



Reference Points

- ❖ The Voting Rights Act of 1965 prohibits ‘vote dilution’ in redistricting.

Quoting the *American Civil Liberties Union Guide on Voting Rights and Redistricting*:

“Two provisions of the Voting Rights Act, Sections 228 and 5-29, prohibit the use of voting practices or procedures, including redistricting plans, that dilute minority voting strength”

“Three techniques frequently used to dilute minority voting strength are “cracking,” “stacking,” and “packing.” “Cracking” refers to fragmenting concentrations of minority population and dispersing them among other districts to ensure that all districts are majority white. “Stacking” refers to combining concentrations of minority population with greater concentrations of white population, again to ensure that districts are majority white. “Packing” refers to concentrating as many minorities as possible in as few districts as possible to minimize the number of majority-minority districts. All of these techniques may result in a districting plan that violates the Voting Rights Act, as well as the Fourteenth Amendment.”

- ❖ The extremely peculiar shape of Philadelphia’s Seventh Councilmanic District, the obvious dilution, the fracturing, the fact that it combines communities with different interests and distant physical locations and is barely contiguous, all mark it as a classic example of gerrymandering.
- ❖ For decades, the Seventh Councilmanic District has been ‘cracked,’ “fractured,” and diluted. This costs residents their voting rights and freedom of choice. It also deters the natural political strength and progress of the community. LatinoLines is asking that our growth in the city’s census be reflected with a natural, compact, contiguous, logical 60% Latino population for the Seventh Councilmanic District.
- ❖ This 60% would give us a Citizens of Voting Age [CVAP] number of 50% which is fair, proper and legal, based on the 2010 census figures.
- ❖ The Mayor’s own Chief of Staff and representative at City Council’s hearings said “the Seventh Councilmanic District is considered one of the most gerrymandered districts in the United States.” And she also echoed LatinoLines call for Council to create compact districts and said, “the administration “urges City Council to maintain ‘communities of interest.”
- ❖ If you look at the 7th District map from 1960, it is compact, contiguous, logical and legal under the Voting Rights Act of 1965. **So, we want our district back and we want our neighbors back in our district.**
- ❖ With a legally proper Seventh Councilmanic District, the Latino community of Philadelphia will **finally** have in this century what it should have had in the last.

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