

SOUTHWEST VOTER REGISTRATION EDUCATION PROJECT

212 EAST HOUSTON ST., SUITE 401 SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS 78205, AC/512-222-0224

CHAIRMAN
MACLOVIO BARRAZA

MEMORANDUM

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
WILLIAM C. VELASQUEZ

TO: Willie Velasquez, Executive Director
FROM: Rolando Rios, Esq. *RR*
RE: Lynn County
DATE: August 2, 1979

Pursuant to complaints you have received from voters in Lynn County, you asked me to look into the County's election structure for possible voting rights violations. The litigation staff has completed its preliminary analysis:

Lynn County
Population - 9,109
% Spanish Surname - 30.3
Spanish Surname County Commissioners - 0.

Our findings suggest a possible violation of the one-man one vote rule. Precinct 1 has a total population of 3,408 whereas Precinct 4 has 1,811; deviation from the ideal is 70.14%.

Further, our fifth count data indicates that Lynn County may be gerrymandered in such a way that the voting strength of the minority population is diluted. The precincts break down as follows:

<u>Comm. Pct.</u>	<u>Total Pop.</u>	<u>Spanish Surname</u>	<u>%</u>
1	3,408	835	24.5
2	2,020	854	42.77
3	1,868	682	36.51
4	1,811	251	13.86

It is my feeling that new districts could be drawn that would comply with the constitutional one-man one-vote rule and afford the minorities of Lynn County the opportunity to have an impact on local elections.

My recommendation at this point is that a meeting be arranged between the legal staff and the people from Lynn County who have complained. At this meeting we can present our findings and explain their legal rights and alternatives.

CC: Joaquin G. Avila, Esq.
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