

From: [Alejandra Ponce De Leon](#)
To: [Shape California's Future](#)
Subject: Recommendations for final CRC members
Date: Tuesday, August 4, 2020 4:10:22 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[Redistricting Alliance Recommendations for Final Commissioners Aug 2020.pdf](#)

Dear Commissioners,

Attached is a letter on behalf of the Redistricting Alliance highlighting key recommendations for your consideration in the selection of the final CRC members.

Thank you,

Alejandra

Alejandra Ponce de Leon
(she/her/hers)

Policy & Research Analyst, Political Voice



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August 4, 2020

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

Re: Selection of Final Six Commissioners

Dear Commissioners,

The Redistricting Alliance (the “Alliance”)—a diverse coalition of fifteen state and local organizations committed to racial and economic equity—graciously thanks you for upholding your responsibility of ensuring that California’s Citizens Redistricting Commission (the “CRC”) reflects the diversity of our state. As you engage in the pivotal decision of determining the final six members of the CRC, we respectfully urge that you prioritize candidates who will enable the CRC to more holistically reflect our state’s communities of color and low-income populations. Specifically, please prioritize the following:

- Latinx and East/South East Asian candidates; and
- Candidates from regions and counties that hold substantial portions of California’s population, especially the Bay Area, Inland Empire, Los Angeles County, Northern Central Valley, Orange County, and San Diego County.

In addition, because we recognize that your task of distinguishing between candidates who fill the above gaps may be difficult, we encourage you to seek those who show strong commitments to both racial and economic equity, and community engagement.

Racial and economic equity should be prioritized because, at every point of our democratic processes--whether it is voting, engaging elected officials, or even running for office--low-income communities and communities of color face a multitude of barriers that impede their participation and diminish their political representation. These barriers stem from inequities across sectors; including, but not limited to, housing, education, employment, public health, and criminal justice. Thus, it is imperative that the CRC’s final six members possess a racial and economic equity lens to help develop a redistricting process that identifies and eliminates barriers to participation for all residents, especially, those most marginalized throughout our state.

Lastly, selecting candidates who show strong community engagement experience would heighten the CRC’s ability to effectively *and* innovatively engage California’s diverse population. Community engagement was a key pillar for the 2010 CRC, and as a result, it successfully developed fair district lines that withstood legal challenges. Community engagement should continue to be a cornerstone of the new CRC, especially in light of challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Thank you once again for your service. We hope that our recommendations are a valuable guide to inform your decisions on who to select for the CRC's final six commissioners. If you have any questions, please contact Alejandra Ponce de Leon with Advancement Project California at aponcedeleon@advanceproj.org.

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