



July 11, 2011

Dear Reapportionment Committee,

As community and faith leaders in Colorado we are lifting up our voices to urge you to reapportion House and Senate districts that are competitive, reflect the shifting population especially the growth of Latinos in the metro-region and keep similar communities intact.

- *We strongly support Senate and House districts that are competitive. We want legislators who are responsive to their constituents regardless of party affiliation.*
- *We support district maps that represent the population shift in metro-Denver counties. The Latino population has grown dramatically and we support the creation of Latino majority and seats in Adams and Denver counties. We also support the creation of Latino influenced districts in Northern Aurora, Brighton and Adams County.*
- *We support districts that are African American influenced in the Denver and Aurora metro region.*
- *We support districts where cities and similar communities are left whole when possible.*

House District Specific Recommendations:

House Districts:

HD27

One of the Adams county districts will breach county boundaries; we believe the most logical boundary is along the western Adams-Arapahoe boundary keeping similar neighborhoods intact such as the neighborhoods around the Anschutz Medical Campus. There has been significant economic development along Colfax from Yosemite to I-225. This has really brought the community together and combines the neighborhoods both north and south of Colfax.

Much of this development caters the African American and Latino communities in this area. Like the economic development, these communities stretch into both Adams and Arapahoe counties and have seen significant growth over the last decade. If possible, these communities should be maintained as whole to keep their influence intact.

#### HD30 & 31

-First, we would recommend creating a northern Adams district that combines northern Thornton with Todd Creek and Brighton to create a district with communities that share many commonalities.

-Second we would recommend keeping the entire city of Northglenn intact and combining it with the Central Thornton with a northern border of 128<sup>th</sup>. This is consistent with Adams 12 school district that includes Northglenn and Central Thornton. It also respects the important business and commerce interests for both Northglenn and Central Thornton residents at 120<sup>th</sup> and Washington and also 104<sup>th</sup> and Grant. Much more so than Northern Thornton, the communities of Northglenn and Central Thornton have similar demographics and income levels.

#### HD32

Commerce City is small enough to be wholly included in a single district. This will create a Latino majority district. As a retired civics teacher at Adams City High School, I know from my experience that students and parents of Commerce City feel they are left out of the loop, they are not being represented equally. Keeping Commerce City intact with its own district will help to develop civic pride and voters who are proud and takes their rights responsibly. Residents will be able to elect a legislator who will represent their needs and I believe we will have a voice in our government and be responsible and be productive citizens.

#### HD34

Preserve Federal Heights and combine Old Thornton and Sherrelwood into a single district. This will make sure the growing Latino population is well represented as well as the Asian residents who live in the Sherrelwood area.

Thank you for considering our concerns around reapportionment. We look forward to reviewing in the reapportionment maps and participating in the hearing process.

Sincerely,

**Albert Quintana**, *MOP Leader, Retired Teacher Adams County School District 14, resident of Thornton for ten years, former resident of Commerce City for thirty years and member of Our Lady Mother of the Church for fifty-eight years in Commerce City.*

**Rich McLean**, *MOP Board Secretary and MOP leader, Aurora resident, member of St Therese Catholic Church*