



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 Urges California Governor Gavin Newsom to Appoint Latino to Soon-to-be-Vacated Senate Seat

Following the Biden-Harris victory, appointing a Latino Senator from California would recognize the presence and contributions of the state's largest population group

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) today released the following statement from CEO Arturo Vargas following a [letter](#) he sent to California Governor Gavin Newsom on the Governor's pending appointment of a successor to Vice President-elect Kamala Harris's soon-to-be-vacated seat in the United States Senate:

"With the election of President-elect Joe Biden and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris, our nation has taken another step toward elevating public servants to our highest offices that reflect the diversity of America. The election of Vice President-elect Kamala Harris, who will serve as the first woman, Black American, and Asian American elected Vice President, is a momentous point in our nation's history. With this historic progress, California has an opportunity to continue in the direction of celebrating diversity and valuing inclusion by seeing a Latino successor to Vice President-elect Harris in the U.S. Senate.

"When identifying priorities for his Administration, Governor Newsom committed to setting forth a vision of California as an innovative state on the leading edge of change. With Latinos making up 39 percent of California's population, representing a plurality of the state's population, Governor Newsom's appointment of the first Latino Senator in its 170-year history would boldly embrace those core values.

"There is a wealth of talented and well-qualified candidates in the Latino community for this role. Moreover, these California Latinos have demonstrated critical policy entrepreneurship, possessing the expertise and dedication needed to tackle the state's most pressing issues.

"NALEO firmly believes that Governor Newsom shares our vision of a democracy that reflects the rich diversity of California. Appointing the state's first Latino Senator would be a major step toward realizing that vision."

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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.