether they come electronically or through the
9 mail, will be part of the record that the task
10 force will be accumulating over the weeks ahead.
11 The census data for New York State is being
12 placed on the website, and that that census data
13 will be accessible to all.

14 The hearings, I think, certainly will
15 require a vote of the task force but I'd like to
16 emphasize those hearings are stage one in the
17 process; that there will be--after plans have
18 been produced, there will be another stage of
19 hearings, so that hearings will be available
20 after plans are proposed so the public can review
21 those plans and have an opportunity to comment.

22 So, to make it clear, two sets of
23 hearings; the first will be conducted beginning
24 Tuesday, July 19th, should the task force agree

1 Public Hearing Schedule-LATFOR Meeting, 7-6-11
2 to the hearing schedule, and then beginning from
3 then through the early first week of October.
4 When plans are produced, then a second round of
5 hearings will be scheduled by the task force.
6 Before I ask for a motion to accept the hearing
7 schedule, I'd like the task force members the
8 opportunity to speak. Senator Dilan?

9 SENATOR MARTIN DILAN, NEW YORK STATE
10 LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE ON DEMOGRAPHIC RESEARCH
11 AND REAPPORTIONMENT: Yes. Thank you very much,
12 Senator Nozzolio and Assemblyman McEneny and
13 other members of the task force. I'm very
14 pleased to hear some of your comments this
15 morning. Senator Nozzolio, I believe that maybe
16 you have a copy of my statement already, and may
17 have read it, but there is a couple--

18 SENATOR NOZZOLIO: Great minds think
19 alike.

20 SENATOR DILAN: --a couple of portions
21 that you did leave out and since we are going to
22 have a record of what we're doing here today, I
23 would just like to read my statement into the
24 record.

1 Public Hearing Schedule-LATFOR Meeting, 7-6-11

2 Good morning. I'd like to thank Co-
3 Chair Senator Nozzolio and Assemblymember McEneny
4 for calling today's meeting so soon after the
5 conclusion of our regular session, and as you
6 know, we have a lot of work to do and major goals
7 to accomplish. It is important that the 2011/12
8 redistricting process be the most transparent and
9 participatory in the state's history. New
10 Yorkers have made it clear that redistricting
11 reform is a top priority. It is now up to this
12 task force to make that happen.

13 Many of my Senate and Assembly
14 colleagues, Governor Cuomo and myself, have
15 proposed numerous plans to promote fair and
16 objective criteria and rules for redistricting.
17 These criteria range from minimal population
18 deviation and district configuity to recognizing
19 and maintaining communities of interest, in
20 addition to providing the best representation
21 possible for all communities and populations. I
22 want to ensure that this task force fully
23 complies with the 2010 law mandating that prison
24 populations be reassigned to their homes of

1 Public Hearing Schedule-LATFOR Meeting, 7-6-11
2 record. I have asked our co-chairs for the
3 status of the implementation of this law and I
4 look forward to their response.

5 I also want to ensure that every effort
6 is made and new technology utilized to facilitate
7 public involvement throughout the course of the
8 redistricting process. This task force must
9 provide New Yorkers with easily-accessible and
10 useful redistricting data. In addition, our
11 meetings and hearings should be recorded and
12 broadcast live over the Internet in the same way
13 many legislative hearings are viewed live as they
14 happen. I understand that today's meeting is
15 being taped and then broadcast later. Hopefully
16 our hearings can be actually live if that's
17 possible. I know that we'll be on the road and
18 that may become difficult but I look forward for
19 that to happen.

20 With respect to hearings, this task
21 force should not only hold a series of hearings
22 before we develop the state and congressional
23 plans, but also a second hearing after the plans
24 are proposed and before they are voted on, and I

1 Public Hearing Schedule-LATFOR Meeting, 7-6-11

2 understand you did make that comment today so I'm
3 very pleased to hear that. Thank you.

4 I don't believe that this task force has
5 ever held a hearing in Nassau County and I'm
6 hoping that we can do that this year. In light
7 of the recent focus on Nassau County's own
8 legislative restricting process, now the subject
9 of federal and state court legal challenges, it
10 is critically important that we meet there, if
11 not to avoid a similar fate, then to at least
12 ensure any plan remains in the light of day.

13 I have included these recommendations of
14 others in a memorandum that I will be circulating
15 to all my colleagues here on the task force and
16 to any member of the public that would like to
17 have a copy.

18 New Yorkers have resoundingly called for
19 redistricting reform. There has never been such
20 demand for a fair, more transparent process,
21 objective and participatory redistricting.

22 The challenges now before this task
23 force to meet these public demands and I look
24 forward to actively participating in that effort.

1 Public Hearing Schedule-LATFOR Meeting, 7-6-11

2 I'd just like to say thank you to all my
3 colleagues and I look forward to working with
4 you.

5 SENATOR NOZZOLIO: Thank you very much,
6 Senator Dilan.

7 ASSEMBLYMEMBER ROBERT OAKS, NEW YORK
8 STATE LEGISLATIVE TASK FORCE ON DEMOGRAPHIC
9 RESEARCH AND REAPPORTIONMENT: Yes, it's my honor
10 to represent Assembly Republican Leader Brian
11 Kolb and to have been appointed by him to this
12 task force and to be one of the four legislative
13 members in the six members that make up this task
14 force as we move toward finding, I hope, an open
15 process and a fair plan that represents the
16 interests of all New Yorkers, and I look forward
17 to working with all my colleagues on this
18 process.

