



## City of Lowell - Law Department

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July 28, 2020

City Manager Eileen M. Donoghue *EMD*  
Mayor John Leahy  
Members of the Lowell City Council

Re: City of Lowell Electoral Redistricting – Huot, et. al. v. City of Lowell, et. al.

Dear City Manager Donoghue, Mayor Leahy, and Members of the City Council,

Pursuant to the consent decree entered in the matter of *Huot et. al. v. City of Lowell, et. al.*, the City has retained an expert who, with input from the City, Plaintiffs, and other interested parties, will draw new electoral districts for Lowell's future local elections.

The City has retained **Nathaniel Persily**, the James B. McClatchy Professor of Law at Stanford Law School. Professor Persily is a preeminent expert in the field of districting and redistricting. He has served as a special master or court-appointed expert to craft congressional or legislative districting plans for Georgia, Maryland, Connecticut, New York, North Carolina, and Pennsylvania, as well as counsel to local governmental bodies in voting rights challenges. His curriculum vitae is attached to this announcement.

The City's districting plan will hold a public comment period, dates for which will be provided to the City Council and public at a later date. During this period, the City invites public commentary on the districting process from Lowell residents. All comments should be e-mailed to the City of Lowell through the web portal [YourLowellYourVote.org](http://YourLowellYourVote.org). Residents unable to e-mail their comments can also mail a hard copy of the City of Lowell Law Department. Comments may include

- Sample maps. See <https://districtr.org/> to construct your own maps.
- Comments about what you believe should be key considerations in the creation of districts. (For example, neighborhoods, precinct boundaries, natural boundaries.)
- Additional information or data that you believe is important to the creation of districts. (Please do not submit publicly available census data.)

Please be aware that submitted comments, absent personal information, will be made publicly available.

City Manager Eileen M. Donoghue  
Mayor John Leahy, and  
Members of the City Council  
July 18, 2020  
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At the close of this public comment period, Professor Persily will draw boundaries for eight electoral districts in Lowell in consideration of all comments received above, the requirements of the consent decree, and other established principles of districting. Professor Persily will then make a public presentation of the districts drawn up either in person, remotely, or through a video recording. Members of the public will have an opportunity during this presentation to submit questions or comments.

After this presentation, Professor Persily will incorporate any final revisions that are appropriate in light of the presentation and release a final version of the eight electoral districts. These districts will be the districts used for Lowell's 2021 municipal elections, subject only to modifications made in light of 2020 federal census data, which is anticipated to be released in spring of 2021.

Very Truly Yours,

Christine P. O'Connor  
City Solicitor

Cc: Kerry Regan Jenness, 1<sup>st</sup> Asst. City Solicitor  
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Elliott J. Veloso, Asst. City Solicitor/Interim Dir. of Elections