

Susan Lerner



Susan Lerner is the executive director of Common Cause/New York. She joined Common Cause in December, 2007. She writes and speaks extensively on election reform, campaign finance, redistricting, ethics, transparency and other good government issues, and is a go-to source for reporters and editorial board writers throughout New York State on these issues. In 2012, Susan spearheaded Common Cause/NY's well-regarded redistricting reform effort. Common Cause/NY drew the only set of statewide reform district maps, for both houses of the NY Legislature as well as Congress, graphically illustrating that good government principles of redistricting objectively applied were not only practical but gave a desirable result. The Common Cause/NY congressional map was expressly referenced by the Special Master who drew the current congressional districts at the direction of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of New York, with several of the districts suggested adopted virtually unchanged for the final map. This year, Susan's entry to scale up PollWatch, a mobile website for crowd-sourcing reporting conditions at polling places, for use throughout the country was chosen as one of 45 semi-finalists out of over 1,000 entries in the Knight Foundation News Challenge. Prior to joining Common Cause/NY, Susan was the executive director of the California Clean Money Campaign and led Californians for Fair and Independent Judges, a statewide coalition of groups active on federal judicial nominations. As a member of the New York and California bars, she was a litigator for almost 20 years. Susan is a graduate of the University of Chicago and NYU School of Law.