



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
December 17, 2020

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

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

Election 2020 Ushers in Ben Ray Luján (D-NM) as Fifth Latino to the U.S. Senate

Latinos will number 39 House Members in new Congress

Latinos made additional gains in statewide offices and state senates

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) Educational Fund today released the following statement from CEO Arturo Vargas on [Latino representation](#) in Congress and state offices following Election 2020:

“From congressional races to state races, the candidates who ran for office this election cycle reflect the geographic and ideological diversity of the Latino community. These candidates ran competitive races all across the country, once again demonstrating that Latinos can win from coast to coast. NALEO Educational Fund congratulates the many Latino candidates on their victories.”

U.S. Senate newcomer:

- Ben Ray Luján (D), New Mexico

U.S. House newcomers:

- Carlos Gimenez (R), Florida – 26th District
- Maria Elvira Salazar (R), Florida – 27th District
- Teresa Leger Fernandez (D), New Mexico – 3rd District
- Nicole Malliotakis (R), New York – 11th District
- Ritchie Torres (D), New York – 15th District
- Tony Gonzales (R), Texas – 23rd District

Statewide newcomer:

- Anna Tovar (D), Arizona Corporation Commission

Re-elected statewide incumbents include:

- Arizona Corporation Commissioner Lea Márquez Peterson (R)
 - (Elected to first full term after having been appointed)
- Delaware Insurance Commissioner Trinidad Navarro (D)

- Utah Attorney General Sean Reyes (R)

"In state senates, Latinos saw a net gain of 10 seats, pushing the number of Latino state senators throughout the country up to 96, with Springfield City Councilmember Adam Gomez, Sr. (D) being the first Afro-Latino to serve in the Massachusetts State Senate. Although Latinos in state lower houses saw a net loss of six seats across the country, 14 Latino incumbents who vacated state lower house seats successfully pursued higher office. The number of Latinos in state lower houses after Election 2020 will be 238 members, with former small business owner Mark Cisneros (R) being the first Latino elected to the Iowa State House of Representatives.

"Alongside the many new faces joining the ranks of the nation's more than 6,800 Latino elected and appointed officials, there exists another opportunity for a significant addition to the nation's Latino leaders. With the election of California Senator Kamala Harris as Vice President of the United States, Governor Gavin Newsom will make an appointment to her seat for the remainder of her term. Latinos are the largest population group in California, and in its 170-year history, the state has yet to have Latino representation in the U.S. Senate. Secretary of State Alex Padilla's long career of public service makes him exceptionally qualified to fill the seat being vacated by Vice President-elect Harris, and NALEO Educational Fund [urges](#) Governor Newsom to appoint Secretary Padilla to this seat."

For more details on Latino representation in Congress and across the nation post-Election 2020, click [here](#).

###

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.