

From: [REDACTED]  
To: [Shape California's Future](#)  
Subject: Public Comment for 8/7/2020  
Date: Thursday, August 6, 2020 8:59:19 PM

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Dear Commissioners:

My name is Luis from Bakersfield, CA. I am a second generation Californian. I am busy at my jobs and don't have a lot of time to keep up with the redistricters daily work but I appreciate the chance to make my comments for my family and communities.

I am writing to thank the Commissioners for working to ensure fair representation for Latino representation on the Commission. This is important for my family (parents and children) as well as my community.

I am an educated man, community worker and am a leader at my work, after years of hard work. I know that communities of color, and in particular African-Americans and Latinos in California, have for too long been excluded from political participation, and whether intentional or not, I fear it might happen again for the Latino community, which I have seen before.

For years, I didn't vote because I felt my voice didn't matter. I was excluded from the process because nobody represented me and my wife. When I had kids, I realized that both California parties were starting to represent Latinos. And the past 5 years have helped to activate my son (who helped with this letter) to become a part of the political process to change our community.

As such, it upsets me that the Commission is not considering all 5 Latinos for participation as Commissioners.

With only 3 LatinX on some of the slates, you would only achieve 20% representation on the Redistricting Commission. This would exclude the participation of Latinos, and specifically exclude non-partisan Latinos like me on the Commission.

By only selecting 3 LatinX Commissioners, you are consciously choosing NOT to address the deficiencies from the lottery for this community, and failing your duty to our community. I have worked hard to ensure that we have a voice.

It is within your power to choose up to 4 LatinX candidates and also add 2 additional Asian Americans candidates, which would more fairly represent the diversity of the State of California, allow you to fulfill your duties, and help to ensure historically disenfranchised communities have a voice.

Please and thank you for your consideration. I appreciate your listening to my concerns and advocacy for maximum Latino participation in this process.

Sincerely,  
Luis Salas

Bakersfield, CA