



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
January 6, 2022

Contact:

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

Luis Acosta, lacosta@naleo.org
(956) 460-3598

NALEO Reflects on January 6, 2021

*One year following the insurrection on the U.S. Capitol Building,
NALEO reflects on our work to strengthen American democracy*

Washington, D.C. – The National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) today released the following statement from NALEO President Ricardo Lara on the anniversary of the January 6th insurrection against the United States government:

“One year ago today, the violent attack and an attempted coup to halt our democracy and prevent Congress from completing its constitutional duty to certify the legitimate results of the 2020 presidential election failed. Yet, while many of those who participated in this insurrection are being held accountable, and despite the resilience of our democracy amid one of the darkest hours of American history, the impacts of that tragic day continue to be felt across the nation.

“Following the attack, several states moved to make it even more difficult for Americans to vote. The events of January 6th — coupled with these developments — have hit close to home as a cornerstone of NALEO’s mission is to uphold U.S. democratic values and strengthen our democracy. But our work throughout 2021, from our efforts around the census to voter engagement, has served the community and strengthened the very democracy the insurrection threatened to weaken.

“January 6th palpably demonstrated that U.S. democracy is fragile and that each of us must play a role in upholding its integrity. Over the past year, however, so many in our community, including the tireless work of NALEO members and staff, have done just that: upheld our democracy’s integrity, and thereby that of our nation’s, through a commitment to public service, justice, and combatting the spread of mis- and disinformation.

“Additionally, we are cognizant of the toll the events of January 6th have had on our members and their staff. Through NALEO Educational Fund’s [Staff Up Congress](#) initiative, we continue to assist congressional staffers of color as they navigate the ongoing safety and security concerns associated with January 6th. These efforts include:

1. Working with key Capitol Hill staff, including the Congressional Tri-Caucus Staff Associations and our congressional staff diversity advocacy partners, to ensure we provide timely support to congressional staffers of color;
2. Partnering with the American Psychological Association (APA) to provide ongoing, relevant, and timely mental wellness and resilience information to these staffers; and

3. Hosting a series of workshops and webinars, also in conjunction with the APA, as a safe space for staffers of color to share their experiences surrounding the January 6th insurrection and its aftermath.

“NALEO Educational Fund is also a proud partner of [Capitol Strong](#), a coalition of civil and social organizations that aim to create a dialogue around how our nation can heal from January 6th and provide mental health, safety, and support resources for all congressional employees who were affected by the events of that day.

“Finally, and most importantly, we continue to work to stop the spread of mis- and disinformation in the political arena — factors that contributed to the insurrection.

“We understand that the work to strengthen faith in our democratic system is ongoing — and to avoid repeating the events of January 6th, we must learn from what happened that day and never forget how close we were to losing our democracy. It is imperative that we safeguard that democracy by staying informed through reputable news sources, exercising the right to vote, and actively participating in our democratic processes.”

###

About NALEO

The National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials is the non-partisan leadership organization of the nation’s more than 7,000 Latino elected and appointed officials.