

# LULACnews

Summer 2008



**Obama, Clinton Respond  
To LULAC Challenge**

**LULAC Students Win  
Debate Championship**



**Feature Story:**



**Executive Director Brent Wilkes  
Celebrates 20 Years at LULAC**

**SAVE THE DATE! LULAC HOLDS 79TH CONVENTION IN WASHINGTON, D.C., JULY 7-12, 2008**

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## On the Cover:



2nd row (L-R) Emma Moreno, LULAC Director of Federal Relations, Maritza Bosques, LULAC Office Manager, Javier Dominguez, LULAC Director of Legislation, Gerardo Márquez, LULAC Policy Intern, Chris Espinosa, LULAC Director of Special Events, Jorge Trasmonte, LULAC Technology Coordinator.

1st Row (L-R) David Perez, LULAC National Development Coordinator, Lizette Jenness Olmos, LULAC Director of Communications, Elizabeth Garcia, LULAC CTC Program Manager and LULAC National Executive Director Brent Wilkes.

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# LULACnews

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# A MESSAGE

## From the President



Photo by Luis Nuño Briones

This year's annual LULAC national convention July 7-12 in Washington, D.C., will energize our membership and the Hispanic community during one of the most exciting and important presidential elections in history. We will be meeting in the nation's capital at a time when the Hispanic community has emerged as a critical segment of our country's voting population.

LULAC's goal is to improve the lives of Latino Americans in all aspects of life...political, economic, spiritual and cultural. Politics has emerged front and center this year as the nation prepares for its first election without an incumbent presidential or vice presidential candidate in many years. The election provides us

with a great opportunity to make sure that our interests are addressed by both political parties and their nominees.

We are working to maximize our influence by joining with other organizations in registering as many new Hispanic American voters as possible for the Nov. 4 election. LULAC also is making sure that the candidates know and address the issues of critical importance to Latinos and we will continue to inform our members about where the candidates stand on those issues.

Each and every member of LULAC can help us achieve our election goal by urging unregistered Latinos to register and to encourage them to turn out Nov. 4 to exercise their civic responsibility to vote.

I look forward to seeing many of you among some 15,000 persons expected to attend our convention, which will mark 79 years of LULAC service to the Latino community. My sincere appreciation goes to our national board and staff and the volunteers who are pulling in long hours to make this convention a success. I also want to thank our generous corporate sponsors. This year corporate contributions are higher than any other year. We would not be able to hold such a splendid event without their support.

Beyond the election, we are continuing to work on important issues to improve our community. One of our major goals remains passing immigration reform legislation that is fair and just. We applaud introduction by the Congressional Hispanic Caucus of the Security Through Regularized Immigration and a Vibrant Economy Act (STRIVE), a bill to reduce undocumented immigration, establish a guest worker program and open a path toward citizenship for documented persons already in the country. Another goal is passage of the Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors Act (DREAM) to give the children of long-term undocumented residents an opportunity to serve in the armed forces, attend college and earn an opportunity for citizenship. You can help by expressing support for these important initiatives to your representatives in Congress.

This issue of LULAC News includes an item about "Cities in Crisis," an alarming report on the unacceptable dropout rate in our big city, high-minority high schools. As you know, our organization is no stranger to this challenge. Our chapters and our LULAC National Educational Service Centers continue to work on the dropout problem. Here again, you can play a personal role by volunteering to mentor a young person and by supporting our chapter scholarship programs.

Please stay in contact with us by visiting our web site, [www.lulac.org](http://www.lulac.org). We are here to help you serve others in your community.

Rosa Rosales  
LULAC National President

## Feature Story:

### Executive Director Wilkes Marks 20 Years Working to Expand and Improve LULAC



Photo by Luis Nuño Briones

#### Brent Wilkes

"Hardworking." "Loyal." "Professional."  
"Tireless." "Committed." "Respected."  
"Steady."

Those are some of the traits attributed to LULAC Executive Director Brent A. Wilkes by those who have worked with him most closely over the last 20 years.

"Brent has been tremendous asset to the National LULAC office and he has always been ready and prepared to help everyone in the organization," said LULAC National President Rosa Rosales. "There are no words to describe his tireless commitment to the organization. He never says no to you. When there is a will there is a way and that is Brent. His dedication is to making LULAC the greatest organization in the nation and making sure that the Latino community has a better quality of life. Felicidades on your 20 years with LULAC!"

Eduardo Peña, LULAC National President 1978-1979, hired the young Dartmouth College graduate in 1988 to work for the LULAC Foundation, the then fundraising arm of the organization. "He found us," Peña said of Wilkes, who applied for a job after earning a degree in government and philosophy and studying Spanish in Mexico. The Foundation did not have enough money to hire Wilkes, but he offered to work for free until resources could be found. "Give me a chance to show you what I can do," Peña recalls Wilkes saying. "He took a chance on our ability to

*Continued on page 4.*

# Executive Director Wilkes Marks 20 Years at LULAC

Continued from page 3.



Photo by Luis Nuño Briones

**Brent Wilkes speaking to the LULAC delegates during the 2006 national convention in Little Rock, Ark.**

raise money to pay him and it paid off.”

Peña remembered Wilkes as “a hardworking young man. He quickly caught on to what was going on in the organization.” After working without pay for a month, Wilkes was given a modest salary. “His great strength was that he was a hard worker and did not meddle in the politics of the organization,” Peña said. “He served the president (of LULAC), good or bad. He is devoutly loyal to who is elected to office. They can confide in him.”

Wilkes’ computer skills were vital to LULAC during his early days with the organization. “None of us were very computer savvy,” Peña noted. “We did everything by hand. He brought us into the electronic age.” Wilkes went from working for the Foundation to a job with the LULAC National Educational Services Centers (LNEC) and then to LULAC as director of policy and development.

“One of the major characteristics of Brent that stands out is his total commitment to the organization,” said Belen Robles, LULAC National President 1994-1998. Robles and her board of directors hired Wilkes in April 1997 to be LULAC’s first executive director. Of all the candidates Robles and the board interviewed, “the one that fit the bill to hit the ground running was Brent because of his extensive knowledge of the organization.”

Robles recalled Wilkes’ work on LULAC’s 1996 National Convention in Boston. “Brent had the overwhelming responsibility of putting the program together,” she said. “He worked so hard into the wee hours of the morning to get it very professionally done.”

Robles credits Wilkes with computerizing LULAC’s membership list, creating the organization’s Web site, putting out the *LULACnews* magazine and helping build the League’s Corporate Alliance, which helped turn a large deficit into a substantial surplus. Robles also cited Wilkes’ generosity and dedication. “I can never forget that in one of our busiest times of the year he was called to donate a kidney to his sister,” she said. “He

took the train up to New York for the operation and the next day he was on his way back and went right to work.”

Robles noted that one of Wilkes’ skills is being an effective communicator. He is frequently quoted in print and broadcast media explaining LULAC policy positions.

“I have never known someone with such dedication, first to his family and then to LULAC. He always has the best interest of the organization at heart,” said LULAC President 1998-2002 Rick Dovalina. “It was a pleasure working with him, first in the Robles administration and second under my administration”

“He’s very knowledgeable and a tireless worker,” said Hector Flores, LULAC National President 2002-2006. “I think growing up on a farm (in Iowa) gave him a great work ethic. Brent has an innate ability to work with everyone professionally.” Flores rejects suggestions that the executive director for LULAC should be Hispanic. “Brent is more Hispanic in his heart than some Hispanics,” he said.

Flores said politics in LULAC “can be tough and merciless” and that Wilkes “maintains a steady course through turbulent waters. Brent is always above board and appropriate.” Wilkes has worked with seven LULAC national presidents during his tenure. Flores said Wilkes “is always working, never goofing off. I spent many evenings on the road with Brent and he will work until 2 and 3 in the morning.”

Since Wilkes became executive director, LULAC’s revenue has more than tripled, its staff has grown from one to more than 20 and it has taken a leadership role on key issues affecting Latinos in Washington and throughout the country. In 2004, Wilkes helped launch the LULAC Leadership Initiative to strengthen the organization’s programs and serve at the grassroots level.

The Initiative’s accomplishments include establishment of 23 community technology centers, 26 housing counseling programs and 10 middle school science programs.

“LULAC is greater in large part due to Brent’s efforts,” Flores said. “He took on LULAC as his crusade. He came to LULAC at the right time and grew with LULAC. He is respected for always doing the right thing. Most of the time he is ahead of you. I admire him for getting behind wholeheartedly whatever we want to do.”

LNEC Executive Director Richard Roybal said that Brent is a great leader who has done a lot for the organization. “He has done a tremendous job and is a great person to work

with and also a great friend,” said Roybal.

In addition to his work at LULAC, Wilkes is chair of the civil rights committee of the National Hispanic Leadership Agenda, a nonpartisan coalition of Hispanic organizations. He is also a member of the board of the Hispanic Association on Corporate Responsibility which works to increase the number of Hispanics in high-level corporate positions.

