NEWS RELEASE

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Latino Voters Refuse to Be Predicted: Surging Turnout Sends a Message to Every Party

NALEO Educational Fund CEO to newly elected leaders:
"Deliver, and you'll earn our trust. Fall short, and we'll remember in 2028."

LOS ANGELES, CA — NALEO Educational Fund issued the following statement from CEO Erica Bernal-Martinez on the 2026 midterm elections:

"You can draw the lines, but you can't predict Latino voters. On Tuesday, Latinos sent a message every party, campaign, and mapmaker needs to hear: our vote cannot be assumed, and it will never be taken for granted.

For years, pundits have tried to write our story for us. First we were a guaranteed bloc. Then we were realigning. Then we were tuning out. This election proves them all wrong. **Latinos are America's swing electorate.** We decide one race, one candidate, and one election at a time.

We turned out in force. In Texas, Latino early voting surged 87 percent over 2022, and young Latino early voters more than doubled. In North Carolina, Latino early voting nearly tripled.

Latinos voted on the issues every family feels: the cost of groceries, rent, and gas; jobs and wages; and health care. Immigration enforcement reached into our neighborhoods and families, and many expected fear to keep us home. Instead, **we answered fear with our ballots.**

Most of us were never even asked. Sixty percent of Latino voters say no campaign or party reached out to them. **We didn't wait for an invitation. We showed up anyway.**

Now the campaigning ends and the governing begins. Those elected this week owe Latino voters results on the issues that brought us to the polls. That includes the Latino candidates who made history last night. To these leaders taking office in city halls, school boards, statehouses, governors' mansions, and Congress: **you carry the voices of the communities that sent you. Lead boldly.**

To every leader, of every party: **deliver, and you'll earn our trust. Fall short, and we'll remember in 2028. The Latino vote must be earned, district by district, election after election.**"

Voters with questions about their ballots can call NALEO Educational Fund's bilingual hotline at 1-888-VE-Y-VOTA (888-839-8682).

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About NALEO Educational Fund

NALEO Educational Fund is the nation's leading nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that facilitates the full participation of Latinos in the American political process, from citizenship to public service.