



# NEWS RELEASE

## **For Immediate Release**

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## **Presidential Pardon for Former Maricopa County Sheriff Joseph Arpaio Would Be an Unconscionable Assault on Our Democracy and Rule of Law**

*A pardon would undermine the public's trust in the justice system by excusing flagrant violations of the law by an individual who was elected to uphold it*

*Excusing illegal behavior by Arpaio would send message to Americans that racial targeting and discriminatory behavior by law enforcement and other officials is acceptable*

**Washington, D.C.** – The National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) today issued the following statement in strong opposition to President Donald J. Trump's consideration of a presidential pardon for former Maricopa County (Ariz.) Sheriff Joseph Arpaio:

"The National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) strongly opposes President Donald Trump's consideration of a presidential pardon for former Maricopa County Sheriff Joseph Arpaio.

"A pardon for Arpaio would be an endorsement of racism from the highest office in the land—signaling to Americans that discriminatory behavior and a blatant disregard for the judicial process is acceptable. This kind of act would be an extraordinary intervention in our justice system that could threaten the public's faith in law enforcement and the rule of law.

"Arpaio was convicted of criminal contempt of court for refusing to obey a federal judge's order to cease unconstitutional immigration enforcement actions that resulted in the racial profiling of Latinos by his department. These actions are among Arpaio's long-standing history of targeting the Latino community throughout his career. Under Arpaio's leadership, his department was found to have systematically violated the rights of Latinos in Maricopa County by the U.S. Justice Department in 2011 and a federal court in 2013.

"As a leadership organization that represents the nation's more than 6,100 Latino elected and appointed officials, we know firsthand how important it is that Americans have trust in our judicial system, the rule of law, and the individuals tasked with enforcing them.

"By even considering a pardon for Arpaio, President Trump is turning his back on the values we hold dear as a nation and continuing a pattern of behavior that demonstrates a profound disrespect for the significant contributions Latinos and immigrants make to this country every day.

"This attack on our democracy and values cannot not be tolerated. We call on elected and appointed officials from across the country to join us by standing in opposition to a presidential pardon so that Arpaio can face the penalties dictated by the court for his illegal actions during his time in office.

"NALEO and its Latino leadership will not stay silent as our community is attacked and the foundation of our democracy is undermined through this potential executive intervention. We will continue to stand up for the rights of Latinos and all Americans as we move forward, and to combat any policies and actions that aim to divide instead of unite the nation."

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**About NALEO**

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