

**Testimony to the Illinois Senate Redistricting Committee
Regarding the Boundaries of Illinois' Legislative Districts
Submitted by Martin Torres, Policy Analyst, Latino Policy Forum
Monday, March 28, 2011**

Board Members

President

Hipolito Roldan
Hispanic Housing
Development Corporation

Vice-President

Sol Flores
La Casa Norte

Treasurer

Maricela Garcia
NCLR

Secretary

Linda Coronado

John Betancur

University of Illinois at Chicago

Filemon Cerda

Researcher

Luis Gutierrez

Latinos Progresando

Guacolda Reyes

The Resurrection Project

Ricardo M. Tostado

AT&T

Executive Director

Sylvia Puente

Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman and distinguished members of this committee. My name is Martin Torres and I'm a policy analyst at the Latino Policy Forum. The Latino Policy Forum is the only organization in the Chicago-area that facilitates the involvement of Latinos at all levels of public decision-making. Its goals are to improve education outcomes, advocate for affordable housing, promote just immigration policies, and engage diverse sectors of the community, with an understanding that advancing Latinos advances a shared future.

A major component of the Forum's community engagement is its role as co-convenor of the *Illinois Latino Agenda*, a 49-member coalition of Latino nonprofit organizations. The *Illinois Latino Agenda* is primarily concerned with the state's level of investment in the Latino community as well as representation at various levels in state government. Redrawing the state's legislative boundaries via the redistricting process represents the greatest mechanism to uphold the voting rights of minority communities and to strengthen their political representation.

I would like to share information with you regarding the dramatic growth of Illinois' Latino population and then discuss how this impacts the redistricting process.

As far as federal boundaries are concerned, 2010 Census data used during the Apportionment process shows that Latino population growth saved Illinois from losing a second Congressional seat. If the Latino population had changed at the same rate as the non-Latino population over the last decade, Illinois would have been over 470,000 residents short of the population required for an 18th Congressional seat. (Please see the attached materials for further analysis on this subject.)

Fortunately for Illinois, the Latino community expanded by 33% or nearly 500,000 people over the past decade. This growth represents the largest population increase among all racial/ethnic groups in Illinois. In fact, Latinos now represent 16% of the total population making this subgroup the second-largest racial/ethnic group in the state. The attached PowerPoint slides illustrate these points.

As we further dissect census data, we see that Latinos represent:

- 1-in-4 children under age five,
- 1-in-5 school-age children, and
- 1-in-10 voting-age adults.

Furthermore, data indicates that 79% of the Latino increase is from U.S. born-Latinos rather than foreign-born migrants. In fact, over 90% of Latino children under 18, and over 70% all Latinos in Illinois, are U.S. citizens.

How Latinos Saved Illinois a Congressional Seat During the 2010 Apportionment Process

- During the last decade, the Latino population grew by 32.5%.
- Conversely, the non-Latino population decreased by 0.8%.

Population	2000	2010	Percent Change
Hispanic or Latino	1,530,262	2,027,578	32.5
Non-Latino	10,889,031	10,803,054	-0.8
Total population	12,419,293	12,830,632	3.3

- If the Latino population changed at the same rate as the non-Latino population during the last decade, Illinois' population would have decreased.

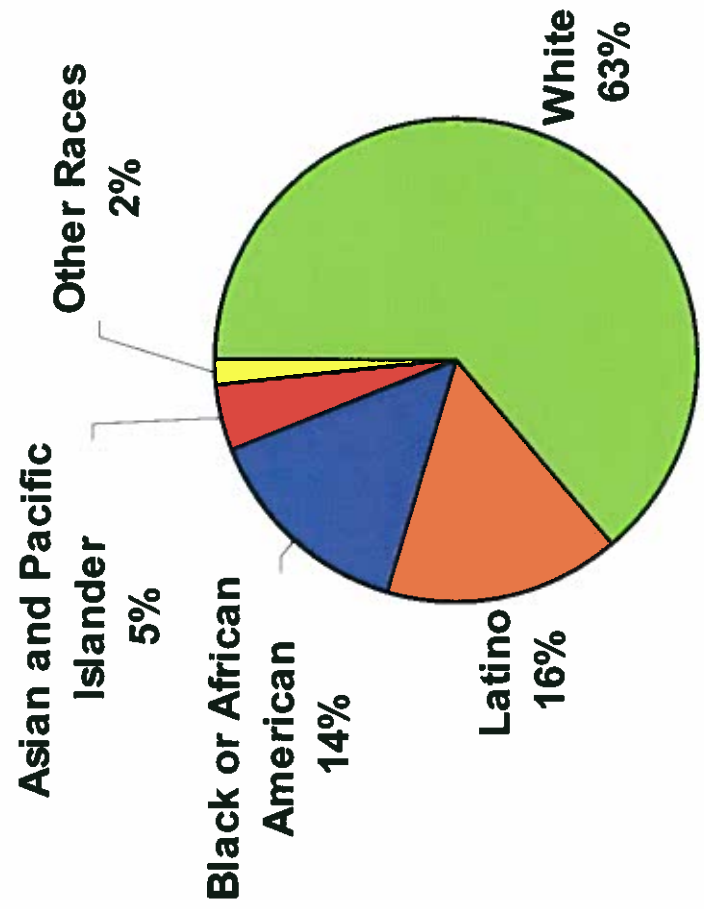
Population	2000	Percent Change	2010
Hispanic or Latino	1,530,262	-0.8	1,518,020
Non-Latino	10,889,031	-0.8	10,803,054
Total population	12,419,293		12,321,074

