

TO:
Citizens Redistricting Commission
901 P Street, Suite 154-A
Sacramento, CA 95814
Fax: (916) 651-5711
votersfirstact@crc.ca.gov

FROM:
Linda Garcia Traynor
[REDACTED]
Fresno, CA 93722

My name is **Linda Garcia Traynor** and I am live/work in the community of **Fresno CA**.

The Commission's maps affect my representation in the following way:

- In the last 10 years, 90% of the population growth in CA was due to growth in the Latino population. The Fresno area was responsible for a good percentage of that growth
- Had it not been for the Latino population growth, CA would have LOST a Congressional seat!
- I am baffled by the fact that **the maps you drew did not add one single additional congressional district with effective Latino representation in the state of California and specifically, in the Fresno area!**
- This is a clear attempt to dilute the Latino vote and deny us effective representation!
- You must redraw your districts to **conform to the mandate of the Voting Rights Act.**

I live in the **city of Fresno which is 46.9% Latino. Fresno County is 50.3% Latino. Fresno is the fifth largest city in the state** and in the middle of the San Joaquin Valley, the most productive agricultural area in the state and the country. Agriculture is the main business.

The San Joaquin Valley includes the following 6 counties:

Fresno,
Madera,
Merced,
Kings,
Tulare, and
Kern

It is common for many of us to do business in this entire regional area. It is also common to live in Fresno or any one of the cities or towns in this Valley and work in another city or town within it. People do commute 60 miles and more.

Please pay attention to the large percentage of Latinos in each of the major cities and counties in this 6 county area: **All 5 counties have over 50% Latino population**

- The city of **Fresno 46.9%** and the **county is 50.3%**
- The city of **Madera is 76.7% Latino** and the **county is 53.7% Latino**. Madera is 24.5 miles away and people who live in either community may work in the other.
- The city of **Hanford is 47.1% Latino** and **Kings County is 50.9%**.
- Hanford is 33.5 miles away.

- The city of **Visalia is 46% Latino** and **Tulare County is 60.6% Latino**. Visalia is 49 miles away from Fresno
- The city of **Merced is 49.6% Latino** and **Merced County is 54.9% Latino**. Merced is 58 miles away from Fresno.
- The city of **Bakersfield is 32.5%** but **Kern County is 49.2% Latino**
- **The trends is clearly to a Latino majority in the next few years if it isn't already majority Latino!**

These are the towns your maps highlighted located in the counties of Fresno, Kings, Tulare, Kern, Merced and Madera which you used to create your 3 district maps. **Please note that 30 towns had percentages indicted in red AND have over 50% Latino populations!** The percentages in blue have less than 50% Latino population! Of this fairly comprehensive list, **only 4 had less than 50% Latino population and 3 of those did have over 40% Latino population as it is!**

Kerman CA:	9,711 Latinos which	71.7%.
Huron, CA:	6,527 Latinos which is	96.6%.
Mendota:	10,643 Latinos which is	96.6%.
Firebaugh:	6,887 Latinos which is	91.2%.
San Joaquin:	3,825 Latinos which is	95.6%.
Tranquility:	637 Latinos which is	79.7%.
Parlier:	14,137 Latinos which is	97.5%.
Cantua Creek:	461 Latinos which is	98.9%.
Del Rey:	1,534 Latinos which is	93.6%.
Selma:	18,014 Latinos which is	77.6%.
Reedley:	18,455 Latinos which is	76.3%.
Orange Cove:	8,413 Latinos which is	92.7%.
Sanger:	19,537 Latinos which is	80.5%.
Fowler:	3,687 Latinos which is	66.2%.
Goshen:	2,482 Latinos which is	82.6%.
Dos Palos:	3,075 Latinos which is	62.1%.
Biola:	1,196 Latinos which is	73.7%.
Calwa:	1,848 Latinos which is	90.1%.
Kingsburg:	4,883 Latinos which is	42.9%.
Dinuba:	18,114 Latinos which is	84.4%.
Orosi:	7,606 Latinos which is	86.7%.
Exeter:	4,703 Latinos which is	45.5%.
Lemoore:	9,820 Latinos which is	40.0%.
Tulare:	34,062 Latinos which is	57.5%.
Easton:	1,308 Latinos which is	62.8%.
Chowchilla:	7,073 Latinos which is	37.8%.
Ivanhoe:	3,752 Latinos which is	83.5%
Lindsey:	10,056 Latinos which is	85.5%
Farmersville:	8,876 Latinos which is	83.8%
Cutler:	4,829 Latinos which is	96.6%
Corcoran:	15,545 Latinos which is	62.6%
Porterville:	33, 549 Latino which is	61.9%

Coalinga:	7,161 Latinos which is	53.5%.
Los Banos:	23,346 Latinos which is	64.9%.

