



# NEWS RELEASE



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## **NALEO Elects New President and Board Leadership**

*Election took place following the organization's annual conference in Washington D.C., which convened more than 1000 Latino policymakers and leaders from across the country*

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) announced the election of its new president, current NALEO Educational Fund Chair and Dallas County Treasurer Pauline Medrano, officers and board members. The president and board leadership were elected at the organization's board of directors meeting on June 26, 2016 in Washington D.C., following the group's 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference.

The NALEO Board of Directors unanimously elected Dallas County Treasurer Medrano to serve a one-year term as president of the organization. NALEO board officers may serve up to three one-year terms. Other board officers elected to serve include New York City Councilmember Julissa Ferreras-Copeland as vice president; El Camino Community College Trustee (Calif.) John Vargas as secretary; and California State Senator Ricardo Lara as treasurer.

"I am humbled and honored that my colleagues have chosen me to lead this organization during such an exciting and historic time for our community. I am ready to do my part to continue to help our nation's Latino elected officials develop the leadership and governance skills they need to be effective advocates for their communities," said newly elected NALEO President Pauline Medrano. "I thank my predecessor President Michele Martinez for her tireless efforts on behalf of the organization this past year and look forward to working with the board and the rest of our membership as the Latino community prepares to play a decisive role in the race for the White House in 2016."

"It's been an honor to serve the members of NALEO and the national Latino community over the past year," said outgoing NALEO President and City of Santa Ana (Calif.) Councilmember Michele Martinez. "I look forward to continuing to work with the NALEO constituency to further our mission, empower the Latino community and strengthen our democracy."

The board also elected seven new members to serve an initial three-year term during its meeting in Washington D.C. The new additions to the NALEO Board of Directors include: Colorado State Senator Leroy Garcia, Metropolitan Community College (Neb.) Board of Governors Member Roger Garcia, Dallas County (Texas) Treasurer Pauline Medrano, Coconino County (Ariz.) Supervisor Liz Archuleta, Santa Ana (Calif.) Mayor Pro Tem Vicente Sarmiento, Rancho

Cucamonga (Calif.) Park and Recreation Commissioner Peter Villegas, and Los Angeles (Calif.) Mayor Eric Garcetti.

Medrano went on to say, “I’d like to also thank the departing members of the NALEO Board of Directors. Their commitment and diligent efforts on behalf of our organization will be missed; we know they will continue to be an integral part of the NALEO family for years to come.”

Seven members of the NALEO Board of Directors will be departing. These individuals include: President and City of Santa Ana (Calif.) Councilmember Michele Martinez, Vice President and Texas State Representative Justin Rodriguez, Treasurer and Regional Chairman, First Things First—Gila Regional Partnership Council (Ariz.) Fernando Shipley, California Secretary of State Alex Padilla, Member of the Commission on Presidential Scholars (Utah) Ross Romero, New Mexico State Senator John Sapien, and Maryland State Delegate Ana Sol-Gutierrez.

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**About NALEO**

*The National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials is the leadership organization of the nation’s more than 6,100 Latino elected and appointed officials.*