

April 16, 2011

Testimony to the Illinois House Redistricting Committee  
Regarding the Boundaries of Illinois' Legislative Districts

Submitted by: Magdalena (Maggie) Rivera

*Magdalena Rivera 2001 @ Yahoo.com*

Introduction:

- Maggie Rivera,, LULAC National Midwest VP and member of LULAC-McHenry County Council #5260
- LULAC (League of United Latin American Citizens) is the largest and oldest (82 years old) Latino Organization in the Country. Our mission is to advance the economic condition, educational attainment, political influence, health and civil rights of the Hispanic population of the United States and Puerto Rico.
- LULAC is part of the Illinois Latino Agenda, a 49 member coalition of Latino non profit organizations that is working together to protect the voting rights of Latino residents and to increase their ability to elect candidates of their choice through the development of new legislative boundaries across the state.

Statement of Issue

- Dramatic Latino population growth must be reflected in the drawing of new legislative district boundaries that allows for districts that properly represent the Latino community.
- Even if the growth does not allow for majority Latino districts then the districts must allow for greater "influence" by Latino voters and not split the population into smaller groupings.
- Minority voting rights are protected under the U.S. Voting Rights Act of 1965. And the Illinois Voting Rights Act of 2011 calls for the protection of minority communities by the creation of influence, coalition and cross over districts.

Supporting Statement

- Inn McHenry County although the Latino population is above <sup>20,000</sup>~~23%~~ we don't have a voice at the local or county level.
- Today, I know that other Latino sister organizations stand behind me as I deliver this testimony.

Closing Statement

- We will be keeping watch on the redistricting process.
- Would like an opportunity to comment on the maps being considered before they are voted on. Suggest public hearing on the new maps at least two weeks before the vote.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. We are interested in continuing our discussion and offer further comment as the redistricting process continues.

Sincerely,  