19 ASSEMBLYMEMBER MCENENY: Thank you very
20 much. Would either of our other members like to
21 comment today?

22 SENATOR NOZZOLIO: I appreciate my
23 colleagues' comments and more importantly, their
24 work, and as Senator Dilan indicated, we have

1 Public Hearing Schedule-LATFOR Meeting, 7-6-11
2 agreement on the objective of establishing the
3 most open and transparent process as is possible,
4 and that that process will encourage public
5 input, will seek out and certainly examine those
6 documents, those emails, those written testimony,
7 and the testimony that takes place at the public
8 hearings in order to provide the public with
9 great opportunity to have an accessible process
10 and one that provides them the opportunity to
11 have that input. So, thank you for your
12 comments. We certainly are--I know co-chairman
13 McEneny and I certainly agree with those
14 objectives and we will work hard to achieve those
15 objectives.

16 May I entertain a motion to accept the
17 legislative and congressional redistricting
18 hearing schedule, that is copies, I believe, are
19 before us, and that may I entertain a motion?

20 ASSEMBLYMEMBER MCENENY: So moved.

21 SENATOR NOZZOLIO: McEneny moved.

22 SENATOR DILAN: I have a quick question.

23 SENATOR NOZZOLIO: Senator Dilan?

24 SENATOR DILAN: Yeah, with respect to

1 Public Hearing Schedule-LATFOR Meeting, 7-6-11

2 the Long Island hearing, we have, I believe, one
3 date and has a venue been determined for that
4 location?

5 SENATOR NOZZOLIO: It has not. I know
6 Roman Hedges has been working on establishing
7 those locations, and could you give us an update,
8 Roman?

9 ROMAN HEDGES, NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATIVE
10 TASK FORCE ON DEMOGRAPHIC RESEARCH AND
11 REAPPORTIONMENT: We have been trying to make
12 arrangements for hearings in the various
13 locations that we've identified as reasonable
14 places to have hearings so that the public can be
15 involved, but we've put a constraint on the staff
16 as they're searching for locations and venues.
17 We're kind of cheap, so can we get a free
18 location. In general, we've been able to find
19 public buildings. Local governments have been
20 very helpful and so, that in general, is where
21 we're looking. At this point, we haven't located
22 a location in Long Island and we're still
23 looking. There are a couple of other places
24 where we have not settled on a place yet either,

1 Public Hearing Schedule-LATFOR Meeting, 7-6-11
2 largely in the city. In Rochester and Syracuse,
3 which are the first two venues that have been
4 identified, we're in public buildings in the
5 center of the city and those are great locations.
6 I've been there before and looking forward to
7 going back.

8 SENATOR DILAN: I would just like to
9 once again reiterate the comments that I made in
10 my statement that when we look for a venue in
11 Long Island that we do take Nassau County into
12 account. If we can do it before the drawings are
13 aligned, I believe it would be better so we can
14 get input from that community, and if that's not
15 possible, at least in the second round.

16 SENATOR NOZZOLIO: It's certainly noted,
17 Senator Dilan, and that I also want to emphasize
18 that the information age will be used to enhance
19 public participation in the process, that the
20 hearing schedule will be prominent on the website
21 of the task force, that although all the sites
22 have not been yet determined--the dates upon the
23 acceptance by the task force of the hearing
24 schedule--the dates will be posted on the website

1 Public Hearing Schedule-LATFOR Meeting, 7-6-11
2 and the general locations. And as soon as
3 specific locations can be arranged, those will be
4 placed on the website as well, so that the notice
5 will be forthcoming in terms of having adequate
6 information available to the public as to where
7 and when and exactly the locations of the
8 hearings will be. Assemblyman Oaks?

9 ASSEMBLYMEMBER OAKS: Mr. Chairman, just
10 for procedurally I will second the motion for the
11 process of the hearings.

12 SENATOR NOZZOLIO: Thank you,
13 assemblyman. It's been moved and seconded. All
14 those in favor?

15 ASSEMBLYMEMBER MCENENY: Before we do
16 that, perhaps we should read it for the benefit
17 of the transcript, exactly where they are. I'll
18 leave the locations off since we have some and
19 not others.

20 Tuesday, July 19th is in Syracuse;
21 Wednesday, July 20th is in Rochester; Thursday,
22 August 4th is in Albany; Wednesday, August 10th
23 is in Westchester; Wednesday, August 17th is in
24 Binghamton; Thursday, August 18th is in Buffalo;

1 Public Hearing Schedule-LATFOR Meeting, 7-6-11
2 Wednesday, September 7th in Queens; Thursday,
3 September 8th in the Bronx; Tuesday, September
4 20th in Kings; Wednesday, September 21st,
5 Manhattan; Thursday, September 22nd in Richmond;
6 and Wednesday, October 5th in Long Island.

7 SENATOR NOZZOLIO: Thank you very much,
8 Assemblyman. It's been moved and seconded that
9 the task force accept the proposed hearing
10 schedule. All those in favor say I.

11 [Whereas all Task Force members said I.]

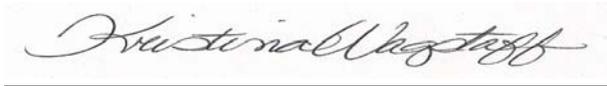
12 SENATOR NOZZOLIO: Opposed, no. The I's
13 have it and the schedule has been adopted. That
14 the task force certainly welcomes input from its
15 members and from the public, that we will be
16 having a number of other discussions through the
17 months ahead and we look forward to those
18 discussions, and thank you very much for your
19 cooperation and participation. Meeting
20 adjourned.

21 (The public meeting concluded)

Public Hearing Schedule-LATFOR Meeting, 7-6-11

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Kristina Wagstaff, do hereby certify that the foregoing typewritten transcription, consisting of pages number 1 to 19, inclusive, is a true record prepared by me and completed from materials provided to me.



Kristina Wagstaff, Transcriptionist

July 9, 2011 Date