



# NEWS RELEASE

**For Immediate Release**  
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## **U.S. Senator Kamala D. Harris and U.S. Representative Lucille Roybal-Allard to Join NALEO for Edward R. Roybal Legacy Celebration**

*Senator Harris and Representative Roybal-Allard to provide tribute remarks as California Secretary of State Alex Padilla is honored with the 2020 Edward R. Roybal Award for Outstanding Public Service*

**Washington, D.C.** – The National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) announced today that U.S. Senator Kamala D. Harris and U.S. Representative Lucille Roybal-Allard will provide tribute remarks as California Secretary of State and former NALEO President Alex Padilla is presented with the 2020 Edward R. Roybal Award for Outstanding Public Service at the organization’s annual NALEO Edward R. Roybal Legacy Celebration in Washington, D.C. on March 11, 2020.

The Edward R. Roybal Award for Outstanding Public Service is presented to individuals who have distinguished themselves as devoted public servants to the nation and the Latino community. The award pays tribute to the organization’s founder and President Emeritus, the late Congressman Edward R. Roybal. This year’s gathering marks NALEO’s transformation of the event from a traditional gala to a reimagined and redesigned celebration of the Latino community, its leaders, and its legacy.

“NALEO is honored to acknowledge Secretary Padilla’s contributions to our organization and his dedication to uplifting the Latino community throughout his career,” stated Ricardo Lara, NALEO President and California Insurance Commissioner. “As the first Latino and youngest person elected president of the Los Angeles City Council, Padilla set an example early in his career of what members of our community can accomplish. From his work in local government, to his tenure in the California State Senate, to his current role as California’s Secretary of State, Secretary Padilla has been an exemplary model of leadership and service.”

The son of Mexican immigrants, Secretary Padilla’s beginnings in Pacoima, California, included attending local public schools in the San Fernando Valley before going on to graduate from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) with a degree in mechanical engineering. Padilla translated his desire to solve problems in the world of engineering to a career in public service, later going on to work for U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein and then-Assemblymember Tony Cardenas.

In 1999, at the age of 26, Padilla was elected to the Los Angeles City Council, representing the east San Fernando Valley. In 2001, Padilla made history when his colleagues elected him president of the City Council, making him the first Latino and youngest member to serve in that capacity. In 2006, he was elected to the California State Senate, where he served two terms focusing on issues of energy and the environment, technology, education, job creation, and seismic and food safety. In 2014, Padilla made history again when he became the first Latino elected Secretary of State in California.

“Wells Fargo is proud to support NALEO and the critical role that emerging Latino and Latina elected officials play in the future of our country,” said Bill Daley, Vice Chairman of Public Affairs at Wells Fargo, which is serving as the Chair of the 2020 NALEO Edward R. Roybal Legacy Celebration. “Wells Fargo congratulates Secretary of State Alex Padilla on this important recognition of his contributions as an outstanding public servant and as an exemplary leader in the Latino community.”

In his current capacity, Secretary Padilla remains committed to modernizing the office of California Secretary of State and continues to focus on increasing voter registration and participation, modernizing voting, and strengthening voting rights. After streamlining voter pre-registration, in 2018, Padilla announced more than 400,000 16- and 17-year-olds had pre-registered to vote. He also announced that by the end of 2019, more than 80 percent of all eligible voters in California were registered to vote, marking the highest rate since 1952. Ahead of the 2020 Census, Governor Gavin Newsom appointed Secretary Padilla chair of the California Complete Count Committee (CCCC), which is tasked with recommending strategies to increase Census participation.

NALEO is also pleased to recognize the support of two other long-standing corporate partners, Edison International and Verizon, which will serve as the Vice-Chairs of the event.

For more information about the 2020 NALEO Edward R. Roybal Legacy Celebration, please visit <https://naleo.org/roybal2020> or follow us on [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#). For sponsorship opportunities, please contact [development@naleo.org](mailto:development@naleo.org).

### **Additional Details:**

#### **2020 NALEO Edward R. Roybal Legacy Celebration**

Wednesday, March 11, 2020

6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. ET

La Vie

88 District Square SW, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor

Washington, D.C. 20024

### **Media:**

The 2020 NALEO Edward R. Roybal Legacy Celebration is open to media. Advance registration is required. Media can contact Kevin Perez-Allen at [kperezallen@naleo.org](mailto:kperezallen@naleo.org) or Marcus Silva at [msilva@naleo.org](mailto:msilva@naleo.org) to register.

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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 6,800 Latino elected and appointed officials.*