

FILED

STATE OF MINNESOTA
SPECIAL REDISTRICTING PANEL
A21-0243
A21-0546

December 8, 2021

OFFICE OF
APPELLATE COURTS

Peter S. Wattson, Joseph Mansky, Nancy B. Greenwood, Mary E. Kupper, Douglas W. Backstrom and James E. Hougas III, individually and on behalf of all citizens and voting residents of Minnesota similarly situated, and League of Women Voters Minnesota,

Plaintiffs,

and

Paul Anderson, Ida Lano, Chuck Brusven, Karen Lane, Joel Hineman, Carol Wegner, and Daniel Schonhardt,

Plaintiff-Intervenors

**Declaration of Melvin Falla
in Support of the Corrie Plaintiffs'
Proposed Redistricting Plan**

vs.

Steve Simon, Secretary of State of Minnesota; and Kendra Olson, Carver County Elections and Licensing Manager, individually and on behalf of all Minnesota county chief election officers,

Defendants,

and

Frank Sachs, Dagny Heimisdottir, Michael Arulfo, Tanwi Prigge, Jennifer Guertin, Garrison O'Keith McMurtrey, Mara Lee Glubka, Jeffrey Strand, Danielle Main, and Wayne Grimmer,

Plaintiffs,

and

Dr. Bruce Corrie, Shelly Diaz, Alberder
Gillespie, Xiongpaoo Lee, Abdirazak
Mahboub, Aida Simon, Beatriz Winters,
Common Cause, OneMinnesota.org, and
Voices for Racial Justice,

Plaintiff-Intervenors,

vs.

Steve Simon, Secretary of State of Minnesota,

Defendant.

I, Melvin Falla, declare as follows:

1. I am Melvin Falla and I've lived in Chaska, MN for twenty-three years and have personal knowledge of where the largest populations of Latino families in this area live. I am one of just over 2,000 Latino residents of Chaska.
2. We support the proposed boundaries for House District 50A keeping the southeast part of Chaska, especially the Riverview Terrace Mobile Home Park, together with Jackson township and the northern part of Shakopee; and for Senate District 50 that keeps all of Chaska, Jackson, and Shakopee together. Our communities have been calling these areas home for decades. We share values, cultural ties, and economic interests. We want to be kept together and have unified representation because we constitute a distinct community in that region with specific common issues such as affordable housing, education, employment, and entrepreneurial interests. Keeping these communities in the same voting districts will allow us to work together to have our common issues addressed by elected officials.
3. It is important for the Latino communities in Minnesota to have a voice in our state's politics. For our communities to receive the services that they need, they must have a representative who can speak for them at all levels of government.
4. Latino Minnesotans represent about 9.6 percent of the population in Chaska and just over 4.4 percent of those living in Carver County.
5. Dozens of modern industries have located to Chaska and continue to do so; construction of homes add about 300 to 400 new homes per year; commercial business continues to

expand offering a variety of retail and service opportunities for our growing community. More of us have moved to the area looking for work, the opportunity to buy homes and raise our families. Our Latino community grew particularly after the construction of the Highway 212 freeway passing through the heart of Chaska. It provides a fast, and direct link to the resources in the Metro area. We also have a bus rapid transit route serving Chaska with fast mass transit, along with convenient access to the Light Rail system which connects the southwest suburbs to the Metro.

6. The Chaska Market is an example of many of our local Latino-owned small businesses that have contributed to the economic growth in Chaska. We have small businesses selling anything from piñatas, fresh meats at the deli, to having a small dining area serving hot-out-of-the-kitchen authentic Mexican dishes. This grocery store is one of five Latino-operated businesses in the City Square Center along Fourth Street, across from Chaska City Hall.
7. Over the years, this strip mall has become a hub for Latino commerce. However, these businesses were recently threatened by the city's plans for the City Square West redevelopment. Every Latino business owner would be displaced and lose everything they've worked for with no local representation that is willing to listen to our concerns or interests because our collective voice is diluted in being divided and not kept together.
8. Other business that have flourished in Chaska include a party supply store called Innovaciones Varela, the Chaska My Love restaurant, and El Paisano Bakery. These are all central shopping places for Latino communities in Shakopee and Chaska featuring our foods, services, and products. We also go to the Latino business in Shakopee, they have restaurants and bakeries.
9. The Latino community in Chaska has worked hard to create a supportive enclave with strong cultural ties. I request that you draw districts that keep the Latino communities in Chaska and Shakopee together. It is important for our communities to have the ability to vote for candidates that best represent their shared values, interests, and culture.

I declare under penalty of perjury of the laws of the United States and the State of Minnesota that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Dated: December 6, 2021


Melvin Falla (Dec 6, 2021 19:47 CST)

Melvin Falla

Final Melvin Falla Declaration Shakopee-Chask area (3)

Final Audit Report

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