



Tompkins County Legislature

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Date: April 23, 2012

To: Members, Tompkins County Legislature

From: Tompkins County Independent Redistricting Commission



Subject: Recommendation Revision

At our special meeting held this evening, the Commission was informed that the City of Ithaca Redistricting Committee voted on Thursday, April 19, to submit to the Ithaca Common Council a proposed 4-Ward scenario as its preferred recommendation. This 4-Ward scenario, referred to in the City's maps as Map 4-5, differs in several respects from the proposed four county legislative districts contained in our recommendation to you contained in Map 14-C v.3. The principal differences relate to the treatment of the South Hill, East Hill and Downtown neighborhoods.

In light of the City Redistricting Committee's recommendation of April 19, the Independent Redistricting Commission has given careful attention to the wards proposed by the City Committee and has decided to revise our recommendation to you in a manner that would permit the proposed four county legislative district lines and the proposed four ward lines to be identical. This revision is reflected in the attached Map 14-C v.5, and we hereby submit it as a substitute for map 14-C v.3. We continue to believe that a 14-member County Legislature with four county legislative districts fully self-contained within the City of Ithaca best meets the multiple criteria that you have established for this Commission's work.

It should be noted that the City of Ithaca Redistricting Committee has submitted to the Ithaca Common Council an alternative, which would split each of its proposed four wards into two election districts, with one member of Common Council elected in the future from each of the resulting eight wards. The City of Ithaca Redistricting Committee has been informed that any action that would reduce the number of existing Common Council members from the current ten will require the adoption of a City Charter amendment by referendum. We have no information as to whether the Ithaca Common Council will adopt the recommendations of the City Redistricting Committee.

Thank you for your continuing attention to this important subject.

