



NEWS RELEASE

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NALEO Educational Fund and Partners Urge Houston Mayor-Elect John Whitmire To Appoint Qualified Latinos To Vacant Positions

NALEO Educational Fund, LCLAA, LULAC, and Mi Familia Vota issued a sign-on letter to the mayor-elect's office, urging him to appoint Latinos to leadership positions across city departments, agencies, boards, and commissions

HOUSTON, TX— The National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) Educational Fund, in partnership with LCLAA, LULAC, and Mi Familia Vota, announced today the issuance of a [letter](#) to Houston Mayor-elect John Whitmire, urging him to use his new role to appoint diverse individuals to senior-level positions across Houston's government.

The letter emphasized the abundance of workforce talent within Houston's Latino community — a demographic that comprises more than 46 percent of the city's population. The letter underscored the importance of amplifying Latino voices through equitable representation across city hall.

The Latino-led civil rights, advocacy, and community-based organizations that signed onto the letter represent a wide range of Houston's Latino community, including elected and appointed officials, legal professionals, organized labor, and community-based organizations:

"We congratulate Mayor-elect Whitmire on his election, and we look forward to working with his office to ensure that Houston's local government reflects the full diversity of the city," **said NALEO Educational Fund CEO Arturo Vargas.** "With a near-majority Latino population, the success and well-being of all Houstonians begins with greater political representation for the local Latino community."

"I strongly encourage Mayor-elect Whitmire to appoint highly qualified individuals who authentically represent the diverse fabric of Houston," **said LCLAA National Executive Director Jose Vargas.** "Embracing this diversity will fortify the city's governance and create a more inclusive and representative government that effectively addresses the needs of every Houstonian."

"LULAC and Greater Houston LULAC Council 4967 congratulate Mayor-elect Whitmire on assuming his new office. We recognize the Mayor-elect's longstanding support of the Latino community, which resulted in him winning 65 to 70 percent of the Latino vote on December 9," **said President of Greater Houston LULAC Council 4967 Dr. Sergio Lira.** "Latinos contribute over \$52 billion to Houston and Harris county's economy. Our community has been fighting for fair representation for many years both at the city council and other elected and

appointed offices in Houston. We look forward to working with Mayor-elect Whitmire to achieve an administration that truly reflects the diversity of our demographics. We are optimistic that the Mayor-elect will make sure we have a seat and voice at the table.”

“Latino representation in city leadership is not just about fairness; it's about leveraging the rich talent and perspectives in our community for the betterment of Houston,” **said Mi Familia Vota Texas State Director Ángel Luis Vega.** “We need to see this reflected in Mayor-elect Whitmire's appointments.”

The letter, which was delivered to Mayor-elect Whitmire’s office on Tuesday, December 19, included a request for a meeting with the new mayor to discuss additional goals and priorities for Houston’s Latino community.

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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.

About LCLAA

LCLAA is the leading national organization for Latino/a workers and their families. LCLAA was born out of the need to educate, organize and mobilize Latino/as in the labor movement and has expanded its influence to organize Latino/as in an effort to impact workers’ rights and their influence in the political process. LCLAA represents the interest of more than 2 million Latino/a workers in the American Federation of Labor-Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO), The Change to Win Federation, independent unions, and all their affiliate unions.

About LULAC

The League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) is the nation's largest and oldest Hispanic civil rights volunteer-based organization that empowers Hispanic Americans and builds strong Latino communities. Headquartered in Washington, DC, with 1,000 councils around the United States and Puerto Rico, LULAC's programs, services, and advocacy address the most important issues for Latinos, meeting the critical needs of today and the future. For more information, visit <https://lulac.org/>.

About Mi Familia Vota

Mi Familia Vota’s mission is to build Latino political power by expanding the electorate, strengthening local infrastructures, and through year-round voter engagement.