



### **Illinois Latino Agenda Statement on City of Chicago Redistricting**

At the turn of the century, Chicago's population was stagnant and dropping. However, in the last twenty years our city has made a significant recovery in population due to the increase of Latinos and more Asians making Chicago home. It's clear to economists, demographers, and policymakers that the growth and resiliency of our city is tied to these communities.

By law, the city has to calibrate in political representation based on population shifts every 10 years. Fair and Equitable political representation of community is long overdue. Given that the process is now in the hands of Latino and Black leaders, it's more important than ever that the remapping should not be done in the backroom which has disenfranchised so many for so long but should be completed in a way that reflects equitable representation and community engagement in the City Council. Ten years ago, "the mapping bosses" shortchange Latinos in their representation in city hall.

Today the Latino and Asian population in Chicago makes up 31% and 8% of all individuals living in the city respectively. As a protected class under the Voting Rights Act Latinos are legally entitled to having the opportunity to elect leaders from at least 15 Latino-majority wards -- or 30% of the City Council wards and Asians have enough growth in their population to have a at least one majority Asian ward.

For Latinos, given the current debate on for diversity, equity, and inclusion our community warrants at least 15 Latino majority wards. We know that a lack of representation in our government results in the loss of city resources in our community. This was painfully apparent during the pandemic as we fought for our lives and resources to save lives. This is why it is critical that our voices are represented in City Council to ensure equitable investments are made to improve our community and city as a whole.

November 30, 2021