

*Updated as of June 25, 2011*

**ANALYSIS OF CALIFORNIA CITIZENS REDISTRICTING COMMISSION  
FIRST DRAFT MAPS  
Impact on the Latino Community**

- The first draft maps released on June 10 by California’s Citizens Redistricting Commission would severely diminish opportunities for future Latino political progress in the state.
- During the last decade, California’s Latino population accounted for 90% of the state’s growth. The Commission’s maps fail to reflect that growth by not creating fair opportunities for increased Latino representation.
- California’s maps must comply with the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965 (VRA), which protects underrepresented communities from discrimination in the electoral process. Under state law, strict adherence to the VRA is the second highest priority that the Commission must apply when drawing the state’s new districts.
- The Commission’s First Draft Maps do not provide sufficient opportunities for fair Latino representation as required by the VRA. The Commission must ensure that it addresses this issue when it revises its draft maps.

**STATE ASSEMBLY:**

- Based on an analysis of districts which are at least 50% Latino citizen voting age population (CVAP), there are currently ten state assembly districts where Latinos can effectively elect the candidates of our choice. The Commission’s plan fails to create any additional Latino effective districts.
- The Commission’s plan does create new Latino effective districts in the San Fernando Valley “SFVET” and San Diego/Imperial County area “IMSAN”. However, it eliminates a Latino effective district in the Los Angeles County area (around downtown Los Angeles), and reduces the Latino CVAP of a currently effective district in the Orange County area. Based on the current demographics of the Latino community, the Commission could have created the new San Fernando Valley and San Diego districts, and maintained the same number of or increased Latino effective districts in the Los Angeles and Orange County areas.

### San Jose

- The community does not support the Commission’s current assembly plan because it divides San Jose among three assembly districts.
- The community would like San Jose and East San Jose to be kept together in a Latino effective district. These communities have been historically connected and share a strong Latino community of interest. The community requests that Latinos be given the opportunity to elect candidates of their choice.
- The following boundaries are suggested for an assembly district because they unify communities with common social and economic characteristics:
  - Old Willow Glen Area (South West)
  - Monterrey Road Area (West)
  - Burbank Area (North West)
  - East Foot Hills (County Line)
  - Penitencia Creek Road (North)

### Tri County Central Coast area (Monterey, San Benito and Santa Cruz counties)

- The community urges the Commission to enhance opportunities for fair Latino representation to ensure compliance with the federal VRA.
- The community supports the creation of districts that cross the mountains in the region if this is done in a way that respects communities. Gilroy, Watsonville and its surrounding farmland, and Salinas should be kept together in the same district.

### Central Valley

- The “KINGS” assembly district has a Latino CVAP of 46.3%. We believe that Latinos in this area will have more fair opportunities for representation if the Latino CVAP is higher, and we ask that the Commission strengthen the district. The Commission’s “FSEC2” assembly district appears to be a Latino effective district, and it should be maintained as such to comply with the federal VRA.
- The following recommendations are for the “KINGS” assembly district:
  - The community understands that for population requirements Bakersfield may be split. If Bakersfield is divided, use the 99 Freeway as a dividing line. East of the 99 is a strong Latino community of interest that should be placed in the “KINGS” assembly district. Remove the communities of Stratford, Lemoore Station, Hanford, and Kettleman City from “KINGS”. These regions have different industries than other communities in “KINGS”, such as cattle, oil, and prisons, and residents of these communities thus have different social and economic interests.

- The following communities should be added to the “KINGS” assembly district: East Orosi, Goshen, Seville, Lemon Cove, Tulare, Woodville, Pixley, Terra Bella, Ducor, Rich Grove. These communities have common social and economic characteristics.
- The Commission should not split Arvin. The “KINGS” district can include Arvin whole to Morning Drive then to the 58; north to Niles, west to Oswell and the 99 Freeway and north to Columbus.
- The following recommendations are made for the “FSEC2” assembly district:
  - Add the areas south of Shaw and west of Marks Ave.
  - Move Sunnyside area of Fresno City and the community East of Clovis Ave into the “FRSNO” district
  - Keep Sanger in the “FSEC2” district.
- The community urges the Commission to enhance opportunities for fair Latino representation in the Central Valley area by either creating additional Latino effective districts or strengthening those which exist. Specifically, the Commission needs to carefully examine if this area should have additional Latino effective districts at the assembly level to ensure compliance with the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965 (VRA).
- In the City of Fresno, there is a distinct divide between rural Fresno and urban Fresno - a loose boundary for this divide occurs along the Santa Fe railroad lines. The areas of urban Fresno should be added to Latino effective districts because these communities share common social and economic ties with urban areas of other regions.
- The community supports having to draw ‘fingers’, or “funny shapes” in order to connect communities that have common social and economic characteristics.

