

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS GLORIA MOLINA
AND ZEV YAROSLAVSKY

August 10, 2010

Our nation relies on an accurate Census count to ensure the equitable distribution of federal funds to state and local governments for housing, education, health, transportation and other vital programs; and for redistricting purposes. To date, as the 2010 U.S. Census comes to a close, a record number of Los Angeles County residents—over 70 percent—have participated by filling out their Census forms.

After the Census data has been gathered and tabulated, each level of government will evaluate the changes in population that have taken place over the past ten years and will use this data to readjust electoral boundaries—a vitally important process called “redistricting.” The objective is to balance electoral districts and to comply with the “one-person, one-vote” mandate—a fundamental principle of our democracy.

Redistricting is especially important to Los Angeles County since, unfortunately, our County’s redistricting history is troubling. The U.S. Supreme Court ruled in the 1991 *Garza* case that Los Angeles County had created electoral districts that disenfranchised

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Ridley-Thomas _____

Yaroslavsky _____

Knabe _____

Antonovich _____

Molina _____

Latino residents. In response to this ruling, new supervisorial districts were created specifically to rectify this historic wrong; since 1991, the County has been required to seek approval regarding its redistricting activities from the U.S. Department of Justice. But this year, when the redistricting process starts anew, the requirements of *Garza* will no longer apply.

As such, it is critical that the Board of Supervisors prepare itself for this important task. We must take all necessary steps to ensure that the redistricting process is fair and impartial. Through active participation by residents, all Los Angeles County communities can be assured that the redistricting process is conducted equitably and judiciously.

WE, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Executive Officer of the Board, County Counsel, the Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk, the Internal Services Department's Urban Research Division, and the Chief Executive Officer to report back in 60 days with the following:

1. Provide background information about the Supervisorial Redistricting process conducted in 1991 and 2001.
2. Recommend proposed policies, procedures and timelines for the completion of the 2011 redistricting in accordance with the law; including recommendations for necessary information technology systems, legal and technical consultants, and a public participation plan.
3. Provide an overview of current redistricting law and the County's status with respect to *Garza* and other relevant cases.

LO/ld