Brent and his wife Angela have two boys, George and John, and live in McLean, Va. On rear occasions when Brent take a vacations, he like to go camping and boating in the mountains of northern New York.

*“Hardworking.”*  
*“Loyal.”*  
*“Professional.”*  
*“Tireless.”*  
*“Committed.”*  
*“Respected.”*  
*“Steady.”*

# '08 Election Challenge

LULAC invited Senator Clinton, Obama and McCain to answer 10 major questions of importance to Hispanics. Senator McCain's campaign did not respond in time for publication.

## Top 10 Issues for Hispanics

### Barack Obama

**1.- Do you support comprehensive immigration reform that opens a path to citizenship for undocumented residents? Are you for or against a guestworker program that includes legalization and worker protections?**

I will support comprehensive immigration reform that includes an earned path to citizenship for the undocumented.

I will support a new guestworker program in the spirit of compromise only if it includes worker protections and does not exclude people from ever becoming Americans. When I'm president, I will put comprehensive immigration reform back on the nation's agenda during my first year in office. We must create an immigration system that strengthens our security while reaffirming our heritage as a nation of immigrants. There are millions of people living in the shadows who would like to fully embrace our values and become full members of our democracy. For the millions living here illegally but otherwise playing by the rules, we must encourage them to come out of hiding and get right with the law. I support a system that requires undocumented immigrants who are in good standing to pay a fine, learn English, not commit crimes, and go to the back of the line for citizenship. After all those conditions are met, they would be granted the opportunity to stay in the United States.

At the same time, we need to fix our broken immigration bureaucracy so that those who enter the country legally have an orderly and fair process. Every year, an estimated 500,000-800,000 people enter the country illegally or illegally overstay their visa.

Another million enter legally. To help fix this system that often takes years and costs high fines, I introduced the Citizenship Promotion Act of 2007 with Rep. Gutierrez to ensure that immigrants pursuing citizenship are only required to pay immigration application fees that are both reasonable and fair. This bill reverses large fee increases for legal immigrants seeking to become citizens and provides grants to states to help educate and promote citizenship.

**2.- Do you favor letting the children of undocumented residents receive protective legal status to pursue higher education or serve in the military?**

Yes. I am an original cosponsor of the DREAM Act and have voted for it every time it has come before this Senate. When the DREAM Act came before the Senate last October, both Democratic candidates voted for it and the Republican candidate chose not to vote.

I supported and helped pass the Illinois state version of the DREAM Act and have worked hard with Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL) to move the federal version of the bill through the Senate. I believe that all students regardless of national origin deserve an equal opportunity to a high quality public education. Unfortunately, under current law, students who were brought to the United States years ago as undocumented immigrant children and who have stayed and

excelled in and out of school have no hope of attending college with affordable in-state tuition.

**3.- Regarding Iraq, do you favor immediate withdrawal, phased withdrawal, or adjusting troop strength in light of factors on the ground?**

I favor an immediate withdrawal of our troops engaged in combat operations in Iraq at a pace of one or two brigades every month, to be completed in 16 months. The withdrawal would be strategic and phased, directed by military commanders on the ground and done in consultation with the Iraqi government. Troops would be removed from secure areas first, with troops remaining longer in more volatile areas. Under my plan, American troops may remain in Iraq or the region for two specific missions: facility and personnel protection and counter-terrorism operations. These American troops will protect American diplomatic and military personnel in Iraq, and continue striking at al Qaeda in Iraq. If Iraq makes political progress and their security forces are not sectarian, we would also continue training of the Iraqi Security Forces. I would call for a new constitutional convention in Iraq, convened with the United Nations, which would not adjourn until Iraq's leaders reach a new accord on reconciliation. I would use presidential leadership to surge our diplomacy with all of the nations of the region on behalf of a new regional security compact. And I would take immediate steps to confront the ongoing humanitarian disaster in Iraq.

**4.- How can the U.S. foster better relations with Latin America? How should the U.S. prepare for a post-Castro Cuba? Do you favor expansion of free trade in the Americas?**

Under George W. Bush, the United States has not lived up to its historic role as a leader in the Western Hemisphere. As president, I will restore that leadership by working to advance the common prosperity and security of all of the people of the Americas. That work must begin with a renewed strategic partnership with Mexico.

Starting my first year in office, I will convene annual meetings with Mr. Calderon and the prime minister of Canada. Unlike similar summits under President Bush, these will be conducted with a level of transparency that represents the close ties among our three countries. We will seek the active and open involvement of citizens, labor, the private sector and non-governmental organizations in setting the agenda and making progress.

I believe we should expand economic exchange with countries throughout the hemisphere, but we also need to refocus on poverty alleviation, sustainable development and expanding democracy.

**5.- Do you favor continuing federal affirmative action programs? Should they be expanded, contracted, or left as-is?**

I support affirmative action. As a lawyer who's worked on civil rights cases, I have witnessed up close that when there is strong evidence of prolonged and systemic discrimination by organizations, affirmative action is often the only meaningful remedy available. Affirmative action programs, when properly structured, can open up opportunities otherwise closed to qualified minorities without





# Top 10 Issues for Hispanics

having an adverse impact on the opportunities for whites. And while I support affirmative action for minorities, I also support efforts to increase opportunities for qualified students from low-income college to attend colleges and universities – regardless of their race.

## **6.- Do you support expanding affordable housing programs that help Hispanics and other lower-income Americans achieve homeownership?**

We must take steps to protect families facing foreclosure from the subprime mortgage crisis, many of whom are Latino. The United States faces an affordable housing crisis. Between 1995 and 2005, the number of units affordable to low-income households fell by 1.2 million. In 2005, almost 17 million Americans lived in unaffordable housing. A family in this situation finds it difficult to afford other necessary expenses such as food, transportation, and health care costs. As pressure on the middle class grows, more and more Americans face economic insecurity due to their inability to find affordable homes. Our most vulnerable populations are disproportionately affected by the housing crunch. There is not a single county in the country where a person working full-time at the federal minimum wage can afford a single-bedroom apartment at the fair market rate.

Latinos are unfortunately among those hardest hit in the current housing crisis. We need to help struggling borrowers to weather this storm. The problem today is that they cannot refinance because no one will lend to them, and they cannot sell because the housing market has fallen. One way to protect innocent homeowners - at least until this crisis passes - is to establish a fund to help people refinance or sell to avoid foreclosure. We can partially pay for this fund by imposing penalties on lenders that acted irresponsibly or committed fraud.

I also worked on legislation with Senator Dodd that authorizes the Federal Housing Administration to refinance the mortgages of distressed homeowners in a way that shares the pain, and the possible gains, fairly among homeowners, mortgage owners, and the government. The American people are demanding action from their government, and we must redouble our efforts to bring an end to this crisis.

In too many communities, low-income families are priced out of the housing market. Between 1993 and 2003, the number of units of affordable to low-income households fell by 1.2 million. As president, I will create an Affordable Housing Trust Fund to develop affordable housing in mixed-income neighborhoods. The Affordable Housing Trust Fund would use a small percentage of the profits of two government-sponsored housing agencies, Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac, to create up to 14,000 new units of affordable housing every year. The fund will also provide grants to preserve and rehabilitate existing housing for low-income families, including removing lead paint hazards that threaten children's health.

But we have to do more than just deal with the present crisis. If we do not address the root of these problems, it is just a matter of time before we will be dealing with them again. I have proposed a Home Score system that would create a simplified, standardized metric for home mortgages - rather like the annual percentage rate (APR), the effective interest rate a borrower ends up paying on a loan -

allowing prospective homebuyers easily to compare various mortgage products so they can find out whether they can afford to make the payments. I have also introduced a bill in the U.S. Senate called the Stop Fraud Act that would treat those who commit mortgage fraud as the criminals they are.

## **7.- Millions of Americans, including many Hispanics, do not have healthcare insurance. Do you have a plan to address this issue?**

Far too many Hispanic families are uninsured and there are a number of diseases, like diabetes, that hit the Hispanic community disproportionately hard. I want to stop talking about the outrage of 15 million uninsured Hispanics in this country, the largest group of the uninsured in the U.S., and start actually doing something about it. To do so, we need a president who can bring Democrats and Republicans together, stand up to the drug and insurance industry lobbyists, and create a transparent process so that the American people can participate in the debate. That's how I expanded health care in Illinois, and that's how I'll do it as President.

My plan will: (1) establish a new public program available to Americans who don't have coverage; (2) create a National Health Insurance Exchange to help Americans and businesses that want to purchase private health insurance directly; (3) require all but the smallest employers to contribute towards their employees' health coverage or towards the cost of the public plan; (4) mandate coverage for all children; and (5) expand eligibility for the Medicaid and SCHIP programs. Americans with insurance will see the quality of their health care improve and their costs go down – up to \$2500 in savings for the typical family.

