



NALEO 23RD ANNUAL CONFERENCE
June 22-24, 2006
The Fairmont Dallas Hotel
Dallas, Texas



CONFERENCE AGENDA

Updated May 2, 2006

THURSDAY, JUNE 22

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION AND EXHIBITS

7:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

OFFICIAL WELCOME TO THE NALEO ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND CALL TO ORDER

8:00 a.m. – 8:15 a.m.

OPENING SESSION AND BREAKFAST: THE NORTH TEXAS EXPERIENCE – A HISTORY OF LATINO POLITICAL EMPOWERMENT

8:15 a.m. – 9:15 a.m.

As of 2004, Latinos accounted for more than one in every three Texas residents. Between 1990 and 2004, the state's Latino population added more than three million residents, an almost 80 percent increase in 14 years. In North Texas, Tarrant County's Latino population grew by more than 160 percent in the last four years, with Latinos now accounting for nearly a quarter of all residents. In neighboring Dallas County, Latinos account for more than one in three residents, and more than 40 percent of the City of Dallas is Latino. Additionally, more than 2.3 million Latinos are currently registered to vote in Texas, or nearly one in five of all registered voters. Approximately one million Latinos are eligible to register and vote in 2006. This session will provide an in-depth analysis of Latinos in Texas, with specific emphasis on the North Texas experience. Conference attendees will receive an overview of the Latino experience in the state, including political history and Latino voter attitudes in the Dallas-Ft. Worth region.

THE CHALLENGE OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS AND BILINGUAL EDUCATION

In partnership with the National School Boards Association Hispanic Caucus

10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Currently, there are more than four million students with limited proficiency in English enrolled in public schools across the nation, making up almost 10 percent of total pre-K through 12th grade public school enrollment. Additionally, achievement data suggest that English Language Learners (ELLs) lag far behind their peers. Despite 100 years of bilingual education programs, they continue to come under fire due to concerns that students are not mastering English sufficiently. This session explores the current state of bilingual education in the country and provides a discussion on the challenges that exist for English Language Learners.

“UNEQUAL TREATMENT:” HEALTH DISPARITIES IN COMMUNITIES OF COLOR

A National Health Training Alliance for Communities of Color Session

10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

The lack of access to quality, affordable, and timely health care has been a troubling concern facing communities of color throughout the United States for many decades. The harm caused to communities of color by disparities in health coverage has contributed significantly to profound differences in health care outcomes and treatments. The National Health Training Alliance for Communities of Color, a dynamic partnership that includes the NALEO Educational Fund, the National Medical Association, the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, and Families USA, was formed to help create new institutional capacities within communities of color and enable leaders to engage in policymaking that helps to end discrimination and disparities in America's health care system.

This session will discuss the implications of health disparities and the strategies being employed to create a more culturally competent health care delivery system that is responsive to the needs of communities of color.

THE VOTING RIGHTS ACT: PROTECTING LATINO ACCESS TO AMERICA’S DEMOCRACY

9:45 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

The Voting Rights Act has served as a powerful tool to combat discrimination against Latinos in the electoral process. Key provisions of the Act expire in 2007, and Congress is working on legislation for their renewal this Congressional session. This session will examine the impact of the Act on Latino political participation and progress. The session will also address how local jurisdictions can develop sound practices to ensure compliance with the Act and enhance opportunities for Latino access to voting and registration.

NATIONAL LEADERSHIP LUNCHEON

12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

THE CHALLENGE OF FUNDRAISING IN TODAY’S ENVIRONMENT

2:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Money plays a vital role in modern U.S. elections. In today’s campaign environment, financial filings are referenced as much as the latest poll numbers. As a result, fundraising is one of the most important activities of a successful campaign. However, fundraising is not an easy task, especially for non-incumbent candidates; it is hard and challenging work, requiring discipline and strategy, and attention to ethical concerns. This session will consider the most common challenges to fundraising and offer effective strategies for overcoming these challenges and staying competitive.

THE IMPACT OF IMMIGRATION ON OUR LOCAL COMMUNITIES

In partnership with Hispanic Elected Local Officials (HELO) of the National League of Cities

2:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Immigrants from throughout the world continue to arrive in the United States on a daily basis. While cities welcome immigrants, local governments bear much of the financial responsibility of providing services. This session will include a discussion on the effects of immigration on local governments and explore ways local officials can support their immigrant populations.

THE UNBANKED: BRINGING LATINO HOUSEHOLDS INTO THE FINANCIAL SYSTEM

2:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

The building of economic assets is an important first step to ensure that Latinos are stakeholders in our communities; yet, over 14 million Latinos, or 35 percent of all Latinos, do not have access to a basic savings or checking account. The lack of formal relationships with banking institutions has also spurred the demand for non-traditional financial service providers. This session will explore the reasons why many Latinos fail to enter the mainstream financial system, the growth of non-traditional providers, strategies to strengthening relationships between the unbanked and financial institutions, and the promotion of civic participation through asset building and personal economic empowerment.

