



League of United Latin
American Citizens

State of Wisconsin

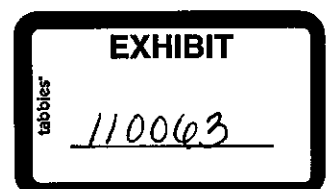
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**Judiciary and Legislation Committee
City of Milwaukee**

Public Listening Session
1:30 p.m., June 6, 2011
301-B, City Hall

Prepared remarks by

Mr. Darryl D. Morin
State Director
League of United Latin American Citizens
Of Wisconsin





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Mr. Chairman and distinguished members of the Judiciary and Legislation Committee, it is indeed my honor to be testifying before you today.

I speak as the State Director for the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), our nation's oldest and largest Hispanic membership based organization. With multiple councils located within Milwaukee's city limits, we are proud to have provided assistance to our great city in many forms. From the over 60 tons of meat we donated to Feeding America Eastern Wisconsin, to the nearly \$1,000,000 we have provided in college scholarships, to the \$450,000 in grant programs we have brought into the city last year alone for the purposes of improving the level education and health of all of Milwaukee's citizens, I believe it is evident that LULAC does not simply point out opportunities for improvement, but truly is part of the solution.

Today I speak regarding the process which will literally map the course for our city's future. Of course, I am speaking of City of Milwaukee's redistricting process. From the Great Compromise of 1787 that created both the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate, to the Voting Rights Act of 1965, there is no greater tenant in a democratic government, than that of assuring one voice, one vote. Insuring everyone's voice is heard in the democratic process.

As we commence this process, I pledge on behalf of LULAC of Wisconsin, that we will work in an open and transparent manner with all parties and community stakeholders to ensure that everyone's voice is heard regardless of their color, their race, or their language. LULAC stands steadfast on this issue. The most recent example would be our U.S. Supreme Court victory in *LULAC v. Perry*, in which the State of Texas was forced to redraw District 23 and hold a new congressional election for that district as the U.S. Supreme Court found that the State's 2003 redistricting efforts were in clear violation of the Voting Rights Act.

Next, let me state clearly and unequivocally, that LULAC of Wisconsin will work equally as hard to ensure that the voices of Milwaukee's Hispanic population will be heard and with the volume commensurate with Milwaukee's growing Hispanic population. Per the findings of the 2010 Census, Milwaukee's Latino population grew by 44% over the last ten years and is expected to keep climbing into the future. For Wisconsin as a whole, the numbers were even larger at 74%.



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What does this mean to Wisconsin? It means a younger overall workforce. It means an ever growing small business community, as well as more home sales and more overall investment in our great city and state.

I look forward in working with all of you to a mutually beneficial solution throughout this process. Fore I testify here today not for a party, but for a community; the community that is the great City of Milwaukee. It is only in working together to an agreed solution, and working together in a productive manner and with respect for all parties that our community will truly benefit.

I would like to take a moment to thank the Legislative Reference Bureau (LRB) for providing their Preliminary Aldermanic District Plan as a starting point for our discussions, as we look forward in working with the Judiciary and Legislative Committee, the common council and other elected officials and community stakeholders on this important issue.

Thank you all once again. May God bless all of you, May God bless our great city and state, and may God Bless the United States of America.

Thank you,

Mr. Darryl D. Morin
State Director
LULAC of Wisconsin



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Statement on City of Milwaukee's 2011 Redistricting Legislative
Reference Bureau's Preliminary Aldermanic Plan**

On behalf of Voces de la Frontera, a state wide worker and immigrant rights membership organization which is based in Milwaukee's near Southside on 1027 South 5th St., we want to express our appreciation to the Milwaukee's City Council redistricting process which included making available to the public computers, materials and expertise by its Legislative Reference Bureau. I was one of the taxpayers that availed myself of these resources last Friday at Room 303 in Milwaukee's Municipal Building.

Before moving to Voces' recommendations, I want to take a minute to introduce myself.

My name is Jesus Salas and I have lived in Milwaukee since the late sixties. My father Manuel first came to Wisconsin in the late 1930's. My 2nd oldest brother was born in Hartford, Wisconsin in October of 1941. My father's brother, Julian, served with WI's Red Arrow Division during WW11. Although my parents would permanently relocate in Waushara County in the 1950's, my five brothers and I would all move to Milwaukee in the 1960's. After attending grad school in the mid-seventies and obtaining an advanced degree from UW-Madison in 1985, I returned to Milwaukee's near Southside where I have been living for the last 25 years. I taught at MATC for nearly 20 years. I retired in 2005 and have been a volunteer for Voces since.

First, of all, we support that part of the 15 member Aldermanic plan as made available by the City of Milwaukee Legislative Reference Bureau which responds to the dramatic increase in the Hispanic population in our community by creating

two Hispanic aldermanic district, the 8th and 12th. However, we are concerned about how wards with substantial Hispanic concentrations south of those two districts are being divided up amongst various other districts and we want to study this problem and hope to work with them in finding a solution. Since Latinos represent 17% of the city's total population, the city should draw a 3rd district with significant Latino influence.

Secondly, We generally support this two reconfigured aldermanic districts with the following comments and recommendations:

- a) We affirm the right of the 8th District Northern boundaries which includes the Menominee Valley.
- b) We are presently reviewing your recommendation of the Northern boundaries of the 12th and the 14th. As you can see, the Northern boundaries recede southward as we move towards the lake. Some of this area South of the Menominee River is part and parcel of the economic development initiatives of these two aldermanic districts. For instance, we view the lower 'Third Ward' area as linked to the economic development of the Walker's Point neighborhood. For this reasons, we would like to communicate with district representatives, business and community leaders before we make our final recommendation on the Northern boundaries of these near Southside districts.
- c) We support the Legislative Reference Bureau's recommendation for the Western boundaries of the proposed 12th District that joins both sides of Cesar Chavez Drive (formerly 16th Street) in the same aldermanic district.
- d) In order to effectively respond to the dramatic increases of the Latino population in the last twenty years, we support the move of the Jackson Park neighborhood from the 8th district to the 11th.

Finally, in order to more effectively increase the possibilities of Latinos being elected in the proposed 8th and 12th their voting age populations needs to be increased respectively from the 62.3% in the former and 67.6% in the latter to at least 70%. This can be done with minor changes as there are a number of adjacent wards that have majority Hispanic voting age populations:

In the 13th, Ward 260 has 53% Hispanic voting age population.

In the 14th, three adjacent wards to the 12th have majority Hispanic voting age population that exceed 60%:

- Ward 261 has 62% Hispanic voting age population
- Ward 244 has 64% Hispanic voting age population
- Ward 243 has 70% Hispanic voting age population

Again, we want to express our appreciation to making available the resources, materials and data for us to make these preliminary comments. We look forward to working with

you and the Legislative Reference Bureau in reshaping the 8th and 12th Aldermanic Districts to reflect the dramatic increases of Latinos in the City of Milwaukee.

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