

Shape California's Future
California State Auditor
621 Capitol Mall, Suite 1200
Sacramento, CA 95814

July 31, 2020

Subject: Consideration & Selection of Three Latinas as part of CCRC

Dear California Citizens, Redistricting Commission:

My name is Kawena Cole and I live in Los Angeles County. I am particularly interested in Latina specific representation on the Commission because as a woman of color that identifies and Black, I feel it is important to have diverse, equitable, and inclusive (DEI) representation which benefits constituents in a county like Los Angeles that is so diverse. Varying life experiences and culture will provide insight to unique needs of marginalized groups.

I am concerned that, to date, there are ZERO Latinx people represented among the eight sitting commissioners despite the fact that Latinx are the largest ethnic group in California, accounting for nearly 40% of the state's 40 million residents. Not only does this mean the largest Latinx population of any state is completely neglected in an entity designed to represent the most populous state in the nation, it also highlights that another essential voice is completely missing from the discussion and decision-making process: a Latina voice.

Latinas in the state numbered 7.72 million, or 19.5% of California's total population in 2018. One in every five people in the state is a Latina. In the Fresno metropolitan region and the Inland Empire, one out of every four people was a Latina in 2018, and the Los Angeles metropolitan region is approaching the same ratio. It is projected Latinos will comprise 43% of California's population by 2030, increasing to 49% by 2060, with approximately half of those being Latina.

I strongly believe the absence of the Latina perspective will negatively impact the purpose of the Citizens Redistricting Commission and be detrimental in fulfilling its voter approved mandate to fairly represent the diversity of the vast state for the next decade.

I urge the 8 sitting members of the California Citizens Redistricting Commission to prioritize equity and representation by considering and selecting at minimum 3 Latinas to serve in the Commission's final 6 seats.

Sincerely,

Kawena Cole, MSW
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