

From: [Miguel Canales](#)
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Subject: California Citizens Redistricting Commissioners
Date: Monday, July 20, 2020 10:05:58 AM
Attachments: [FinalSELA letter to CCRC re Latino representation fin 07-20-2020.docx.pdf](#)

Dear Commissioners:

The undersigned 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.

As you are aware, our Southeast Los Angeles (SELA) region of the county is extremely dense, with approximately 8,485 people per square mile, an average well above the rest of the county and the state. We also have a larger percentage of low-income households comparatively. Our population is 67% Latinos with many non-native speakers. With these density levels, which in some cities exceed that of New York City, we know that having a voice and representation in the redistricting process is detrimental for our region.

The undersigned Southeast Los Angeles leaders include a diverse group of members advocating for 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 their 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.

Please open the attached letter. We hope that you will include the voice of our region in the redistricting process.

Sincerely,

Southeast Leaders

July 20, 2020

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

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As you are aware, our Southeast Los Angeles (SELA) region of the county is extremely dense, with approximately 8,485 people per square mile, an average well above the rest of the county and the state. We also have a larger percentage of low-income households comparatively. Our population is 67% Latinos with many non-native speakers. With these density levels, which in some cities exceed that of New York City, we know that having a voice and representation in the redistricting process is detrimental for our region.

The undersigned Southeast Los Angeles leaders include a diverse group of members advocating for 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 their 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 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.

The following southeast Los Angeles County elected officials are united in our requests for a fair and inclusive process for our region. The following city elected representatives are in support of the aforementioned regional requests: Artesia, Bell, Bell Gardens, Bellflower, Commerce, Cerritos, Cudahy, Downey, Hawaiian Garden, Huntington Park, Lynwood, Maywood, Montebello, Norwalk, Pico Rivera, Paramount, and South Gate

Sincerely,



City of Artesia
Councilmember, Miguel Canales



City of Artesia
Councilmember, Melissa Ramoso



City of Bell
Mayor, Ali Saleh



City of Bell
Councilmember, Monica Arroyo



City of Bell Gardens
Mayor, Alejandra Cortez



City of Bell Gardens
Mayor Pro Tem, Lisseth Flores



City of Bellflower
Mayor, Juan Garza



City of Downey
Mayor, Blanca Pacheco



City of Hawaiian Gardens
Councilmember, Myra Maravilla



City of South Gate,
Councilmember, Denise Diaz



City of Lakewood
Mayor, Todd Rogers



City of Lynwood
Councilmember, Jose Luis Solache



City of Maywood
Mayor, Eddie De La Riva



City of Montebello
Mayor, Salvador Melendez

Frank Yokoyama

City of Cerritos
Councilmember, Frank Aurelio Yokoyama



City of Commerce
Mayor Pro Tem, Oralia Rebollo



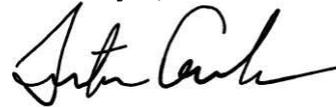
City of Cudahy
Mayor, Elizabeth Alcantar Loza



City of Montebello
Councilmember, David Torres



City of Paramount
Vice Mayor, Brenda Olmos



City of Pico Rivera
Mayor, Gustavo Camacho

CC: Governor Gavin Newsom
Senate Pro Tempore Toni Atkins
Speaker of the Assembly Anthony Rendon
State Senator Bob Archuleta
State Senator Lena Gonzalez
Assemblymember Cristina Garcia
Supervisor Janice Hahn
Supervisor Hilda L. Solis
Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas
Congressmember Alan Lowenthal
Congresswoman Linda Sanchez
Congresswoman Lucielle Royball-Allard
Congresswoman Nanette Barragan