



## The Jicarilla Apache Nation

### EXECUTIVE OFFICES

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Jicarilla Apache Reservation  
February 11, 1887-1987

The Jicarilla Apache Nation has supported and taken the lead on the need to preserve the voting rights of Native Americans guaranteed under the Constitution and the Voting Rights Act. This support is reflected in the outcome of Jepsen v. Vigil Giron, No. D-0101-CV-02177, when the Jicarilla Apache Nation together with the Navajo Nation, fought for House District 65 and established the legal criteria for majority Native American districts in the 2002 district court proceeding.

Jicarilla gave testimony at the hearing of the Legislative Redistricting Committee in Acoma that any proposed maps must reflect the specific wishes of the individual tribes. The goal for tribes is to maintain the strength of the majority Native American districts in the NM House and Senate, and create additional influence districts in the Senate and the Public Regulatory Commission. The Jicarilla Apache Nation recognizes that we share communities of interest and political interests with our Pueblo and Navajo brethren in the redistricting process and see it as both a civil rights issue and an issue of tribal self-determination.

The Jicarilla Apache Nation endorses the Native American Work Groups efforts in fostering collaboration between the Pueblos, Apache, and Navajo Nations in New Mexico. The Principles and proposed maps submitted to the Legislative Redistricting Committee as drawn by Leonard Gorman, Executive Director of the Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission, honor the wishes of the Jicarilla Apache Nation and preserve the spirit of these new majority Native American districts with Native American percentages around 60% of Voting Age Population.

The Jicarilla Apache Nation is satisfied and concurs with the proposed maps as presented by the Native American Work Group for our Senate District 22, House District 65 and PRC District 4. Since the Nation helped establish the first majority Native American district, Jicarilla has benefited from Native American legislators elected in these districts who have historically carried the most important pro-sovereignty legislation adopted by the State and continue to fight off the attacks on tribal interests, taxing jurisdiction or cultural properties. It is also the wish of the Jicarilla Apache Nation that the Native American Work Group maps and principles be an agenda item at the Special Legislative Session.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Levi Pesata".

Levi Pesata  
President of the Jicarilla Apache Nation

