NYPIRG NEWS RELEASE

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UPSTATE NEW YORK LIKELY TO LOSE REPRESENTATION IN CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION AND STATE SENATE IF NEW MAPS REFLECT CHANGES IN POPULATION

(Albany, N.Y.) The Census Bureau's release of population data last week should reflect a shift from upstate to downstate in terms of political power. The state's Redistricting Commission is currently analyzing census data to develop the new political boundaries to reflect changes in the state's population. For years, upstate New York's population has stagnated or declined and the New York City area, its suburbs and the Hudson Valley areas have gained.

Today the New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG) released an analysis of demographic data compiled by the Center for Urban Research at The Graduate Center/CUNY, which documents possible changes in state Senate and Congressional representation. For more information on the CUNY program, its maps and analyses on reapportionment, go to: www.redistrictingandyou.org.

As seen below, based solely on population shifts, the loss of one Congressional seat should mean that upstate New York is the area to expect a loss. Moreover, in terms of the state Senate districts, it should be expected that upstate loses at least one Senate seat as well. Those population shifts are not expected to dramatically impact the state Assembly.

Four charts follow. The **first** shows the regional growth in population in the state by region. "Upstate" includes all of the areas north of Westchester/Rockland/Putnam counties. The growth masks the fact that upstate's population growth is fueled largely by the Hudson Valley region.

The **second** compares regional Congressional representation in two ways: (1) the number of seats in an "ideal" scenario (if each district had populations of equal size) and then the "actual" number of seats. As you will see, given that Congressional districts must have populations as equal as possible, that there is little difference between "ideal" and "actual." (2) Given that New York State is losing one seat (through reapportionment), the data reflects "ideal" district population based on 26 seats. As you can see, Upstate New York is the region that will lose Congressional representation.

The **third** compares regional state Senate representation in two ways (1) the number of seats in an "ideal" scenario (if each district had populations of equal size) and then the "actual" number of seats. As you will see, since mapmakers can draw districts with populations that can range by 10 percent between the smallest population and the largest, there is a significant difference between "ideal" and "actual." (2) Assuming that mapmakers do not increase the number of state Senate districts (currently allowed under the state Constitution) and that they draft districts with equal populations, Upstate New York could lose one state Senate seat. That seat could be placed in New York City.

The **fourth** compares regional state Assembly representation in two ways (1) the number of seats in an "ideal" scenario (if each district had populations of equal size) and then the "actual" number of seats. As you will see, since mapmakers can draw districts with populations that can range by 10 percent between the smallest population and the largest, that there is a significant difference between "ideal" and "actual." (2) Assuming that mapmakers draft districts with equal populations, there would be no regional representation changes. In that last chart, you can see that mapmakers from a decade ago fashioned districts that gave New York City a representational edge. Population changes in New York State in the 2020 census closely align with the current Assembly regional representation.

One important note: This analysis assumes mapmakers will develop districts with more or less equal populations. They have not done so in the past and have used that allowable 10 percent variance from smallest to largest population districts to manipulate district lines to enhance partisan advantages. This analysis focuses on the impacts of districts that are drafted to ensure equal legislative representation in state government.

NEW YORK STATE POPULATION CHANGES					
Region	**Total Population, 2010**	**Population Percent, 2010**	**Total Population, 2020**	**Population Percent, 2020**	**Population Change**
LI	2,832,882	14.6%	2,921,694	14.5%	88,812
NYC	8,175,133	42.2%	8,804,190	**43.6%**	629,057
Upstate	8,370,087	**43.2%**	8,475,365	42.0%	105,278
NYS total	19,378,102	100.0%	20,201,249	100.0%	823,147
CONGRESS					
Region	**2010**	**"Ideal" 2010/12**	**ACTUAL 2010/12**	**2020**	**Ideal 2020/22**
LI	2,832,882	3.95	4	2,921,694	3.76
NYC	8,175,133	11.39	11	8,804,190	11.33
Upstate	8,370,087	11.66	12	8,475,365	**10.91**
NYS total	19,378,102	27	27	20,201,249	26
Ideal/Avg size	**717,707**			**776,971**	
STATE SENATE					
Region	**2010**	**'Ideal" 2010/12**	**ACTUAL 2010/12**	**2020**	**Ideal 2020/22**
LI	2,832,882	9.21	9	2,921,694	9.11
NYC	8,175,133	26.58	26	8,804,190	**27.46**
Upstate	8,370,087	27.21	28	8,475,365	**26.43**
NYS total	19,378,102	63	63	20,201,249	63
Ideal/Avg size	**307,589**			**320,655**	
STATE ASSEMBLY					
Region	**2010**	**"Ideal" 2010/12**	**ACTUAL 2010/12**	**2020**	**Ideal 2020/22**
LI	2,832,882	21.93	22	2,921,694	21.69
NYC	8,175,133	63.28	65	8,804,190	65.37
Upstate	8,370,087	64.79	63	8,475,365	62.93
NYS total	19,378,102	150	150	20,201,249	150
Ideal/Avg size	**129,187**			**134,675**	

CUNY researchers used 2010 and 2020 county-level population data that Cornell's Program on Applied Demographics compiled from the Census Bureau and made available here: https://pad.human.cornell.edu/census2020/index.cfm#pl. Thus, the Census Bureau is the source of the population data, as analyzed by the Center for Urban Research at the CUNY Graduate Center (Steven Romalewski)..

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