DALLAS’ WELCOME RECEPTION AT THE HALL OF STATE AT FAIR PARK

7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

FRIDAY, JUNE 23

FOURTH ANNUAL NALEO PRESIDENTIAL GOLF CLASSIC AT THE COWBOYS GOLF COURSE

7:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION AND EXHIBITS

7:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

OPENING SESSION AND BREAKFAST: THE 2006 ELECTIONS – THE LATINO IMPACT

8:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

This November, the balance of power in the Congress and state governments throughout the country will be decided. In Congress, Republicans will look to maintain control of both the House and Senate as Democrats look for key gains. As campaigns gear up and get under way, what role will the Latino vote play this November? This session will explore the potential role of the Latino vote in 2006 and its implications in setting the stage for 2008. The session will feature a panel of experts who will share recent findings and political analysis.

HIGHER EDUCATION: WORKING TOGETHER TO ENSURE STUDENT ACCESS AND SUCCESS

In partnership with National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislators the National School Boards Association Hispanic Caucus

10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

The current state of Latino education and the emerging U.S. demographic shift bring growing challenges for those working to champion education policy that increases access to higher education for all students. More than ever, diverse stakeholders, including parents, educators, business leaders and policymakers are forming partnerships to develop seamless P-20 educational pipelines that increase Latino access to, as well as, student success in college. This session will bring together a panel of higher education experts, stakeholders and experienced practitioners to discuss what role elected officials can play in developing policies that keep higher education affordable to our students while increasing college readiness and graduation rates.

SPREADING THE DOLLAR: THE STRAINED HEALTH CARE SAFETY NET

A National Health Training Alliance for Communities of Color Session

10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Over 45 million Americans lacked health insurance in 2004. Among working families, employer-based insurance is increasingly unavailable and unaffordable, yet health insurance is correlated with access to timely health care services and protects the financial well-being of individuals and families. Publicly-funded health programs such as Medicare, Medicaid and the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP), aim to serve our most vulnerable populations, yet many working families and individuals are left outside of the health care safety net. This session will discuss publicly-funded health programs aimed at closing the health insurance gap as health care costs increase and the federal health care budget becomes more strained.

THE 2010 CENSUS: PREPARING FOR A FULL COUNT AND A USEFUL PORTRAIT OF OUR COMMUNITY

10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

With the decade more than half over, the United States Census Bureau, policymakers, and advocates are already preparing for the 2010 Census. This session will examine the Census Bureau's preparations for the 2010 Census and their impact on the Latino community, as well as address some emerging issues that could affect the counting of Latinos during the Census enumeration. Panelists also will discuss some of the innovations in the valuable tools available from the Bureau for analyzing data about states and local communities.

NATIONAL LEADERSHIP LUNCHEON

12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

MARKETING TECHNIQUES FOR SUCCESSFUL CAMPAIGNS

2:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

The size, influence, and diversity of the Latino electorate has grown over the past decade and candidates as well as campaigns have realized that speaking a few phrases in Spanish is not enough to win the Latino vote. Today, the Latino electorate is multinational, bilingual, and represents all rungs of the economic ladder. This session will

explore effective strategies for appealing to the Latino electorate. Session experts and practitioners will analyze key aspects of effective messages and images used when marketing to Latinos. The session will highlight successes and failures of past campaigns.

PREPARING FOR THE INEVITABLE EMERGENCY: APPLYING LESSONS FROM KATRINA AND RITA

In partnership with the International Hispanic Network of the International City/County Management Association
2:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Recent natural disasters have shed light on the important role local elected officials can play both in preparing their communities for large scale emergencies, and in mobilizing and coordinating resources during and after a crisis. Policy makers, more than ever, need to be aware of the emergency resources available to their communities from both the private and non-profit sectors, as well as those available from different levels of government. In this session, experts will provide officials with an overview of lessons learned from recent events, recommendations for dealing with future disasters, and discuss the role of elected officials in times of crisis.

NEIGHBORHOOD STRATEGIES FOR SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

2:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Local governments are responsible for providing their residents with communities where they can live, work, and access services. As populations continues to grow, and the cost of buying a home continues to rise, local jurisdictions need to develop innovative approaches for increased affordable housing while providing adequate transportation infrastructure that provides mobility, improves the quality of life, and stimulates economic development. Officials will look at strategies that revitalize and protect neighborhoods in a sustainable manner while providing affordable housing, equitable transportation, and promoting economic development opportunities.

