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Cayuga County Legislature to hear about redistricting, alternative forms of government

The Citizen staff Jul 21, 2018 Updated Jul 21, 2018

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The Cayuga County Legislature will receive a presentation next Thursday from SUNY New Paltz' Dr. Gerald Benjamin on redistricting and other topics. Pictured here, the Cayuga County Legislature meets April 24.

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The Citizen file

The Cayuga County Legislature next week will hear from an expert on local governments to help explore redistricting, reapportionment and alternative forms of government for the county.

Dr. Gerald Benjamin, the founder of the SUNY New Paltz Benjamin Center, which specializes in research, evaluation and policy analysis of and for local governments, will speak at a special meeting of the Legislature set for 6 p.m. Thursday, July 26.

The upcoming 10-year U.S. Census requires the Legislature to re-evaluate the apportionment of its weighted voting system, which currently allots points to each legislator based on their district's population.

Currently, District 6, which encompasses the towns of Sennett and Owasco and is represented by Aileen McNabb-Coleman, has the most points at 22 and 86 for two-thirds and majority votes, respectively. Legislature Chairman Patrick Mahunik's District 10 in Auburn has the fewest, with 14 and 47 points.

If you go
WHAT: Special Cayuga County Legislature meeting featuring presentation on redistricting and alternative forms of county government
WHEN: 6 p.m. Thursday, July 26
WHERE: Cayuga County Office Building legislative chambers, 160 Genesee St., Auburn.

Since the Census requires the Legislature to reexamine its apportionment, the Legislature is taking the opportunity to also consider alternative forms of government such as changing the size and number of districts, changing term limits, or switching the leadership structure from a legislative chair and appointed

administrator to, for example, an elected executive.

According to the agenda for the Thursday meeting, Dr. Benjamin's presentation will discuss those topics and others in detail, touching on points like how state and federal requirements impact the process, the effect on villages and towns, voters rights and more.

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