My plan will also reduce health disparities between Whites and Hispanics by expanding health care coverage for all adults, requiring that all children have health insurance coverage, and providing subsidies to those who need them. But part of the problem with disparities are language barriers – studies have shown that 1/3 of Latinos have difficulty communicating with their doctors. We need to be sure that our doctors are effectively communicating with all their patients. Another thing we can do is ensure that the medical profession is diverse. Under my health care plan, I will work to increase the diversity of the profession so that we have more Spanish-speaking doctors and nurses.

My plan would tackle health disparities head on by encouraging health providers to track and address differences in care. I will require providers to both inform the public about disparities in health care services outcomes and take steps to reduce those disparities. In the Senate, I helped write and cosponsored the Minority Health Improvement and Health Disparity Elimination Act to understand the root causes of health disparities and to start to address them today.

## **8.- Many of our public schools are failing. What would you do to improve our schools and address the Hispanic student drop out crisis?**

First, we must close the gap that exists between Hispanic children and their counterparts before they enter kindergarten by providing quality, affordable, early childhood education for every child. I will launch a Children's First Agenda to provide care, learning, and



# Top 10 Issues for Hispanics

support to children ages zero to five. We'll boost Head Start and Early Start funding, and create Early Learning Grants to help states create a system of high-quality early care and education for all young children.

Second, we know that the most important school factor in a child's achievement is the quality of the person in the front of the classroom--the teacher. I am committed to improving the quality of teachers in low-income, minority classrooms by providing scholarships for teachers to teach in high-need areas and creating "Teacher Residency Programs" to bring highly-trained, talented teachers into low-income classrooms. Third, we need to help Hispanic students get ahead by fully supporting and funding English Language Learner (ELL) classes. The federal government should be doing more to encourage transitional bilingual education. Over half of Hispanic students are English language learners. Yet federal spending on bilingual education is stagnating while the number of students who lack English proficiency is growing rapidly. Federal spending on bilingual education should at least keep pace with the expanding need. Good bilingual education programs help children transition through a period of time when they first get to the United States. By making education available to children in their native language while they learn to speak English, we keep them from falling behind and help to better integrate them into the larger community.

I will ensure schools monitor the progress of students learning English and hold schools accountable for making sure these students complete school. I will also expand mentoring and tutoring to help Hispanic youth stay in school and encourage their parents and family to reinforce that goal.

Hispanics are the fastest growing demographic and a very young population. The nation cannot afford for 55 percent of Hispanic children to drop out of school. I will address the high-school drop-out problem by helping at-risk students before they get to high school, because the warning signs often occur well before high school. I will sign into law my "Success in the Middle Act," which will provide federal support to improve the education of middle school students in low-performing schools by requiring states to develop a detailed plan to improve student achievement, develop and utilize early identification data systems to identify those students most at-risk of dropping out and invest in proven strategies that reduce the number of drop outs. I will also support federal efforts to continue to encourage schools to organize themselves for greater success by developing stronger relationships among adults and students, a more engaging curriculum, more adaptive teaching, and more opportunities for teachers to plan and learn together. I will establish a competitive grant process open to existing or proposed public/private partnerships or entities that are pursuing evidence-based models that work – such as Diploma Plus or Teacher Advisor programs. These grants will decrease the dropout rate by increasing the capacity of state and district leaders as well as outside leaders – foundations, politicians, entrepreneurs, and community leaders – to collaborate on improving graduation rates.

I will make college affordable for all Americans by creating a new American Opportunity Tax Credit. This fully refundable credit will

ensure that the first \$4,000 of a college education is completely free for most Americans, and will cover two-thirds the cost of tuition at the average public college or university. I will also work to increase the maximum Pell Grant for low-income students. And in this campaign, I've proposed getting rid of wasteful subsidies taxpayers have been paying private lenders and using that money instead to increase need-based financial aid. Another thing we should do is support Hispanic-serving institutions. These colleges and universities enroll over 51 percent of all Hispanics pursuing higher education degrees. I'm committed to strengthening and expanding eligible HSIs to increase capacity to serve Hispanic and low-income students.

**9.- Are you in favor of declaring English the official language of the U.S. government? What is your position on bilingual education?**

I believe everyone living in the United States should learn English and everyone who wants to become a citizen must learn English. I support bilingual education as a bridge to help kids integrate into new school environments without falling behind their peers.

**10.- The nation has a mountain of unfunded Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security obligations, a burden that faces upcoming generations of workers. How will you deal with this problem that impacts Hispanic families?**

Some 42 million Americans are served by Medicare, 3 million of whom are Latino. Ensuring the long-term solvency of the Medicare trust fund may be our toughest fiscal challenge, but I am committed to the long-term strength of the Medicare program. Ultimately we need to reduce waste in the Medicare system and tackle fundamental health care reform across the economy. We need to improve the quality and efficiency of our healthcare system, and put a greater emphasis on prevention.

The Latino population is living longer and growing older. The elderly Latino population is one of the fastest growing groups in the nation. I will work to ensure that all families, including Latinos, can achieve the dream of a comfortable and financially secure retirement. Social Security has been one of the most successful government programs in our nation's history. I will be honest with the American people about the long-term solvency of Social Security and the ways we can address the shortfall. I will protect Social Security benefits for current and future beneficiaries alike. And I do not believe it is necessary or fair to hardworking seniors to raise the retirement age. I am strongly opposed to privatizing Social Security. I believe that the first place to look for ways to strengthen Social Security is the payroll tax system. Currently, the Social Security payroll tax applies to only the first \$102,000 a worker makes. I have consistently said that we may want to include a "donut hole" to ensure that lifting the payroll tax cap does not ensnare any middle class Americans. I will work with Congress and the American people to choose a payroll tax reform package that will keep Social Security solvent for at least the next half century.



## Top 10 Issues for Hispanics

### Hillary Rodham Clinton

#### 1.- Do you support comprehensive immigration reform that opens a path to citizenship for undocumented residents? Are you for or against a guest worker program that includes legalization and worker protections?

Yes, I will work to enact comprehensive immigration reform that provides a path to earned legalization for people who are willing to work hard, play by the rules, learn English, and pay fines. In addition, I believe that reform must toughen security at our borders, hold employers accountable who exploit undocumented workers, and help local communities deal with the consequences of a broken immigration system. I will also help our neighbors to the south provide economic opportunities for their own citizens.

I oppose a guest worker program that exploits workers and undermines the wages of U.S. workers. I believe all workers deserve safe conditions and decent wages.

#### 2.- Do you favor letting the children of undocumented residents receive protective legal status to pursue higher education or serve in the military?

Yes, I am a long-time supporter of the DREAM Act, which would provide an opportunity to earn legal status in the United States for immigrant children who have grown up in the United States, demonstrated good moral character, and are pursuing a college education or have enlisted in the military. Many of these high school graduates arrived in the United States as very young children, and America is the only home they know. They have stayed in school and stayed out of trouble but, because of their immigration status, they are often effectively barred from reaching their full potential. We need to provide children in our country with every opportunity to succeed, not only for themselves but also for our country. The DREAM Act would ensure that the tens of thousands of immigrant students are able to attain a post-secondary education and contribute to our economy. It would also strengthen our nation's military readiness, allowing these young men and women to serve our country. Most importantly, the DREAM Act would ensure that the promise of the American Dream becomes a reality for all of our children.

#### 3.- Regarding Iraq, do you favor an immediate withdrawal, phased withdrawal or adjusting troop strength in light of factors on the ground?

As President, I will end the war in Iraq. This war is sapping our military strength, absorbing our strategic assets, diverting attention and resources from Afghanistan, alienating our allies, and dividing our people. I have a three-point plan to end the war in Iraq: bring our troops home, work to bring stability to the region, and replace military force with a new diplomatic initiative to engage countries around the world in securing Iraq's future.

As President, I will convene my senior military leadership and direct them to draw up a clear, comprehensive plan for bringing our troops home, beginning in 60 days. I will pursue a new diplomatic initiative in the region, including convening a regional stabilization meeting early in my Presidency to develop and implement a strategy to stabilize Iraq that involves countries in the region. I will lead an international effort under the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to address the major refugee crisis created by this war. My plan will also ensure that the United States maintains a small and effective counterterrorism force in Iraq and in the region to ensure al Qaeda never gains a capability to attack the United States or its allies from Iraq.

#### 4.- How can the U.S. foster better relations with Latin America?

#### How should the U.S. prepare for a post-Castro Cuba?

The United States and the countries of Latin America are critical partners on many important issues, including economic growth and national security. We share common challenges, including strengthening the working class and fighting growing inequality, safeguarding democracy, and securing our borders. But for the past seven years, President Bush's policy has been one of neglect and broken promises. I have four priorities for our hemisphere. First, my administration will work closely with our partners in the region to encourage effective democratic governance, the rule of law, and

personal security for their citizens. Second, I am committed to helping to address the growing economic inequality within the nations of the Americas. Third, I will work with our neighbors to address the shared challenges of climate change and energy security. Fourth, I will work to enact comprehensive immigration reform that respects the rule of law, our immigrant heritage, and our values.

