



**The League of United Latin  
American Citizens San Benito  
County Council #2890  
PO Box 1446 Hollister, CA  
95024  
[www.sanbenitocountyula](http://www.sanbenitocountyula.com)  
[c2890.org](http://c2890.org)**

Trustees Wallace and Perez

I will be unable to attend your redistricting meeting tonight but have been reading up on recommendations on changes to San Benito County area districts. I would like to share my personal thoughts on the redistricting process of the Gavilan College District lines. I am also addressing you both as representatives of the current districts that both MALDEF and SBC LULAC created.

I personally took a major role along with MALDEF back in 2015 in organizing community residents to assist in the creation of district regions for Gavilan College in meetings, discussions and with the assistance of MALDEF sending a request to Gavilan College trustees to elect trustees from an at large election method to a district election process.

This work of studying and assuring (two) 2 Latino elected districts for San Benito County took time and thought of how we could best work this out. We held several meetings where attendance included many Latino members from San Benito County including San Juan Bautista and also included were community members from the Gilroy area. During these meetings all commentaries were heard and respected with the final agreement made on the districts that were to be presented and approved by MALDEF and the LULAC/Community residents. All this work was not an easy task but we came together and the past Gavilan Board of Trustees approved the district maps.

You are currently working with the same demographer and so are we, so I am sure your demographer understands and can indicate the time and work we did to get the maps approved. I must remind the Trustees that this was done only 7 years ago and it was an introduction to district elections not redistricting as some may want to believe. Redistricting takes place every 11 years after the 10 year census count. The time to make changes that we supported is not now except to look further into your Morgan Hill districts that are being reviewed at this time.

I believe it is in the best interest to keep SBC district lines as they were presented in 2015 and wait until the next census count to consider making changes to all districts depending on changes that may occur in the various areas of San Benito County. Should any consideration be given in making changes to the current Latino districts, you may find yourselves out of compliance for the districts we created and that the Gavilan College Board previously approved. We will continue to advocate for Latino representation and watch for any type of action against Latino districts.

The mission of League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) is to advance the economic condition, educational attainment, political influence, health, and civil rights of the Latino population of the United States.



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Sincerely

Mickie Solorio Luna

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January 25, 2022

Dr. Kathleen Rose [krose@gavilan.edu](mailto:krose@gavilan.edu)

Lisa Scott [lscott@gavilan.edu](mailto:lscott@gavilan.edu)

Reference: Tampering with Latino Districts

I have reviewed the presentation provided to the Gavilan College Board of Trustees by Demographer Jeanne Gobalet and I find the need to voice my concern over any changes that may be considered to the San Benito County districts at this time. San Benito County LULAC Council 2890 and MALDEF worked on the Gavilan College maps beginning in 2012 and 3 years later in 2015 presented two district maps to the Gavilan College board of Trustees which after several meetings with trustees, they took action on adopting the recommended map.

Our introduction for district boundaries to Gavilan College in 2015 took a lot of time and consideration on our behalf to assure true representation of Latino voters and in general the Latino population that Gavilan College serves.

I understand that recommendations are being made to move CVAP voters from District 5 and 6 to district 7 by the trustee that is concerned about balancing Latino voters among the various districts. I can assure you that in planning the district boundaries we took every measure to assure the creation of at least 2 Latino majority districts. This surely is not known as racial ethnic packing the district regions, we did our homework. MALDEF whose expertise is drawing demographic lines for representation of the Latino voting populations locally and nationwide is being questioned? What is questionable is why a trustee would go against the work that MALDEF experts and LULAC/Community residents did to improve representation to a college that serves over 50% of the Latino student population? Consider the fact that Gavilan trustees could put a Latino district out of compliance with a change in CVAP voters and that would be a violation of the CA Voter Rights Act.

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Could this be due to the upcoming elections where trustees want to assure their re-election to the board by sacrificing the Latino voter population in moving Latino voters from a most needed district region to balance a district that existed with no complaints until now election time? Isn't this called gerrymandering? What happened to the community of interest that we based our districts maps on back in 2015?

LULAC stands solid on leaving the districts as is until the next census count where there may be changes due to the population increase in our county. The MALDEF/LULAC maps were introduced only 7 years ago, not 11 years as Census numbers indicate a redistricting needs to occur after the Census numbers have been confirmed.

I am cc MALDEF and the SBC LULAC Board of Directors on this email as it seems so unrealistic that the two Latino districts we created in 2015 all of a sudden become the district population that matters to a district trustee that never attended our meetings with residents of the Westside of Hollister nor voiced any concerns nor support for the work we did to create two Latino district maps.

Thank you.

Mickie Luna

cc: MALDEF/ SBC LULAC 2890

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Greetings Dr. Rose,

As the current president of Council #2890 I would like to offer my recommendation that the maps made in 2015 by council leadership and MALDEF be left intact. The obligation to remain impartial on the boundaries is paramount and should not be subjugated by any one individual's desire to continue as trustee of their prospective district. These maps hold a purpose far beyond that of any one individual and that purpose should be carefully considered before any changes are made. Thank you for the opportunity to voice my concerns and I look forward to a positive resolution.

