

NATIONAL PRESIDENT
Margaret Moran

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Brent A. Wilkes

NATIONAL OFFICERS
Rosa Rosales
Immediate Past President
Maggie Rivera
Treasurer
Roman Rodriguez
Youth President
Frank Urteaga
VP for Elderly
Elsie Valdes
VP for Women
Ana Valenzuela Estrada
VP for Youth
Manuel Rendon
VP for Young Adults
Mickie Solorio Luna
VP for Farwest
Darryl Morin
VP for Midwest
Ralina Cardona
VP for Northeast
Juan Carlos Lizardi
VP for Southeast
Baldomero Garza
VP for Southwest

STATE DIRECTORS
Rev. John Mireles
Arizona
Terry Treviño-Richard
Arkansas
Benny Diaz
California
Alfredo Haro
Colorado
Thomas Higgins
District of Columbia
Lydia Medrano
Florida
Brandie Bedard
Georgia
Rosemary Bombela-Tobias
Illinois
Wanda Gordils
Indiana
Joseph Enriquez Henry
Iowa
Michelle Cuevas-Stubblefield
Kansas
Yvette Butler, MD
Maryland
Esther Degraes-Aguinaga
Massachusetts
Priscilla Rocha, Ed.D.
Nevada
James Fukuda
New Jersey
Ralph Arellanes
New Mexico
Eduardo LaGuerre
New York
Lourdes Ribera
Ohio
Ivonne Quiñones Lanzo
Puerto Rico
Elia Mendoza
Texas
Salvador Lazalde
Utah
Bob Garcia
Virginia
Arturo Martinez, Ph.D.
Wisconsin



League of United Latin American Citizens

Tuesday, May 27, 2014

The Honorable Alex Padilla
State Capitol, Room 4038
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 1365- **Support**

The League of United Latin American Citizens support **SB 1365: California Voters Rights Act.**

SB 1138 will strengthen the California Voting Rights Act by making it illegal for election districts to be drawn in a manner that inhibits or dilutes the ability of a minority from influencing an election.

The California Voting Rights Act of 2001 (CVRA), addresses the harm of vote dilution caused by racial polarization in at-large voting systems throughout California.

Some election systems prevent certain communities from being fairly represented in local governing bodies, such as one's city council, board of supervisors, school board, utility district, and other elected boards. This constitutes unlawful vote dilution. Unlawful vote dilution is particularly a risk where racially polarized voting (RPV) exists. RPV can be found where voting patterns are divided along racial lines such that a protected community does not have a sufficient opportunity to elect a candidate of choice. The CVRA provides opportunities for local governments to resolve this continuing problem as it persists in at-large election systems that often harm historically disenfranchised African American, Latino, and Native American communities.

The CVRA has been successful at challenging racial polarization in at-large elections. Since 2003, more than 118 school districts and community college districts in California have either sought waivers from the California Department of Education, or have converted voluntarily from at-large to district-based election.

SB 1365 will expand upon the success of the CVRA by addressing the problem of RPV and vote dilution in district-based elections. The League of United Latin American Citizens supports SB 1365. If you have any questions, please contact my California Regional Office Staff, Ulises A. Gonzalez, Senior Community Development Manager at UGonzalez@LULAC.org or (916) 551-1130.

Respectfully,

Brent Wilkes
LULAC National Executive Director

1133 19th Street, NW, Suite 1000 • Washington, DC 20036 • (202) 833-6130 • FAX (202) 833-6135 •
www.LULAC.org