

From: [REDACTED]
To: [CommServ](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: NALEO Comments on LA County redistricting plan
Date: Friday, July 08, 2011 2:14:09 PM
Attachments: [NALEO Letter to LA Cty BRC on BOS maps fin 07-11.pdf](#)

Dear Members of the Los Angeles County Boundary Review Committee:

Please find attached a letter from the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) Educational Fund urging the BRC to adopt a plan that creates two Latino effective districts for Los Angeles County.

Thank you for your consideration of our views.

Sincerely,

Rosalind Gold
Senior Director of Policy, Research and Advocacy

NALEO Educational Fund
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Los Angeles, CA 90015

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



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July 8, 2011

Los Angeles County Boundary Review Committee
Executive Office, Board of Supervisors
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Members of the Los Angeles County Boundary Review Committee:

On behalf of the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) Educational Fund, I am writing to urge the Boundary Review Committee (BRC) to approve a map for Los Angeles County Board of Supervisor districts that complies with the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (VRA), and provides Latinos in Los Angeles County with a fair opportunity to choose their elected representatives. We believe this must be accomplished by creating at least two “Latino effective” districts, where Latinos comprise at least 50% of the citizen voting age population.

The NALEO Educational Fund is a non-profit, non-partisan organization that facilitates full Latino participation in the American political process, from citizenship to public service. Our constituency includes the more than 6,000 Latino elected and appointed officials nationwide, including 336 from Los Angeles County. Our Board members and constituency include Republicans, Democrats and Independents.

Census 2010 data reveal that the Latino population of Los Angeles County increased by 10.5% during the last decade, while the non-Latino population decreased by 2.8%. Thus, without Latino population growth, there would have been a decline in the overall population of the county. The plan adopted by the BRC must fairly and adequately reflect this growth.

It is particularly crucial that the BRC’s plan provide Latinos with fair opportunities for representation in light of the well-documented history of discrimination against Latinos in the county’s redistrictings. In 1990, a group of Latino voters, together with the United States Department of Justice, prevailed in a successful VRA suit against the county’s Board of Supervisors because they were able to demonstrate that the Board had intentionally discriminated against Latinos during the 1981 redistricting.

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In *Garza v. County of Los Angeles*, 918 F.2d 763 (1990), the court found that the Board's 1981 redistricting was calculated in part to keep the effects of past discriminatory redistrictings in place (1959, 1965 and 1971), as well as to prevent Latinos from attaining a majority in any district in the future.

As a result of the *Garza* challenge, the Board of Supervisors redrew district lines to create its first Latino effective district. The BRC should ensure that the county does not revive its discriminatory practices against Latinos by approving a plan that reflects the present-day reality of Los Angeles' Latino presence. In order to accomplish this, the redistricting plan must create at least two districts where Latino community members can effectively elect the candidates of their choice. There have been several plans presented to the BRC which create two districts with at least 50% Latino citizen voting age population. These submissions demonstrate that it is feasible for the BRC to develop a plan with two Latino effective districts, and we urge the BRC to do so. These plans also demonstrate that it is possible to create the two Latino effective districts while simultaneously maintaining an African American effective district, and keeping Asian American and other communities of interest together in their respective areas. Thus, the BRC can adopt a plan that provides fair electoral opportunities for all of the county's underrepresented groups.

Thank you for your consideration of our views on this important issue.

Sincerely,



Arturo Vargas
Executive Director

cc: Members of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors