

From: [Jacqueline Coto](#)
To: [Shape California's Future](#)
Cc: [Rosalind Gold](#)
Subject: Latino Representation on the California Citizen's Redistricting Commission (CCRC)
Date: Tuesday, July 21, 2020 4:53:50 PM
Attachments: [image010.png](#)
[image011.png](#)
[Sign on letter to CCRC re Latino representation fin 07-17-2020.pdf](#)
Importance: High


Dear Commissioners:

On behalf of the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) Educational Fund and 124 partners, please find attached our collective letter addressing our concern regarding no Latino representation on the Commission so far.

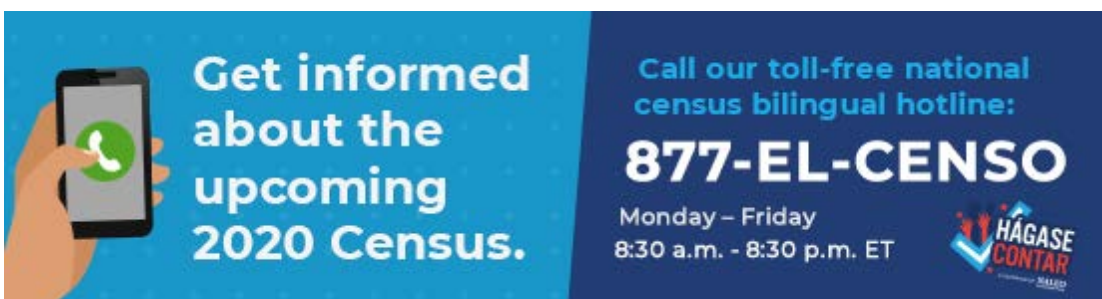
If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me directly. Thank you in advance for the work you do and for your public service.

My Very Best,

Jacqueline Coto, MSW/MPA
State Director of Civic Engagement Policy

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NALEO Educational Fund is the leading nonprofit organization that facilitates full Latino participation in the American political process, from citizenship to public service.



July 21, 2020

California Citizens Redistricting Commissioners
c/o California State Auditor
621 Capitol Mall, Suite 1200
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Commissioners:

The undersigned organizations and individuals congratulate you on your selection to serve on California's Citizens Redistricting Commission (CCRC). One of your most important responsibilities is to choose the remaining six Commissioners, and under California law, you must choose them to "ensure the commission reflects this state's diversity, including, but not limited to, racial, ethnic, geographic, and gender diversity." Given the absence of any Latinos so far on the Commission, we urge you to fulfill your responsibility by selecting up to five Latinos for the remaining CCRC seats, and at least one in each of the CCRC partisan affiliation groups.

The undersigned organizations and individuals include a diverse group of civic organizations and leaders, community organizations, advocates and other stakeholders committed to a fair redistricting process in California which results in maps that provide Latinos and other underrepresented groups with the opportunity to elect the candidates of the choice. We have worked closely with the Latino community to help ensure that Latinos can fully participate in the economic, civic and social life of California.

Latinos comprise nearly 40% of California's population, and more than one of every four of its registered voters (27%). However, the selection process for the first eight CCRC members did not result in any Latino representation on the CCRC. Given the size of California's Latino population and electorate, the CCRC will simply fail to reflect the state's ethnic diversity and meet statutory requirements regarding the CCRC without a strong Latino presence.

The Voters First Act, which created the CCRC, has several provisions which highlight the importance of a CCRC which fully reflects the diversity of California. The Act sets forth a provision in the California Constitution requiring that the CCRC's selection process be designed to produce a Commission that is "reasonably representative of this State's diversity." The state's Government Code requires the State Auditor to initiate the CCRC application process in a manner that "promotes a diverse and qualified applicant pool." One of the criteria you were required to fulfill when you applied for the CCRC was to demonstrate an "appreciation for California's diverse demographics and geography." Finally, in recognition that the first phases of the selection process as a whole might not achieve the diversity needed, the Government Code requires that the initial eight Commissioners choose the final six to ensure the CCRC reflects the state's diversity.

To achieve full Latino representation on the CCRC, we believe you must also consider the partisan diversity of California's Latinos when choosing the remaining six. According to April 2020 voter file data, Latinos comprise a significant share of the state's Democrats (32%), Republicans (15%) and those not affiliated with either political party (28%). We believe that there must be at least one Latino chosen for seats in each of the three political affiliation groups

on the CCRC, although we note this minimum level still would not result in a CCRC that fully represents the diversity of the Latino electorate. It would be more effective to reflect the diversity of the California's Latino population if up to five of the remaining Commissioners selected were Latino. In this connection, we emphasize that there are well-qualified Latinos in each of the remaining political affiliation applicant pools from which the CCRC will make its final selections.

The CCRC will draw lines that will shape the contours of California's representative government for the next ten years. The lack of Latino representation on the CCRC would undermine the confidence of all Californians in the CCRC's work, and ultimately, in the accountability and responsiveness of our democracy. It would prevent dedicated Latino civic leaders from contributing their wealth of talent and skills to the CCRC's efforts. It would be in direct conflict with the express goals of the Voters First Act, and would severely impair the ability of the CCRC to conduct a fair redistricting in California. The absence of Latinos on the CCRC poses an unacceptable threat to the health and future of our state's democracy.

