



1042 Grant Ave, Suite 5,
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www.sfrising.org

June 15, 2021

RE: Recommendations for the Redistricting Taskforce

Dear members of the San Francisco Elections Commission,

We are writing on behalf of San Francisco Rising to encourage the Elections Commission to appoint Jose Maria (Chema) Hernandez and Jeremy Lee to the SF Redistricting Task Force. SF Rising is an alliance of working class communities of color organizing in the Chinese, Black, Latinx, and Filipino communities. Our 8 alliance member organizations do civic engagement and community work across San Francisco, focusing particularly on the southeast neighborhoods of the city.

We urge you to select Jeremy and Jose Maria (Chema), both of whom have many years of dedication and experience in diverse communities across San Francisco. Jose Maria (Chema) Hernandez lives in SOMA and has been doing civic engagement work in San Francisco for many years (and spent several years working with SF Rising), with a particular emphasis on Districts 9, 10, and 11. As a bilingual (Spanish/English) indigenous immigrant from Mexico and union organizer, he will ensure working class, immigrant, and Spanish speaking communities are engaged and taken into consideration in the redistricting process. Chema has led many non-partisan civic engagement programs to encourage voter participation and turnout in the Latinx community, conducting doorknocking and phonebanking programs in Spanish to encourage monolingual immigrants to exercise their democratic rights in civic engagement.

Jeremy Lee is a native San Franciscan, gay, Chinese American with deep familiarity and relationships in District 3. He will bring an important perspective about the impacts of redistricting on the 1/3 of San Franciscans who identify as Asian. His work on affordable housing and the needs of low-income Chinese immigrant tenants at the Chinatown Development Community Center demonstrates his commitment and experience working with these communities.

Please contact emily@sanfranciscorising.org if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Emily Lee
Executive Director
San Francisco Rising

Antonio Diaz
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