NEWS RELEASE

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California Gubernatorial Candidates Secretary Xavier Becerra and Steve Hilton to Address NALEO 43rd Annual Conference

Latino policymakers will have the opportunity to hear directly from candidates seeking to lead California

LOS ANGELES, CA – The National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) announced today that California gubernatorial candidates former U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services **Xavier Becerra**, and author and small business owner **Steve Hilton** will address attendees during the NALEO 43rd Annual Conference, the nation's largest and most prestigious gathering of Latino policymakers.

Secretary Becerra will deliver remarks during the Conference's morning breakfast program on **Wednesday, July 15, 2026, from 8:30 a.m. to 9:45 a.m.** Hilton will give remarks during the lunch program **from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.** The Conference will take place July 14–16, 2026, at the InterContinental Los Angeles Downtown.

"California is about to choose the leader of the world's fourth-largest economy, and our nation's Latino elected and appointed officials deserve a seat at that table," **said NALEO and NALEO Educational Fund CEO Erica Bernal-Martinez.** "The participation of California's gubernatorial candidates reflects NALEO's longstanding commitment to ensuring Latino leadership has a direct line to the candidates who will shape our state's future."

Conference attendees will have the opportunity to hear directly from each candidate as they share their vision for California and address the issues they believe will shape the state's future.

Each year, the NALEO Annual Conference convenes hundreds of Latino policymakers and community leaders to engage in critical conversations on the most pressing issues impacting the nation. Through policy discussions, leadership development, and the exchange of ideas, the Conference equips attendees with the tools and strategies needed to govern effectively and strengthen civic engagement.

In addition to Secretary Becerra and Hilton, Conference attendees will hear from prominent national and local leaders, including U.S. Senator Alex Padilla, U.S. Senator Ruben Gallego, former U.S. Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Julián Castro, former U.S. Ambassador to Mexico and former U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar, Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass, San Diego Mayor Todd Gloria, and others.

WHO
Secretary Xavier Becerra
California Gubernatorial Candidate
Former U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services

Steve Hilton
California Gubernatorial Candidate
Author and Small Business Owner

WHAT
NALEO 43rd Annual Conference

WHEN
Wednesday, July 15, 2026 (Secretary Becerra)
8:30 a.m. – 9:45 a.m.

Wednesday, July 15, 2026 (Hilton)
11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

WHERE
InterContinental Los Angeles Downtown
900 Wilshire Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90017

Additional information, including the Conference agenda and speaker updates, is available here.

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About NALEO
The National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials is the nonpartisan leadership organization of the nation's more than 8,000 Latino elected and appointed officials.