NEWS RELEASE

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NALEO Educational Fund Calls Supreme Court Ruling a Victory for Latino Voters

Decision affirms states' authority to count mail-in ballots postmarked by Election Day

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) Educational Fund released the following statement from CEO Erica Bernal-Martinez following the recent Supreme Court decision on mail-in ballots:

"Today's ruling is a win for every Latino voter who has ever dropped a ballot in the mail and hoped for the best. The Supreme Court affirmed that states could count ballots postmarked by Election Day — even if they arrive after it.

"One in three Latino voters cast a mail-in ballot in 2024. Many live in communities where mail service is unreliable — a reality the officials who run their elections know firsthand. This decision removes an impossible choice: cast an informed ballot or make sure it gets counted. Latino voters should never have to pick one.

"As part of our Election Protection efforts, NALEO Educational Fund is working directly with election administrators across the country to understand what they're up against heading into 2026. What we're hearing is stark: budget constraints are limiting their ability to educate voters and counter mis- and disinformation. These public servants don't need more obstacles — they need support. Today's ruling removes one barrier they never should have faced.

"The 14 states that count ballots postmarked by Election Day — including California, Illinois, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, and Texas — can move forward without uncertainty. That means Latino leaders on the frontlines of their communities can get back to the work their constituents sent them to do: fighting for economic opportunity, affordable housing, better health outcomes, and quality education.

"For Latino voters and the administrators who serve them, today's decision clears the way forward."

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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.