



## NEW JERSEY LEGISLATIVE LATINO CAUCUS

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SENATOR, 35<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT

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ASSEMBLYWOMAN, 29<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT

YVONNE LOPEZ  
ASSEMBLYWOMAN, 19<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT

M. TERESA RUIZ  
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ANGELICA M. JIMENEZ  
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ANNETTE QUIJANO  
ASSEMBLYWOMAN, 20<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT

NILSA CRUZ-PEREZ  
SENATOR, 5<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT

PEDRO MEJIA  
ASSEMBLYMAN, 32<sup>ND</sup> DISTRICT

ANNETTE CHAPARRO  
ASSEMBLYWOMAN, 33<sup>RD</sup> DISTRICT

May 21, 2020

John Currie, Chairman  
Peg Schaffer, Vice Chairwoman  
New Jersey Democratic State Committee  
194-196 West State Street  
Trenton, NJ 08608

Dear Chairman Currie and Vice Chairwoman Schaffer,

During these challenging and dark days for our State and country, I hope you and your loved ones are safe and well. As Chair of the NJ Legislative Latino Caucus, I am writing this letter today to encourage you to appoint a woman from the Latino community to the Legislative Redistricting Commission.

As you know well, diversity in membership is critical across all government committees, and the composition of this Commission is no exception. We ask that you seize this opportunity to be deliberate about your appointments to the State's Legislative Redistricting Commission and ensure communities who have historically been left out, women and people of color, are given an opportunity to impact the legislative body for the next ten years.

As of the 2010 Census, 18% of our State's residents identified as Hispanic or Latino. This number is expected to increase with the results of the 2020 Census, as New Jersey has seen steady growth in the Latino community. Despite this, only 8% of New Jersey's State Legislature identifies as Hispanic or Latino, leaving this growing population without adequate representation in our State's decision-making chambers. Similarly, women make-up 51% of our State's population, but hold only 37 seats (31%) in our State's Legislature.

Nevertheless, while we've seen some progress over the years, I think we can all agree that the diversity among our State's decision makers is not reflective of the constituents they were elected to represent. Further, ensuring representation of our fast-growing Latino population as New Jersey re-draws electoral districts, is crucial to an effective democracy. A rich and diverse Commission,

as reflective of our State and Democratic Party, will allow this decennial process to start off in the right direction and guide a process that ensures our districts reflect the continued change in the demographics of our state.

Surely, we as Democrats, can afford to utilize one of the five Democratic appointees to ensure that our political future is defined by someone who may understand the needs, strengths, contributions, or complexities of the Latino community.

If New Jersey's Democrats do not act with intention to signal our commitment to diversity and fair and adequate representation, we will lose the trust of the constituents that we have been elected to serve.

Please know that we thank you, in advance, for your attention to this incredibly poignant issue, and for your past and continued support.

Sincerely,



Senator, 35<sup>th</sup> Legislative District  
Chair, New Jersey Legislative Latino Caucus