I believe that it is important for the United States to make investments to improve the quality of life for those in Latin America. That is why, as Senator, I co-sponsored the Social Investment and Economic Development for the Americas Act, which would provide \$2.5 billion to the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) to fight poverty and invest in development issues in Latin America. That is why I also support changes to the Millennium

Challenge Account to permit assistance to poorer areas within countries that otherwise do not qualify for the program. After nearly 50 years of one-man rule, the new leadership in Cuba faces a stark choice: continue with the failed policies of the past that have stifled democratic freedoms and stunted

economic growth, or take an historic step to bring Cuba into the community of democratic nations. Since Raul Castro formally took power, he has announced several measures, some of which have the potential to make some improvements in the lives of the Cuban people, including limited agricultural reforms and lifting a ceiling on wages. The government has promised to speed up the handover of private titles to some state-owned housing. It has also lifted regulations on the purchase of computers and cell phones. These are obviously incremental steps in a society where the population and the regime are wary of big changes, and the new government has not gone anywhere nearly as far as they need to move towards democracy. They have not released political prisoners and, of course, the Communist Party remains the only legal political party there.

The people of Cuba want to seize this opportunity for real change and so must we. The American people have been on the side of the Cuban people's struggle for freedom and democracy in the past and we will be on their side for democracy in the future. As President, I will engage our partners in Latin America and Europe who have a strong stake in seeing a peaceful transition to democracy in Cuba, and who want very much for the United States to play a constructive role to that end. I believe that as we maintain current restrictions on trade with Cuba until there is a transition to democracy, we should support providing assistance for independent Cuban civil society, Radio and Television Marti, negotiating direct mail service to Cuba, and upgrading telecommunications equipment in order to facilitate communication between the people of Cuba and their relatives abroad. And I have voted to support flexibility to allow visits for immediate family members in humanitarian cases. The United States must pursue an active policy that does everything possible to advance the cause of freedom, democracy and opportunity in Cuba.

Do you favor expansion of free trade in the Americas?





# Top 10 Issues for Hispanics

I believe that we need a new approach to trade that helps American workers and the American economy and also raises living standards in the Americas and around the world. As President, I will observe a trade timeout until my administration has reviewed all existing trade agreements. I believe that all trade agreements must include strong labor and environmental provisions, to ensure that American workers are on an equal playing field and in order to raise living standards around the world. I believe that trade must work for all workers in all the countries involved.

## **5.- Do you favor continuing federal affirmative action programs? Should they be expanded, contracted or left as-is?**

I believe in affirmative action that opens the doors of opportunity, in our economy and in education, but I don't believe in quotas to guarantee results. I will, as President, support minority and women small business owners, and work to ensure that they receive their fair share of government contracts. I have three specific ideas to do so. First, I will raise the current target goal that 23 percent of government contracting dollars go to small businesses to 30 percent, and I will also raise the current 5 percent goal for disadvantaged and women-owned small businesses to 8 percent. And I will strengthen the guidelines for these targets to ensure that they are met. Second, as President, I will update criteria for when contract bundling – a practice when smaller contracts are bundled together into one large contract that only large business are able to transact – is appropriate. The abuse of contract bundling often causes small businesses applying for federal contracts to lose out to larger companies. Finally, today, small business owners seeking to qualify for or remain in the 8(a) program, which helps small and disadvantaged businesses compete for federal contracts, are required to meet net-worth limits that are outdated. As President, I will adjust the new-owner net worth limit for inflation and abolish the net worth limit for business owners seeking to stay in the program.

## **6.- Do you support expanding federal affordable housing programs that help Hispanics and other lower-income Americans achieve homeownership?**

Yes. In order to encourage the development of affordable housing, I have proposed to create a \$1 billion fund to support state, county, and municipal housing trust funds. Housing trust funds generally use dedicated funding sources to support initiatives like building subsidized rental housing and safety net housing, and they also support nonprofit housing developers. My new fund will supplement the funding that states, counties, and municipalities have already dedicated to these initiatives.

Also, for more than a year, I have been calling for action on our foreclosure crisis, which is threatening the financial stability of millions of Americans. Owning a home has long been an important part of the American Dream, and I want to help Hispanics realize that dream. But buying a home is not an easy process – and as we've seen recently, unregulated lenders often use complexity to profit at new homeowners' expense. In March of last year, with the housing crisis on the horizon, I called for expanding face-to-face mortgage counseling, eliminating unfair fine-print rules that hurt homeowners, and increasing access to safer, federally-backed loans. I recently announced my support for expanding FHA guarantees as proposed by Rep. Frank and Sen. Dodd that has the potential to help millions of families stay in their homes. I was the first of the Presidential candidates to support a simple reform that could free up more funds to help state housing agencies assist families in refinancing, which is now included in the housing legislation that just passed the Senate. And I also called for a voluntary interest

rate freeze and 90-day foreclosure timeout to give families time to get back on their feet. Finally, I have called for a second stimulus package that includes \$30 billion in state and local grants to support community refinancing programs, anti-blight initiatives, and foreclosure counseling services.

## **7.- Millions of Americans, including many Hispanics, do not have health care insurance. Do you have a plan to address this issue?**

Yes. I have a plan to provide quality, affordable health care to all Americans, including the millions of uninsured Latinos in the United States. I believe that the best way to address disparities in our health care system that leave so many Latino families without the quality care they deserve is to, once and for all, provide universal coverage. And I am proud to be the only candidate in the presidential race to have a universal health care plan. About one third of all Hispanics and nearly one quarter of Hispanic children are without health insurance; on both counts, these are higher figures than those for any other racial or ethnic group. Under my plan, people who like their current plans can keep them. Those who do not have coverage or don't like their current plan will be able to choose from the same options available to members of Congress or opt into a public plan option like Medicare, in a new national insurance pool. My plan ensures that insurance is affordable for every American. I will offer families a refundable tax credit so that their premiums never exceed a certain percentage of family income and I will give small businesses a tax credit for providing coverage to their employees. I will also stop insurance companies from discriminating against people on the basis of age, race, gender, or pre-existing conditions. Finally, by covering everyone and providing targeted funding aimed at addressing cultural disparities, my plan will close the racial and ethnic health disparities that exist throughout our health care system. While many factors, such as the environment, contribute to the disparities in health outcomes, no factor matters more than access to health insurance.

## **8. Many of our public schools are failing. What would you do to improve our schools and address the Hispanic student drop out crisis?**

As President, I will work to ensure that all Americans have the opportunity to realize their dreams, which will benefit them and our country as a whole. That means that we must address the dropout crisis, which affects all student groups but is particularly troubling for Hispanic and black students. I have a bold, comprehensive plan to cut in half the high-school dropout rate among students of color. To address this problem, we must start investing in our children when they are young and support them throughout their academic careers. I will invest to provide universal, voluntary pre-K to all four-year-olds in the country, so that all children start school ready to learn. I will also expand innovative home visitation programs that help first-time mothers prepare for and care for their children and have shown to make a real difference in the long-term education and life outcomes for at-risk children. I will also provide \$500 million to help recruit and retain outstanding teachers and principals in low-income communities, because having more qualified teachers and principals in our schools will help more students graduate and succeed in college and the workforce. I will invest in community-based strategies designed to support disconnected youth, and I will increase federal funding for early intervention mentoring programs to benefit middle-school students in high-risk schools. Finally, I will invest in promising, innovative educational initiatives – like early college high schools or multiple pathways to graduation programs – that help students graduate.



# Top 10 Issues for Hispanics

## 9.- Are you in favor of declaring English the official language of the U.S. government? What is your position on bilingual education?

I believe that English is the common, unifying language of our country, but I do not support English-only proposals that may inhibit people's ability to celebrate their culture or could impede people's ability to vote or carry out their affairs. I believe that English is the language of opportunity and being able to speak English is an important part of achieving economic success in this country. It is why immigrants in this country want to learn English. Immigrants want to become part of the fabric of America, and it is part of the genius of our country that we are strengthened by our diversity.

It is important that children retain their language and culture, but they should also learn English so that they can succeed in school and in the workforce. Research has shown that children learn best when they receive instruction in their native language and simultaneously are taught to learn English. We must ensure that every minute of instruction is used wisely and that children from non-English speaking households don't lose their content knowledge in math, science, history and more. At the same time, I think the goal should be for every child in a U.S. school to learn English because that skill is going to enable them to thrive – to go to college, to acquire a great job – and lead productive, integrated, fulfilling lives in the United States. Learning English opens so many doors, and I want those doors to be wide open for children from English Language Learner households.

