



Ward Economic Development Corporation



CALIFORNIA
BLACK CENSUS
& REDISTRICTING HUB



MALDEF
The Latino Legal Voice for Civil Rights in America.



September 25, 2020

Mr. Dean Logan
Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk (RR/CC)
12400 Imperial Hwy
Norwalk, CA 90650

Dear Mr. Dean Logan,

We, the undersigned organizations, are writing to bring your attention to the importance of considering diversity when establishing the top 60 applicants for the Los Angeles County Citizens Redistricting Commission (CRC). California election law indicates that the Los Angeles County CRC's "selection process is designed to produce a commission that is independent from the influence of the board and reasonably representative of the county's diversity." In the spirit of this statement, our organizations believe it is important that as you compose the pool of the top 60 applicants, you prioritize diversity to the highest degree possible.

Many of our organizations have been engaged in redistricting issues on the state and local level. Our shared goal is that the Los Angeles County CRC consist of qualified, fair-minded individuals who represent the diversity of voices and perspectives that live in our county. Achieving this diversity means that the CRC must look like the communities it was created to serve, with representation from Los Angeles County's many communities, including representatives from Latinx, Black, Asian American Pacific Islander, and native communities. A diverse, representative commission will help invite public confidence in the commission's work and will better prepare the commission to carry out its responsibility of engaging community members in the redistricting process.

While racial/ethnic diversity is critically important, it is one of many kinds of diversity. As your office continues reviewing applications and narrowing the applicant pool, our organizations urge you to keep demographic and geographic diversity front of mind. Demographic diversity includes diversity in age, gender, race, ethnicity, language abilities, and any other background information that applicants indicated in their application materials. Geographic diversity not only includes representation from all supervisorial districts, but also representation from both rural and urban populations in Los Angeles County, with representation from a variety of Los Angeles County's municipalities and regions.

As you know well, Los Angeles County is the most diverse jurisdiction in the nation. We understand that creating a commission that is representative of all of Los Angeles County's

diversity, while balancing party registration to be proportional to the county voter registration in accordance with state law, will be a challenging process. We believe that creating a diverse commission can only be accomplished by ensuring diversity within the pool of top 60 applicants.

A diverse pool of top 60 applicants will assist the first 8 commissioners in completing their first task as a commission: selecting the final 6 commissioners to join them in leading the line-drawing process. California elections law dictates that these “six appointees shall be chosen based on relevant experience, analytical skills, and ability to be impartial, and to ensure that the commission reflects the county’s diversity, including racial, ethnic, geographic, and gender diversity.” This task will only be possible if the first 8 commissioners have diverse applicants to select from, including demographic and geographic diversity, as well as a diversity of experiences and skills. Ensuring diversity in the top 60 applicant pool will set up the commissioners for success at this task, giving them sufficient options for creating a diverse, representative commission.

Our organizations appreciate the efforts your office has undertaken to make the recruitment process open and accessible, including your office’s decision to extend the application deadline to provide Los Angeles County’s various communities ample opportunity to apply. The open application process and extension of the deadline helped increase the total number of applications, including applications from Los Angeles County’s Latinx, Black, Asian American Pacific Islander, and native communities. Our hope is that as a result of our partnership and combined efforts, this applicant pool of over 700 residents gives your office the ability to ensure that the Los Angeles County CRC is composed of commissioners who have a diversity of backgrounds, identities, skills, experiences, and perspectives necessary to make the redistricting process a success in Los Angeles County.

Sincerely,

Kiyana Asemanfar, California Common Cause

Fatima Malik, League of Women Voters of Los Angeles County

Arturo Vargas, National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO)

Educational Fund

James Woodson, California Calls and the Black Census and Redistricting Hub

Jacquelyn Dupont-Walker, Ward Economic Development Corporation

Steven Ochoa, Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF)

Julia A. Gomez, ACLU of Southern California