

Equitable Representation through Possible Expansion of the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors

In 2021, Los Angeles County embarked on its very first independent redistricting process – where the boundaries of the new Supervisorial Districts were determined by Los Angeles County residents with community input and without the influence of the Board of Supervisors. It was a monumental effort and well-worth the undertaking to ensure communities of interest remain intact and the new districts adequately reflect the diversity of our entire County.

The Los Angeles County Redistricting Commission issued a final report, which reflected many calls over the years to explore an increase in the number of Supervisors.¹ This recommendation was often voiced during the public comment for the 2021 Independent Redistricting Commission. And over the years, there has been robust advocacy to ensure equitable representation to reflect the County’s Latino population.

¹ <https://redistricting.lacounty.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/12/LA-County-CRC-Resolution-Adopting-Redistricting-Report.pdf>

MOTION

SOLIS	_____
MITCHELL	_____
HORVATH	_____
BARGER	_____
HAHN	_____

With 10 million residents but only five County supervisors, these calls are compelling.

But the calls are not new and there have been many attempts to expand the Board—albeit unsuccessful. These efforts began in 1926 and were as recent as 2000 when voters rejected an increase from 5 to 9 by over 64%. But much has changed in over 22 years, and it is incumbent on this Board to explore any expansion, which would ultimately be determined by the will of the voters this Board represents.

As the Board embarks on this analysis, stakeholders should include the NAACP, Mexican American Legal Defense Fund, the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials, Asian Americans Advancing Justice, Common Cause, relevant research institutions, and others.

WE, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors:

1. Direct County Counsel to report back in 90 days with options to expand the Board of Supervisors. This should include, but not be limited to, an analysis of past expansion efforts, research on similar jurisdictions and the size of their Boards, any impact or considerations relating to redistricting, recommendations on the composition of the Board of Supervisors, recommendations on the number of Supervisors, recommendations on timing of a possible expansion, and other relevant factors. As part of and for purposes of the report back, County Counsel shall have delegated authority to retain expert consultants on Board governance and expansion.
2. Direct the Anti-Racism, Diversity, and Inclusion Initiative, in consultation with County Counsel, to engage with interested stakeholders and advocacy groups on the above-referenced report back to ensure any proposed expansions accomplish equitable representation.

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