13 percent and blacks just over 6 percent. About 40 percent of Californians identify themselves as non-Hispanic whites. Thirty-two percent of the state's population was Hispanic in 2000. It is precisely these numbers that show the growth of the Hispanic population that might make it difficult to claim discrimination under the 1965 Voting Rights Law. Hispanics are no longer an endangered minority in California. James V. Lacy, who co-owns a law firm specializing in election law, told AP that the commission is likely taking into account less well-represented ethnic groups as it tried to even the political playing field. The draft maps don't appear to violate the Voting Rights Act, and any challenges would be unli!
kely to withstand court scrutiny, said Lacy." [Hispanic Growth in California Might Hurt Latino Candidates, June 23, 2011, The Americano, [redacted]

Presently, the Vietnamese community has divided representation in Sacramento and Washington. Their voices are unable to be heard based on the districts drawn in the past. The Latino community within Orange County is considerably represented, while the Vietnamese community is continuously split into separate districts and therefore, separate voices. It is important in this time to recognize that the California Senate has 8 Latino Senators and the California Assembly has 15 assemblymen, while there are no Vietnamese Senators or Assemblymen in the entire state.

This statistic becomes problematic considering that Garden Grove has a 21.4% Vietnamese population, Westminster has a 30.7% Vietnamese Population and Fountain Valley has a 12.9% Vietnamese Population. On the local level, the Vietnamese community is represented by elected officials. These officials include: Fountain Valley Councilman Michael Vo, Garden Grove Council Member Dina Nguyen, Garden Grove Councilman Andrew Do, Westminster Mayor Pro Tem Tyler Diep, and Westminster City Councilmen Andy Quach and Tri Ta. Locally, the Vietnamese have been elected into school boards such as Buena Park Board Vice President Jerry Kong, Buena Park Board President Robert Gong, Garden Grove Board Member KimOanh Nguyen-Lam and Garden Grove Board President Lan Quoc Nguyen, OC Board of Education Member Long Pham, and Westminster School Board Member Andrew Nguyen. Former Garden Grove school board member Trung Nguyen, Former Westminster Councilman Tony Lam, and Tan Nguyen, former candidate for the!
47th distinct, Hoa Van Tran, Candidate for 1st district supervisor, and Westminster Mayor Candidate Bruce Tran are all representative of the impact the Vietnamese community has on a local level.

Unfortunately this impact is not represented at the state or federal levels. Vietnamese is the 5th most spoken language in the state yet there are no representatives on the statewide level. Likewise, there are 2 Latino members of the United States Senate along with 30 Latino members in the House of Representatives, however, there are no Vietnamese represented. Undeniably, the right of all citizens to exercise their political franchises is a cherished one that must be protected. The Voting Rights Act, as amended by Congress in 1982, gives minority and ethnic citizens a realistic opportunity to challenge at large election systems by showing a racial discriminatory effect has resulted from this scheme. Because of the districting lines that have been drawn in the past, the Vietnamese are not being represented completely; therefore Little Saigon needs to be kept in its entirety, in a single district. Little Saigon holds the largest Vietnamese Community outside of the U.S. and are!
a politically cohesive body, thus makes their vote a collective one, one which should be protected.

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