

QUEENS LATINOS PRESENTE



Presentation to the The New York City Districting Commission

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The framers of The Constitution of the United States chose population to be the basis for sharing political power; resultantly, every ten years we conduct a “census.” The results of the census help determine how hundreds of billions of dollars in federal funding, including grants and support to states, counties and communities are spent every year for the next decade. It helps communities get their fair share for schools, hospitals, roads, public works, and representation.

Queens Latinos Presente is a grassroots coalition of Latinos in Queens who are concerned about the lack of representation of Latinos at all levels of City government. We also have witnessed the past failures of this commission as it relates to redistricting in Queens County to ensure Latino-opportunity districts.

The City of New York empanels a commission to, *ensure council districts continue to reflect population and demographic changes*. The Borough of Queens is the most diverse place on the planet and the Latino community is the largest “minority group” in our borough. This has been the case for over thirty years, but our representation in the City Council does not reflect that.

Just this year, New York State demonstrated it’s own inclination to violate constitutional principles and, as a result, have come under the State Supreme Court’s appointed special master.

We urge the City of New York not to make the same mistakes. We propose three (3) majority Latino Districts in Queens County, as representative of the population.

The first is City Council District 21. This district is a majority Latino district and has been represented by a Latino since 2002. It encompasses East Elmhurst, Corona, Jackson Heights, and Elmhurst. Since 2002, no other majority Latino district in Queens has been created by the Commission.

The second district could adjourn the 21st Council district with a more equitably re-configured 25th Council District which could take into account the large Latino population in Jackson Heights, Elmhurst, Woodside, East Elmhurst and parts of Corona.

We also propose the creation of a third majority Latino district that respectfully takes into account the large Latino population of Woodhaven, Ridgewood, Ozone Park South Ozone Park, Jamaica and Richmond Hill.

Next week, to aid the process, our group will be submitting Queens County district maps for your consideration and to ensure that such proposed maps are part of the public record, thank you.