#### Los Angeles County

- Some heavily Latino neighborhoods directly west of or in downtown Los Angeles have been placed in district “CRSLP,” which is not a Latino effective district; the district created by the Commission also includes areas farther west of downtown. Currently, these neighborhoods are in a Latino effective district and should be kept in one.
- The Commission created districts in areas south of downtown Los Angeles, and in South Central Los Angeles which have large Latino and African American CVAP communities, thereby unnecessarily waging Latinos and African Americans against each other, two underrepresented groups that have worked for decades to earn fair political representation for their respective communities.

- In the Northeast San Fernando Valley, the community strongly supports the Latino effective district that the Commission has created: “SFVET”. However, the community requests that in the next draft maps, Sunland, Tujunga, Shadow Hills and La Tuna Canyon should be removed from the district. The neighborhoods to the west of the 405 Freeway (Northridge, Granada Hills) and/or South of Victory Blvd (North Hollywood, Van Nuys) should be added to “SFVET”. The communities of Tujunga, Sunland, Shadow Hills and La Tuna do not share many social and economic similarities with the communities that are in the Commission’s proposed district.

#### Orange County

- In the current Latino effective district in Orange County, the cities of Santa Ana and Anaheim are together, both of which have several heavily-Latino neighborhoods. In the Commission’s proposed maps, those two areas are in separate districts, and there is no Latino effective district in Orange County.

#### San Bernardino

- The community opposes splitting of the City of San Bernardino.
- The community would like all assembly districts to be wholly in San Bernardino County and not cross county lines.
- The community would like the following areas to be kept together
  - Rancho Cucamonga
  - Claremont
  - Upland
  - Fontana
- In a different district, the community recommends using the Colton Unified School district boundaries and keeping the following areas to be kept together:
  - Rialto
  - Colton
  - San Bernardino
  - Grand Terrace
  - Loma Linda
  - Highland
  - Muscoy
- Keep Colton and Grand Terrace together and keep them whole.

### Imperial Valley

- The Imperial Valley and Coachella Valley should be kept together in the same assembly and senate districts. The area between Calexico and Coachella is agricultural, and its residents share social and economic interests.

### San Diego

- The community urges the Commission to enhance opportunities for fair Latino representation to ensure compliance with the federal VRA.
- The Commission “LMSAND” district should expand to include the regions East of the 805 Freeway, including East Paradise Hills, East National City and East Chula Vista. These communities have common social and economic characteristic with the rest of the “LMSAND” district.
- Additionally, Logan Heights (Barrio Logan) should be kept whole and added to Commission district “SSAND”; this includes the areas north and south of Coronado Bridge all the way to the Bay.
- The Commission district “SSAND” should not include East Chula Vista because the 805 Freeway is a dividing line for communities. East of the 805 Freeway contains newer communities characterized by recent development while west of the 805 Freeway are older neighborhoods. The two regions have different social and economic characteristics.
- Keep historic Latino neighborhoods together such as Logan Heights and Sherman Heights.

### **STATE SENATE:**

- Currently, there are six state senate districts where Latinos can effectively elect the candidates of our choice. The Commission’s plan reduces the number of Latino effective districts at the senate level to four.
- The Commission eliminated one Latino effective district in the Los Angeles County area (downtown Los Angeles area and area east of downtown). It also eliminated a Latino effective district in the San Diego/Imperial/Riverside County area.

### Central Valley

- The Commission should carefully examine the “MERCSD” senate district to determine if it can be made a Latino effective district.
- The Commission should maintain “KINGS” as a Latino effective district.

- The following recommendations are for the “KINGS” senate district:
  - Include communities of Ducor, Richgrove, Plainville, Porterville, Exeter, Terra Bella, Lemon Cove, and Tulare (west of the 99, north to Prosperity and East to Enterprise)
  - Remove Dos Palos, Firebaugh, Coalinga, and Hanford.
  - Keep the urban areas of the City of Fresno in the KINGS senate district - this includes everything south of Gettysburg Avenue, except for the area known as “Fig Garden.”
- The community urges the Commission to enhance opportunities for fair Latino representation in the Central Valley area by either creating additional Latino effective districts or strengthening those which exist. Specifically, the Commission needs to carefully examine if this area should have additional Latino effective districts at the senate level to ensure compliance with the federal VRA.
- In the City of Fresno, there is a distinct divide between rural Fresno and urban Fresno - a loose boundary for this divide occurs along the Santa Fe railroad lines. The areas of urban Fresno should be added to Latino effective districts because these communities share common social and economic ties with urban areas of other regions.
- The community supports having to draw ‘fingers’, or “funny shapes” in order to connect communities that have common social and economic characteristics.

#### Los Angeles County

- The Commission placed heavily Latino neighborhoods in downtown Los Angeles, and areas directly west and northeast of downtown, in a district which is not a Latino effective district. These areas are currently in a Latino effective district, and should be kept in one.

#### Imperial County/Riverside County

- In both the senate and assembly maps proposed by the Commission, Latino communities in Riverside County’s Coachella area and the Imperial County area are split. These communities should be united in the same districts, because of their shared social and economic interests.

