

SUPREME COURT, STATE OF COLORADO 101 West Colfax Avenue, Suite 800 Denver, Colorado 80202	<p style="text-align: center;">COURT USE ONLY</p> <p style="text-align: center;">FILED IN THE SUPREME COURT</p>
Original Proceeding Pursuant to the Colorado Rules for Reapportionment Proceedings	<p style="text-align: center;">OCT 13 2011</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OF THE STATE OF COLORADO Christopher T. Ryan, Clerk</p>
IN RE REAPPORTIONMENT OF THE COLORADO GENERAL ASSEMBLY	SUPREME COURT CASE No. 2011SA282
COLORADO LATINO FORUM 309 W. 1st Ave, Denver, Colorado 80223 Telephone: (303) 722-5150 Facsimile: (303) 722-5118	
<p style="text-align: center;">COLORADO LATINO FORUM'S STATEMENT SUPPORTING REAPPORTIONMENT COMMISSION'S FINAL HOUSE AND SENATE PLANS</p>	

Pursuant to the Court's Order, the Colorado Latino Forum hereby submits a statement in support of the Commission's proposed Final Plan.

INTRODUCTION

We believe that the Reapportionment Commission's Final Plan fairly and constitutionally balanced the many competing factors that play into the creation of a reapportionment plan after the 2010 Census. See Article V, Sections 46 and 47, Colorado Constitution. Balanced between Republicans and Democrats and representatives from across the state, the Commission engaged in thoughtful internal and external interaction and settled upon a reasonable compromise plan offered by the Chair, a politically unaffiliated commissioner. Obviously, the plan meets the equal population mandate in the Colorado

constitution, where no district exceeds the permissible five percent (5%) deviation. As the undersigned personally observed, the Commission repeatedly elevated equal population as the number one factor, and then focused on county and city boundaries, while staying conscious of the federal Voting Rights Act. Generally see *In re Reapportionment*, 46 P.3d 1083 (2002).

Most appreciated was the careful and appropriate attention that the Commission devoted to the various Latino communities that exist throughout Colorado, among other important communities. The Commission created a plan that respected the large Latino Communities in the San Luis Valley, Pueblo, southeastern Colorado, Colorado Springs, the Denver metropolitan area, Greeley, Morgan and Weld counties, as well as Eagle and Lake counties and other counties in the western slope. The Commission was careful to create majority population Latino communities where appropriate, as well as preserve smaller Latino communities that could influence political elections, while also considering other communities of interest. The undersigned expressly raised the historical documentation of potential racial bloc voting in the San Luis Valley and potentially in Weld County.¹ The Commission expressly noted this concern and publicly called for an executive session to discuss the issue of racial bloc voting.

GENERAL STATEMENT IN SUPPORT

House Plan

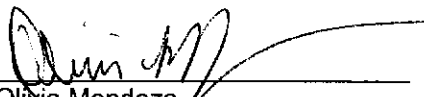
We applaud the Commission's careful decision to start with the San Luis Valley in drawing the House plan, given the racial bloc voting that was found there in the mid-1990s and further documented by a state demographer in 2001. Rightly so, the Commission believed it had to continue to divide Pueblo County to address some federal constitutional issues in the San Luis Valley. After drafting House District 62 and the Pueblo districts, there were several areas where the Commission carefully used its discretion to keep counties whole except for population. The Commission kept Denver whole while also respecting the Latino communities in Denver and the Denver metropolitan area. House District 50 and 63 also resulted in the Commissions respect of the Weld and Morgan county lines while respecting the Latino communities of interest in those counties and Greeley. El Paso County is another example where the

¹ In 1991, the Reapportionment Commission retained EDS to study the voting patterns in Colorado and concluded that there was racial bloc voting in the San Luis Valley, and probably in Weld County. In 2001, the Reapportionment Commission retained Lisa Handley to perform a similar study and she concluded that racial bloc voting continued in the San Luis Valley. For reasons not in the records we have, the 2001 Reapportionment Commission did not appear to study the voting patterns in Weld County as a follow up to the concerns noted in 1991.

Commission properly balanced the communities of interest while preserving the Latino community in Colorado Springs largely intact.

Senate Plan

For the same reasons related to House District 62, we believe that the Commission properly began in the San Luis Valley and Pueblo to create the Senate plan. The southern districts, Senate District 3 and 35 respect the southern county lines, the continental divide, the Latino communities of interest in those regions, as well as the river basins and connection between Pueblo and the San Luis Valley. The Senate Plan respects the eastern plains communities of interests as well as the Latino communities in the Morgan and Weld counties. The Commission respected and preserved the large, compact Latino communities in Denver and the Denver metropolitan area. The Senate Plan received a lot of Commission and public support because it is simply a very good plan for this census.



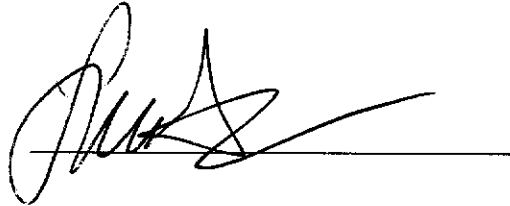
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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, OLIVIA MENDOZA hereby certify that an accurate copy of the Colorado Latino Forum's Statement Supporting the Reapportionment Commission's Final House and Senate Plans was served by mail on October 13, 2011 on the following:

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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Olivia Mendoza', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and cursive.