League of United Latin American Citizens Testimony Senate Select Committee on Redistricting (March 12, 2021)

The League of United Latin American Citizens, (LULAC) is the oldest and largest Latino membership organization in the State of Texas and the United States. LULAC advocates on behalf of Hispanic civil rights, equality and equity and equal representation under the law. LULAC operates through District Chapters and local Councils, members of whom are your constituents throughout the state. LULAC is a non-partisan organization.

Texas State LULAC, under the leadership of Rodolfo (Rudy) Rosales, State Director, urges the Senate to ensure that all redistricting maps are drawn in a manner consistent with the Fourteenth Amendment and in compliance with the Voting Rights Act (VRA). All efforts should be made to ensure that the districting process is fair and transparent. Redistricting maps should result in districts which provide equal access and representation without cracking or packing and dilution of minority rights voting power.

Consistent with established law and precedent, all legislative, congressional and SBOE districts must meet two basic criteria outlined in the U.S. Constitution and federal law: equal or near-equal populations and preservation of the right to vote regardless of race, color or language. “One-Person, One-Vote” is LULAC’s guiding principle.

In Texas, this maxim deems that districts should be drawn in a manner that reflects the growth the state has gained as a result of its fast-growing minority and Hispanic population. Districts should maximize minority and Latino leadership representation and participation for Congress, the Senate, the House, Courts and the State Board of Education. To the extent
consistent with existing law and precedent, redistricting should also consider communities of interest, natural boundaries and relevant local/regional considerations including contiguity.

Of paramount importance, districts should be drawn in a manner to prevent racial and political gerrymandering for the protection of incumbents and to predetermine partisan electoral outcome.

State LULAC will monitor the Senate Select Committee on Redistricting and other redistricting proceedings and action to ensure and defend the voting rights of minorities and Latinos in the state of Texas. Minority rights should not be subordinated in order to facilitate political expediency.

Thank you. We look forward to working with you.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gloria Leal,
Attorney at Law & Consultant
State LULAC Redistricting Committee, Chair.
LULAC Council 650 President
Austin, Texas
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