## 10.- The nation has a mountain of unfunded Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security obligation, a burden that faces upcoming generations of workers. How will you deal with this problem that impacts Hispanic families?

**Medicare:** Medicare's biggest challenge is rising health care costs. The Congressional Budget Office reported recently that we've largely "misdiagnosed" our fiscal problems by focusing on the demographics of the baby boom retirement rather than on health care costs. If health care costs continue to grow at their current rates, federal spending in Medicare and Medicaid will more than quadruple by 2050. But if we hold health care costs down, the impact of our aging population alone on these programs will be far more manageable. That's why I have proposed a plan to provide quality, affordable health care to all Americans that will also reduce costs throughout our health care system. Insuring everyone is not just the right thing to do, but is essential for lowering costs and reducing the long-term burden on Medicare. Universal coverage will reduce the "hidden tax" imposed when costs are shifted from the uninsured to those with insurance – which, according to one estimate, amounts to \$922 per family premium.

A key component of my goal to provide universal health care is to cut costs throughout our entire health care system. I have proposed that we focus on comprehensive preventive care, which will keep our costs down in the long run and improve Americans' quality of life. In addition, I believe that we must coordinate and streamline care for people with chronic illnesses, which accounts for 75 percent of health care costs. Under my health care plan, individuals and small businesses

will have market access to larger insurance pools that will lower costs, and insurance companies will be prohibited from discriminating against people with pre-existing conditions. I also proposed that we modernize our health care system, by using electronic medical records and other health information technology, to make our health care system more efficient and less costly. Finally, as we work to reduce health care costs and strengthen Medicare's long-term finances, we should focus on the overall fiscal health of Medicare, and not artificial distinctions about the share of financing derived from general revenues.

**Medicaid:** My universal health care plan will strengthen and expand Medicaid, to ensure that the most vulnerable populations have access to

affordable, quality care. Rapid growth in health care spending continues to place unsustainable pressure on Medicaid, as well as on Medicare and SCHIP. I believe we must make it a priority to reduce costs and ensure adequate provider payment levels to give patient access to care. These critical public programs will be strengthened under my plan and will benefit from the cost and quality proposals I have put forth.

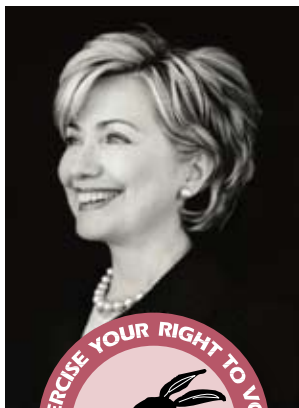
Medicaid is a vital source of health coverage for millions of children and families and acts as our nation's health care safety net, providing coverage to more than 50 million individuals nationwide, about half of whom are children. Medicaid is also under pressure because long-term care costs consume 40 percent of its budget, and those costs are estimated to grow by more than 250 percent by 2040. I believe that thoughtful reforms to the Medicaid program are

necessary, but I am deeply concerned about the Medicaid cuts that have been proposed by President Bush and that the administration continues to push through. Arbitrary cuts to this program will limit access to quality care for millions of low-income Americans and further undercut

payments to providers. I will work to ensure that the Medicaid system is a reliable source of health care coverage for our low-income working families and children.

**Social Security:** I believe that Social Security is a solemn promise to our seniors, and I am committed to keeping that promise. I am proud to have fought President Bush's attempt to privatize Social Security. In my administration, privatization will be a complete non-starter. Social Security is the single greatest domestic program in our country's history, and we have to protect it. I have a clear, straightforward plan to keep Social Security strong for future generations.

First, I will restore fiscal responsibility in Washington. That will give us the kinds of options we had in the late 1990s, when we had a plan to keep Social Security solvent until 2055. Second, I will address the long-term challenges facing Social Security through a bipartisan process. As part of that process we should consider a range of options to strengthen the program without hurting seniors or middle-class families. Finally, I believe we need to look beyond fixing Social Security to tackle the crisis of poor retirement savings in this country. That is why I proposed an American Retirement Accounts Plan that would give tens of millions of families a matching tax cut of up to \$1,000 to help them save for retirement outside Social Security.



## Sen. McCain Confirmed to Speak to LULAC Delegates in DC.

For more information go to [www.LULAC.org](http://www.LULAC.org)





## Farwest Corner

### Argentina Davila-Luevano Reelected As LULAC California State Director

The 61st Annual California LULAC Convention at the Wyndham Hotel in San Jose, Calif. was a tremendous success! All six events had standing room only and this was the best attended convention in recent memory.

#### Election results:

State Director Argentina Davila Luevano of the California LULAC swept to reelection by a delegate vote of 72-29 over the Memorial Day weekend. Luevano—a Nicaraguan immigrant—is the first person of Central American origin to be elected to head the organization in California.

#### Elected or reelected state officers:

David Rodriguez, Deputy State Director; Ricardo T. Mendoza, State Treasurer; Gabby Espino, Youth President; Sandra Ramirez-Castanon, Deputy State Director of Youth; Francisco Alvarado, Deputy State Director of Young Adults - Newly Elected: Cindy Pelayo, Deputy State Director of Women; Rev. Deacon Sal Alvarez, Deputy State Director of the Elderly.



Photo by Luis Nuño Briones

Argentina Davila-Luevano



Photo by Luis Nuño Briones

(L-R) Mario Obledo, Former LULAC National President; Keda Alcalá-Obledo; Argentina Davila-Luevano, Calif. State Director; Algelu Montalvo and Angel Luevano, LULAC National Vice President for the Far West.

#### Accepting reassignments to appointed board positions:

Rosa Jaureque, State Secretary; Danny Castanon, Sgt. at Arms; Jan Tucker, Parliamentarian; Rev. Deacon Sal Alvarez, Chaplain.

## Southeast Corner

### LULAC Urges DNC to Resolve Dispute Over Seating Florida Primary Delegates

LULAC joined a coalition of organizations April 30 in petitioning the Democratic National Committee (DNC) in Washington, D.C., to recognize the votes of 1.7 million Floridians who participated in the Democrat Party primary on January 29, one week earlier than permitted under DNC rules.



“It is a disappointment that Florida has been denied the undeniable right to have its votes count,” said LULAC National President Rosa Rosales. She urged Florida and DNC leaders to come up with a solution to the dispute.

President Rosales said Florida voters should not be punished because Florida legislators broke party rules when they moved up the primary in a bid to gain influence over the party nomination.

Joining LULAC in petitioning the DNC to resolve the dispute were Florida Voters League, Democratic Hispanic Caucus of Florida, Florida Demands Representation, Democratic Professional Council Broward Chapter, Southern Leadership Coalition and local Florida civil rights leaders.

Florida will be denied 185 elected delegates to its national convention August 25-28 in Denver if no resolution is found. Results of the Florida primary showed 50% of the vote going to Hillary Clinton, 33% to Barack Obama and 13% to John Edwards. That would give them 105, 67 and 13 delegates, respectively.

The DNC’s Rules Committee voted unanimously on May 31 to credit Clinton and Obama with delegates proportional to the primary result, but with each delegate counting as half a vote.

## Northwest Corner

### LULAC NW VP Rodriguez-Salazar Attends Cinco De Mayo Celebration As White House Guest of Pres. Bush

Maria Rodriguez-Salazar, Vice President for the Northwest Region, attended the Cinco de Mayo celebration on May 5 hosted by President and Mrs. George Bush in the White House Rose Garden.

Latino leaders from throughout the country attended along with U.S. Ambassador to Mexico Antonio Garza, Mexico's Ambassador to the U.S. Arturo Sarukhan, and members of Congress and the President's Cabinet.

Attendees were serenaded by the performance of Mariachi Campanas de America from San Antonio, Texas, and Spanish singer Shaila Durcal.

"President Bush said that Cinco de Mayo is a chance to say that Mexico and the United States are connected by more than geography," Rodriguez-Salazar said. "We share an important border -- but we're also united by values, our love of family and faith and freedom. We share an interest in making sure our people are prosperous and safe."

"Being at the White House was a great experience but being there reminded me that our country is so rich in its diversity and the cultures we come to celebrate," Rodriguez-Salazar said.

President Bush has held Cinco de Mayo celebrations since becoming President in 2001.

## Southwest Corner

### Adrian Rodriguez Joins Board Of North Texas Three Share Plan



Photo by Luis Nuno Briones

Don Spies, (right), Executive Director of the North Texas Three Share Plan, welcomes Adrian Rodriguez, National Vice President – Southwest, to the Advisory Board of the North Texas Three share Plan. The North Texas Plan, in collaboration with organizations in the Brazos Valley, Central Texas, El Paso, Galveston, and Harris County are working to develop low-cost healthcare programs for low wage earners of small business owners not able to offer traditional health insurance plans to their employees, considered to be one of the most underserved groups in Texas. Hispanics are three times more likely than Anglos to be uninsured.

