

**From:** [Ricardo Valencia](#)  
**To:** [CEO Redistricting RES](#)  
**Subject:** In Support of Jannet Rios  
**Date:** Monday, December 14, 2020 11:11:33 AM

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Dear commissioners,

My name is Ricardo Valencia. I am a member of District 5 and I am here to reiterate the importance of having a commission that is representative of the communities that live in Santa Barbara County. Today I am here to speak in support of Jannet Rios. Having Jannet as a commissioner embodies diverse representation; not just of the Latinx community, but of young women. A young woman of color on this commission will enhance the possibility of reaching young individuals that will become more engaged in the process of redistricting. Additionally, this is an opportunity for young people to also see themselves in local leadership roles. It is important that local leaders are reflective of our city and understand the lived experiences and challenges faced by its constituents. Thank you.

**From:** [Kiersten Merina](#)  
**To:** [CEO Redistricting RES](#)  
**Cc:** [Ghizzoni, Michael](#); [steve@churchwellwhite.com](mailto:steve@churchwellwhite.com); [djohnson@ndcresearch.com](mailto:djohnson@ndcresearch.com); [Anderson, Nancy](#); [Charles H. Bell](#); [Ashlee N. Titus](#)  
**Subject:** Appointment of Final Six Commissioners  
**Date:** Friday, December 18, 2020 3:55:10 PM  
**Attachments:** [Final Ltr to SB Redistricting Commission Chair.docx .pdf](#)  
**Importance:** High

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Chairman Morris:

From Charles H. Bell, Jr., on behalf of Mr. Julian Canete, President and CEO of the California Hispanic Chambers of Commerce and Ms. Bobbi McGinnis, Chair, Santa Barbara County Republican Party, please find attached their letter to you and the Commissioners for your attention.

If you have any questions with receipt or opening this email and attachment, please contact Mr. Bell at the below address.

Kindly,

**Kiersten Merina**  
**Paralegal**

BELL, McANDREWS  
& HILTACHK, LLP

455 Capitol Mall, Suite 600  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
P (916) 442-7757  
F (916) 442-7759

**This communication is confidential and may be legally privileged.**

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CALIFORNIA  
**HISPANIC**  
CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE



December 18, 2020

BY OVERNIGHT MAIL:

Mr. Glenn Morris, Chairman  
& Commissioners  
Santa Barbara County Citizens Independent Redistricting Commission  
P.O. Box 61510  
Santa Barbara CA 93160-1510

BY EXPRESS DELIVERY:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
County of Santa Barbara  
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Re: **Appointment of Final Six Commissioners – Decision of December 13, 2020**

Dear Chairman Morris and Commissioners:

This joint letter is submitted to you by the undersigned on behalf of the California Hispanic Chambers of Commerce and the Santa Barbara County Republican Party, concerning your decision on December 13, 2020 to choose the final six commissioners for the Santa Barbara County Citizens Independent Redistricting Commission under the provisions of the Commission's legal charter, Santa Barbara County Ordinance No. 5051, § 1.

Demand

On behalf of our two organizations, we demand that the commissioners immediately (a) rescind the December 13, 2020 decision selecting the final six commissioners, and (b) select new commissioners in accordance with the requirements of Sec. 2-10.9A (4)(h)(3) of the Ordinance, for the reasons set forth below.

The Ordinance's Applicable Diversity Requirements

Sec. 2-10.9A (4)(h)(3) of the Ordinance, adopted in accordance with Calif. Elec. Code § 23002(b) [county independent redistricting authorization and requirements allowing counties to

prescribe additional requirements for the manner of selecting commission members], provides that in selecting the final six commissioners:

- (a) “[they] *shall be chosen ... to ensure* that the commission reflects the county’s diversity, including racial, ethnic, geographic, age and gender diversity” without specific “formulas or ratios,” and,
- (b) “[t]he ... commissioners *shall also consider* political party preference ... *so that* the political party preferences of the members of the commission, as shown on the members’ most recent affidavits of registration, *shall be as proportional as possible* to the percentage of voters who are registered with each political party in the County of Santa Barbara” without requirement that the members “be exactly the same as the proportion of the political party preferences among registered voters of the county.”

