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New York Good Government Plan Description

This congressional plan prioritizes keeping political subdivisions intact and minimizing deviations from the previous map, in addition to the traditional redistricting principles of compactness and contiguity. At the same time, the map preserves the previous plan's high levels of minority representation. The plan has only 3 districts deviating from the ideal population, with a maximum deviation of 3 people. It has 2 majority Hispanic districts, 2 majority Black districts, and 5 other majority-minority districts.

New York lost a district this cycle, so this plan removes a district from upstate New York, where population growth was slowest. As a result, substantial deviations from the current enacted districts were necessary in the north of the state. The plan seeks to minimize these deviations, and prioritizes keeping counties together when deviating from the current plan. Monroe, Broome, Saratoga, Dutchess, and Rensselaer counties are all split between two districts in the current enacted plan, but are not split in this plan. Westchester is currently split between districts 16, 17, and 18, but is only split between two districts in this plan. However, to keep districts compact, the plan splits four previously unsplit counties: Allegany, Orange, Livingston, and Oneida. When the map splits counties, the districts prioritize keeping cities, towns and precincts together. For example, the map splits only 24 precincts outside of New York City and only 58 in total, out of over 14,000 total precincts.¹

Within New York City, the plan attempts to keep neighborhoods within the same districts, changing as little as possible. The shape of each district remains similar, with district 9 experiencing perhaps the most significant changes. At the same time, the map ensures that districts are contiguous over land. For example, district 5, a majority Black district in Queens (50.15% Black in this plan), would have higher rates of Black people by VAP if it lost a neighborhood in Nassau county, but then the district would be only contiguous over water.

After creating compact, contiguous districts which stray as little as possible from the previous districts, a high priority was maintaining minority voting power. This motivation primarily relates to districts in New York City. As with the current enacted map, districts 5 and 8 are majority Black by voting age population (VAP). Similarly, this plan preserves the current plan's majority Hispanic districts by VAP in the 13th and 15th districts. The plan measures minority populations using VAP, since citizen voting age population (CVAP) data was unavailable.

Outside of districts which grant a majority to a particular minority group, this plan preserves Hispanic, Black, and Asian populations in districts 6, 7, 9, and 14. In district 6, the plan increases the

¹ See the report titled "Political subdivision splits: VTD's."

Asian VAP population by 0.6 percent to 45.84 percent. Similarly, the plan raises the Hispanic VAP population by less than a quarter of a percent in districts 7 and 14, to 37.21 percent and 46.84 percent, respectively. In district 9, the plan reduces the Black VAP population by 2.41 percent to 47.09 percent. In total, the map has 9 majority-minority districts by VAP, the same number as the current enacted plan.

The map's construction did not consider partisan data or information on incumbents' residences, as this data was unavailable for New York. Similarly, at the time of this writing, PlanScore does not have the data to assess the partisan implications of congressional plans of New York.² An analysis from Dave's Redistricting App concludes that the map slightly favors Democrats over Republicans. According to their analysis, a proportional plan would have 16 Democratic seats, while this plan has 19.94. However, this analysis is far from comprehensive, and interested readers should use the provided block equivalency file or GeoJSON boundaries to conduct more in-depth research on the plan's partisan implications.

² PlanScore is a nonpartisan project by the Campaign Legal Center which uses multiple metrics to determine the political bias of a given congressional map. The project supports most states.