



## **DOMINICAN AMERICAN NATIONAL ROUNDTABLE**

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### **Dominican American National Roundtable, Joined by a Coalition of Leaders, Files Legal Objection to U.S. District Court's Proposed Redistricting Plan**

Washington, DC (May 7, 2012)— The Dominican American National Roundtable, joined by a coalition of leaders, filed today a legal objection to the congressional redistricting plan released by Federal Judge Roanne L. Mann of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of New York.

The Court released its proposed draft redistricting plan on March 5, 2012. Interested parties were given 24 hours to respond and show cause, in writing today by 9:00 a.m., and particularly to explain why the Court Proposed Plan should not be presented to a Three-Judge Panel as Federal Judge Roanne L. Mann intends to do.

"Judge Mann's proposed maps violate the most fundamental principles of redistricting," said DANR President Maria Teresa Montilla. "Communities of interest have been denied their right to fair representation."

The draft Coalition objection note submitted to the court reads: "We represent a broad coalition concerned with protection of the voting rights of residents of New York City."

Members of the Coalition include the Dominican American National Roundtable, NY County Democratic Leader Keith Wright, Congresswoman Yvette Clarke, Hazel Dukes, President NAACP NYS, Carl Heastie, Bronx County Democratic County Leader, NYS Senator Adriano Espaillat, NYS Assemblyman Robert Rodriguez, NYS Assemblyman Herman Denny Farrell, NYS Assemblyman Guillermo Linares, NYS Assemblyman Nick Perry, NYC Council Member Robert Jackson, NYC Council Member Inez Dickens and NYC Council Member Ydanis Rodriguez.

While sincerely appreciating the enormity of the Court's task and the tireless work that underlies the Proposed Plan (as defined in this Court's March 6 Order), the Coalition members believe that their interests were not adequately represented by the parties and interveners, and that the Proposed Plan is deficient in several material respects. As a consequence, the Proposed Plan unduly fragments and dilutes minority voting strength and raises serious constitutional and other legal issues.

For example, the Proposed Plan, in pertinent part, appears to give little weight to the principle of community of interest, despite the general consensus that this doctrine is one of the most significant factors to be taken into account in the redistricting process."

"This is obviously a fight for our fundamental right to have taxation with representation," said Miosotis Muñoz, a community activist. "What's being proposed clearly does not allow a voting group to cohesively remain within a specific congressional district."

The Dominican American National Roundtable maintains that the community of interest that spreads over Washington Heights, West Bronx, and Corona Queens, must be kept together in one congressional district and have the ability to elect a candidate of their choice. It asserts that this is an opportunity for voters to stand up for their rights and not allow the establishment to violate the fundamental premise behind the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

**About the DANR:** The Dominican American National Roundtable is the only non-profit, non-partisan 501 (c) (3) Corporation based in Washington, DC advocating for the educational, socio-economic and political development of our diverse communities and all people of Dominican origin in the United States of America, including Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. [www.danr.org](http://www.danr.org)



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### **La Mesa Redonda Dominico Americana y Delegación de Funcionarios Someten Objeción Legal al Plan de Redistribución de Distritos del Tribunal Federal**

Washington, DC (7 de Mayo, 2012)— La Mesa Redonda Dominico Americana y una delegación de dirigentes sometieron hoy una objeción legal al plan de redistribución de distritos congresionales publicado por la Juez Federal Roanne L. Mann, del Tribunal Federal de Estados Unidos en el Distrito Este de Nueva York.

El tribunal publicó su propuesta de plan de redistribución de distritos congresionales el 5 de marzo de 2012. A las partes interesadas se les instruyó mostrar causa por escrito hoy antes de las 9:00AM, y en particular, explicar por qué el plan propuesto por el tribunal no debe ser presentada al Panel de Tres Jueces como la Juez Federal Roanne L. Mann intenta hacer.

“El mapa publicado por la Juez Mann viola los principios fundamentales del proceso de Redistribución de Distritos,” dijo María Teresa Feliciano. “A comunidades de interés se les ha negado el derecho a justa representación.”

La moción en objeción sometida al tribunal dice: "Representamos una amplia coalición preocupada por la protección de los derechos de votante de los residentes de la ciudad de New York".

Específicamente, los miembros de la Coalición son Dominican American National Roundtable, NY County Democratic Leader Keith Wright, Congresswoman Yvette Clarke, Hazel Dukes, President NAACP NYS, Carl Heastie, Bronx County Democratic County Leader, NYS Senator Adriano Espaillat, NYS Assemblyman Robert Rodriguez, NYS Assemblyman Herman Denny Farrell, NYS Assemblyman Guillermo Linares, NYS Assemblyman Nick Perry, NYC Council Member Robert Jackson, NYC Council Member Inez Dickens and NYC Council Member Ydanis Rodríguez.

Si bien apreciamos y entendemos la enormidad de la tarea del tribunal y la incansable labor que conlleva el plan propuesto (tal como se define en la orden del Tribunal fechada 6 de marzo), los miembros de la Coalición consideran que sus intereses no están debidamente representados por las partes y coadyuvantes, y que el plan propuesto es deficiente en varios aspectos importantes. Como consecuencia de ello, el plan propuesto indebidamente fragmenta y diluye el poder del voto de las minorías y plantea serias cuestiones jurídicas y constitucionales.

Por ejemplo, el plan propuesto, de manera pertinente, parece dar poca importancia al principio de comunidades de interés, a pesar del consenso general de que esta doctrina es uno de los factores más importantes a considerar en el proceso de redistribución de distritos".

“Esta es obviamente una lucha por nuestro derecho fundamental representación en proporción a contribución”, dijo Miosotis Muñoz, un activista de la comunidad. “Lo que se propone claramente impide que un grupo de votantes, permanezca cohesivamente dentro de un determinado distrito congresional”.

La Mesa Redonda Dominico Americana sostiene que la comunidad de interés que se extiende por Washington Heights, West Bronx, Queens y Corona, debe mantenerse unida en un distrito congresional de manera que pueda elegir al candidato de su preferencia. Afirma que esta es una oportunidad para que los electores defiendan sus derechos y no permitan que el establecimiento viole la premisa fundamental detrás de la Ley de Derecho del Votante 1965.