

Potter, Andrew

From: Christian Arana <carana@latinocf.org>
Sent: Tuesday, November 3, 2020 7:47 AM
To: COSD, Redistricting
Cc: Jose Garcia
Subject: Letter from Latino Community Foundation - San Diego Independent Redistricting Commission



November 3, 2020

County of San Diego
2020 Independent Redistricting Commission
San Diego, CA

Submitted via email redistricting@sdcounty.ca.gov

Dear Commissioners:

On behalf of the Latino Community Foundation, we congratulate you on your recent draw to serve onto the San Diego County Independent 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 on the commission.

As you know, the role of the redistricting commissioners is to redraw the county supervisorial district lines through an open and transparent process. How districts are redrawn greatly impact political representation for communities across the county and across the state. The next redistricting commission will have a critical role to play in ensuring fair representation for San Diego County.

We are deeply concerned, however, that the commission's makeup will not possess proper Latino representation. The Latino community makes up over 30% of the county's population, but out of a pool of 60 applicants selected by County Elections Officials—less than a third of applicants seem to be Latino.

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 being the second largest ethnic group in San Diego County, it is imperative that fair representation accompany this fact. 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 commission 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.

LCF is the premier statewide foundation focused on unleashing the civic and economic power of Latinos in California. The foundation has the largest network of Latino philanthropists in the country and has invested \$10 million to build Latino civic and political power and leadership in the state.

Sincerely,



Christian Arana
Policy Director
Latino Community Foundation

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