

Subject: Speaker #43 Testimony

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From: Sonia Ruiz [REDACTED]

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Conversation: Speaker #43 Testimony

California Citizens Redistricting Commission Public Hearings
May 13, 2011
San Marcos, CA
Speaker #43

My name is Sonia Ruiz and I am here to provide testimony about my community and what cities I hope will be included together in a district.

I live in Carlsbad which is part of North San Diego County. As a Latina, I am very interested in making sure that Latinos and ethnic communities in general have an opportunity to voice our concerns and be heard by our elected officials. Oceanside, Vista, San Marcos, and Escondido all have very large Latino populations. Currently Oceanside is NOT part of my assembly district (AD 74) but if it was that would include a large percentage of Latinos to the district. Also, I am in congressional district 50 and the very same cities I mentioned previously, Oceanside, Vista, parts of San Marcos and Escondido are NOT part of my congressional district. If these communities were to be included a significant Latino community would not be split up and would allow us to have a stronger voice in upcoming elections.

There are many social and economic factors that describe my community. The Spanish language and Latino culture are two social factors. There are also economic factors as well. While there are some Latinos who have earned higher educational degrees, there is still a major discrepancy in educational attainment for Latinos especially when compared to non-Hispanic Whites. Latinos in North County, regardless of our citizenship or generation status here in the United States have been subjected to anti-immigrant hostility. I am 3rd-generation (plus) but this does not make me immune to the hostility. If my assembly or congressional districts were to include more Latinos and other ethnic minorities, we could elect an official who would better represent our needs and concerns.

Thank you for hearing (and reading) my input and I urge the commission to take this testimony into consideration when drawing the new maps for the assembly, congressional, and senate districts in San Diego.

Thank you,
Sonia Y. Ruiz

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