



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **U.S. Supreme Court “One Person, One Vote” Decision a Victory for Latinos and All Americans**

*Unanimous 8-0 decision from nation’s highest court will ensure our democracy remains responsive to all, not just the privileged few*

**Washington, D.C.** – Less than four years from the next decennial Census, the U.S. Supreme Court issued its decision in the *Evenwel v. Abbott* (commonly referred to as “one person, one vote”) case. In a unanimous 8-0 **decision**, the nation’s highest court upheld the current methodology used to draw state legislative districts.

For more than half a century, most states and localities have carried out the established constitutional principle of representational equality by drawing legislative districts to divide total population up equally. Plaintiffs in the *Evenwel* case raised questions about the Constitution’s meaning, but the Court has now affirmed that both the original text of the Constitution and the Fourteenth Amendment support taking every resident into account as we allocate political influence. In its **decision**, the Court noted that “representatives serve all residents, not just those eligible or registered to vote” and a move towards voter-eligible apportionment would “upset a well-functioning approach to districting that all 50 States and countless local jurisdictions have followed for decades.”

Changes in how our nation defines the “one person, one vote” principle would have had a damaging impact in our democracy’s responsiveness to the more than 55 million Latinos living in the United States today. Counting only eligible voters and excluding youth and non-citizens would grant greater political power to population groups that are older, wealthier and more suburban.

“The U.S. Supreme Court’s ruling in the *Evenwel v. Abbott* case endorses states’ and localities’ current approach to redistricting, which ensures we have a democracy for all, not a democracy for the privileged few,” stated Arturo Vargas, National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) Educational Fund executive director.

The case was fundamental for the nation’s second largest population group. With a higher likelihood to live in urban areas, a younger median age (28 for Latinos v. 38 for all Americans), and a population that accounts for one of every four school-age youth, Latino access to fair representation would have been in significant danger if the court redefined “one person, one vote.”

Analysis in an [amicus brief](#) with NALEO Educational Fund and other coalition groups found that approximately **55 percent** of the Latino population would be excluded if only eligible voters were counted in districts, compared to only 21 percent of non-Hispanic whites. In cities like Los Angeles, where only 690,000 or 32 percent of the population is of citizen voting age, this could have resulted in significant consequences for elected officials and their constituents.

Vargas went on to say, “By rejecting the notion that the Constitution requires our political system to be responsive to fewer Americans, the U.S. Supreme Court’s decision to uphold our nation’s definition of ‘one person, one vote’ avoided one big mess. We applaud the nation’s highest court for affirming the constitutionality of total-population redistricting and for ensuring our democracy remains responsive to Latinos and all Americans.”

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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.*