

From: [Arcela Nunez-Alvarez](#)
To: [COSD, Redistricting](#)
Subject: [External] Universidad Popular North County Latinx COI
Date: Saturday, December 11, 2021 3:03:16 AM
Attachments: [North County Latinx COI.pdf](#)

Esteemed Commissioners:

We write this letter on behalf of **Universidad Popular** to thank you for your service and to share our unconditional belief in the right of every person to participate in the political process and to elect a representative of our choice as guaranteed in the Voting Rights Act. **Today we urged you to see us and to acknowledge that we exist on a map. We ask you to ensure the final redistricting map reflects San Diego County's growing Latinx population by keeping together the Latinx community in a North County Supervisorial District.**

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Arcela Nuñez-Alvarez
Co-Founder and Co-Director

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December 11, 2021

County of San Diego Independent Redistricting Commission
1600 Pacific Highway, Room 402
San Diego, CA 92101

RE: Redistricting of San Diego County

Esteemed Commissioners:

We write this letter on behalf of **Universidad Popular** to thank you for your service and to share our unconditional belief in the right of every person to participate in the political process and to elect a representative of our choice as guaranteed in the Voting Rights Act. **Today we urged you to see us and to acknowledge that we exist on a map. We ask you to ensure the final redistricting map reflects San Diego County's growing Latinx population by keeping together the Latinx community in a North County Supervisorial District.**

The 2021 San Diego County redistricting process provided us a unique opportunity to learn about county government, to be civically involved and to experience democracy in action. Along with thousands of community members, my colleagues and I stood in front of the County of San Diego Independent Redistricting Commission (Commission), submitted written comments, and called-in to share stories about the places that matter to us, our families, and our neighbors and the values that glue our communities together. We traveled from Fallbrook, Oceanside, Vista, San Marcos, Escondido, Valley Center, Pauma, Pala, and other North County neighborhoods to participate in every in-person meeting held across the county.

Throughout the process we have also talked about the long history of political neglect our Latinx community has experienced in North County. We have shared with you that many of us come from farmworker families who came to North County to work. Our families live, work, pray, play, shop, and travel all over North County. We are a tight community that bands together and helps each other in times of need like during devastating wildfires or most recently during the covid-19 pandemic. Despite our deep roots, longstanding presence, and economic contributions to the region's economy, Latinx community continue to be invisible and ignored in politics.

We are part of a community that has experienced historic disparities and inequities, with zero to little political representation. Mexicans have lived in San Diego County since before it became part of the United States and Latinxs make up 1.1 million people, the largest non-White group living in the county. Despite the large population, Latinxs have had zero representation in county government for almost 170 years. The institutionalized practice of gerrymandering that has diluted the power of Mexican/Latinx voters is deeply rooted in political structures and institutions but change is inevitable.

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We had not had representation at the supervisorial level until the most recent election in November 2020 when District One (1) elected Supervisor Vargas.

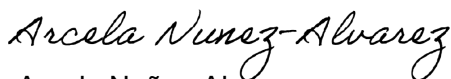
Unfortunately, North County's large Latino and immigrant population remains blatantly and disproportionately underserved and underrepresented. To address this political inequity, we ask that you keep the North County Latinx community of interest under a single North County Supervisorial District that includes the cities and shared communities of interest of Oceanside, Camp Pendleton, Vista, San Marcos, Escondido, Fallbrook, Bonsall, Rainbow, and surrounding unincorporated and tribal communities. This clustering of cities and unincorporated communities that comprises the coastal, urban, and rural communities, the transportation corridors, the chambers of commerce, and the vast network of businesses and organizations that make up North County will ensure our San Diego County's Latinx voters in North County are given a fair opportunity to elect candidates of their choice while meeting the Commission's compliance with the Voting Rights Act.

Universidad Popular is a grassroots community-based organization promoting health, education and nurturing a culture of trust and civic participation in our nation's democratic process. We bring together leaders and educators with bold ideas who create programs that are culturally and linguistically responsive, data-driven, and social justice focused. Through our teaching, we bring to life key principles of democracy, empowering ordinary people to own our voice and use our power to shape our community.

We work with hundreds of bilingual/bicultural community educators and civic leaders who are embedded in communities across North County to address critical needs through direct action. Community leaders have lived, studied, and understand the historic neglect communities have faced in North County and are committed to educating their own community members and to advocating for support and resources that will make a lasting impact and will improve living conditions in the communities in which they live.

We urge you to adopt a map with districts that are representative of our communities of interest and that open a new pathway for increasing representation of Latinx and other communities of color on the County Board of Supervisors and other elected positions. We are striving to pave a more equitable and inclusive democracy for future generations. Please ensure that San Diego County's Latinx voters are given a fair opportunity to elect candidates of our choice in North County. Lastly, we express our solidarity with our Black brothers and sisters in South East San Diego and ask you to keep together their historic home.

Sincerely,



Arcela Nuñez-Alvarez
Co-Founder & Co-Director
Universidad Popular



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