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*Commissioner, City of Aventura, FL*

**Executive Director**  
Arturo Vargas

† Deceased

07/10

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- Southwest Airlines
- Univision Communications Inc.
- WalMart Stores, Inc.
- The Walt Disney Company

September 17, 2010

Applicant Review Panel  
c/o Bureau of State Audits  
555 Capitol Mall, Suite 300  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Concerns Regarding Selected Applicants for the Citizens Redistricting Commission

Dear Applicant Review Panel:

First, we would like to express our appreciation for your efforts in conducting a comprehensive and transparent interview process. This letter will provide the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) Educational Fund's comments on specific applicants in connection with the review you are conducting. The NALEO Educational Fund is the leading organization that facilitates full Latino participation in the American political process, from citizenship to public service.

Based on the interviews and applications, we respectfully request that the ARP obtain further clarification on information or responses provided by the applicants listed below. We feel that these applicants have not yet clearly articulated their position on important issues related to qualifications that will be critical to a fair and participatory redistricting process. Principally, the areas of concern are around the following: 1) Applicant's commitment to upholding the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (VRA) and understanding of the need for fair representation of historically underrepresented groups; 2) Applicant's full appreciation of the value and need of full public participation in the commission's redistricting process, and 3) Applicant's ability to be truly unbiased and impartial toward individuals from California's diverse racial and ethnic population groups.

ID number	Name of applicant	Area for further clarification
21487	Charles E. Starr	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clarification on Mr. Starr's understanding that individuals sharing demographic characteristics, such as ethnicity, may reflect preferences concerning political representation and that California benefits by having participation of all of its diverse people as outlined in Regulation §60805. Mr. Starr was vague in his responses or did not fully answer the questions of the ARP concerning this regulation.</li> </ul>

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110 Wall Street, 16<sup>th</sup> Floor  
New York, NY 10005  
Tel: (212) 480-1918  
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ID number	Name of applicant	Area for further clarification
4558	Daniel R. Montello	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clarification on Dr. Montello's commitment to impartiality when hearing public testimony by individuals that are immigrants and ensuring that immigrants receive fair representation during the redistricting process. As mandated under the U.S. Constitution, redistricting must be conducted in a way that provides representation of all people, regardless of immigration status. Dr. Montello's interview comments raise questions about whether he may hold biases against immigrants based on their status. We are concerned about Dr. Montello ability to meet the criteria as outlined in Regulation §§60800(a), 60805(a) and 60827(b).</li> </ul>
14547	Ira S. Lowry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clarification on Dr. Lowry's commitment to conducting a redistricting process which enables full public consideration of and comment on the drawing of district lines, as required by Proposition 11. Dr. Lowry's interview comments suggest that he is unwilling to travel throughout California for public hearings and may be unresponsive to robust public testimony.</li> </ul>
29776	Jacquelyn Estrada	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clarification on Ms. Estrada's commitment to a robust outreach and participatory redistricting process and ability to uphold the VRA as stated in Regulation §§60800 and 60827 and Proposition 11. In addition, clarification on Ms. Estrada's appreciation for California's diversity as outlined in Regulation §60805. Specifically, Ms. Estrada seemed to not have an understanding of historically underrepresented groups and their common preferences and needs.</li> </ul>

ID number	Name of applicant	Area for further clarification
3534	Martin Lax	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Clarification on Mr. Lax’s understanding of the importance of outreach to and participation of historically underrepresented communities as required by Proposition 11. Mr. Lax’s interview comments raise questions about whether he understands the need for the commission to proactively reach out to obtain the participation of individuals from groups which have had less opportunity to participate in the electoral process.</li></ul>
11686	Suzanne Levy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Clarification on Dr. Levy’s commitment to conducting an unbiased redistricting process as called for by Regulation §60800. Dr. Levy made broad generalizations about the Latino community in her interview, based on her professional experiences. She stated “In the Hispanic culture, a lot of the students get married early, have children early and the families don’t value education for their daughters.” Dr. Levy’s interview comments raise questions about whether she may make decisions as a commissioner based on those stereotypes.</li></ul>

We encourage the ARP to use available resources to gain further clarification and understanding of each applicant’s position with respect to the foregoing concerns. If you have any questions about the issues raised in this letter, please contact Astrid Garcia at (213)747-7606 or by email at [agarcia@naleo.org](mailto:agarcia@naleo.org). Finally, we appreciate the opportunity to share our perspectives with you and look forward to a continued fair and transparent process.

Sincerely,



Arturo Vargas  
Executive Director