

## **New Republican- Inspired District Lines Erase Voters' Choices and Threaten the Loss of Progressive Democrats**

A Republican judge threw out the New York Congressional and State Senate district lines that had been redrawn by Democrats earlier this year. He then appointed a "Special Master" to draw new districts. After a few final changes, the judge approved the new maps on May 20. The August 23 Democratic Primary will be based on these new maps.

It is outrageous that one out-of-state unelected person appointed by a Republican judge can erase years and years of New York State voters' choices. The resulting lines for Congress and the New York State Senate are Republicans' dreams come true. Not only has the unelected "Special Master" created lines which threaten

traditionally Democratic seats, but he has also pitted Progressive Democrats against one another by putting them in the same districts, guaranteeing the loss of valuable progressive legislators.

And where is the State Democratic Party? Why wasn't there a call to action? There must be lawsuits filed to stop these lines from being in effect for the next 10 years and there must be new leadership in the State Democratic Party who will fight for everything we hold dear.

Rep. Jerry Nadler said this about the initial draft maps: *[The] newly released district maps violate the New York State constitutional requirement of keeping communities together and the cores of existing districts largely intact. I am disturbed that a judge would allow such a clear drift from the rule of law — especially without holding a single public hearing on these new lines.*

Rep. [Hakeem Jeffries](#) (D-NY), Chair of the House Democratic Caucus, said that New York's redistricting process was "hijacked" by an appeals court after the new lines drawn for the state lumped a number of incumbents into the same district, forcing member vs. member primaries. *"The process unfortunately was hijacked by the Court of Appeals. A bad process has now led to a bad result. [ ... ] The court of appeals was wrong in the decision that they made both on the substance and in terms of turning over redistricting to an out-of-town, unelected special master and a judicial overseer in Steuben County, who was a Republican."*

Jeffries detailed his concerns, saying that the initial draft map *"shamelessly targets Black representation in New York. [ ... ] In Brooklyn and Queens, you've got four districts with significant pluralities of either African Americans or Latinos. ... In this proposed map, the Black or Latino population was degraded in all four districts. Are you kidding me? That*

*doesn't happen by accident.*“ When the final maps were released, he said that they were still a *"constitutional travesty"* that shrinks the Black and Latino voting populations in several NY districts.