Latinos in Central Oregon are united. From Madras to La Pine, Sisters to Prineville the Latinx community in Central Oregon supports one another and we are stronger because of it.

Latinx people contribute to the economic and social wealth of our region. We are younger than our white counterparts with the average age of Latinos in Central Oregon being 28 years old vs 45 to 50 being the average age for the white population in Deschutes, Jefferson and Crook county. We work more, but we earn less than non-Latinos.

Educational achievements according to the measures of the educational system show that Latino youth need more support.

The number of Latinos without health insurance is very high, which puts us at higher risk of health issues not having access to preventive care.

We celebrate welcoming week in Bend, Latino Fest in Madras and all kinds of informal gathering across Central Oregon.

During 2020 our community rallied around the rights and needs of Black, Indiguenous, Immigrant and other marginalized communities. The Latinx population has grown from a few thousands in the 90's to over 20 thousand strong across all of Central Oregon, and not only must we be seen and heard, we must also have a chance at leading and shaping the future of our community.

Central Oregon has changed. Our healthcare, early childhood education, college preparedness and more programs run across the area because our organizations work regionally and serve Deschutes, Jefferson and Crook county. We are stronger because we are united and in order to hear clearly the voice of underserved communities we must not be divided.

When redefining the line of our district all of us must be counted, our full 2020 census data must be counted, and Central Oregon must not be divided!

Historically the process of districting had been used to disempower communities of color, Oregon's legislature must make it clear that marginalized communities will help drive this process and demonstrate that in Oregon democracy and justice are for ALL.

## **Joanne Mina**

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https://latinocommunityassociation.org/volunteer/

PLEASE CONTRIBUTE TO OUR MISSION

**Latino Community Association** 

**541.382.4366** // 541.385.1742 fax 2445 NE Division St, Suite 200, Bend, Oregon 97701 **EMPOWERING FAMILIES TO THRIVE** 

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