

**From:** [Alejandra Ponce De Leon](#)  
**To:** [Shape California's Future](#)  
**Cc:** [John Dobard](#)  
**Subject:** Recommendations in the selection of remaining six CRC members  
**Date:** Thursday, July 16, 2020 5:28:31 PM  
**Attachments:** [image002.png](#)  
[Recommendations for Remaining Six CRC Members.pdf](#)

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Good afternoon Commissioners,

Congratulations on your selection to the California Citizens Redistricting Commission! Attached is a letter from our coalition partners providing recommendations to be considered as you make the selection of the final commission members.

Thank you,

Alejandra

**Alejandra Ponce de Leon**  
**(she/her/hers)**

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July 16, 2020

Commissioners-Select California Citizens Redistricting Commission  
c/o California State Auditor  
621 Capitol Mall, Suite 1200 Sacramento, CA 95814  
*Sent via electronic transmission*

**Re: Selection of the final commissioners**

Dear Commissioners,

Congratulations on your selection as the first eight members of the 2020 California Citizens Redistricting Commission (CRC)! We commend you on your sense of duty to serve and commitment to uphold a transparent district line-drawing process that is inclusive of all residents in California. We are a diverse coalition of fifteen statewide and regional organizations committed to racial and economic equity, respectfully providing recommendations to consider as you determine whom the remaining six members should be.

As the first members to serve on the CRC, you hold a tremendous responsibility “to ensure the commission reflects this State’s diversity, including, but not limited to, racial, ethnic, geographic, and gender diversity.” Cal. Gov. Code § 8252(g). Ensuring diversity among your members will enhance your ability to (1) be aware of communities most marginalized from our democracy and (2) intentionally include those communities in the redistricting process, which we believe will result in district lines that truly represent and reflect the people of California.

As it stands, the current composition of the CRC fails to reflect California’s diversity in the following ways:

- No Latinx residents;
- No East or Southeast Asian residents;
- No Native American residents;
- No Pacific Islander residents;
- No geographic representation from key regions and counties that hold sizeable portions of California’s population; and
- No individuals whose household income is less than \$75,000.

In order to have the CRC reflect our state’s diversity, we recommend that the remaining six commissioners fill the racial/ethnic, geographic, and socioeconomic gaps identified above. With respect to the racial/ethnic gaps, we encourage you to strive for greater proportional representation. Based on data from the U.S. Census Bureau, Latinx Californians comprise approximately 40 percent of the state’s population and Californians of East or Southeast Asian descent comprise at least 12 percent of the state’s population. In light of these considerations, we recommend that you prioritize Latinx and East/Southeast Asian candidates in your selection.

We are aware that the current pool does not include candidates that identify as Native American or Pacific Islander and therefore you are unable to address those gaps. Nevertheless, we believe it is important to highlight those gaps in this moment and encourage you to be proactive in ensuring participation from those demographic groups throughout the process.

With respect to geographic diversity, regional/county representation should be proportional to ensure that more populous areas of our state are adequately represented. With this in mind, we recommend that you select candidates from the following regions/counties, prioritizing those areas that currently lack representation on the commission: Bay Area, Inland Empire, Los Angeles County, North Central Valley, Orange County, and San Diego County.

Finally, you should strongly consider more diverse socioeconomic representation. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the median household income in California is \$71,228. This means that one half of the income distribution in our state is not reflected among the current commissioners. Therefore, candidates with a household income below \$75,000 should be selected among the final six.

We appreciate your consideration of these matters and trust that you will round out the commission with candidates that, in addition to being impartial, appreciating California's diversity, and exhibiting relevant analytical skills, help the CRC better reflect the state's diversity. We look forward to engaging with you and being a partner in your efforts to engage low-income communities of color across the state. Please contact Alejandra Ponce de León with Advancement Project California at [aponcedeleon@advanceproj.org](mailto:aponcedeleon@advanceproj.org) if you have any questions or need more information.

Sincerely,

AAPIs for Civic Empowerment Education Fund

Advancement Project California

Asian Americans Advancing Justice-Asian Law Caucus

Alliance San Diego

California Black Census and Redistricting Hub

California Calls

California Native Vote Project

Central Coast Alliance United for a Sustainable Economy (CAUSE)

Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA)

Council on American-Islamic Relations-California (CAIR-CA)

Dolores Huerta Foundation

Inland Empowerment

Orange County Civic Engagement Table (OCCET)

PICO California

Power California