



NEWS RELEASE

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NALEO Congratulates California Secretary of State Alex Padilla on his Upcoming Appointment to the U.S. Senate

Padilla will be the first Latino to represent California in the state's 170-year history

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) today released the following statement from Board President Ricardo Lara after California Governor Gavin Newsom's announcement that he will appoint Secretary of State Alex Padilla to Vice President-elect Kamala Harris's soon-to-be vacated U.S. Senate seat:

"NALEO congratulates California Secretary of State and former NALEO President Alex Padilla on his upcoming appointment to the United States Senate. This historic appointment represents the first time a Latino will represent California in the state's 170-year history, an incredible milestone for the nearly 40 percent of residents who identify as Latino.

"Through his public service career, Secretary Padilla has gained a deep understanding of the broad range of issues that face Californians and has been a consummate leader in pursuing innovative and effective policy solutions. He advanced measures addressing the state's energy and transportation needs, the health of California's families, and the education of California's youth, including English language learners. As Secretary of State, he brought California's democracy into the 21st century, by modernizing its voter registration system and making both in-person and vote-by-mail more accessible to all Californians. Working with local election officials and other stakeholders, he helped ensure robust voter participation in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Secretary Padilla is exceptionally qualified to represent all Californians in the U.S. Senate. His career in public service spans more than two decades, at virtually every level of state and local elected office in California. In 1999, he was elected to the Los Angeles City Council, and his colleagues ultimately elected him to three terms as Council President. He served in the California State Senate between 2006 and 2014 and was then elected California's Secretary of State, the first Latino to serve in this position.

"Governor Newsom's appointment of Secretary Padilla as the first Latino to serve as U.S. Senator to represent California is consistent with the core California values he has embraced and we applaud his decision to ensure representation in the U.S. Senate for a historically underrepresented constituency. Secretary Padilla is a tireless policy entrepreneur and his appointment will greatly enrich the representation of California and the governance of our nation. We congratulate Secretary Padilla on this wonderful achievement."

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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.