#### San Diego

- The community would like the Commission to create a Latino effective district
- There is a Latino community of interest from Oceanside, Vista, San Marcos and Escondido along Interstate 78. The community would like the Commission to keep these areas together because of their common social and economic characteristics. Currently these communities are divided

between two districts, “SANOC” and “NESAN”. These communities of interest run east to west along Interstate 78.

- The Commission should remove Orange County from district “SANOC” and expand the district east toward Interstate 15 to include Temecula and Murrieta.
- The Commission should remove east Chula Vista and east National City from district “SDCSAND”.

## **CONGRESS:**

- Currently, there are seven congressional districts where Latinos can effectively elect the candidates of our choice. The Commission’s plan fails to create any additional Latino effective districts, and could reduce the current number. One of the arguably effective districts in the Commission’s map includes a large population of African Americans, which unnecessarily wages Latinos and African Americans against each other, two underrepresented groups that have worked for decades to earn fair political representation for their respective communities.
- The Commission added Latino effective districts in the Northeast San Fernando Valley and San Diego/Imperial County areas. However, the demographics of the state justified the creation of these districts ten years ago. Moreover, the Commission eliminated a Latino effective district in the Los Angeles County southeast cities area, and essentially reduced the effectiveness of an existing Inland Empire district by dropping its Latino citizen voting-age population below 50%. The Commission could have created the additional effective districts in the Northeast San Fernando Valley and the San Diego/Imperial County area, and maintained the same number of or increased Latino effective districts in the Los Angeles and Inland Empire areas.

## Central Valley

- The Commission should carefully examine if two Latino effective congressional districts should be created in this area.
- The KINGS congressional district has a Latino CVAP of 49.3%. We believe that Latinos in this area will have more fair opportunities for representation if the Latino CVAP is higher, and we ask that the Commission strengthen the district. Some possible modification to the KINGS congressional district can include: removing Clovis and adding the following regions that share many common social and economic characteristics: East Porterville, Orange Cove, East Orosi and the southwest part of the City of Fresno.

- The Commission should add the following regions that share common social and economic characteristics to the “FRSNO” district: Hanford, Lemoore Station, Kettleman City, all of Clovis, and Southeast Fresno.
- The community urges the Commission to enhance opportunities for fair Latino representation in the Central Valley area by either creating additional Latino effective districts or strengthening those which exist. Specifically, the Commission needs to carefully examine if this area should have additional Latino effective districts at the congressional level to ensure compliance with the VRA.
- In the City of Fresno, there is a distinct divide between rural Fresno and urban Fresno - a loose boundary for this divide occurs along the Santa Fe railroad lines. The areas of urban Fresno should be added to Latino effective districts because these communities share common social and economic ties with urban areas of other regions.
- The community supports having to draw ‘fingers’, or “funny shapes” in order to connect communities that have common social and economic characteristics.

#### Tri County Central Coast area (Monterey, San Benito and Santa Cruz counties)

- The community urges the Commission to enhance opportunities for fair Latino ensure compliance with the federal VRA.
- The community supports the creation of districts that cross the mountains in the region if this is done in a way that respects communities. Gilroy, Watsonville and its surrounding farmland, and Salinas should be kept together in the same district.

#### Los Angeles County

- Latino neighborhoods in the area west of downtown Los Angeles area are in the same district as the wealthy western communities of Los Angeles County, including Pacific Palisades and Beverly Hills. These Latino areas have very different social and economic characteristics than the Westside and coastal areas in the district, and they should be placed in a Latino effective district.
- The Commission should strengthen the Latino effective district in the Northeast San Fernando Valley by removing the communities of Sunland, Tujunga, and La Tuna Canyon and replacing these with the communities of North Hollywood (whole, including the East and West side of the 170 Freeway) and/or moving the district west of the 405 Freeway to include the communities of Granada Hills and North Hills. The communities of Sunland, Tujunga and La Tuna Canyon do not share social and economic characteristics with the communities in the rest of the district.

### Orange County

- Under the current congressional maps, heavily Latino areas in Santa Ana and Anaheim are together in the same district. The Commission's map separates these areas into separate districts.
- The entertainment community in Buena Park and the people that work in these regions should be kept in the same district.
- Central Anaheim, East Garden Grove and Santa Ana have a history of working together to achieve shared community goals.
- The natural dividing lines of the community are along school district lines and the 91 Freeway.

### San Bernardino

- The Commission should keep Redlands whole and move this community from "SBRIA" into "INMSB".
- Include Upland, Rancho Cucamonga, Ontario, Montclair in the San Bernardino district "ONTPM".
- The community requests that the Commission not cross San Bernardino county lines and keep congressional districts within San Bernardino County as much as possible.

### San Diego

- The Commission should expand district "CSTSN" east to Interstate 15 to capture the following communities whole: Escondido, San Marcos, Vista, Oceanside, Fallbrook, and Bonsall.
- The Commission should also remove Orange County from the district "CSTSN" and make this a wholly San Diego County district.
- If population is needed for "CSTSN", the community prefers to extend into Riverside County to capture Murrieta and Temecula, which share social and economic characteristics with the San Diego communities of district "CSTSN".