- Following apportionment, each House seat will represent approximately 710,767 residents.
- Illinois was apportioned 18 House seats, for which Illinois needed 12,793,806 residents.
- If the Latino population had grown at the same rate as the non-Latino population, Illinois' population would have been 12,321,074, which is 472,732 residents short of the requirement for an 18th House seat.
- As such, Latino population growth saved the state from a population decrease and from losing a 2nd House seat during the apportionment process.



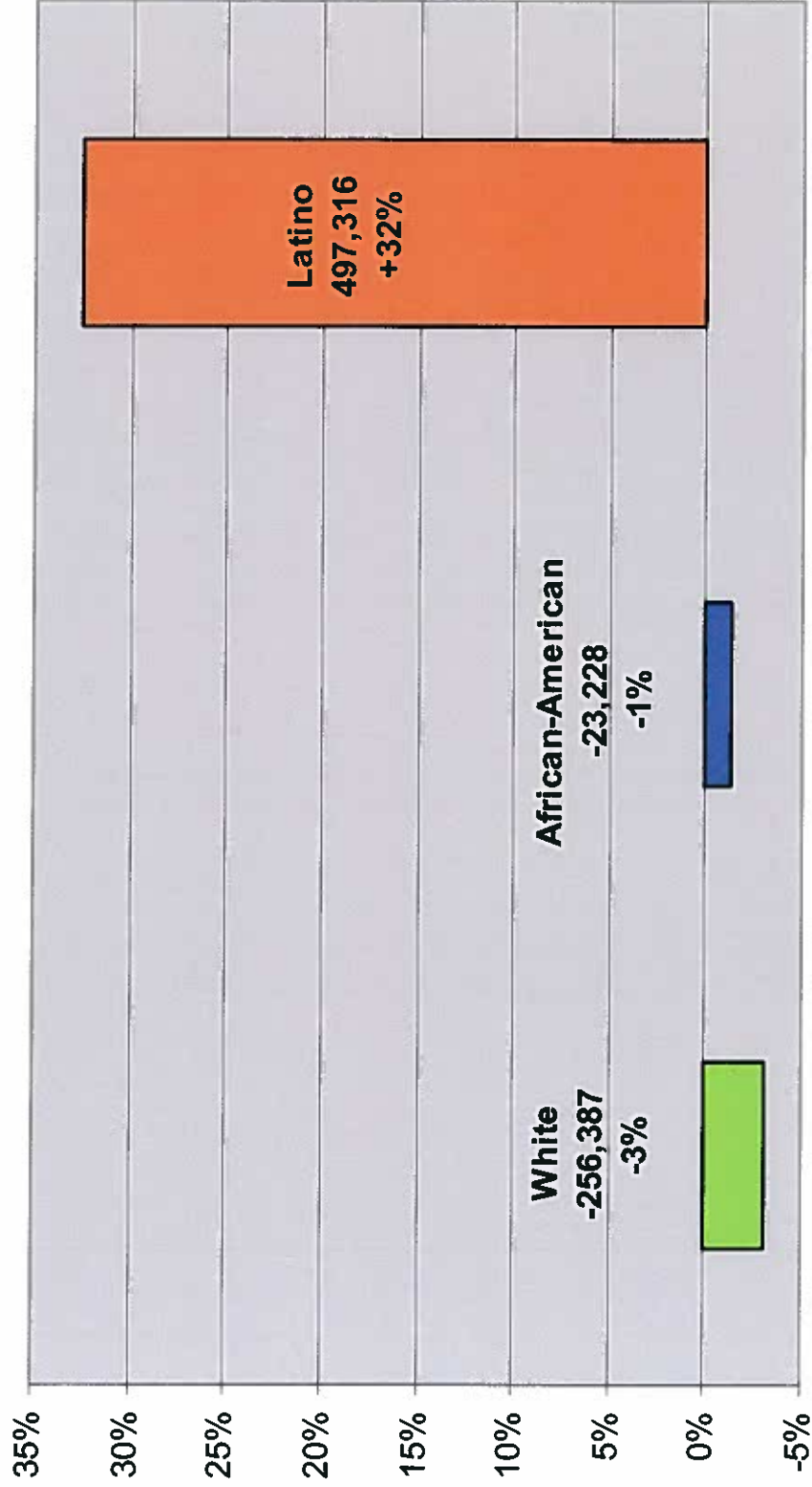
Illinois Population by Race/Ethnicity, 2010

