

Rochester Latinx Community Redistricting

Hi, my name is Marco Loera Alvarez . I have lived in Rochester, MN for 17 years. I would like to share with you who we are as a Latinx community in Rochester. We are a tight knit community that shares many valuable beliefs and values. The latinx families in Rochester are mainly located in the SE and NW area. We share schools (Elementary) Hoover, Riverside, LongFellow, Pinewood, (Middle school) Willow Creek, Kellog , (High school) John Marshall, and Mayo. There are two Mexican stores (Los Gallos 1 & 2) in Rochester located in both SE,NW . Marion Road has become a very diverse neighborhood. In the mobile homes (Oak Terrace) across longfellow elementary school, lives a large population of latinx folks. Mobile homes are a popular housing option for many latinx families since rent for apartments keeps going up and it's becoming a housing crisis for low income families. There is an oak terrace neighborhood association that has brought many latinx families together. On October 4th 2021, a hispanic heritage month event happened at longfellow elementary and over 250 mostly latinx folks turned out. This event was hosted by community organizations (Unidos MN) and with the help of Rochester Police Department and other city agencies. We also share places of worship like St. Francis of Assisi. On Sundays at 12pm there is a mass held in Spanish and limited services in Spanish during the week. This is if not the biggest, one of the biggest latinx congregations in town. There are many areas of work that our community holds but the main ones are agriculture, construction, and hospitality. Many of our folks in town work in restaurants and hotels. These are just a few things that we share as members of the latinx community.

I want to ask you to keep my community together and to have a fair representation for my community. When we are divided more than necessary, they dilute us in political power and our votes diminish in importance. When creating the redistricting maps we ask that the latinx community be not just a community of "interest", but be recognized as a growing minority community that if divided in any way could hurt us for the next 10 years of our lives.Keeping communities of interest together is an important principle in redistricting Thank you again for the opportunity to submit this letter as part of the redistricting process in MN. Thank you for keeping us together as a community of interest and not dividing us more than necessary.

Marco Loera Alvarez - Rochester

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