



Reverend Leonard B. Jackson

Director
Faith Organizing Alliance
North Las Vegas, NV 89030

Chairwoman Brittney Miller

Interim Committee on Reapportionment and Redistricting
401 S Carson St
Carson City, NV 89701

Subject: Nevadans Count - Community of Interests (COIs) and the Power of the Vote

Dear Chairwoman Miller and Committee Members:

It is indeed my pleasure to stand before you today. The Faith Organizing Alliance (FOA) is a partnership of several faith-based organizations in the greater Las Vegas area, with the mission of helping to increase voter participation and civic engagement within our own communities. Our office is located in the Historic Westside of Las Vegas, a community not too far from the building in which we are all gathered today.

Our community is centrally located within Las Vegas, yet we live in the middle of a food desert. According to data from the American Community Survey, the median income for the Historic Westside is just under \$30,000 per year - less than half of the statewide average. When it came to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Historic Westside was one of the hardest-hit communities in the state. We saw that reflected in the unemployment rate and in the disproportionate number of COVID-19 cases. This community needs better resources, and we need proper representation.

It is fair, necessary, and logical for Black Nevadans to have an opportunity to elect our leader of choice. State leaders make decisions and influence policies that impact our daily lives, such as economic opportunities, housing, and the direct and collateral consequences of the criminal legal system.

Our members are very interested in the redistricting process because they understand that the way that lines are drawn today may determine who will be representing them tomorrow. They also understand that the composition of the district they are living in, and ensuring that our communities are together, will determine how quickly and effectively our representatives will respond to the community's needs.

Madam Chair and committee members, I encourage you to reach out to our religious and community leaders to better understand our unique priorities and needs. We need these voices to be heard in this redistricting process if we are looking to create fair and equitable maps.

Thank you,

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