

Promoting Diversity in County Commission Appointments

The California State Legislature recently passed Senate Bill 702 (SB 702) authored by Senator Limón. If signed by the Governor, this bill would require a public report of the demographic data of the annual Gubernatorial Appointments. The bill would also require the Governor's office to maintain an updated website with information on all state boards and commissions, including vacancies, current membership list, and frequency of meetings. The bill is bolstered by a 2022 report by the University of California Los Angeles's Latino Policy and Politics Institute (LPPi), showing that Latinos have the largest representation gap among all racial and ethnic groups in California's executive appointees. Despite making up 39.1% of the state population, Latinos are only 18.4% of executive appointees, meaning they are underrepresented in executive appointments by 20.7 percentage points.

In Los Angeles County, there are over 2000 Commissioners appointed to the over 200 legislative bodies for which that the Board of Supervisors make appointments, including various commissions, committees, and boards. The Los Angeles County

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Board of Supervisors is committed to promoting equity and diversity. As such, it has a vested interest in ensuring that its commissioner appointments reflect the diversity of Los Angeles County residents. Equity cannot be achieved without data, and it is important for the public to know who has a voice in local government.

To that end, Los Angeles County should produce a report similar to that required in SB 702. This report will serve as a tool to inform Supervisors' decisions on increasing diversity among County appointees. This will also help to ensure that Los Angeles County's government reflects the demographic composition of the County and that everyone has a seat at the table.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Executive Office of the Board of Supervisors, working with ARDI, to publish annually, public facing demographic statistics on commissioners appointed by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors.

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