



July 9, 2020

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

Dear Commissioners-Select:

On behalf of the Latino Community Foundation, we congratulate you on your recent draw to serve on the California 2020 Citizens Redistricting Commission. It is on this occasion that we respectfully ask you to prioritize the representation of the Latino community on this important commission as you take on the role of filling the remaining six slots.

As you know, the role of the redistricting commissioner is to redraw the lines for congressional, state legislature, and State Board of Equalization districts across California. A process that occurs once a decade, how districts are redrawn greatly impact political representation for communities across the state. With California already projected to lose a congressional seat following the 2020 Census count, the next redistricting commission will have a critical role to play in ensuring fair representation for all Californians.

We are deeply concerned, however, that the commission's current makeup does not possess any Latino representation. California's Latino community makes up 39% of the state's population, but systemic breakdowns throughout the entire redistricting application process – from the [underrepresentation](#) of the applicant pool to the probability of a random drawing – have left the Latino community shut out of serving on this commission.

With the Latino community's political clout growing in strength in California, it is imperative that fair representation accompany this power. Multiple crises, from COVID-19 to the state's economic freefall, make it even more necessary for the Latino community to live in districts that are representative and highly attuned to the needs of the community.

It is for these reasons that we implore you to live up to a core democratic principle that all people deserve fair representation. The remaining six slots must prioritize the remaining Latino candidates in the finalist pool. The legitimacy and the successful implementation of redrawing the political lines are at stake.

We offer to be a strong partner in your next steps and look forward to seeing your final decisions.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jacqueline Martinez Garcel".

Jacqueline Martinez Garcel  
Chief Executive Officer

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christian Arana".

Christian Arana  
Policy Director