



Equity Exercise

- The total population in Illinois is over 12 million individuals with 2.2 million that group being of Latino population. This makes Latinos approximately over 17 to 18 percent of the state's population.
- The National Conference of State Legislatures specifies that all states must comply with federal constitutional requirements related to population and anti-discrimination. The Equal Protection Clause of the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution requires state legislative districts be substantially equal in population.



Equity Exercise 1

- For the state of Illinois to accomplish this, each House district must have a population of approximately 107,000 plus and each Senate district must have a population of approximately 214,000 plus.
- If we use the numbers mentioned above and apply an exercise where we focus on the Latino population and the goal of equity for Latinos in Illinois, specifically centered on redistricting and the drawing of an equitable map, theoretically there could be approximately 21 House districts and 10 Senate districts (30 total districts) with 100 percent Latino population in those districts.
- This exercise is not the way districts are drawn, but it is a perspective of seeing what true equity would look like.



Equity Exercise 2

- Instead of 100 percent population, historically, there has been a criterion set of between 65 to 50 percent population. For the sake of this explanation, we apply 60 percent total population as the criteria to the same exercise above. If this were the case, there could be approximately 30 House districts and 15 Senate districts, for a total of 45 Latino- majority districts.
- Because the Latino population in Illinois is disbursed and there is a lack of Latino concentration in particular areas in the state, the district amounts above are impossible to achieve. But what this exercise does give is a high-level view, based strictly on the state's population, of what equity would look like in a redistricting map for the Latino community in Illinois.



Analysis

- According to the Forum's analysis, when focusing on Latino concentration throughout the state of Illinois and considering the set number mentioned above that will fulfill the population threshold to draw a district, and setting the criteria to at least 50 percent total population, the Forum's analysis shows there being approximately 15 Latino-majority House districts and 5 Latino-majority Senate districts totaling 20 Latino districts.
- The geographic breakdown of these districts would be the following:
 - 11 House districts in the City of Chicago area
 - 5 Senate districts in the City of Chicago area
 - 4 House districts in the suburban Chicago area



Considerations

- The Forum asks the committee to consider the minimum number of Latino districts (20) in order to meet equitable representation of Latinos in the 2021 remapping process.
- In addition, as the redistricting process unfolds in the coming months, the Forum also advocates and encourages legislators to keep in mind the guiding principles developed by the Forum's Redistricting Advisory Committee when making decisions around remapping, which includes to:
 1. Seek to understand and set an equitable number of Latino-majority House and Senate Districts that could be drawn for the benefit of the Latino community.
 2. Ensure process and proposed maps comply with federal Voting Rights Act and Illinois Voting Rights Act
 3. Draw districts 'compact, contiguous, and substantially equal in population' as much as possible.



Considerations (cont.)

4. Determine an established minimum threshold criterion to create Latino majority districts so voters can elect candidates of their choice for representation in the state legislature.
5. Urge for a map that keeps communities of interest intact in Chicago and other parts of the state in order for the Latino community to have the best chance to elect the candidate of their choice for representation in the state legislature.
6. Work in collaboration with other redistricting coalitions to determine the feasibility of developing a “unity map” which optimizes the community of interest of all underserved communities in Illinois.
7. Support underserved communities to create districts that contain a minimum threshold criterion so voters can elect candidates of their choice for representation in the state legislature.



Considerations (cont.)

- Another consideration of equity is looking at Illinois population trends, changes and the growth of the Latino population. The Forum analyzed the latest population data by Race/Ethnicity in 2010, the population data by Race/Ethnicity in 2019, and the numeric and percent change of population from 2010 to 2019.
- The analysis shows the Latino community driving population growth in the state and being responsible for over nine percent of the total state growth. Illinois would have lost an additional 189,000 plus individuals between 2010 and 2019 if it were not for the Latino population growth. In regard to population numbers, Latinos had the highest increase of any race/ethnicity in the state from 2010 to 2019, and only second to the Asian community in regard to highest number of percentage growth between those years.



Thank you

- The Forum strongly appreciates the support of this committee during the 2021 remapping, and your time to review and weigh the data and information presented.
- We look forward to your continued work. Thank you so much for your consideration. I would be happy to answer any questions.