



## Enlace Chicago (Little Village)



Enlace Chicago is dedicated to making a positive difference in the lives of the residents of the Little Village Community by fostering a physically safe and healthy environment in which to live and by championing opportunities for educational advancement and economic development.

We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the House and Senate Redistricting Committees for ensuring that public hearings were held after the release of draft maps as promised. We want to acknowledge and share our appreciation for the time each of you has put into this process, as well as understand the challenges and complexities faced in creating a fair redistricting map. We hope to continue to work with all of you to improve the redistricting process in the future.

Enlace Chicago is a founding member of the United Congress of Community and Religious Organizations and have taken a leadership role in United Congress' redistricting coalition efforts. Enlace Chicago is also an active member of the Illinois Latino Agenda and their redistricting efforts. We have analyzed the house and senate maps released over the last two days in partnership with United Congress. We believe that many of the principles, priorities and issues that our coalition partners have raised through this process are reflected in this map.

In particular, we applaud the fact that the proposed maps keep Little Village intact. Little Village is a community of 80-90,000 residents, known as the Mexican Capital of the Midwest; 26<sup>th</sup> street, our principle commercial district, is known to generate the second most in tax revenue for any commercial strip in Chicago outside of Michigan Avenue. Little Village is a community of interest. Little Village was split into four house districts, three senate districts and four municipal districts in the last redistricting process. We are very pleased that the General Assembly has heard our voice, and respected our community by keeping Little Village in one house district and one senate district.

We do, however, stand with United Congress and our coalition partners is calling for improvements in the proposed map to respect more communities of interest, like Back of the Yards, as well as include more and stronger voting rights districts to protect the voting rights of Illinois residents. In our region on the south west side of Chicago, we believe that the boundaries of individual districts can be tweaked to balance the percentages of districts in this area that currently range from 30 to 81 percent Hispanic, while still protecting communities of interest like Little Village, Pilsen, Back of the Yards and Chinatown.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael D. Rodriguez".

Michael D. Rodríguez, Executive Director  
Enlace Chicago