



The NALEO Educational Fund's LAUSD Redistricting Initiative

Redistricting is a fundamental component of our representative democracy. The new district maps drawn in 2011 and 2012 will determine whether Latinos have a meaningful opportunity to have their voices heard during the electoral process by choosing the representatives of their choice, for a full decade. The redistricting process for local governments is particularly critical for the Latino community, given the vital decisions made by local elected leaders on the most pressing issues facing Latino families, including education, economic opportunities, and public safety.

The NALEO Educational Fund is conducting a comprehensive community mobilization and policy education initiative to help ensure that Latinos participate fully and effectively in the redistricting process of the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD). Our community mobilization efforts will focus on actively engaging Latino parents whose children attend schools in the LAUSD. As we implement our initiative, we will emphasize the importance of the redistricting process for Latino families, the need to draw districts that comply with the U.S. Constitution and the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (VRA), and the importance of public participation in a fair and transparent redistricting process.

I. Informing and Mobilizing Latino Parents

The NALEO Educational Fund's LAUSD Redistricting Initiative will ensure that Latino parents have an effective voice in the redistricting process by convening workshops and trainings in communities served by LAUSD. Through our workshops, parents will learn about:

- The purpose of the redistricting process, and its importance for Latino families;
- The criteria for redistricting and the kinds of information that are most relevant for drawing maps; and
- The "best practices" for providing public comment in the process, including testimony before the Los Angeles City Council (which ultimately approves the LAUSD map) and the Advisory Commission which will produce the initial map for the Council's review.

Our work will emphasize that the redistricting process provides Latino parents an opportunity to present their perspective on issues with which they are most familiar – the needs of their families and communities, and the geography of their neighborhoods. In addition, the NALEO Educational Fund will enhance the www.latinosdrawthelines.org website with educational resources specific to the LAUSD process. In order to effectively mobilize Latino parents, we will work closely with partner organizations that have strong parent education, engagement, and outreach programs.

II. Policy Education

The NALEO Educational Fund will educate policymakers and the public about the importance of conducting a fair and open LAUSD redistricting process that complies with the U.S. Constitution and the VRA. We will provide recommendations on how the Advisory Commission and the City Council can promote meaningful public participation in the redistricting process and ensure that hearings are accessible for Latino parents and other community members.

For more information about the NALEO Educational Fund's LAUSD Redistricting Initiative, please contact Astrid Garcia, at agarcia@naleo.org or 213-747-7606, ext. 4434.

The NALEO Educational Fund is the leading nonprofit organization that facilitates full Latino participation in the American political process, from citizenship to public service.