We greatly appreciate the commitment to our state you have demonstrated by pursuing a seat on the CCRC. We also believe that you share our goal of achieving a robust and inclusive democratic process in California. We strongly urge you to advance that goal by complying with the mandates of the Voters First Act, and selecting at least one Latino for seats in each of the three political affiliation groups on the CCRC. Moreover, we urge you to consider selecting even more to fully ensure that the CCRC reflects the diversity of California's population.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and we look forward to continuing our work together in the future. Please contact Ms. Rosalind Gold, Chief Public Policy Officer of the NALEO Educational Fund, at rgold@naleo.org, if you have any questions about this letter.

Sincerely,

National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) Educational Fund

Alliance for a Better Community

Amigos de Guadalupe Center for Justice and Empowerment

Benito Juarez Association

CA League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC)

California Latino Economic Institute

Campaign for College Opportunity

Carolina E. Flores, MSW

Chicano Federation of San Diego County

Community Agency for Resources, Advocacy and Services (CARAS)

Community Coalition

Hispanas Organized for Political Equality (HOPE)

Inland Coalition for Immigrant Justice

InnerCity Struggle

Interfaith Movement for Human Dignity
La Raza Roundtable de California
La Vista Historical Foundation
Latino Coalition for a Healthy CA
Latino Community Foundation
Latino Education Advancement Foundation
Latino Equality Alliance
Latinos United for a New America / LUNA
League of United Latin-American Citizens (LULAC) of Riverside Council 3190
Los Cien Sonoma County
MANA de San Diego
Merced County
Native Voice
Northern California Coordinating Committee of Committees of Correspondence for Democracy and Socialism
Parent Institute for Quality Education
Small Hill Partners
South San Francisco Unified School District
Southeast Los Angeles (SELA) Collaborative
The Salvador E. Alvarez Institute for Non-Violence
The Wall Las Memorias Project
UCLA Latino Policy & Politics Initiative
Warehouse Worker Resource Center
Winter Faith Collaborative

Individuals:

Councilmember Victor Aguilar, Jr., City of San Leandro
Mayor, Elizabeth Alcantar, City of Cudahy
Supervisor, Luis A. Alejo, Monterey County
Martha Alvarez
Mayor, Sandra Armenta, City of Rosemead
Monica Arroyo
Councilmember, Manuel Avila, City of Huntington Park
Laura Barrera
Rosa Grunhaus Belzer, Ph.D
Raphael Bernal
Bernadette Butkiewicz
Vanessa Cajina
Gustavo Camacho, City of Pico Rivera
Assemblymember, Nora Campos (Retired), 23rd District of California
Councilmember, Miguel Canales, City of Artesia
Teresa Castellanos

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Rabel C. Castillo

Aide Castro, City of Lynwood

Christina Cervantes

Olga Cid

Susy Contreras

Mayor, Alejandra Cortez, City of Bell Gardens

Maggie Curcio

Mayor, Eddie De La Riva, City of Maywood

Joshua Delfin

Dulcemonica Delgadillo

Olga Diaz

Denise Diaz, City of South Gate

Zaneta Encarnacion

Jeanette Flores

Mayor Pro Tem, Lisseth Flores, City of Bell Gardens

Assemblywoman, Cristina Garcia, 58th District of California

Beatriz Garcia

Danny Garza, Mexican American Political Association (MAPA)

Juan Garza

Assemblywoman, Lorena Gonzalez, 80th District of California

Yolanda Guerra

Megan Hobza

Joy Holt

Gemma Jimenez

Ramon Jimenez, MD

Linda L. Katz

JE Kenney

Carol Kim

Tania Kim

Rachel Laing

Otto Lee

Dr. David P. Lopez

Jaime Lopez

Ronald Lozano

Ildiko (Lani) Lutar

Councilmember, Karina Macias, City of Huntington Park

Jessica Maldonado

Councilmember Myra Maravilla, City of Hawaiian Gardens

Salvador Melendez, City of Montebello

Yolanda Mendrek

Apolonio Morales

Councilmember, Victoria Martinez Muela, City of El Monte

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Susan Naranjo

Gretchen Newsom

Catherine Norton

Adrianna O'Donnell

Mayor, Blanca Pacheco, City of Downey

Dayana Partida

Lauren Perez-Rangel

Sala Ponneh

Gilbert R. Ramos

Marina Ramos

Perla Ramos

Raymond Rast, Ph.D.

Mayor Pro Tem, Oralia Rebollo, City of Commerce

Tom Reyes

Margarita Rios

Darlene Rios Drapkin, Concilio Latino

Mayor, Ali Saleh, City of Bell

Judith Sanchez

Gabriel Sandoval

Vicky Santana

Carol Skiljan

Sandra Soto

Lillian Tafoya

Debra Terry

Councilmember, David Torres, City of Montebello

David Valdez

Paola Valverde

Board Member, Cipriano Vargas, Vista Unified School District

Nora Vargas

Board Vice President, Brian Wheatley, San Jose Unified School District