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**From:** Jean-Huy Tran <jtran@cpisandiego.org>  
**Sent:** Friday, September 24, 2021 4:43 PM  
**To:** COSD, Redistricting  
**Subject:** [External] Letter to Commission: Uphold VRA & Latino district 1  
**Attachments:** Letter to Commission - VRA & Latino district 1.pdf

**Importance:** High

Dear Redistricting Commissioners:

I am submitting this letter to you on the behalf of the Center on Policy Initiatives and 7 Latino community organizations/groups in the South Bay area to urge the Commission to uphold the Voting Rights Act (VRA) and adopt a supervisorial district lines that include a district where a majority of the citizen voting age population is Latino in accordance with Section 2 of the VRA.

It is important for our Latino community in the South Bay area to ensure their representation in the new map that the County will adopt.

Thank you,

**jean-huy tran** (he/him/his)

Organizer

**Center on Policy Initiatives** || **Policy Action**

[REDACTED]

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September 24, 2021

Dear Redistricting Commissioners:

On behalf of the Center on Policy Initiatives and leaders in San Diego's Latino community, we urge you to uphold the Voting Rights Act (VRA) and adopt new supervisorial district lines that include a district where a majority of the citizen voting age population is Latino in accordance with Section 2 of the VRA.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Latinos constitute 26% of the Citizen Voting Age Population (CVAP) and 23% of the county's registered voters. However, in the *last half century*, only one Latino/a candidate has been elected to serve on the five-member San Diego County Board of Supervisors.

A leading cause of that disenfranchisement is blatant gerrymandering of district lines that has diluted the voting power of South County's cohesive Latino community. Among the starkest examples is the cracking of South County Latino votes via the inclusion of overwhelmingly non-Latino communities of Point Loma and Coronado in District 1.

Now is the time to right this wrong and draw lines that give San Diego's Latino voters the fair and equal voice they deserve in the County's political process.

And this is exactly why you - independent citizen commissioners and not politicians - were chosen to draw fairer, more equitable maps for San Diego County.

Our internal analysis has shown that the drawing of a Latino CVAP majority district is not only possible, but can be accommodated by various compact and contiguous district alignments.

As a result, we believe a redistricting plan that does not include a Latino CVAP majority district would be a clear violation of Section 2 of the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965.

To prevent current and future impairment of Latino Voting Rights, and to undo politically motivated gerrymanders through this first-ever Independent Redistricting process, please begin your line drawing by creating a district with greater than 50% Latino CVAP in South County.

Thank you in advance for your consideration and for upholding the Voting Rights Act.

Sincerely,

*Signers*

Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment (ACCE)

Border Angels

Casa Familiar

Center on Policy Initiatives

Chicano Federation

Environmental Health Coalition

San Diego LGBTQ Latinx Coalition

San Diego Organizing Project