



NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: Kevin Perez-Allen, kperezallen@naleo.org
(714) 499-4481

Marcus Silva, msilva@naleo.org
(510) 456-5444

NALEO Educational Fund to Assist Residents in Becoming New Americans in Honor of National Citizenship Day

*In national effort, NALEO Educational Fund will
host events across the country on September 19, 2020*

WASHINGTON, D.C. – To mark September 17, National Citizenship Day, the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) Educational Fund announced a countrywide effort in partnership with the New Americans Campaign on Saturday, September 19, to help lawful permanent residents with the naturalization process as they continue the journey toward becoming American citizens. NALEO Educational Fund staff from across the nation will come together to help eligible individuals complete their Application for Naturalization, Form N-400.

According to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Office of Immigration Statistics, nearly 9 million lawful permanent residents or “green card holders” are potentially eligible to naturalize. Adding a sense of urgency for some, the Administration will increase the naturalization fee by 83 percent to \$1,170 on October 2, 2020, marking the largest fee increase to the naturalization application in over a decade.

“As a nation of immigrants, maintaining the promise of opportunity for those who wish to become U.S. citizens remains one of the cornerstones of who we are as a nation,” stated Arturo Vargas, NALEO Educational Fund Chief Executive Officer. “With Latinos making up [more than half](#) of those who are eligible to naturalize, events celebrating National Citizenship Day are a major part of civically engaging the community.

“After years of patience, hard work, and loyalty to our country, the formal application process to become citizens represents the culmination of what so many lawful permanent residents have worked toward in their journeys. Immigrants are a driving force in the American economy and enrich the cultural beauty of what it means to be an American. This reality is part of what makes our country great.

“Despite the barriers we have seen the Administration place before aspiring new Americans, including the incredibly high naturalization fee increase which we vehemently oppose, those who wish to become citizens continue to look toward their futures with hope and determination. Given the public health concerns of the COVID-19 pandemic, we support virtual naturalization ceremonies that would allow lawful permanent residents to naturalize and obtain U.S. citizenship safely.

"Our organization remains committed to seeing that the opportunities to naturalize are fair, accessible, and affordable to lawful permanent residents."

Individuals can register for Saturday's National Citizenship Day events by calling 888-839-8682.

NALEO Educational Fund will also host a national bilingual phone bank on Thursday, September 17, from 12:30 p.m.–2:30 p.m. ET and then from 6:00 p.m.– 8:00 p.m. ET, at 888-839-8682.

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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.