

**From:** [AJC San Francisco](#)  
**To:** [Shape California's Future](#)  
**Subject:** AJC San Francisco Citizens Redistricting Commission Request  
**Date:** Monday, July 20, 2020 12:51:51 PM  
**Attachments:** [AJC San Francisco Citizens Redistricting Commission Letter.pdf](#)

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To Whom it May Concern:

AJC would like to submit this letter in support of more Latino representation in the California Citizens Redistricting Commission.

Thank you,

**Eran Hazary**

Associate Director, San Francisco

415.777.3820

[HazaryE@ajc.org](mailto:HazaryE@ajc.org)

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**SAN FRANCISCO REGIONAL OFFICE**  
 121 Stewart Street, Suite 405  
 San Francisco, CA 94105  
 T 415.777.3820  
 F 415.777.1018  
 E [sanfrancisco@ajc.org](mailto:sanfrancisco@ajc.org)  
 W [AJC.org](http://AJC.org)

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July 16, 2020

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

Dear Commissioners-Select:

For the second time in its history, the State of California will determine its congressional and other representative districts through a Citizens Redistricting Commission. The purpose of such a commission is to remove political and partisan elements from the process. In this respect it should be lauded as a great success.

The ambition of this commission is to reflect the diversity of California and represent the interests of groups that are all too often marginalized in our electoral system. In this respect, the Citizens Redistricting Commission still has work to do. Even though Latinos make up nearly forty percent of Californians, of the eight members selected thus far none are Latino.

AJC (American Jewish Committee) San Francisco requests that every effort be made to assign the remaining positions in the Citizens Redistricting Commission to Latinos. Furthermore, we hope that in the coming decade safeguards are established to guarantee that this commission remains not only nonpartisan, but representative of the nearly forty percent of California's population that is Latino, fifteen percent that is Asian, and seven percent that is African American.

This year in particular all Americans are attuned to the importance of acknowledging our country's diversity. Even with the best of intentions—as we believe the commission possesses—implicit biases can have an adverse effect on people of color.

AJC has long championed diversity and civil rights. Our Jewish community and many other minority communities have thrived among diverse societies and struggled in their absence. In 1954, AJC wrote an amicus brief in support of ending segregation in the Supreme Court case of *Brown v. Board of Education*. In fact, much of the psychological research on the harmful impact of school segregation on minority children conducted by Professor Kenneth Clark was sponsored by AJC. We saw the virtue of integration then just as we do now.

Today, AJC continues the important work of promoting diversity through our national coalitions including the Latino-Jewish Leadership Council, Muslim-Jewish Advisory Council, and Community of Conscience co-created with Bernice King, daughter of Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.

AJC stands with our Latino partners requesting that the State of California remain an ally in this movement for diversity by assuring us that the Citizens Redistricting Commission will reflect the racial balance that makes California such a great state.

Sincerely,

Rabbi Serena Eisenberg  
 AJC Northern California  
 Director

Nancy Weil Price  
 Board President

