

FILED

STATE OF MINNESOTA
SPECIAL REDISTRICTING PANEL
A21-0243
A21-0546

December 8, 2021

OFFICE OF
APPELLATE COURTS

Peter S. Wattson, Joseph Mansky, Nancy B. Greenwood, Mary E. Kupper, Douglas W. Backstrom and James E. Hougas III, individually and on behalf of alcitizens and voting residents of Minnesota similarly situated, and League of Women Voters Minnesota,

Plaintiffs,

and

Paul Anderson, Ida Lano, Chuck Brusven, Karen Lane, Joel Hineman, Carol Wegner, and Daniel Schonhardt,

Plaintiff-Intervenors

vs.

Steve Simon, Secretary of State of Minnesota; and Kendra Olson, Carver County Elections and Licensing Manager, individually and on behalf of all Minnesota county chief election officers,

Defendants,

and

Frank Sachs, Dagny Heimisdottir, Michael Arulfo, Tanwi Prigge, Jennifer Guertin, Garrison O'Keith McMurtrey, Mara Lee Glubka, Jeffrey Strand, Danielle Main, and Wayne Grimmer,

Plaintiffs,

**Declaration of Cecilio Palacio
in Support of the Corrie Plaintiffs'
Proposed Redistricting Plan**

and

Dr. Bruce Corrie, Shelly Diaz, Alberder
Gillespie, Xiongpaoo Lee, Abdirazak
Mahboub, Aida Simon, Beatriz Winters,
Common Cause, OneMinnesota.org, and
Voices for Racial Justice,

Plaintiff-Intervenors,

vs.

Steve Simon, Secretary of State of Minnesota,

Defendant.

I, Cecilio Palacio, declare as follows:

1. I am one of about 3,036 Latino residents of Faribault, Minnesota, which is in Southeast Minnesota. I have lived in Faribault for over twenty years and have personal knowledge of where the largest populations of Latino families in this area live.
2. I support the Corrie Plaintiffs' proposed boundaries for House Districts 25A and 25B because they keep Latino communities that have been living, working, and growing the local economies in the Northfield-Faribault areas for the past several decades together.
3. The Latino communities in this region share values, cultural ties, and economic interests. We want to be kept together and have unified representation because we constitute a distinct community in that region with specific common issues such as affordable housing, education, employment, and entrepreneurial interests. Keeping these communities in the same voting districts will allow us to work together to have our common issues addressed by elected officials.
4. Early Latino immigrants to this region came in search of opportunity through farm labor programs during World War II. Since I moved to Faribault 20 years ago, the community has become much more diverse. It now has a population of about 23,530. Latinos are the second-largest population, representing 12.4 percent of Faribault's residents, followed by 9.2 percent Black population. While the city has lost close to 7.9 percent of its white population, our Latino communities have grown by 7.4 percent, making up for the loss to not just the local population but our local economy's stability and growth.

5. Our city has seven mobile home park communities. Each has a large population of Latino residents. The Latino communities are particularly vibrant in the mobile home communities of Cannon River Mobile Home Park, Evergreen Mobile Home Park, Copaco Mobile Homes, and Knowlwood Mobile Homes.
6. Our growing influence can be seen in the local festivities, like when several Mexican American community members led in the singing of Mexico's national anthem during the International Festival at Faribault's Central Park. This was a community event hosted by the Faribault Diversity Coalition.
7. Northfield and Faribault are cities in Southeast Minnesota that have seen significant growth in their Latino population over the last few decades. Northfield is partly in Rice County and leads the region in the number of Latino families establishing roots. Most of the Latino communities living in Northfield are on the Rice County side and not in Dakota County. The City of Faribault is also in Rice County and shares many resources and needs.
8. Many of the Latino community members in the region, particularly in Northfield, come from the same area of Mexico, the state of Veracruz, and have followed friends, family, and opportunities for a better life in Minnesota. Communities like the one in Viking Terrace are heavily Latino, with unique needs such as affordable housing.
9. Education within Latino communities across these cities is a key issue for keeping these communities together for proper representation. Faribault has one of the state's lowest Latinx graduation rates in the state, while Northfield has been making considerable progress towards improving educational access.
10. Despite progress over the last few decades, these communities are still heavily segregated.
11. I support the Corrie Plaintiffs' proposed redistricting plan, which unifies the Latino communities in our region within proposed House District 25A and 25B.

I declare under penalty of perjury of the laws of the United States and the state of Minnesota that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Dated: December 6, 2021

 (Dec 6, 2021 19:11 CST)

Cecilio Palacio

Cecilio Palacio Declarant Northfield-Faribault

Final Audit Report

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