Respectfully,  
Richard Perez Sr. - President  
San Benito LULAC Council #2890  
P.O. Box 1446  
Hollister, California 95024

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Greetings,

I am the Vice-President of San Benito County LULAC Council 2890 and I would like to go on record as opposing any changes to the 2015 map that created new districts for the Gavilan Community College District. LULAC and MALDEF devoted a great deal of thought, time and hard work in drawing these districts. If any reconsideration is to be made on the configuration then it should be done during the next census. No one individual, especially one that is a member of the Gavilan Board of Trustees, should be allowed to gerrymander the map for the sole purpose of assuring reelection. That is not how our system should operate. In the end, if any changes to the 2015 map are to be placed before the Board, then LULAC and MALDEF should be given the opportunity to respond and present our opposition. Thank you.

Shirley Trevino

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Dear Gavilan College Trustees:

My name is Veronica Lezama and I am a resident of San Benito County (District 5), alumni of Gavilan College, parent of a Gavilan College student, and past member of the Gavilan College Latino Advisory Committee.

I am writing to provide my feedback under public comment on the redistricting boundaries/districts proposed for Gavilan College. Specifically, I am wholeheartedly against any recommendation that would reallocate District 5 and 6 to District 7. As a resident of District 5, I strongly urge the Board of Trustees to keep the existing boundaries in order to maintain the integrity and makeup of the demographic composition of that District, which is primarily Latino. Changing the lines will modify the relevant voters, and can change the identity, allegiance, and educational priorities of a district's representative.

Should you have any questions regarding my public comment please do not hesitate to contact me at

[REDACTED]

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Warmest regards,

Veronica Lezama

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- San Benito County resident (District 5)
  - Past member of the Gavilan College Latino Advisory Committee
  - Gavilan College Alumni
  - Parents of a Gavilan College student
  - Community Advocate
- 



**The League of United Latin American Citizens  
"LULAC"  
DISTRICT 12  
P.O. Box 6958 – Salinas, CA 93912**

February 1, 2022

Honorable Gavilan College Board of Trustees,

The Mission of the League of United Latin American Citizens (LU LAC) is to advance the economic condition, educational attainment, political influence, housing, health and civil rights of the Hispanic population of the United States. Community College redistricting is of vital importance in the achievement of the Mission of LU LAC, since this opportunity to effect real change comes by only once every ten years. Your redistricting duties are clear. You must adopt a new district map no later than March 1 st in compliance with federal laws mandating population equity, the Voting Rights Act, and the respective California Education Code requirements.

The LULAC District 12 Board, comprised of the councils of the counties of San Benito, Monterey, and Merced has reviewed the merits of Plan 1, Plan 2, Plan 3 and Plan 3 .1. Plans 3 and 3 .1 reduced the number of Latino Voting Age (CV AP) trustee areas from three to only two. These two maps are summarily unacceptable. Plan 1, labeled in your District's demographer presentation as "Minimum Change to Reduce Deviation", splits the community of interest area of Villa Hermosa. It is deeply unfortunate that this cohesive and contiguous area with large blocks of Hispanic shares is divided, to achieve population equity. Plan 2 also splits this community of interest but provides greater benefit to the area because it apportions more of this area to the two trustee areas wholly represented in the County of San Benito while still maintaining three Latino Citizens of Voting Age trustee areas in the District. The LULAC District 12 Board voted unanimously to support Map 2 for adoption by the Gavilan College District Board of Trustees.

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Sincerely,

Andrew Sandoval  
LULAC District 12 Director

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Mr. Edwin Diaz, Board President  
Gavilan Board of Trustees  
5055 Santa Teresa Blvd.  
Gilroy, California 95023  
Via Email:

**RE: Gavilan College Board of Trustees District Creation 2015**

President Diaz and Board of Trustees:

January 19, 2022

San Benito County LULAC Council #2890 would like to issue the following statement.

San Benito LULAC Council #2890 with 35 years of service takes great pride, and honor, in helping create equality through advocacy in and around the region, state, and nation. The ability to help our members, neighbors, and community at large recognize the importance of a fair democratic process is a council hallmark. This duty remains consistent with any and all educational governing bodies and redistricting discussions. As the local conduit to the Latino community any decision-making process should include our organization.

San Benito County, as the largest contributor, has an obligation to the student body when it comes to matters of representational interest. SBC LULAC 2890 shares in this interest as the voice of Latino students in every educational process. A large majority of Gavilan college students travel from San Benito County to attend school each year, most of which are Latino.

When the process of redistricting was presented in 2012 it took 3 years to remedy a change to at large district elections. SBC LULAC along with MALDEF worked tirelessly to help draw an equitable map for San Benito County Latino residents. A map that now has two majority Latino districts within San Benito County borders. The map indicates minimal statistical difference and as such should remain unchanged. LULAC strongly stands with the lines that were drawn in 2015.

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Respectfully,

*Richard Perez Sr*

Richard Perez Sr. – President  
San Benito County LULAC Council #2890

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