



NEWS RELEASE

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NALEO's Statement on President Biden and President Trump Skipping the NALEO 41st Annual Conference

"With less than six months to go before the presidential election, where Latinos are poised to play a decisive role in contests across the country, we are disappointed that both presumptive presidential nominees decided to pass on the opportunity to speak at the largest gathering of Latino elected and appointed officials in the nation."
— NALEO and NALEO Educational Fund CEO Arturo Vargas

LAS VEGAS, NV— The National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) today released a statement from Chief Executive Officer Arturo Vargas following President Biden and Former President Trump's invitation declination to attend the NALEO 41st Annual Conference in Las Vegas:

"As is our tradition, and in this critical election year, we extended an invitation to both presumptive presidential nominees to attend and speak before the largest gathering of Latino elected and appointed officials in the nation during our annual Conference taking place this year in Las Vegas, Nevada.

"With less than six months to go before the presidential election, where Latinos are poised to play a decisive role in contests across the country, we are disappointed that both presumptive presidential nominees decided to pass on the opportunity to speak at the largest gathering of Latino elected and appointed officials in the nation.

"NALEO members represent millions of constituents nationwide, making them an extremely critical group in the lead-up to Election 2024. As our Candidate Presidential Forum was going to be a joint session with the Asian American Pacific Islander Leaders Elected and Appointed (AAPI LEAD), this decision to skip the Conference is a double misstep in the candidates' pursuit of the nation's highest office. Both candidates are committing an unforced error by squandering a unique opportunity to reach and engage with two of the fastest-growing communities in the United States.

"Given the extraordinary role our nation's Latino leaders play in keeping its constituents and the country running, it is vital that NALEO members hear directly from candidates vying for the White House. Their absence is an affront to the contributions and sacrifices Latino elected and appointed officials make for this country and their constituents day in and day out.

"Nevertheless, our organization will continue to make an effort to engage with the two presumptive nominees ahead of the November election and looks forward to having them join

us when additional opportunities to speak before Latino leaders arise. Following the election, we are eager to build upon our close working relationship with the Administration to advance critical legislation that matters most to our communities.”

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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 7,000 Latino elected and appointed officials.