- Latino Population: **2,027,578**
- Latinos as Percent of the State Population: **16%**



Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census. 2010 Redistricting Data
(Latino of any race; White, not Hispanic or Latino; Black, not Hispanic or Latino)

Illinois Population Changes By Race, 2000-2010

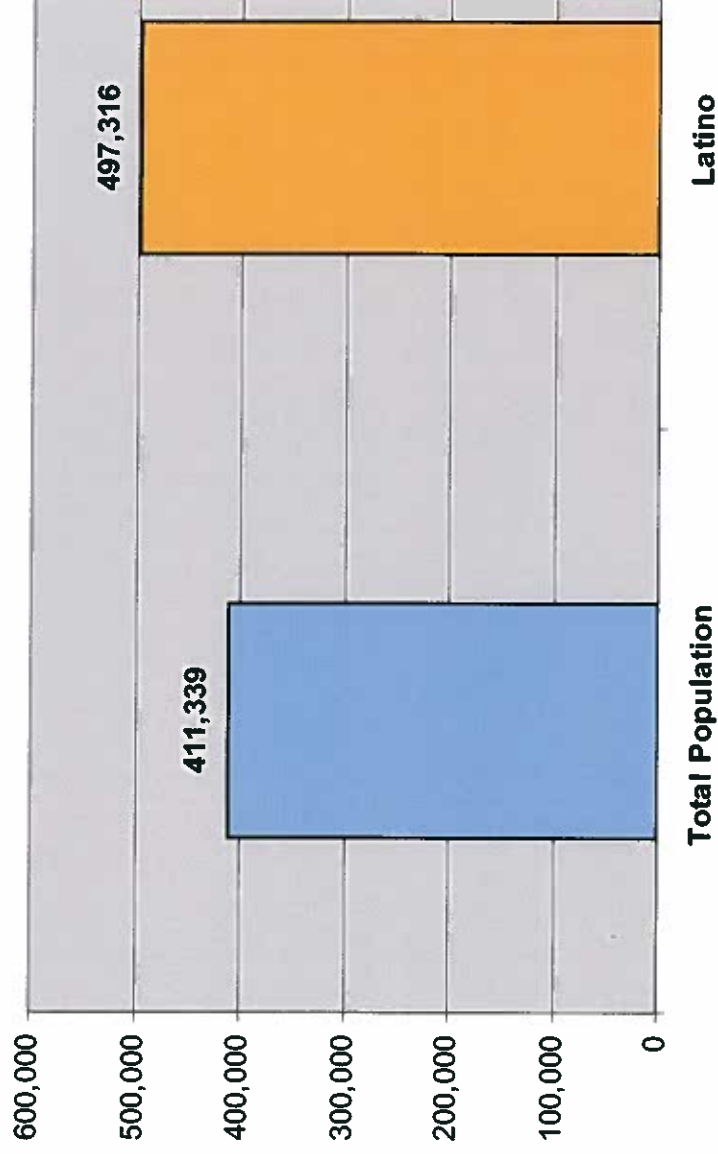


Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census. 2000 & 2010 Redistricting Data
(Latino of any race; White, not Hispanic or Latino; Black, not Hispanic or Latino)



Increase of Illinois Population Growth accounted for by Latinos, 2000-2010

- Total Population Increase: **411,339**
- Population Growth Accounted for by Latinos: **497,316**
- 79% of the Latino increase is from U.S.-born Latinos rather than foreign-born migrants (2008)



Source: U.S. Bureau of the Census. 2000 & 2010 Redistricting Data (Latino of any race; White, not Hispanic or Latino; Black, not Hispanic or Latino)