



NEWS RELEASE

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NALEO Educational Fund Cosigns Letter to Congress on Voter Protections Amid COVID-19

Ideologically diverse coalition calls on Congress to fund election safety measures

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) Educational Fund released a statement from CEO Arturo Vargas, alongside an ideologically diverse coalition of partners on a [letter](#) the group sent to Congress, calling for federal funding to protect our elections amid the coronavirus (COVID-19) public health crisis:

“Our country is facing a potential election crisis resulting from crippling state and local budget shortfalls,” Vargas said. “In light of this reality, it is paramount that as a nation, we renew our commitment to the democratic process by securing voters’ confidence in the process through dedicating federal funding to election safety procedures. Our diverse group of organizations and individuals is a testament to the non-partisan and principled dedication to the electoral process.”

Partners include the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), Demand Progress, Issue One, Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, Joseph Rainey Center for Public Policy, R Street Institute, Stand Up Republic, American Enterprise Institute Scholar Stan Veuger, and Daniel Shoag from Case Western Reserve University.

“State governments need to ensure that Americans can vote safely this November,” said American Enterprise Institute Scholar Stan Veuger. “The chaos we have seen during the current primary season must not be repeated in November. Federal funding for the required updates to our voting infrastructure is particularly important given the fiscal dire straits most states are in.”

Joseph Rainey Center for Public Policy CEO, Sarah E. Hunt, added “amidst the pandemic’s uncertainty and upheaval, it is incumbent upon Congress to act as the guardian of our national electoral process. Our nation must take action now to protect the right of every citizen to free, fair, and secure elections this November.” The organization’s president, Bishop Garrison, continued, “this is a transformative moment in our journey as a nation. The bipartisan measures Congress takes to protect the security and integrity of our electoral system will define the trajectory of American democracy for generations to come.”

Meredith McGehee, Executive Director of Issue One, added, “the COVID-19 pandemic poses a threat to our elections, the very bedrock of our democratic republic. States need additional funding to protect poll workers and voters and address the inevitable surge in voter requests for

early voting and absentee ballots. Congress must act now to ensure safe, secure, and fair elections this fall.”

As the public health crisis continues, voting remains a fortifying source of control for Americans to have over their daily lives and futures. Through participating in civic life through casting ballots, the American people reinforce trust in our governing institutions, confirming America’s commitment to collective decision-making and democracy itself.

As state and local governments are facing severe financial strain, leadership and support from the federal government are needed so that the electorate is protected during 2020’s federal elections. Congress must act to protect the safety and health of voters by preserving safe access to voting in federal elections for which it is ultimately responsible.

NALEO Educational Fund stands alongside our partners in urging Congress to support additional funding for election safety in future COVID-19 relief legislation. Amid these extraordinary times, we understand the tremendous responsibility and difficult task before legislators. However, given Congress’s responsibility for advancing our nation’s democratic character, bold election protection action is required to maintain that character as a world leader.

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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.