



March 20, 2023

Honorable Pleasant Hill Mayor and City Council Members:

United Latino Voices (ULV) is a Contra Costa County grassroots organization with a mission to improve health, education, and economic outcomes for Contra Costa County Latinos through advocacy, leadership development and innovative partnerships with elected officials, public/private agencies, community-based organizations, advocates, and community residents.

We are here this evening to stand in support with Pleasant Hill Community Alliance, the Asian Law Caucus and League of Women Voters of Diablo Valley to support fair elections and best practice districting guidelines. ULV supports providing voice to communities of color and empowering low-income communities to be active in their local government and civic activities. We would like to see the voices of Latine residents included in the process of designing district maps for the City of Pleasant Hill. We want to see more outreach and information shared on the district election and implications of moving to district elections. It is also important for the city to consider an independent commission to support this process.

Additionally, it is critical that whoever is elected to represent the district, which is home for the majority of Latinx residents (near the Monument Community), is aware and sensitive to the needs of this population, is connected to the community, and represents that community. We would also like to understand the boundaries of the district that houses Fair Oaks school, whose student population is comprised of almost 50% Latino students.

From our work with the community, we know the issues that are paramount for the Latine community include housing, education, employment, safety, and healthy communities, including assets such as parks. Having strong district representation and leadership is critical to improving the lives of our residents. The design of district boundaries should consider educational, employment, housing, transportation, and healthy community asset inequities.

ULV is proud to serve Contra Costa County residents. The ULV network of advocates and leaders include Pleasant Hill residents. We are here as advocates and partners to ensure you can implement a process that creates stronger representation for all your constituents and builds healthier and engaged communities.

We look forward to hearing more about your next steps to engage communities in the process, to educate residents of Pleasant Hill about the Communities of Interest, and to follow best practices for creating districts.

Respectfully, Executive Leadership of United Latino Voices/Voces Latinas Unidas

Concepcion James, Chair

Natalia Tocino, Vice Chair

Lupe Dannels, Secretary

Interim Dean Equity and Inclusion, Los Medanos College, Rosa Armendariz, Central County  
Liaison and Pleasant Hill Resident

Sylvia Castillo, South County Liaison

Honorable Fernando Sandoval, East County Liaison and President Contra Costa Community  
College District

Honorable Genoveva Calloway, West County Liaison, Former Mayor and City Council Member,  
San Pablo

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[Contra.costa.united.latino.voices@gmail.com](mailto:Contra.costa.united.latino.voices@gmail.com)

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