

LEAGUE OF CALIFORNIA CITIES LATINO CAUCUS NEWS

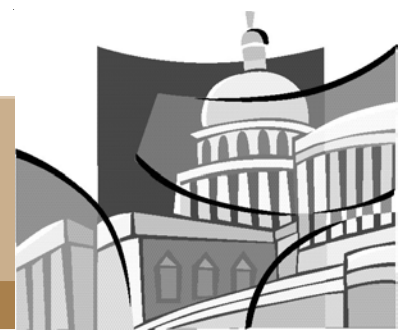


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League of California Cities-Latino Caucus

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NEW LEADERSHIP IN THE LEAGUE OF CALIFORNIA CITIES

Californians continue to experience new waves of leadership at the federal, state and local levels. For over a decade, the Latino Caucus has been working with the League of California Cities to promote advances in the leadership roles of local elected Latino officials throughout the State.



As a result, many community and city leaders are ascending from local government to assume responsibilities in the California Legislature and other statewide decision-making capacities.

Latino leaders are also making important strides by achieving positions long out of reach, such as the recent victory of Antonio Villaraigosa as the first Latino Mayor of Los Angeles in over a century. Among recent successes is the League of California Cities election of the first Latino President in its history: Los Angeles City Council President and Past Caucus President Alex Padilla. It doesn't stop there. In close procession as the incoming second Vice President of the entire League is another Past Caucus President: Maria Alegria, Mayor of Pinole.

This is not the first leadership victory for the new League President Padilla, who became the third-youngest person ever elected to City office when he assumed the role of Los Angeles City Council Member in 1999. Now President of the Council, Padilla has led the City through

crucial decision such as hiring a new police chief, redesigning the Los Angeles International Airport, and implementing a budget which kept the City out of the red despite State seizures of local funds in 2004. In addition to his work in Los Angeles, Padilla has served on the Boards of the National League of Cities and the League of California Cities, where he has been instrumental in securing future protection of local funds.

All of us at the Latino Caucus are proud of the leadership roles we continue to play in all levels of government.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

This year's LCCLC-sponsored Annual Conference events in San Francisco were a huge success! Our General Meeting set the stage for the next year of



Caucus leadership: Nora Campos of San Jose was elected President, followed by Henry T. Perea of Fresno as Vice President and Tonia Reyes Uranga of Long Beach as our new Treasurer. Salinas Mayor Anna Caballero will remain Secretary/Parliamentarian.

Our 15th Annual Gala Awards Reception, held at the World Trade Club in San Francisco, celebrated an unprecedented era of Latino leadership taking shape throughout California. Joining us to honor these leaders was guest speaker and former White (Continued on Page 3)

The Latino Caucus of the League of California Cities serves as a leader to improve the quality of life, advocate on behalf of the Latino community, and provide, promote and develop leadership. The Latino Caucus is an effective voice in the development of public policy affecting our cities, constituents, and all of California.

LEGISLATIVE SPOTLIGHT: ASSEMBLY MEMBER BONNIE GARCIA



As Vice-chair of the Assembly Committee on Housing and a member of the Committee on Jobs, Economic Development and the Economy, and Committee on Governmental Organization, how do you hope legislation will improve the standards of living for all Californians?

The basic issues are the same for families throughout the state—we want access to quality education, jobs that pay livable wages, safe neighborhoods and affordable housing close to our workplace, schools and friends. My goal serving on these

committees is to ensure all citizens, regardless of ethnic background, income or location have the same access and opportunity to lead productive and secure lives.

One of my bills this year—AB 1512—provides \$75 million to create a Residential Development Loan Program to finance the acquisition, development and construction of residential units within infill lots. This will increase housing for low-income homebuyers by reducing construction costs and the amount of dollars needed as down payment. In California, rising costs have made it almost impossible for low income families to become homeowners, AB 1512 removes obstacles and helps build housing in existing communities.

Since your election to the California State Assembly in November 2002, what have been the major highlights and challenges of your job?

The biggest challenge has been dealing with the partisan politics rooted in the Legislature that prevents us from focusing on problem solving.

The first bill I introduced would have created an Enterprise Zone within the City of Brawley in Imperial County—an area where more than 72% of the population in Latino and unemployment and poverty are the highest in the state.

During past election cycles, many members of the majority party visited and promised assistance, but when given the opportunity to support economic development offered by the bill, failed to support it.

Working with the Schwarzenegger Administration, however, I was able to encourage the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency to release an RFP to create three new Enterprise Zones. Brawley competed and was awarded a designation. The County is now on

track to recruit manufacturing and industrial plants to the area. Several thousand jobs are expected to be created to help the county diversify its economy and strengthen year round employment opportunities.

Obtaining the designation was not easy, but working with local government, a bipartisan team of economic development experts and perseverance helped to secure an Enterprise Zone. This meaningful, year-round employment will make a real difference for thousands of families in the border communities.

As a State Legislator, how do you view your role in relation to local governments throughout California?

Local governments continue to be the most direct link between residents and their elected officials. Having worked for local cities and actively participating in local organizations to improve my community, I value the relationships built along the way, and the direct communication I have with those in my district.

Without financial resources, local governments cannot provide police or fire services, build and maintain parks, or supply quality water and trash services. Protecting cities and counties from raids on funds intended to support these efforts has been one of my most important priorities during my time in the Legislature.