Thus, the Ordinance’s provisions clearly mandate that the composition process *in toto* (i.e., all member selections) must ensure that the Citizens Independent Redistricting Commission be structured reasonably to reflect both Santa Barbara County’s ethnic diversity and political diversity, without relying solely on quotas or formulas. However, eschewing quotas or formulas, the clear intent (“ensure” the Commission “reflect” such [ethnic] diversity and “shall be proportional as possible” [political diversity]) is to achieve diversity in both these elements of the Commission’s composition.

These diversity provisions are nearly identical to those in statutes adopted by the Legislature in the last few years, two of which involved Los Angeles and San Diego County independent redistricting commission commissioner diversity standards. See Elec. Code § 21550(c)[San Diego Independent Redistricting Commission authorization – proportional as possible political representation requirement]; and Elec. Code § 21532(b) and (c) [Los Angeles County Independent Redistricting Commission authorization – reflect diversity and proportional as possible political representation requirements]).

#### The Commission Has Failed to Comply with the Ordinance

The final six selection process clearly failed in both areas of diversity. Of the 11 commissioners, only two are Latino (18.18% of the Commission vs. 39.4% of county population) and only one is Republican (9.09% of the Commission vs. 25.3% of county population). Proportionality of Latinos to county population would result in at least 2 additional Latinos. Proportionality of Republicans to county registration voter percentages would result in at least 1-2 additional Republicans. Moreover, indisputably it was “possible” for the commissioners to achieve substantially proportional diversity in both Latino and Republican appointments overall, from the available pool of remaining Latinos and Republicans, which included 6 Latinos and 13 Republicans.

This information was well known to the first five commissioners and was actively discussed by public commenters as well as commissioners prior to and at the Commission’s December 13, 2020 meeting. Indeed, the Commission’s record included a November 9, 2020

Memorandum from Doug Johnson, of National Demographics Corporation, its demographic consultant, offered to support the commission's determination.

Reconsideration and Re-Selection Is Required to Protect the Process  
from Legal Challenge

We believe that the Commission's compliance with these demands is legally necessary to avoid litigation over the composition of the Commission and perhaps ultimately its redistricting work product. Failure to do so could subject the Commission's final maps to legal challenge for this abuse of discretion. We say this with no disrespect either to the six December 13, 2020 appointees or to the initial five members selected by random name draw.

Further, there is still sufficient time to correct the problem before the Commission will be required to begin its active work upon receipt of the U.S. Census population data by the end of the first quarter of 2021, if action is taken immediately.

Finally, the requirement that the Commission be formed no later than December 31, 2020 does not impose a hard time limit upon the correction of the problem we bring to your attention. The Commission has been formed and is legally able to act, including completion of its mandate set forth in Ordinance No. 5051 to achieve substantial ethnic and political diversity.

Please advise us not later than December 28, 2020 of your attention to these demands.

Very truly yours,



Julian Canete, President and CEO  
California Hispanic Chambers of Commerce

*Bobbi McGinnis*

Bobbi McGinnis, Chair  
Santa Barbara County Republican Party

cc: Steven C. Churchwell, Esq., Commission Counsel (by email)  
Michael Ghizzoni, County Counsel (by email)  
Douglas Johnson, Commission Demographer (by email)  
Nancy Anderson, Assistant County Executive Office (by email)

**From:** [Lee Heller](#)  
**To:** [CEO Redistricting RES](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment for Redistricting Commissioners  
**Date:** Wednesday, December 23, 2020 1:31:21 PM

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**Caution: This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.**

Dear Chair Morris and Commissioners,

I can't say that I was surprised when I read the letter submitted to you regarding a shortfall in proportionate representation in your choice of commissioners. Since public comment had ended by the time you made these choices, I was unable to point out at the time the deficiency in Republican representation.

My suggestion, to avoid a long and complex process of re-opening interviews and slates, is to swap in Ms. Harden for Mr. Olmedo as the at-large commissioner. She would bring representation for smaller farm communities in the county, as well as her Latinx heritage. I do understand that her interview performance was not strong, but you are obligated to have at least roughly proportional party representation. Adding one Republican puts representation within proportionality parameters (there should be between two and three Republicans on the Commission). You are not obligated to have perfectly proportional representation.

I do realize that this does solution not increase the number of Latinx commissioners. Unfortunately, you are limited by the limited number of Latinx candidates in the pool of 45 that Mr. Holland selected. If you were to add Ms. Harden to the Commission by swapping her in for the current 4th district commissioner, you would lose Asian representation. If you chose to swap in Mr. Alvarez for Mr. Hudley, you would have no African-American perspective. It is important that the commissioners reflect the demographic diversity of the entirety of Santa Barbara County. Indeed, that may be why the ordinance prohibits you from applying a formula of any kind, including a 1:1 correspondence between demographic groups and representation.

