

Hearings

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REDISTRICTING THE NEW YORK CITY COUNCIL – RECLAIMING NEW YORK FOR AND BY NEW YORKERS

The notion that in representative democracy one can choose who will vote is preposterous.

That assertion is made even more outrageous when one factors in who that decision-maker will be – namely the individual who seeks to be elected and/or re-elected.

Let's be very clear – when one says 'the fix is in' that artifice is not the exclusive purview of current

office-holders. Indeed, not. There are many 'out-of-office-holders' who benefit disproportionately by this very crafty re-arrangement of democracy. They too benefit who play this political charade on the side-lines.

That I submit is overwhelmingly why re-districting has been the bane of 20th Century New York City.

If all those who have gone along to get along were not so substantial in perceived clout and influence this political razzle-dazzle would never have flourished so successfully within the five Boroughs of the City of New York.

Given the well-deserved reputation of the N.Y.S. Legislature as an at best dysfunctional entity many

assume that this bastardization of democracy is exercised north of New York City. Nothing could be further from the truth.

The basic tenet of re-districting – that the office holder and/or office-seeker gets to draw the lines – seeks to dictate who will be privileged to vote for him or her – is a tomfoolery that has been perpetuated at the expense of representative democracy for too long.

The Thirtieth Olympiad has just concluded. It's time now in Downstate New York to let the real and

most important game of democracy to begin – namely unfiltered, unbiased interactive selection by

voters of their legislative representatives – namely via voting.

It's well overdue to stop treating democracy as if it's a private party and only a select 'chosen' few decide who's invited. Democracy is the ultimate party - by, for, one and all!

Who can be surprised that this rigged political scheme has resulted in so much malaise at the voting site – fewer and fewer individuals voting, fewer and fewer number of voters engaged in the process of selecting and advancing their needs and interests by their self-selected representatives.

As the political gig is now played the only individuals whose ambitions are served are those who call and draw the district lines thereby readily predicting outcomes and winners.

Say it ain't so: are current office-holders in New York so frail, so insecure, so incompetent that the only way they can ensure continued full employment is by racheting up this deplorable methodology time and time again.

This is New York City – it's time to hold our political representatives to a real standard of political accountability – not this chicanery and political faux 'favour'. Noblesse oblige move over - it's time to give real legal meaning to the right to vote back to New Yorkers.

Frances E. Scanlon, Esq.

New York, New York