



## NEWS RELEASE



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### **NALEO Applauds Nomination of Former El Diario Publisher and Editor Rossana Rosado as New York Secretary of State**

*Organization thanks Cesar Perales for his many years of service and invaluable contributions fighting for the civil rights of the Latino community in New York and nationwide*

*WASHINGTON, D.C. – The National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) today recognized the lasting contributions of retiring New York Secretary of State Cesar A. Perales and congratulated Rossana Rosado on her nomination to the post:*

“We recognize Cesar Perales for his many contributions to the New York Department of State, Latinos and all New Yorkers during his years of service as New York Secretary of State. With more than 50 years as a civil rights lawyer and public servant to the nation and his native New York, Perales has shown a deep commitment towards providing greater economic and political opportunities, especially those underrepresented and low income groups.

“In 1972, Perales co-founded and became the first executive director of the Latino Justice Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund (LatinoJustice PRLDEF), an organization dedicated to combatting racial discrimination, protecting voting rights and worker’s rights.

“Perales’s reputation as civil rights and equal opportunity advocate garnered him a nomination by President Jimmy Carter as Assistant Secretary at the Department of Health and Human Services.

“During his five years as Secretary of State, Perales played a key role in Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo’s economic development agenda and programs that cultivated diverse talents. Perales established the New York State Office for New Americans – an innovative office dedicated to helping New Americans learn English, prepare for the U.S. citizenship exam and succeed economically. New York State is home to nearly 1 million legal permanent residents currently eligible to naturalize and become citizens– the nation’s third largest eligible population.

“Throughout his exemplary career, Perales has demonstrated both dignity and tenacity in fighting social inequalities. As a result of his work, New York is a stronger state for Latinos and all of its residents.

“We congratulate Rossana Rosado on her nomination by Gov. Cuomo to succeed Perales to serve as the next New York Secretary of State. A lecturer at John Jay College and the first female editor and publisher of the oldest Spanish newspaper in the country, El Diario, we are confident that Rosado has the skills and expertise needed to build on the legacy left behind by Perales. We urge the New York State Senate to confirm Rosado quickly so that she can utilize her years of experience to serve the people of New York as their next Secretary of State.”

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**About NALEO**

*The National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) is the non-partisan leadership organization of the nation’s more than 6,100 Latino elected officials.*