Last year, during the budget negotiations, I hosted conference calls with the cities and counties in my district to brief them on the status of the talks. Additionally, I hold regular roundtables with local government and public safety officials to discuss these concerns and obtain their opinion on pending legislation. Working with the League of California Cities, I will continue to support the elimination of unfunded mandates, less state intrusion in local decisions and protect of funding for local government.

The Latino Caucus Newsletter strives to provide a forum for communication among members. If you would like to include an announcement in an upcoming issue, please contact us at (916) 996-1343 or CallLatinoCaucus@aol.com, or send your comments to 770 L Street, Suite 1030 Sacramento, CA 95814

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

NORA CAMPOS, SAN JOSE

Elected to serve as Latino Caucus President for the 2005-2006 term, I am honored to assume greater responsibility with this organization, which has worked for the last 15 years to improve the quality of life through advocacy by addressing professional, socio-economic, educational, cultural and political issues. At a time when Latinos are achieving unprecedented levels of Leadership throughout our great State, it remains crucial to continue these efforts and maintain our connections to the various communities we serve.

The Mayors, City Council Members and many others who have comprised the Latino Caucus over the years have set the standard for fostering leadership and providing education training on a variety of key issues. In my work as Caucus President, as well as with the Boards of The League of California Cities and The National League of Cities HILO, I bring together a



"My role is to provide leadership and advocacy"

local, statewide and national platform to further the efforts of the Caucus and Latino leadership at every level.

In California, we live in a diverse, pluralistic society that needs a full spectrum of voices involved in discussions on state and local issues. My role is to provide leadership and advocacy as we work to represent the largest growing population in our State.

Latino Caucus Board of Directors 2005-2006

Board Members

- Nora Campos, President
City of San Jose
- Henry T. Perea, Vice President
City of Fresno
- Tonia Reyes Uranga, Treasurer
City of Long Beach
- Anna Caballero, Secretary/Parliamentarian
City of Salinas
- Nick Inzunza, Immediate Past President
City of National City

Regional Board Members

- Maria L. Alegria, City of Pinole
- Danny Espitia, City of Wasco
- Dolores Gallegos, City of Hanford
- Armando Lopez, City of Parlier
- John Marquez, City of Richmond
- Charles Morales, City of Gilroy
- Alex Padilla, City of Los Angeles
- Henry Perea, City of Fresno
- Frank J. Quintero, City of Glendale
- Trinidad Rodriguez, City of Kerman
- Esteban Vasquez, City of Brawley
- Sally Zuniga Flowers, City of Artesia

Corporate Advisors

- Silvia Aldana, Pacific Gas & Electric Co.
- Larry Gotlieb, KB Home

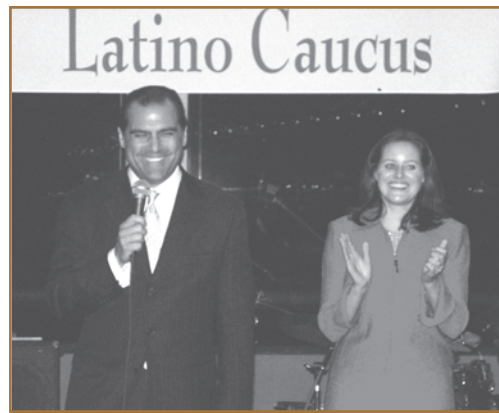
Staff

- John E. Arriaga, Executive Director
- Suzanne V. Fox, Legislative Policy Director
- Erica Arriaga, Administrative Assistant
- Stephanie Sauer, Student Intern

ANNUAL CONFERENCE (FROM PAGE 1)

House Cabinet Secretary Henry Cisneros, San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom, the new President of the League of California Cities Alex Padilla, San Francisco Treasurer José Cisneros, Senator Deborah V. Ortiz and Assembly Member Jenny Oropeza.

Recipients of our annual awards included: KB Home as Corporate Advisor of the Year, Pacific Gas & Electric Company presented with a special award in honor of their 100-year anniversary, Assembly Speaker Fabian Nunez receiving a special award, Senator Richard Alarcon and Assembly Member Jenny Oropeza as Legislators of the Year; Los Angeles City Attorney Rocky Delgadillo as Elected Official of the year; and the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) presented with a Partnership of the Year award.



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT: JOHN E. ARRIAGA

As 2005 comes to an end and we look forward to our work ahead, it is important to recognize the tremendous successes this past year has brought to the Caucus and beyond. Our membership levels have doubled, we gained a new corporate advisor, and Board Members persist in their efforts to move from city council positions to serve on a larger scale in the State Legislature. We have and will continue to witness the advancement of Latino leaders throughout California and the nation. As we ascend into positions of increased responsibility and spread through all levels of government, our political reality becomes more reflective of the diverse populations it serves.



Furthermore, our relationship with the League of California Cities has strengthened as Caucus leaders assume unprecedented positions in the umbrella organization. Currently, three past Latino Caucus presidents, as well as our current president, are serving on the League's Board of Directors. Taking on various levels of leadership within the League, including its first ever Latino president, are Alex Padilla, Maria Alegria, Nora Campos and Ana Ventura Phares. This new League management, coupled with Caucus leadership, highlights the crucial role the Latino Caucus continues to play in fostering the development of leaders for the benefit of all Californians.

In 2006, the Latino Caucus will continue to hone in on fundamental leadership training forums, as well as address critical issues that impact our communities and quality of life.



THE LCCLC THANKS ITS PROUD 2005 SPONSORS!

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November
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