## LULAC Corporate Alliance Members

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**Ms. Patricia J. Richards**, Manager, Supplier  
Diversity and Outreach, Shell Oil Company

**Mr. Jon Muñoz**, Corporate Social Responsibility  
Sprint Nextel Corporation

**Ed Nicholson**, Supervisor, Multicultural  
Community Relations, Corporate Public  
Relations, Tyson Foods, Inc.

**Ms. Ivelisse Estrada**, VP, Corporate & Com.  
Relations, Univision Communications Inc.

**Mr. Emilio Gonzalez**, Vice President, Public  
Policy & Strategic Alliance

**Mr. Jose "Pepe" Estrada**, Director of Hispanic  
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**Christine Karbowiak**, Vice President, Public  
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**Mr. Mario Hernandez**, Director of Public Affairs,  
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**Mr. Benni C. Darden**, Director, Constituency  
Relations, Government Affairs, Altria Corporate  
Services, Inc.



## LULAC Joins Registration Drive For 60,000 New Hispanic Voters

LULAC is working to help boost Hispanic voter registrations by 60,000 before the November 4 general election, starting with the training for voter registration state coordinators. The effort kicked



Photo by Luis Nuño Briones

off May 2 in Phoenix, Ariz., when the LULAC Voter Registration Academy for Trainers met under the auspices of the Southwest Voter Registration Education Project. More than 30 LULAC community

leaders from nine states met for two days of training.

"We must remind our leaders at all levels that they must consider the Latino voice in all of their decisions, from legislation to political appointments," said LULAC National President Rosa Rosales. "Let us never forget this right was won through personal sacrifice by generations of civil rights activists who fought to ensure that all American citizens have the unfettered right to vote."

LULAC Program Manager Elizabeth Garcia said participants will train other voter registration coordinators during their LULAC state conventions. Training participants were from California, Texas, New Mexico, Florida, Indiana, Illinois, Ohio, Arizona and Washington. Voter registration drives will also be conducted in Colorado, Michigan and Georgia.

LULAC's 2008 Democracy Initiative includes a partnership with Comcast (Our Time to Vote), Telemundo (Vota Por Tu Futuro),



Photo by Luis Nuño Briones

Rock the Vote, Southwest Voter Registration Project, LCLAA, NACACC, Hispanic Federation and various other groups. LULAC and Rock the Vote are also developing a partnership with

Latino college fraternities and sororities in hopes of making the Latino vote the strongest ever in the 2008 election.

With more than 45 million Latinos now living in the U.S., Hispanics represent the nation's largest minority. But they have not participated in elections in proportion to their numbers. LULAC's voter registration project aims to narrow the gap between Hispanic and non-Hispanic voter participation.

For additional information about the voter registration project, see the LULAC Web site [www.LULAC.org/programs/voters](http://www.LULAC.org/programs/voters) or contact Ms. Garcia at 202-833-6130 or at [EGarcia@LULAC.org](mailto:EGarcia@LULAC.org).

## Tyson Foods Makes Major Pledge To Help LULAC Combat Hunger



Photo by Luis Nuño Briones

Jan Pruitt, Food Bank CEO receives a donation Javier Ortiz (left), Tyson representative and former LULAC National President Hector Flores (right) along with Roman Palomares, Special Assistant to the President.

Tyson Foods Inc. will donate one million pounds of food over three years to help combat hunger, including giving 15 tons to the North Texas Food Bank's network of member agencies.

"We are excited about partnering with Tyson Foods and North Texas Food

Bank to meet the moral obligation we have as leaders to participate in meaningful efforts to ensure no one goes hungry," said LULAC National President Rosa Rosales at a donation ceremony in Dallas on April 29.

Hector Flores, immediate past president of LULAC, called the Tyson contribution "a significant milestone" and added that "we look forward to continuing our partnership with Tyson and making other donations nationwide."



Photo by Luis Nuño Briones

Tyson donated 15 tons of protein to the Second Harvest Food Bank of San Mateo and Santa Clara counties in California on May 23rd.

"Through our partnership with LULAC, Tyson Foods has pledged one million pounds of protein during the next three years to hunger relief in Latino communities throughout the U.S." said Javier Ortiz, multicultural communications

and community relations manager for Tyson.

Some 43,000 families receive food assistance through the North Texas Food Bank every week. Jan Pruitt, Food Bank CEO, said the Tyson contribution is especially helpful now because "food prices are on the rise and the demand for food from our member agencies is up 17%. The donation today will serve as the centerpiece of more than 120,000 meals served throughout our network."

Tyson began its food contribution program in 2000 and so far has donated more than 50 million pounds, which equates to more than 200 million meals. For information on how to get involved in the fight against hunger, go to the Web site [www.tyson.com](http://www.tyson.com) or [hungerrelief.tyson.com](http://hungerrelief.tyson.com).

## 2008 Convention rules were approved by the National Board of Directors.

**1.** Only delegates, or alternates replacing a delegate, wearing their certified badges, will be allowed in the voting section. All other persons shall be seated in an observation area designated by the Credentials Committee. The only exception to this rule shall be to accommodate a physically challenged delegate or alternate who desires to be seated in a special area.

**2.** A member in good standing has the right to ask that non-members be removed from the election area. This shall include the news media.

**3.** An Election Judge shall be appointed by the National President to conduct the elections.

**4.** The Election Judge shall appoint a Time Keeper and three Official Counters for all elections.

**5.** Elections shall be by stand up, show of hands, or roll call vote. The head of each delegation shall announce his/her council's vote and the Election Judge shall repeat the vote to the floor.

**6.** No delegate or alternate may have more than one vote in any one election.

**7.** Voting in absentia shall not be allowed.

**8.** A candidate not previously announced, as per the LULAC National Constitution, may run from the floor provided that a written certification endorsement by the total accredited delegations of a minimum of five councils, including the candidate's home council, is made to the Election Judge prior to the time of nominations for the office in question.

**9.** Each candidate has the right to appoint one counter. However, the only official count for any election shall be that recorded by the three Official Counters.

**10.** Each candidate shall have five minutes for speeches which shall follow the closure of nominations for the office in question.

**11.** In elections in which more than two candidates are involved, and no one receives 50 percent plus 1 majority of the certified votes, the two candidates receiving the highest number of votes shall immediately go into a runoff. No speeches shall be allowed in runoff elections.

**12.** Challenges to any election must be issued to the National Legal Advisor immediately after the outcome is announced and before another election has begun. It shall take a two-thirds vote to overturn any ruling made by the National Legal Advisor.

**13.** The order of elections shall be as follows and will be conducted after resolutions/amendments are voted on.

- National President
- Southwest VP
- Northwest VP
- Farwest VP
- Southeast VP
- Northeast VP
- Midwest VP

- VP for the Elderly
- VP for Young Adults
- Treasurer
- 2011 Convention Site
- VP for Women
- VP for Youth

**14.** First reading of all Constitutional Amendments and Resolutions will be presented immediately after the Assembly is convened.

**15.** The presentation of Constitutional Amendments from the floor shall not be allowed. Discussion on Constitutional Amendments shall be limited to three speakers for and three speakers against with each speaker having two minutes.

**16.** All resolutions must be type written and submitted in the form provided for in the LULAC website and submitted by a local council in good standing. Approved State resolutions must be submitted to the National Office within five days of passage. The Resolutions Committee shall read the resolved portion of each resolution and make its recommendation to the assembly. Discussion on each resolution shall be limited to two speakers for and two speakers against with each speaker having two minutes. A speaker must announce if he/she is speaking in favor of or against the resolution in question.

**17.** Resolutions from the floor shall be accepted. The resolution from the floor must be type written and submitted by using the form provided in the LULAC website and signed by the total registered delegation of the offering council. The written resolution from the floor must be presented to the Resolutions Committee and the State Director or his/her designee be notified. The Resolution Committee Chair shall read the resolution in its entirety and call for a vote. The same time limit, number of speakers, and announcement as in rule 16 shall apply to this rule.

**18.** Any issue not covered by these Convention Rules will be determined by the proper provisions within the LULAC National Constitution, By-Laws & Protocol, and Robert's Rules of Order (revised) in that order.

**19.** These adopted 2008 Convention Rules may be changed by a two-thirds vote of the assembly.

**20.** Delegates, alternates and guests must maintain proper decorum at all times. Whistles are not allowed. Individuals intentionally disrupting election proceedings as determined by the Convention Chair will be expelled from the floor.

**21.** Any individual that uses profanity, verbally threatens or attacks another member on or near the voting floor be removed from the voting floor and that charges to expel the member for "actions contrary to the principles of LULAC" be brought against the member by the presiding officer at the next National or Executive Board meeting.



# STEM CELLS: NONCONTROVERSIAL SOLUTIONS TO PROTECT YOUR FAMILY'S FUTURE

Medical research in the area of stem cells has progressed significantly in recent years and so has the number of diseases which can be treated with stem cells therapies. Cryo-Cell International has been the leader in noncontroversial stem cell solutions for years – making it possible for families to bank and use their newborn's stem cells for life-saving and life-altering transplants.

