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Steven Arroyo, Communications Manager

[sarroyo@latinopolicyforum.org](mailto:sarroyo@latinopolicyforum.org)



## **Latino Population Shortchanged by Illinois Redistricting Maps and Absence of Promised Transparency**

CHICAGO -- The Latino Policy Forum disapproves of the Illinois redistricting maps that were signed into law last Friday by Governor JB Pritzker and the process by which they were passed. By not releasing the data that went into these maps before they were passed, our legislators did not live up to their promise of transparency. For this reason, above all, the Forum feels let down by our legislators and the Governor.

The Forum testified on this issue before the state House and Senate redistricting committees between March and May of this year.

While the geographic dispersion of Latinos across the state means that it's impossible for a map to equitably represent the Latino state population (which would require 45 Latino-majority districts using a total-population threshold of 60 percent), our map can at least equitably reflect Latino population centers so that Latinos can fairly elect the representatives of their choice.

Our preliminary review found that 10 of the 14 Latino-majority Illinois House districts and three Senate districts that were created were not drawn equitably and could have been drawn with stronger concentrations of Latino population. This hinders the Latino community's ability to elect the legislators of their choice.

The legislature's use of American Community Survey (ACS) data, instead of census data, to draw the maps also potentially shortchanges the Latino community. There is an overall undercount of at least 42,000 people in ACS data, compared to the official state population count. It is unclear on why it was prudent to wait for the release of 2020 census data to draw Illinois Congressional maps, but not the state's legislative districts.

The Forum co-signed and supported the Illinois Unity Map, a proposed map developed to optimize opportunities for the Black, Latino, Muslim, and Asian populations to fairly elect the candidates of their choice. The requests from members including the Illinois Muslim Civic Coalition, the United Congress of Community and Religious Organizations (UCCRO), and other Black allies, were also not included in the final legislative maps.

The Illinois redistricting maps that have been signed into law do not fairly serve Illinois' communities of color, and they do not accurately reflect the true diversity of the state.