



Legislation

BOL Meeting Minutes - Published Draft

Committee Chair: Colin Smith

800 Michaelian Office Bldg.
148 Martine Avenue, 8th Floor
White Plains, NY 10601
www.westchesterlegislators.com

Monday, September 12, 2022

2:00 PM

Committee Room

CALL TO ORDER

Please note: This meeting was held in person at the Michaelian Office Building, 148 Martine Avenue, White Plains, New York 10601 in the McPoland Conference Room # 824 and also remotely via WebEx. Legislators participated in person or via video conferencing through WebEx. Members of the public are invited to attend the meeting in person at any of its locations or view it online at the Westchester Legislators website:

<https://westchestercountyny.legistar.com/Calendar.aspx> this website also has links to the Agenda Packets containing documents to be discussed at the meeting.

With a quorum present, Chair Smith called the meeting to order at 2:37 PM.

Others in Attendance: BOL - Legislator James Nolan, Legislator David Tubiolo, Legislator Jewel Williams Johnson, Legislator Tyrae Woodson-Samuels, Marcello Figueroa, Anand Singh, Karen Vele

Present: Committee Chair Smith, Legislator Barr, Legislator Boykin, Legislator Cunzio, Committee Vice-Chair Gashi and Legislator Maher

Remote: Legislator Borgia, Legislator Johnson and Legislator Shimsky

MINUTES APPROVAL

I. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Second Discussion on the Westchester County Redistricting Process

Guests: The Benjamin Center for Public Policy Initiatives at SUNY New Paltz - Joshua Simons, Senior Research Associate, League of Women Voters - Kathy Meany, President, Louise Perez, Third Vice-President; VoteEarlyNY - Jarret Berg, Esq., Co-Founder and Voting Rights Counsel

Mr. Simons said that since there have been no changes to the maps, that he was attending the meeting primarily to answer any questions and listen to input. Ms. Meany and Ms. Perez addressed the committee and said that their preliminary review of the maps lead them to believe that they look good, however they're withholding their final position until the lines are finalized. County Attorney Nonna said they didn't have anything to add and were just listening today. Legislator Cunzio reiterated her request to have individual meetings with Mr. Simons. Legislator Nolan spoke about specific changes and requests related to his legislative district (LD) and a discussion on communities of interested and commonalities ensued. Mr Simons said that he's unsure if theres explicit commonality between West Yonkers and Eastchester, but at the end of the day they have to create equitable districts where peoples votes count the same. Legislator Cunzio asked who was responsible for directing Mr. Simons on specific

changed and Mr. Simons reiterated that his single point of contact was Chief of Staff Montalto. Legislator Borgia added that throughout this process no one legislator will get everything they want, but they still have to create a consensus that the majority of people will be ok with, and a discussion ensued on the challenges that have made this process challenging. Legislator Nolan asked when this process began, and Legislator Boykin said that it began last year. However, it needed to be significantly retooled because of enabling legislation passed at the state and federal level and further discussion ensued on specific changes to the proposed lines. Mr. Simons noted that the lines don't go into effect immediately, and that specific lines sometimes had to do more with the changes to communities of interest and changes in neighboring districts, before further discussion on specific changes to LDs. Ms. Meany said that the League of Women has followed this process for last 1.5 years and thanked the Board of Legislators for their work. She wanted to remind everyone that they're looking out for their voters. Vice-Chair Gashi raised a point about the proposed lines and the effect they had on school districts, to which Legislator Borgia spoke about the situation in her district with school districts being split and said having more than one legislator per school district isn't necessarily a bad thing, with further discussion on school districts ensuing. Mr. Simons commented that sometimes changes can cause unforeseen effects on neighboring districts, in turn creating a ripple effect.

II. OTHER BUSINESS

III. RECEIVE & FILE

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Legislator Boykin, seconded by Committee Vice-Chair Gashi, the Committee adjourned at 3:30 PM.