Cryo-Cell is America's most established and trusted family cord blood bank. Our signature service, U-Cord®, was launched in 1992. Since then, over 150,000 families have banked their newborn's umbilical cord blood stem cells with Cryo-Cell for potential use against many diseases.

Over 8,000 stem cell transplants have been performed worldwide, and cord blood stem cells are currently used to treat over 75 different diseases, including leukemia, lymphoma, Hodgkin's disease, sickle cell anemia and many others. The most important fact about cord blood banking is that you only get one chance – at birth – to make the important choice to bank your baby's cord blood, which is a 100 percent match for the baby, and a 1:4 chance of a match for siblings.

If you would like more information about how your family and friends can protect their children by saving their precious newborn's cord blood, please call Cryo-Cell at 1-866-211-9168 or visit us online at [www.cryo-cell.com](http://www.cryo-cell.com).

## INNOVATIVE STEM CELL SOLUTIONS

In addition to U-Cord®, Cryo-Cell International is leading the way in developing revolutionary innovative stem cell solutions to protect the entire family.

Our exclusive service – C'elle – enables women to collect and cryo-preserve vital stem cells that are found in menstrual fluid. Exciting new research shows that menstrual fluid actually contains self-renewing stem cells that can be easily collected, processed and preserved for potential cellular therapies.

What makes the C'elle menstrual stem cells so valuable and unique is that they show markings of both embryonic and adult stem cells. They are highly proliferative and they have shown to differentiate in several kinds of cells, including adipose (or fat cells), cartilage, bone, heart and neural cells.

Because of this differentiation, in the future, these cells may be the basis of medical treatments for serious diseases, like osteoporosis, Alzheimer's and MS, as well as personalized cosmeceuticals and regenerative medical procedures. In fact, several studies are under way currently, including using these cells for therapies to treat Type 1 diabetes, heart disease and stroke.

## DISTRIBUTION OPPORTUNITIES

Cryo-Cell International now offers the opportunity to become an official C'elle Distributor and bring this innovation to your patients and clients, as well as earn additional revenue for your business. C'elle Distributorship is perfect for physician offices, as well as medi-spas and other businesses that cater to female clients. It's also a great opportunity for stay-at-home moms and others who are interested in making additional income from home. Becoming a C'elle Distributor is a simple process. There is no start-up investment required and no obligation to purchase materials; and there's no quota obligation.

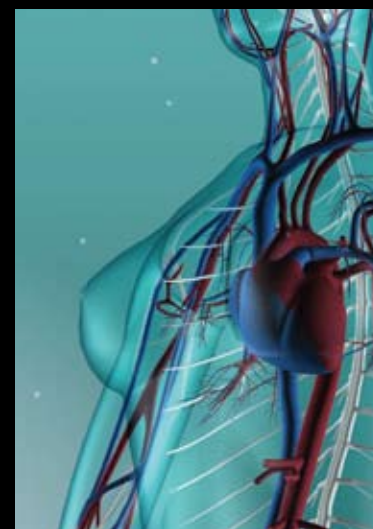
C'elle is for women who want to be on the cutting edge of medical innovation. As a distributor, you will be able to bring this innovation to your patients and clients, while creating an additional revenue channel for your business.

Call C'elle at 1-866-211-9168 or visit us online at [www.CELLE.com](http://www.CELLE.com).

Disponible en español folletos y páginas web



**CryoCell**  
INTERNATIONAL  
Innovative Stem Cell Solutions



**C'ELLE**  
YOUR MONTHLY MIRACLE

For more information  
please call or visit us online

**1-866-211-9168**

[www.Cryo-Cell.com](http://www.Cryo-Cell.com) [www.CELLE.com](http://www.CELLE.com).

Visit us  
at the  
**LULAC Annual  
Convention  
Booth 904**

## U.S. Enacts Two Laws Citing Hispanic Americans

President Bush signed two bills into law in May recognizing the contributions of Hispanic Americans to U.S. history and culture.

The Cesar Chavez Study Act directs the Secretary of the Interior to determine locations of historic significance to farm labor organizer Cesar Chavez's legacy. A second bill signed by Bush creates a commission to study the potential creation of a national museum of American Latino culture and history.

"I am greatly encouraged that soon all Americans will be able to recognize and celebrate in full scope the many accomplishments and historic contributions that Latinos have bestowed on our country's illustrious history," said LULAC National President Rosa Rosales in response to congressional passage of the two bills which had LULAC backing.

Prime sponsors of the Chavez study act were Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., and Rep. Hilda Solis, D-Calif. Prime sponsors of the national American Latino museum study commission were Sen. Ken Salazar, D-Colo., and Rep. Xavier Becerra, D-Calif.

The museum proposal will create a 23-member commission to evaluate the prospect of building a national museum in Washington, D.C., to honor the culture, history and accomplishments of Latinos in the U.S.

"Our history and culture is America's history and culture, and an institution honoring this has been long awaited," President Rosales said. She also noted that Cesar Chavez "motivated all those who believe in dignity and equality of all human beings."

## LULAC Joins Environmental Group Opposing Border Fence Construction

LULAC and the Sierra Club conservation organization have joined forces to protest a decision by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to waive environmental protection and other laws to speed the construction of a controversial 620-mile fence along the U.S.-Mexico border in Texas and Arizona.

"LULAC firmly believes that the waivers are unconstitutional and should be looked at by the U.S. Supreme Court," said LULAC National President Rosa Rosales. "We agree with the Sierra Club that the destruction of the borderlands ecosystem is a serious matter and that the Department of Homeland Security should comply with environmental, cultural and local laws that are being compromised in the overzealous pursuit of border enforcement."

DHS Secretary Michael Chertoff bypassed stakeholders and ordered pursuit of the unpopular border project instead of consulting with local communities or following longstanding laws. His Department has faced intense opposition in border communities to the fence and has had to go to court against more than 50 property owners simply to survey their property for the project.

In March, the Sierra Club and Defenders of Wildlife asked the U.S. Supreme Court to hear their challenge to the Chertoff waivers, which they contend are unconstitutional. The Sierra Club is America's oldest and largest grassroots environmental organization.

LULAC and more than a dozen members of Congress are filing friend-of-the-court petitions to the high court in support of the environmental groups' position. A lower federal court has already ruled that Congress gave Chertoff the authority to bypass existing laws to build the fence, so an appeal to the Supreme Court is the only avenue left to opponents.

## Hispanic University Debate Team Win Over The University Of Miami, To Be First Undergraduate Champs At National Bioethics Conference



*Members of the National Hispanic University team are: Luis Eduardo Ruelas (Captain), Ana Castro, Alondra Cardenas, Jose Candia, Eric Morales, Michael Jordan (Coach).*

San Jose, Calif.— The National Hispanic Universities Ethics/Debate team defeated the University of Miami to become the 1st National Undergraduate Bioethics Debate Champions. The NHU Debate team participated in a 6-team competition hosted by Union College on April 4-5, beating University of Miami, Dartmouth, Union College, Williams College and Southern Methodist. This win means much more than what one might think as it is truly a story of David vs. Goliath as the team from the 26 year old, little known university serving 600+ nontraditional college-going undergraduates defeated the team from a premier institution with 15,400+ undergraduates and graduates for the title.

The NHU Debate team was founded in 2003 by a group of 5 students that were interested in creating a discussion group outside of the classroom where a variety of philosophical and ethical issues could be discussed. The team has faced obstacles including inexperience, a lack of confidence and the fact that more than half of the team had to debate in their second language - English.

Asked what motivated the team, captain Luis Ruelas stated, "The love of arguing, the challenge to better our English and the need to increase our vocabulary was the main motivation. In the end, that challenge and the great effort we put behind it was what made us winners." Added the other team members, "We can't forget the confidence our coach instilled in us and the words echoed by our familia at NHU, SI SE PUEDE! We have just demonstrated that it can be done if you truly believe in yourself."

This is NHU 9th competition in the Ethics Bowls. The team is now preparing for the California Regional Ethics Bowl Championship to be held on December 6th and hosted by NHU. The top teams from this event will advance to the National Intercollegiate Ethics Bowl.

When asked about the impact of this win, Coach Michael Jordan replied, "This has been one of the highlights of my career. I feel very honored to have worked with such a dedicated and passionate group of students. The team worked very hard to prepare for this event and it paid off. Their victory over the University of Miami in the final match was brilliant. It was only their second event, which makes this win an amazing accomplishment. I could not be any happier."

Students informed that the cases debated on dealt with the Morality of the mandated HPV vaccine among school age girls and the Morality of denying medical care for late stage Alzheimer's patients. NHU won by 3 points.

The NHU team consists of sophomores: Ana Castro, Alondra Cardenas, Eric Morales, Jose Candia and captain Luis Ruelas.

