



Latino Policy & Politics Initiative

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UCLA LATINO POLICY AND POLITICS INITIATIVE STATEMENT ON THE SELECTION OF THE FINAL SIX MEMBERS OF CALIFORNIA'S 2020 CITIZENS REDISTRICTING COMMISSION

Today, the California [2020 Citizens Redistricting Commission](#) announced its final six members, which include four Latino representatives. Of the [initial list of eight members](#), none were Latino, raising grave concerns about fair representation.

[Sonja Diaz](#), founding executive director of the UCLA Latino Policy and Politics Initiative, issued the following statement in response:

"Today's selection of the California's 2020 Citizens Redistricting Commission's final six members gets us a step closer to the state's diversity, but ultimately fails to ensure proportional representation for Latinos. Both the 2020 and 2010 commissions make clear that state officials need to revise the application and selection process so that redistricting decisions that affect the quality of life for all Californians do not leave communities of color further behind.

"Today's decision brought more diversity to the redistricting commission, especially the voices of women of color who are critical to our democracy and economy. Yet, the diversity of the final commission does not go far enough to ensure Latinos have a full seat at the table in shaping the state's political future.

"Latinos are a labor powerhouse, propelling California to the world's fifth-largest economy. They, like Blacks and Pacific Islanders, have experienced the highest rates of coronavirus infection and mortality. Yet, Latinos were the only demographic group to remain [underserved and underrepresented](#) throughout the Citizens Redistricting Commission application process, at a time when political voice is clearly correlated with who lives and who dies during this pandemic.

“Where and how district lines are drawn will define political representation for the next decade. And as we reopen and rebuild our economy in the midst of the triple crisis of a global pandemic, systemic racism and police violence, and worsening economic inequality, no one can be left behind. It is critical that Latinos have a seat at the table and are able to elect their candidates of choice.”

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About the UCLA Latino Policy and Politics Initiative

The [UCLA Latino Policy and Politics Initiative](#) addresses the most critical domestic policy challenges facing communities of color in states and localities across the United States by fostering innovative research, leveraging policy-relevant expertise, driving civic engagement and nurturing a leadership pipeline that propels viable policy reforms to expand opportunity for all Americans.