



MILWAUKEE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Supervisor Sylvia Ortiz-Velez - District 12

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Ortiz-Velez Commends Redistricting Committee for Creating Two Majority-Hispanic Supervisory Districts

MILWAUKEE – In a statement released today, County Supervisor Sylvia Ortiz-Velez expressed her support for the [Supervisory District map](#) recommended to the Board of Supervisors by the County’s Independent Redistricting Committee (IRC). The map creates a second Hispanic-majority district on Milwaukee’s south side, reflecting an increase in the Hispanic population.

*“The Independent Redistricting Committee has appropriately recommended a map that adheres to Section II of the Voting Rights Act, ensuring that the voice of Milwaukee’s Hispanic community will be heard,” said **Supervisor Ortiz-Velez**. “I commend the IRC for honoring the Constitutional principle of ‘one person, one vote’. Creating a second majority Hispanic district will allow Hispanic voters in Milwaukee to choose the candidate of their choice, and I urge folks to contact their current County Supervisor and express your support for [Map E](#).”*

Section II of the 1965 Voting Rights Act prohibits the dilution of a minority group’s voting power, a gerrymandering tactic that breaks up a concentrated minority population area and combines segments of it with surrounding areas, creating majority white districts.

Under the current Supervisory District map, drawn in 2011, [District 12](#) is the only Hispanic-majority County Supervisory district. Data from the 2020 Census revealed that the Hispanic population officially grew by 21.4% in Milwaukee County since 2010, with most of that growth centered around neighborhoods on Milwaukee’s South Side, warranting two Hispanic districts.

Of the two districts, one is about 70% Hispanic and the second is about 67% Hispanic, reflecting a legal precedent established in a case known as “[Baldus v. Members of the Wisconsin Government Accountability Board](#),” which established a 70% majority-minority threshold to enable minority voters to elect their candidate of choice. The IRC considered but did not recommend [a map with three majority-Hispanic districts](#). Under that scenario, one district would have been 70% Hispanic and the other two slightly more than 50% Hispanic.

Milwaukee County Supervisory Districts each have a roughly equal population of about 52,000 residents. Data from the U.S. Census Bureau shows that the County’s white population [declined](#) by more than 58,000 from 2010 to 2020.

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