

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

July 30, 2020

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

Dear California Citizens Redistricting Commission:

My name is Megan Detoy and I am a resident of Hermosa Beach in Los Angeles County. I am especially interested in the representation of the Latinx community within our state and the CCRC to encourage equity. I work as a Physician Assistant within Los Angeles, and did my training here through Keck School of Medicine of USC's Primary Care PA program where I saw firsthand, the disparities between the Latinx community and the general population within the greater Los Angeles area. My training program had medical Spanish as part of our curriculum and I directly witnessed the impact of something as simple as speaking Spanish to my patients had in impacting their healthcare and wellbeing. Communicating with people in their native language allowed my patients to feel safer and to feel understood. By communicating with my patients in a way they were most comfortable showed them that they were represented even in that one encounter they had for the day. Since the Latinx community makes up such a large portion of California's diverse culture, they deserve proper representation across all sectors which starts from the ground up through representation.

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,

Megan Detoy