

Public Comment 1990, regarding Maria Blanco

Submission Information

- Submitter Name: Antonia Hernandez
- How Submitter Knows Applicant: friend, colleague
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Comments

Dear Citizens Redistricting Commission,

I write this letter to strongly recommend Ms. Maria Blanco to California's first Redistricting Commission. I cannot think of a better person to fill this important position. Maria has devoted her career to public service and has a wealth of knowledge regarding the Voting Rights Act and the diverse demographics and dynamics of California. I have no doubt that she will make every effort to represent the best interests of the population in designing districts with equal and fair representation.

I have known Maria for 15 years and have witnessed her strong analytic skills, ability to be impartial, and her deep commitment for diversity. Maria's experience as a renowned lawyer who has worked on state and federal policy issues has fine-tuned her outstanding analytic skills. As an attorney working on complex cases, I firsthand observed her exceptional ability to gather and evaluate information. During my time as President for the Mexican-American Legal Defense Educational Fund (MALDEF), Maria worked as National Senior Counsel where she played a key role in passing legislation that provided in-state tuition for undocumented students to attend state universities and colleges. Her ability to navigate this complex legal issue is a testament to her keen intellect, which would be an invaluable asset for the Commission.

In order to ensure a fair redistricting process, it is important that the Commission reflects California's diverse population. Maria is a resident of the City of LA, the largest city in the state of California. Her background as a Latina, appreciation and knowledge of California's diverse demographics would serve as a vital asset for the Commission. Currently, Maria serves as the Vice-President for Civic Engagement for the California Community Foundation. In her role, Maria oversees the department's civic engagement activities. Prior to joining the foundation, she served as the Executive Director for the Chief Justice Earl Warren Institute on Race, Ethnicity, and Diversity and is a leading expert on the demographics of California's ever evolving population.

Given the critical need for the Commission to have a thorough understanding of our population, I have no doubt that Maria would provide in-depth expertise on this topic to ensure fair representation for all Californians in redistricting. Since the time I have known Maria, I have greatly respected her intellect, common sense and most importantly, her humanity. She combines a deep commitment to people with an understanding of government, allowing her to create meaningful engagement in our communities. She is determined, personable, and diplomatic.

I hope that you give Maria your highest consideration for the Citizens Redistricting Commission. I would be more than happy to answer any questions and can be reached at [REDACTED] or via email at [REDACTED]

Sincerely,

Antonia Hernández
President & CEO