



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **NALEO Educational Fund Presents Latino Voter Report Findings to Karen Bass and Rick Caruso Ahead of Los Angeles Mayoral Election**

*NALEO Educational Fund submits brief on Latino voter priorities to Los Angeles mayoral candidates, based on Latino voter forums held across the city*

**LOS ANGELES, CA** – The National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) Educational Fund this week presented Los Angeles mayoral candidates, Karen Bass and Rick Caruso, with a briefing on local Latino voter priorities, providing a comprehensive overview of the priorities and concerns of Latino voters across the City of Los Angeles. The briefing is based on NALEO Educational Fund’s **Los Angeles Voter Snapshot Poll**, conducted in May 2022, as well as feedback from Latino voters collected over the course of three public voter forums the organization hosted in Wilmington, Pacoima, and Downtown Los Angeles in September. The snapshot poll and voter forums are part of NALEO Educational Fund’s *iVe y Vota!* campaign, which promotes the sustained engagement of the Latino community in all facets of political and civic life.

NALEO Educational Fund’s research shows that Latino voters in Los Angeles are extremely diverse and care about a wide range of issues related to quality of life, the economy, the environment, access to good jobs, education, and affordable housing — concerns that are often very specific to the communities in which voters live. In addition to outlining these distinct priorities, NALEO Educational Fund’s briefing also highlights common themes among Latino voters across the city, including feelings of marginalization and neglect, as well as concerns regarding homelessness and the cost of living.

“It will be critical for the city’s next mayor to address the issues that are most important to Los Angeles’ sweeping Latino community — while also building trust among Latino voters who feel left behind by local political leaders,” said **Arturo Vargas, NALEO Educational Fund CEO**, who met with Caruso on Thursday, November 3 and Bass on Friday, November 4 to present the organization’s findings. “We need our local political leaders to be conscious of the nuanced priorities of Latino voters in different parts of the city and to authentically engage with them to earn their vote. There are differences in the issues that are most important to voters in Central and the Eastside of Los Angeles, industrial Wilmington, and suburban Northeast San Fernando Valley, and our city leaders need to understand these varying concerns. I want to thank both Representative Bass and Mr. Caruso for taking the time to hear directly from our community, and I look forward to continuing our work together to give Los Angeles Latinos a stronger political voice.”

The briefing outlines how Latino voters at each of the voter forum locations shared different concerns that were specific to their communities:

- In the Wilmington session, many participants felt that there was a lack of resources being made available to their community, including not enough safety net programs for Latinos. They also felt unsafe in their communities due to inadequate police presence and noted a lack of affordable housing options.
- In the Pacoima session, environmental issues were a top concern for participants. Participants noted that the many freeways surrounding their community contributed to the poor air quality in their neighborhood and not enough sanitation services negatively affected their community's health.
- In the Downtown Los Angeles session, participants discussed the limited access to public transportation options in the area. They also did not feel safe in their neighborhoods — but do not want more police presence — and believe that gentrification and protection for street vendors are also top concerns.

The full briefing provided to Bass and Caruso can be found [here](#).

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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.*