

GERRYMANDERING IS VOTER SUPPRESSION BY DHF CIVIC ENGAGEMENT COORDINATOR ELIANA HONEYCUT

Creating fair district lines is the most important way to reclaim the voting power that's been taken from us. It's very likely that if you live in the Central Valley, elected representatives are being allowed to choose the voters in their district, rather than allowing the voters to elect their representatives in a fair & lawful election. This unlawful practice of gerrymandering has disenfranchised underrepresented communities and diluted our voting power.

We stress the importance of voting as it is the grand equalizer, but when Gerrymandering is involved your vote is suppressed. Gerrymandering in combination with voter suppression laws have silenced the voices of disenfranchised communities.

The situation is dire. Redistricting happens every 10 years after the census, where officials adjust district lines to ensure fair representation for federal, state, and local areas. No matter what, where or who, we all want what's best for all communities.

The Dolores Huerta Foundation, in partnership with community leaders and other organizations, has come together to form the Equitable Maps Coalition and have painstakingly created Equitable Maps and districts that comply with the Voting Rights Act.

Join us in DEMANDING redistricting commissions adopt the Equitable Coalition Map throughout the Central Valley, especially in Kern, Fresno, Tulare & Kings County. Demand that your elected representatives know where your community is and what is important to you and those in your community by giving public comments at your local redistricting hearing.

Are you interested in helping your community? You can:

- Complete the Community of Interest Surveys
• Help us collect Community of Interest Surveys
• Provide public comment to support your communities

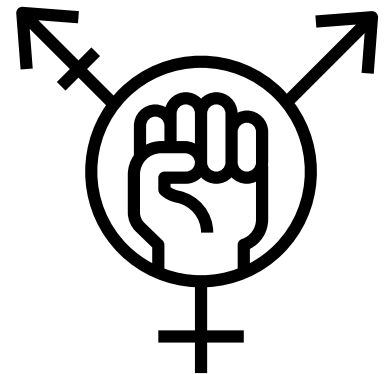
For more information, please contact Eliana at ehoneycutt@doloreshuerta.org or visit doloreshuerta.org



CELEBRATING THE ADOPTION OF PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING LGBTQ+ STUDENTS, STAFF AND COMMUNITY!

The Dolores Huerta Foundation's Education Department is celebrating LGBTQ History month this October by providing Vecinos Unidos members and Youth online resources all month long. In early June 2021, Kern students of the LGBTQ+ community were harassed and intimidated by their peers. As a proactive measure to support LGBTQ+ youth, DHF has been hosting safe spaces for our youth and meeting with allies to make sure their voices are heard at school board meetings. Through our organizing efforts, on October 4th, 2021, the Kern High School District board Adopted a Proclamation Recognizing LGBTQ+ Students, Staff and Community. This is the first step in being inclusive of all identities and students, and we will continue to advocate for resources such as:

- Hiring of LGBTQ+ BIPOC counselors, social workers, and therapists
• Sustainability of an office/space where LGBTQ+ students can gather
• Implementation of LGBTQ+ cultural competency training for educators and students
• Hosting and Celebrating PRIDE events
• Denouncing anti-LGBTQ+ behaviors and actions when students report them
AND holding restorative justice circles for healing and solution-making when behaviors/actions do occur



For more information, please visit www.doloreshuerta.org or email Ashley at adelarosa@doloreshuerta.org



PEOPLE POWERED LEGISLATIVE WINS

With the support of volunteers, Vecinos Unidos members, and partnered organizations across the state, we are proud to celebrate these recent legislative wins. This is what People Power looks like!

- SB 380 End Of Life Options Act - This is a notable step forward for adults who are navigating the most challenging time in their lives. It reduces the mandatory minimum 15-day waiting period between the two oral requests for aid-in-dying medication to 48 hours for all eligible terminally ill Californians.
• SB 721 California Farmworker Day - Establishes a day to honor the state's roughly 800,000 farmworkers who play a vital role in maintaining our food supply and whose work is more critical than ever during the pandemic.
• SB 393 Farmworker Access to Childcare Act - Directs resources to the Migrant Child Care Alternative Payment Program so that such workers can gain access to child care in any county in the state.
• SB 497 Direct Deposits to Qualifying Accounts, Overdraft Features - Closes a loophole that allows non-bank prepaid card companies to evade California laws that prohibit overdraft fees on prepaid cards used to receive public assistance, unemployment compensation, or state distributed child support payments.
• SB 81 Judicial Guidelines for Sentence Enhancements - Establishes guidance when a judge is deciding whether to dismiss an enhancement by requiring judges to give "great weight" to evidence that proves certain mitigating circumstances, such as: The underlying conviction is not a violent felony.
• SB 224 Pupil Instruction Mental Health Education - Requires each school district, county office of education, state special school, and charter school that offers one or more courses in health education to pupils in middle school or high school to include in those courses instruction on mental health that meets the requirements of the bill, as specified.