EVENING RECEPTION AT THE DALLAS MUSEUM OF ART

7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

SATURDAY, JUNE 24

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION AND EXHIBITS

7:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

OPENING SESSION AND BREAKFAST: AN UPDATE ON IMMIGRATION REFORM AND ITS IMPACT ON THE LATINO COMMUNITY

8:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

During this Congressional session, there has been a heated national policy discussion on the future of our nation's immigration policies. This morning's program will provide Conference participants with an update on legislative developments, and the perspectives of community and opinion leaders involved in the dramatic grass roots mobilization of Latinos on the issue of immigration.

EDUCATION REFORM: REINVENTING AMERICA'S SCHOOLS FOR THE FUTURE

In partnership with the National School Boards Association Hispanic Caucus

10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

The American educational system continues to be challenged with the ideal of having all students reach their full potential. Nearly one-third of American high school students do not graduate, and more than half of those who do are not ready for a four-year college. Most of the new jobs being created require a post-secondary education. Effective schools are critical to the future of our economy and democracy. This session explores how alternatives to traditional K-12 education, including charter schools, vouchers, and others, are working to improve the educational experience and prepare students for the future.

OUR COMMUNITY'S EPIDEMICS: OBESITY AND THE PREVALENCE OF CHRONIC DISEASE

A National Health Training Alliance for Communities of Color Session

10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Cardiovascular disease is the leading cause of death for all Americans, including Latinos. Two of every three U.S. adults are overweight or obese, while nearly 70 percent of Latinos are overweight or obese. Many obesity-related diseases including diabetes, hypertension, cancer and heart disease are found in higher rates among Latinos. Additionally, Latinos are disproportionately affected by HIV/AIDS, representing one-fifth of the all people estimated to be living with AIDS in the United States. Policymakers have a unique role in educating their constituents on current health issues, and promoting an effective health agenda within their communities through policy making and related investments. Panelists will include health experts, as well as Latino policymakers and representatives of community-based organizations who are working to implement programs that improve health in their jurisdictions.

SOCIAL SECURITY, RETIREMENT AND THE PENDING CRISIS OF LATINO AGING

10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

This session will examine the challenges facing an aging Latino population and the state of retirement preparation. Findings from a project on Social Security and an emerging Latino population show that Latinos have declining pension coverage, are heavily dependent on Social Security; and that without these entitlement supports, would have poverty levels on par with that of the Great Depression. Panelists will address the important role of Social Security, strategies for enhancing retirement preparation, and policy advocacy for Latino elderly and aging Latino baby boomers.

HISPANIC ELECTED LOCAL OFFICIALS (HELO) MEETING

10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

NATIONAL LEADERSHIP LUNCHEON

12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

WINNING WOMEN III: FORUM OF LATINAS IN ELECTED OFFICE

2:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Over the past decade, a significant share of the growth in Latino office holders has been as a result of the tremendous successes on the part of Latina candidates. Nearly one of every three Latinos currently holding elected office is a Latina. Seven of the 22 Latino Members of Congress are Latinas. Beyond this statistical success story are countless tales of leadership, perseverance, and the storied future of Latino politics. Join us as our Latina leaders share their experiences as Latina candidates and office holders, and their perspectives on the role of Latinas in the future of Latino politics.

PUBLIC SAFETY STRATEGIES FOR BUILDING STRONG AND SAFE COMMUNITIES

In partnership with the National Association of Hispanic County Officials of the National Association of Counties

2:30 p.m.-4:00 p.m.

Providing for the public's safety is ultimately the responsibility of local government and one of its highest priorities. The primary goal of local public safety and crime prevention efforts is to provide communities with a safe and healthy environment. Crime prevention and safety issues, gangs, juvenile justice, and the reintroduction of ex-offenders to the community will be addressed in this session.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS REGULATION: ENSURING OUR COMMUNITIES STAY CONNECTED

2:30 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Congress has begun working on legislation that will revise the Telecommunications Act of 1996. There have been a number of significant changes in the telecommunications industry over the last few years, including changes that have affected cable television, satellite service, mobile telephones, Internet access; and a number of recent and significant mergers. Policymakers at all levels of government should be aware of any impact regulatory changes may have on their states and local communities' growth, development, and access to broadband services. This session will provide participants with an overview of some of the major issues being considered in the debates over telecommunications regulation at different levels of government, from industry and government perspectives.

ORLANDO RECEPTION

6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

NALEO CLOSING GALA: A CELEBRATION OF THE LIFE OF THE HONORABLE EDWARD R. ROYBAL

7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

In October 2005, our nation lost a pioneer in the political development of the Latino community. The Honorable Edward R. Roybal served on the Los Angeles City Council from 1949-1962, and in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1963 to 1992. In 1976, Congressman Roybal and several of his colleagues founded NALEO and the Congressional Hispanic Caucus. He served as NALEO's President until 1999, when he was named President Emeritus. This Gala will celebrate the many contributions Congressman Roybal made to the nation and to NALEO, and will include the presentation of NALEO's 2006 Edward R. Roybal Award for Outstanding Public Service.