So your maps affect me negatively because they don't add districts that provide effective representation specifically at a congressional level but also at the senatorial level to us Latinos, and the other ethnic groups that share many similar characteristics such as incomes that are lower than the median, at most have a high school education, they are working class, blue-collar workers, have a relatively recent immigrant experience, are often bilingual, share certain ethnic traditions etc.

The following communities share common social and economic characteristics to my community (state neighborhoods):

As described above, one of the major characteristics of this area is the large percentage of Latinos. Most of them come from Mexico and most have an agricultural background. Most people in these towns have a high school education. In addition, bilingualism is very common in this area!

My community is different from (state the neighborhoods): the foothill areas to the east and NE of Fresno. The communities in the foothill areas have small percentages of Latinos, are more affluent, very likely have college degrees, may be business owners or/and are white collar workers.

As you get closer to Sacramento or to the San Fernando Valley our communities in this 6 county area lose some of these characteristics!

My recommendation is that the Commission remove the following communities from my district:
The Congressional district, you call Fresno appears gerrymandered to dilute Latino vote and deny effective representation.

It excludes most of the city of Fresno so you shouldn't even call it Fresno.

Remove all of Clovis, CA that is north of Ashlan Ave, .since it shares more characteristics in common with the foothills area. Four of Clovis' top 10 employers are Fortune 100 companies, one is French owned company with 2100 employees and another 3 are the school district, the Clovis Community Hospital the city of Clovis, COSTCO and SaveMart.

The city of Fresno is already 47% Latino so the district you end up calling Fresno should include most of Fresno and should have effective Latino representation since it will be effectively majority Latino in a matter of a few years!.

Clovis and the Woodward Park area of Fresno (N of Herndon E of Blackstone all the way to the Clovis city boundary) are the higher-income bedroom communities of Fresno with certain characteristics in common in terms of higher education levels that include college and advanced degrees; the highest income levels in the metropolitan area, white-collar workers, business owners or managers of the businesses that employ the majority of the population in the southern half of the Fresno-Clovis area and towns south of it.

The "Merced" district should have its northern boundary moved further north to gain more population from Stanislaus. And like wise with its northern border so it goes into SanJoa **so that the southern portion of Merced district that includes most of the city of Fresno remains in the "Fresno" district map and becomes majority LCVAP. Look at the**

You need to make both the Kings and Fresno congressional district maps be over 50% LCVAP and adhere to the Voting Rights Act because well more than 2/3 of the town in those areas, are already well over 50% Latino.

For Assembly District, FSEC2 is adequate since it is 51% LCVAP but could be strengthened a bit!

For Senatorial District you call Kings, its northern boundary should be Ashlan Ave in the city of Fresno, not McKinley and Belmont in order to strengthen the Latino LCVAP which is 51% and it should also be called Fresno, not Kings since it includes most of Fresno! Fresno is the 5th largest city. Hanford in Kings County is miniscule!

My recommendation is that the Commission add the following communities to my district:

There is no time left for me to specifically indicate cities and boundaries to be moved. What you need to focus on based on the percentage of Latino population in the towns that I listed for you, is that Fresno is the 5th largest city in CA; it's hub of the 6 county area indicated in the first section of this letter and, as indicated, ¾ of the towns in these counties have very large Latino populations that EXCEED 60%! For you to meet your criteria regarding COI's as well as the Voting Rights Act, this area has to have a strong LCVAP of well over 50% for all 3 district types: Congressional, Senatorial and Assembly.

Look at the high Latino population in all the towns listed!

Look at their clear trending!

This area is responsible for precisely a large portion of the 90% growth that CA experienced. We need effective Latino representation in this area at all levels and all 3 of your districts that include the city of Fresno and surroundings 5 counties should reflect that.

Thank you,
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REGION 6: FRESNO

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