I would also suggest swapping out Ms. Knudson for Ms. Twibell as 1st District commissioner. You are currently over-represented with Democrats. I do understand that you felt that Ms. Knudson did not interview terribly well. But she brings a different perspective as a member of a minor party, and her written application does indicate specific knowledge and competence in areas that would be of use; you would not be appointing someone unqualified. Some people just don't interview well!

Best wishes for the holidays,

Lee E. Heller, Ph.D., J.D.  
Santa Barbara CA

**From:** [Vijaya](#)  
**To:** [CEO Redistricting RES](#)  
**Cc:** [Mary Rose](#); [Lindsey Baker](#); [Chris Carson](#); [Helen Hutchison](#); [LWVSB Office](#)  
**Subject:** LWVSB Comments on Selection of Counsel and Demographer  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 6, 2021 3:27:30 PM  
**Attachments:** [2021-01-06 LWVSB on SB Redistricting Commission Selection of Counsel and Demographer.docx](#)

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**Caution:** This email originated from a source outside of the County of Santa Barbara. Do not click links or open attachments unless you verify the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Santa Barbara County Redistricting Commissioners,  
Please find, attached, comments from the League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara. We hope these comments will be useful to you as you begin your selection process.

Sincerely,

*Vijaya Jammalamadaka (she, her)*

*President*

*805-462-7126*

***Empowering Voters. Defending Democracy***

328 E. Carrillo Street, Suite A  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101





January 7, 2021

Santa Barbara Redistricting Commission  
County Executive Office  
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 406  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101  
Via email: [redistricting@countyofsb.org](mailto:redistricting@countyofsb.org)

**SUBJECT: Selection of Counsel and Demographer**

Dear Commissioners,

The League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara (LWVSB) is a non-partisan, political organization. We encourage informed and active participation in government, work to increase understanding of major public policy issues, and influence public policy through education and advocacy.

On behalf of LWVSB, I would like to congratulate you on your selection of the additional commissioners to serve on the first ever Santa Barbara County Independent Redistricting Commission. This is a great responsibility which will have impacts for the next decade and beyond.

As you begin your terms, we hope you will, again, review the language of County Code Sec. 2-10.9A establishing the commission, the State Fair Maps Act under California Elections Code § 21500, and best practices from other counties and cities that have implemented independent redistricting processes.

The first step is engaging in an open, transparent process to identify the best legal counsel and demographic services available through the solicitation of proposals through a Request for Proposals/Request for Qualifications process.

**We have the following comments regarding the upcoming selection of your Legal Counsel:**

Last year, we and others called your attention to the fact that Santa Barbara County is the only county independent redistricting commission that has not used a transparent RFP process to select your legal counsel and demographer. As a result, the Board of Supervisors appointed interim counsel, and solicited RFP's for legal services. Proposals are due this week.

**We hope you agree that the commission should have legal counsel that shares a common goal of empowering communities and strengthening voting rights.**

**We have the following comments regarding the selection of the demographer:**

After hearing numerous concerns from the public regarding the County's issuance of a sole source/no bid contract for demographic services to National Demographic Corporation, the initial five commissioners stated their interest in using an RFP process for demographic services but deferred the question until all members of the commission had been chosen.

As you likely know, redistricting can serve to empower communities, sometimes at the expense of others. Given the inherent push-pull nature of redistricting, it becomes even more important that all participants share a common belief that the process was open, transparent and most of all fair.

An open transparent RFP process will allow you to obtain additional information about your prospective demographer, and alternatives available to you. We would also encourage you to invite members of the public to provide you with information regarding qualified counsel and demographers.

**The League of Women Voters of Santa Barbara is asking you to please open a public RFP process for your demographer as you have done with your legal counsel. There is still time to do a robust search and interview your options for a demographer, as other independent commissions have done. There are several very qualified law firms and demographic service companies in California and nationally who would likely bid if there is an open, transparent and competitive process.**

Please contact LWVSB board member Lindsey Baker at [linzbak@gmail.com](mailto:linzbak@gmail.com) if you have questions or need more information.

Thank you for your attention to this very important matter.

Sincerely,



Vijaya Jammalamadaka  
President, LWVSB