



NEWS RELEASE

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NALEO Educational Fund Highlights Record Number of Latino Elected Officials in 2021

*According to latest National Directory of Latino Elected Officials,
more than 7,000 Latinos held elected office in 2021*

Latinos holding elected office increased by nearly 75 percent since 2001

Washington, D.C. – The National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) Educational Fund today released its [2021 National Directory of Latino Elected Officials](#), a comprehensive report and list of all Latino elected officials throughout the nation, showcasing a record-high number of Latinos holding elected office in 2021. The [Directory](#) reveals an increase in the number of Latino elected officials from 2020 by 3.0 percent, bringing the total number of elected officials to 7,087 from 6,883. Furthermore, between 2001 and 2021, the number of Latino elected officials in the United States grew by 74.6 percent.

This is the thirty-seventh year that NALEO Educational Fund has compiled and disseminated this comprehensive [report](#). The [Directory](#) includes information on the nation's Latino elected officials, including their geographic distribution, the levels of government at which they serve, and their political affiliation when indicated.

"NALEO Educational Fund's Directory of Latino Elected Officials was created to offer a go-to resource for understanding the presence of Latinos in government," said NALEO Educational Fund CEO Arturo Vargas. "While it is encouraging to see the growing number of Latino elected officials, we must also remember that the work toward ensuring equitable representation is far from over. We still have much to do to ensure that Latino communities throughout the nation are able to elect leaders that are accountable and responsive to their concerns and needs."

Over the past year, California and New York State saw the largest increases in Latino elected officials. Between 2020 and 2021, the number of Latino elected officials in California grew by 10.4 percent (from 1,660 to 1,833), while that number in New York grew by 10.7 percent (168 to 186). Most Latino elected officials serve either at the municipal level (2,349) or the school board level (2,668).

Meanwhile, over the last 20 years, the country saw a considerable increase in Latino representation across all levels of government. Between 2001 and 2021, the number of Latino U.S. Representatives, state officials, judicial and law enforcement officials, and special district officials each more than doubled.

In addition:

- Between 2001 and 2021, the number of Latino elected officials nationwide grew from 4,060 to 7,087, an increase of 74.6 percent.
- In 2001, there were no Latinos in the U.S. Senate. By 2021, there were six.
- In 2001, there were 39 states with Latino representation at any level of office, compared to 45 states in 2021.
- Between 2001 and 2021, the number of Latina elected officials increased at a faster rate than that of their male counterparts.
 - In 2001, slightly more than one of every four (27 percent) Latino elected officials were women. By 2021, 40 percent of Latino elected officials were women.
- Between 2001 and 2021, the share of Latino elected officials from the states traditionally viewed as the centers of the Latino population decreased, while the share from states with “emerging” Latino populations increased.
 - In 2001, 96 percent of Latino elected officials came from the nine states with the largest Latino populations. In 2021, 92 percent of Latino elected officials came from those states.

The [report](#) can be found in full [here](#).

To learn more about the [Directory](#) or NALEO Educational Fund’s work generally, please visit our [website](#).

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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.