

**Updated as of June 15, 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 and San Diego areas. 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.

Los Angeles County

- Some heavily Latino neighborhoods directly west of or in downtown Los Angeles have been placed in a district 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 (LASFE). 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 LASFE. 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.

#### **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.

#### 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.

#### **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.

#### 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.
- 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.