



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **NALEO Educational Fund Expresses Concern with Draft California Redistricting Maps**

**Los Angeles, CA** – The National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) Educational Fund today released the following statement from CEO Arturo Vargas, following the release of draft redistricting maps by the California Citizen’s Redistricting Commission:

“The draft legislative redistricting maps released by the California Citizen’s Redistricting Commission raise serious concerns about the ability of Latino voters in the state to fairly elect candidates of their choice as required by the federal Voting Rights Act (VRA). According to 2020 Census data, Latinos accounted for over two-thirds (69 percent) of the state’s population growth over the past ten years. However, much like the draft maps released by the prior Commission ten years ago, these draft maps do not appear to fully take into account the growth of the Latino population and electorate.

“Compounding the challenges in this cycle is the growing evidence of an undercount of the Latino population in this decennial Census, as well as ongoing uncertainty of the Commission’s mapping schedule given the Census Bureau’s delayed release of the redistricting data due to the pandemic and other problems with the decennial count.

“The draft maps must be subject to intense scrutiny to ensure they fully comply with all legal requirements. NALEO Educational Fund calls upon the public to express its views on the draft maps during the public comment period. As of this writing, we understand that all of the public comment appointment slots made available by the Commission are full, and we further call upon the Commission to make more opportunities available for community members to provide input about the drafts. Ultimately, we urge the Commission to ensure that any final maps fully comply with the VRA and do not limit the ability of Latino voters to have fair representation.”

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#### **About NALEO Educational Fund**

*NALEO Educational Fund is the nation’s leading non-partisan, non-profit organization that facilitates the full participation of Latinos in the American political process, from citizenship to public service.*