



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Latino Turnout Surge Leads to Milestone Victories for Latino Candidates Nationwide**

*Latinos in Nevada help elect first Latina to U.S. Senate in Election 2016*

*First Dominican-American, first Latino to represent Nevada, and first Puerto Rican to serve Florida also elected to U.S. House of Representatives*

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) Educational Fund today released a statement on the results of Election Day following Latino gains in Congress and other historic milestones for Latinos in 2016:

“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 historic victories for Latino candidates across the country, including electing the nation’s first Latina to the U.S. Senate this year.”

“The Latino electorate also played a critical role in helping secure victories for Latino candidates in Congress’ lower chamber last night, electing the first Dominican-American (Adriano Espaillat), first Latino to represent Nevada (Ruben Kihuen), and first Puerto Rican to serve Florida (Darren Soto) to the U.S. House of Representatives,” remarked Vargas.

Vargas went on to say, “While the results of the race for the White House may have been unexpected for many, we know that 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 in this country. Now the real work begins, with the coming four years offering President-elect Donald Trump and our community 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 parties in the coming weeks.”

“As the nation’s second largest population group, the success of America is intrinsically tied to the success of Latinos, making it critical for President-elect Trump to ensure the needs of our community are taken into consideration as appointments are filled and policy agendas crafted as our nation moves on from this extremely contentious election,” 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.*