NEWS RELEASE

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U.S. Senator Alex Padilla to Address NALEO 43rd Annual Conference

California Senator and former NALEO President to speak
at the nation's largest gathering of Latino policymakers

LOS ANGELES, CA – The National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) announced today that the **Honorable Alex Padilla**, United States Senator from California and former NALEO President, will address attendees at the **NALEO 43rd Annual Conference**, the nation's largest and most prestigious gathering of Latino policymakers. The Conference will take place in **Los Angeles at the InterContinental Los Angeles Downtown, July 14–16, 2026**, bringing together Latino elected and appointed officials, civic leaders, advocates, and stakeholders from across the country.

"At a pivotal moment for our nation and the Latino community, we are honored to welcome Senator Alex Padilla back to the NALEO Annual Conference," said **NALEO and NALEO Educational Fund CEO Erica Bernal-Martinez**. "As a longtime champion for the Latino community, the state of California, and civic participation and representative democracy, Senator Padilla's leadership and perspective will provide valuable insight for Latino leaders working to address the challenges and opportunities facing their communities."

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 Senator Padilla, Conference attendees will hear from prominent national and local leaders, including 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. Special Conference programming will also feature an opening performance by singer-songwriter NEZZA, a performance by Mariachi Santaneros, and a live taping of The Latino Vote podcast featuring Chuck Rocha and Mike Madrid discussing the current state of Latino political power in America.

WHO

The Honorable Alex Padilla
United States Senator, California
Former President, NALEO

WHAT
NALEO 43rd Annual Conference

WHEN
July 14–16, 2026

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.