



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
November 10, 2016

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115th Congress to Feature 38 Latino Members

Latinos serving in the U.S. Senate will increase to four, with the election of Catherine Cortez Masto as nation's first Latina U.S. Senator

Gains were also made in the U.S. House of Representatives, with Latino members increasing from 29 to 34 following Election 2016

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) Educational Fund today released its analysis assessing Latino gains in Congress and statewide office in 2016. A full [roster](#) of Latinos that will serve at these levels of office is available [here](#).

“The Latino turnout surge was real in Election 2016,” stated Arturo Vargas, National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) Educational Fund executive director. “A historic showing from Latino voters in states like California, Florida and Nevada, helped secure milestone victories for Latino candidates across the country.”

[Latino representation](#) in the highest levels of our legislative branch will increase, with the 115th Congress set to feature the [largest class](#) of Latinos in history. The U.S. House of Representatives will feature five more Latino members following Election 2016 than in the 114th Congress, increasing from 29 to 34.

The [seven new Latino members](#) in Congress' lower chamber include:

- **CA-24: Salud Carbajal (D)**
- **CA-44: Nanette Diaz Barragan (D)**
 - Latino voters were integral to Barragan's victory in her highly competitive contest.
- **CA-46: Lou Correa (D)**
- **FL-9: Darren Soto (D)**
 - Soto will be the first Puerto Rican to represent Florida in the U.S. House of Representatives.
- **NV-4: Ruben Kihuen (D)**
 - Kihuen will be the first Latino to represent Nevada in the U.S. House of Representatives.
- **NY-13: Adriano Espaillat (D)**

- Espaillat will be the first Dominican-American to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives.
- **TX-15: Vicente Gonzalez (D)**

In [Congress' upper chamber](#), Latinos made a historic gain this election, electing the nation's first Latina to serve in the [U.S. Senate](#). Latino voters in Nevada played a critical role in helping to elect Catherine Cortez Masto, resulting in a [significant milestone](#) for the Latino community in Nevada and nationwide. Cortez Masto will join Latino U.S. Senators Ted Cruz (R-TX), Robert Menendez (D-NJ) and Marco Rubio (R-FL) in the 115th Congress.

Vargas went on to say, "Latino candidates continue to demonstrate their ability to successfully run for office across all fifty states, winning bids in areas with both Latino population centers and without. There is no such thing as a Latino or non-Latino designated district anymore, with Latinos once again bringing the expertise and skill needed to build support from a broad coalition of Americans in Election 2016."

At the [statewide office level](#), Latinos also made history in Election 2016. Latino statewide office holders will increase from 10 to 12, with several notable victories this election including:

- **DE: Trinidad Navarro (D)**, who won his bid for Delaware Insurance Commissioner, will become the first Latino to serve in statewide office in Delaware. Navarro demonstrates the continued success Latino candidates are having, running for office in states that are not home to traditional Latino population centers.
- **IL: Susana Mendoza (D)** will be the first Latina to serve as a State Comptroller and second Latina to serve in statewide office in Illinois, joining Lieutenant Governor Evelyn Sanguinetti (R).

A full [roster](#) of Latinos that will serve in the 115th Congress and statewide office is available here. The [roster](#) includes a breakdown of Congressional representation gains/losses by state, party and district.

"The Latino community's progress is about more than just one election and one candidate. Election 2016 was merely one stop on a very long journey towards the full political empowerment of Latinos as voters and candidates in this country. Now the real work begins, with the coming four years offering President-elect Donald Trump and our Congress the opportunity to bring together a divided nation by building bridges instead of walls. We stand ready to begin that dialogue, extending an invitation to our nation's next President to engage our constituency of Latino elected and appointed officials from both sides of the aisle in the coming weeks on the issues that matter most to the Latino community," concluded Vargas.

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About NALEO Educational Fund

NALEO Educational Fund is the nation's leading non-partisan, non-profit organization that facilitates the full participation of Latinos in the American political process, from citizenship to public service.