



ALLIANCE FOR PUERTO RICAN EDUCATION AND EMPOWERMENT

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Dear Redistricting Committee,

We are submitting written testimony on behalf of the Education Advocacy Committee of the Alliance for Puerto Rican Education and Empowerment.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our concerns regarding the Redistricting Commission's draft proposal maps that were released on July 15th.

Latinos represent 28.3% of New York City's total population. Drawing these lines must ensure that the Latino community is fully accounted for by ensuring access to candidates of choice that represent our community's interests and needs. The maps as proposed have many dramatic changes in several plurality Latino districts across NYC that will negatively impact the voting voice of Latinos.

One example is in CD 38 in Sunset Park Brooklyn. CD 38 is 44% Latino, 33% Asian, 17% White and 5% Black. The proposed map spreads the current district out across three districts, one of which would be majority Asian, two of which would be majority White and none which would be majority Latino, thus diluting the power of the Latino vote in this community. Furthermore, the proposed map breaks up a Voting Rights Act district that has historically empowered South Brooklyn voters of color and Latinos in particular to elect the candidates of their choice.

How districts are drawn affects every political issue, from the economy to healthcare to public education and these inequitable changes in the maps will dilute the voting power of voters of color and Latino voters that we as a people have worked so hard to gain. Purposefully breaking up communities takes away the community's ability to come together and advocate for important issues. Latino voters could be denied the opportunity to elect representatives of their choice if their voting power across the city is diminished as a result of these proposed maps.

In the past decade, Latinos are one of the demographic groups whose population has grown the most citywide, and yet there are fewer Latinos elected at the highest levels of city and state government than in the past. Fairness must be at the center of the redistricting process. Given the increase of the Latino population across the state, it is vital that the redistricting process draw fair lines representative of that growth.

It is important that minority communities not be pitted against each other. We ask that you consider the representative needs of the Latino community in NYC and to do so without in any way diluting any other minority population's voting power.

Thank you,

Antonio Nadal

Antonio Nadal
APREE Interim President