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*****POST ELECTION DAY MEDIA AVAILABILITY*****

Latino Candidates Play Groundbreaking Role on Election Night

Latinos demonstrate historic success as candidates, securing victories as first Latino West Virginia U.S. Representative, first Latino Illinois Lieutenant Governor, first Latino New England Statewide Official and first Latino Texas Land Commissioner

Washington, D.C. – With election results continuing to come in, early Election 2014 analysis from the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) Educational Fund reveals that Latinos are finding groundbreaking success as candidates for office at all levels nationwide.

“Latino candidates made history on Election Night, securing historic victories in contests across the country,” stated Arturo Vargas, executive director of NALEO Educational Fund. “Once all of tonight’s election results are in, we expect to see even more Latino candidates elected to office. As we move forward, Latinos will continue to shape the nation’s political landscape, demonstrating their ability to win at all levels of office.”

Notable historic victories for Latino candidates across the country include the following:

- **First Latino West Virginia U.S. Representative:** In the 2nd Congressional District, former Maryland State Senator Alex Mooney (R) won a competitive open contest against small business professional Nick Casey (D) for the seat being vacated by incumbent U.S. Representative Shelley Moore Capito (R).*
- **First Latino Illinois Lieutenant Governor:** Attorney and Wheaton Councilmember Evelyn Sanguinetti (R) ran on the Republican ticket with investment professional and gubernatorial candidate Bruce Rauner. Both won their races on Election Night.*
- **First Latino New England Statewide Official:** In Rhode Island, former Deputy Secretary of State Nellie Gorbea (D) emerged victorious in her race against community college professor John Carlevale (R) for Secretary of State.*
- **First Latino Texas Land Commissioner:** Investment Adviser George P. Bush (R) won his contest against former El Paso City Councilmember John Cook, making him the first Latino to serve in this position.*

*This analysis is based on historical data from the *NALEO Directory of Latino Elected Officials*, which includes records on Latino office holders dating back to 1984.

The two current Latino Governors, New Mexico Governor Susana Martinez (R) and Nevada Governor Brian Sandoval (R), also emerged victorious in their reelection contests.

According to research on Latino representation conducted prior to Election Day for the *2014 NALEO Directory of Latino Elected Officials*, there were nearly 6,100 Latinos serving in elected office across the country. This is up from the 4,853 Latino elected officials who held office in 2004, demonstrating the progress Latinos continue to make in finding success as candidates. Additional information can be found [here](#).

NALEO Educational Fund projected at least 7.8 million Latinos would cast ballots in Election 2014, an increase of 1.2 million from the 2010 midterm elections. In 2010, more than 6.6 million Latino voters cast ballots, with the Latino electorate playing a decisive role in delivering victories in key state races and to U.S. Senator Michael Bennet (D-CO) and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid (D-NV).

An election eve poll of 5,000 Latino voters in 10 key states (Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Kansas, Nevada, North Carolina and Texas) found that the majority of Latino voters were not casting ballots to show support for Democratic (34 percent) or Republican (16 percent) candidates. Instead, more Latino voters reported a desire to vote to show support for the Latino community (37 percent) rather than political party allegiances.

The poll was conducted by Latino Decisions, in partnership with NALEO Educational Fund, America's Voice, Latino Victory Project, the National Council of La Raza (NCLR), AFL-CIO, Mi Familia Vota, and People For the American Way. Additional national and state data will be released as the polls close in each state tonight, with updates posted on www.latinovote2014.com throughout the evening.

In the lead up to Election Day, NALEO Educational Fund worked to ensure that Latino voters have the information necessary to cast ballots. These efforts included producing a [poll monitor toolkit](#) for organizations interesting in protecting the rights of voters in Election 2014 and distributing bilingual palm cards with the [voter bill of rights](#) and identification requirements specific to [Arizona](#), [Florida](#), [North Carolina](#) and [Texas](#). In addition, NALEO Educational Fund and partners produced English ([Election Protection](#)) and Spanish (*ya es hora*) smartphone apps that allow voters to: confirm their registration status; fill out a voter registration form; find their polling place; access voter ID requirements; or report any problems.

NALEO Educational Fund also continued to operate its toll-free national hotline 1-888-VE-Y-VOTA (1-888-839-8682) and www.veyvota.org website in the lead up to Election Day, which served as non-partisan bilingual resources for voters with questions about any aspect of the electoral process. Headquartered in our Los Angeles offices, the hotline is linked to 866-OUR-VOTE and staffed year-round by fully trained bilingual operators. The hotline has assisted more than 100,000 voters to date, including more than 4,700 calls in the lead up to the 2010 midterm elections.

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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.