The National Hispanic University is a private, accredited, 4-year university authorized to grant degrees since 1981. For more information on NHU, please log onto [www.nhu.edu](http://www.nhu.edu) or contact Lourdes Robles at 408- 273-2683.



# Profile:

## Eduardo Quirino & Mary Narvaiz Quirino

Full Names: Edward Quirino and Mary Narvaiz Quirino

Q: Where were you born?

A: **Edward:** Colorado City, Texas, raised in Lubbock, Texas.;

A: **Mary:** Seguin, Texas, raised in San Antonio.

Q: How long have you been involved with LULAC?

We have both been members of LULAC since 1979.

A: **Edward** has been District Director in Indiana, and at the Council level, he has served as Vice President, Sergeant at Arms, and Building Committee Chair.

A: **Mary** has served as Council Secretary, Treasurer, and Chaplain.

Q: Who do you admire most?

A: **Mary:** Hillary Clinton for her intelligence, integrity and her determination to continue with her candidacy for President despite negative comments from the press and suggestions she drop out of the race.

A: **Edward:** I admire the late President John F. Kennedy; he was the first President I voted for.

Q: Who is your mentor?

A: **Mary:** My parents, for instilling in me and my brother the importance of education. They were migrant workers, but they would always leave us behind in San Antonio with my grandmother while they traveled throughout the country following crops. They sacrificed a lot for me and my brother so that we could have a more stable environment and education.

A: **Edward:** My older brother Wilfredo was my mentor. When I was a kid, I wanted to be just like him. Our father died when I was eleven years old, so my brother looked after me. He taught me many important lessons in life like a strong work ethic, commitment to family and to God, and to keep trying despite many obstacles.

Q: What made you want to get involved with LULAC?

A: **Both:** We were impressed with the scholarship program, and wanted to help students obtain a post secondary education. We were also interested in civil rights. Having lived in West Texas in the 50's and 60's, we knew firsthand what discrimination was; and wanted to give our children a chance at a better way of life. We became involved in LULAC through our friend, Greg Chavez, former VP for the Midwest. He helped us organize a council in Michigan City, Ind. There weren't many Latinos in Michigan City, so we went through the phone book and called all people with a Hispanic surname to see if they were interested in joining LULAC. We had attended LULAC Council 263 functions when we had lived in Lubbock, Texas. We were able to find twenty people interested in forming a council, and the first meeting of Council 5006 was held in our home. The council grew, and to this day is very active and is the largest council in Indiana. We moved back to Lubbock in 1986 and were invited to join Council 263 by Robert Lugo and Chevo Moralez; and continue to actively fundraise and advocate for LULAC.

Q: What do you think is one of the most important issues affecting Latinos today?

A: **Mary:** Immigration.



Photo by Luis Nuño Briones

A: **Edward:** Education.

Q: What was your most memorable LULAC moment?

A: **Mary:** When I was selected Indiana State Woman of the Year in 1981. Last year, Council 263 honored me by instituting the Mary Quirino Scholarship.

A: **Edward:** I have two: at the 1982 National Convention, when Council 5006 was selected Council of the Year. In 2004, Mary and I were invited back to Michigan City to commemorate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of Council 5006, and were recognized as charter members.

Q: What are the activities that you are involved in?

A: **Mary:** Fundraising! The majority of the money we raise goes toward our scholarship program. I also supported and assisted the César E. Chavez Commemoration Committee in its efforts in getting a street in Lubbock named after César E. Chavez.

A: **Edward:** As Building Committee Chair, I coordinate the events calendar, including council fundraisers and special events. I also help coordinate our Annual Senior Citizens Christmas Dinner. I'm also involved as usher at my church.

Q: What do you do when you are not with LULAC?

A: **Mary:** We enjoy visiting with friends and family. I also enjoy reading, gardening and watching the Spurs.

A: **Edward:** I also enjoy socializing with friends and family, but I prefer to watch the Chicago Cubs and White Sox!

Q: What has been the biggest impact on you this past year?

A: **Mary:** I retired after a 45 year career in nursing this past year. We also recently welcomed our first great grandchild into the world.

A: **Edward:** I've enjoyed returning to work after recovery from a stroke, and becoming a great-grandfather.

Q: What are you most proud of accomplishing?

A: **Edward:** I have been involved in youth activities almost all my adult life, as a baseball coach. It is very rewarding to see my former players grown and successful.

**Mary:** Seeing my children grow into responsible caring adults and becoming good parents.

Q: What is your message to those reading this?

**Both:** Get involved!

# Profile: Luis Vera

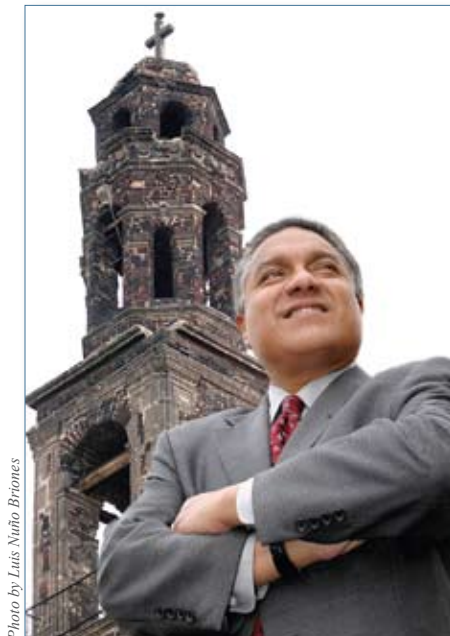


Photo by Luis Naito Briones

**L**uis Vera is one of a few lawyers in South Texas litigating civil rights cases, pursuant to 42 USC §1983 and voting rights cases under the Voting Rights Act. His legal work and his community involvement have earned him designations and honors in Texas and at the national level as an advocate for the poor and protector of civil rights. He was named attorney of the year by LULAC in 1998.

Luis received the Azteca Award for his work in civil rights at the national convention of LULAC in Washington, D.C., in 2000. Luis was named to the Harlandale Independent School District Hall of Fame (2001), the Texas Diabetic Institute Wall of Honor (2002) and La Prensa Foundation Hispanic Heritage Award 2004. In 2007 Luis received the Cesar Chavez award for his work in civil rights from Rosa Rosales, National President of LULAC. Luis has been a guest speaker and lecturer at high schools, universities, and organizations in and out of Texas. As general counsel for LULAC, Luis litigates, coordinates and oversees education, discrimination, voting rights and civil rights issues throughout the country.

In 2006 Luis led the successful fight for LULAC in the U.S. Supreme Court case *LULAC v. Perry*, declaring certain portions of the Texas redistricting case unconstitutional, in that the plan discriminated against Latinos. St. Mary's University has honored Luis with induction into the President's and Adela societies. Upon his graduation from law school, Luis was awarded the prestigious Deans Award.

"Rosa Rosales and Angie Garcia got me involved in LULAC," Vera said. I always saw LULAC as a voice for those who could not speak and fight for themselves. In my early years in LUAC I spent many hours in the streets, at city hall or anywhere I could help. As a lawyer I have the blessing of using the law to fight anyone or any entity that discriminates against those who cannot speak or fight for themselves. In my 16 years as a lawyer, I have represented many strong and powerful people and I have represented many weak and voiceless people. However, I will never represent the strong against the weak. I believe that is what LULAC stands for.

# Profile: Ray Velarde

**B**orn March 15, 1950 in Cd. Juarez, Chihuahua, Mexico, Ray Velarde is an attorney in private practice in El Paso, Texas, with primary focus on complex criminal, constitutional, and appellate litigation.

He is a proud Bowie High School graduate of the class of 1968. Mr. Velarde obtained his law degree in 1977 from Boston College Law School and is professionally associated with

the Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court, District of Columbia Court of Appeals, Texas Supreme Court, United States Supreme Court, United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia, United States Court of Appeals for 5<sup>th</sup> Circuit, United States Court of Appeals for 6<sup>th</sup> Circuit, United States Court of Appeals for 10<sup>th</sup> Circuit, and the United States District Court for the Western District of Texas.

Mr. Velarde was on the Board of Directors of the El Paso Boys and Girls Club from 1983-1994, on the Board of Directors for the El Paso Legal Aid Society from 1998-2003 and on the Board of Directors, LULAC National Legal Advisor from 1998 to the present. He was awarded with the Mexican American Bar Association President's Award of Distinction in 2000 and the honored recipient of the *Ohtli* award at the LULAC Annual Convention in Milwaukee on June 30, 2006. The award was extended by the Government of Mexico.

Mr. Velarde was recognized for dedicating a major part of his life and professional activities towards the welfare and prosperity of Mexican communities in the United States..



# Profile: Regla Gonzalez

Q: When and where were you born?

A: Habana, Cuba, July 15, 1948

Q: How long have you been involved with LULAC?

A: Fourteen years, but in the community at large more than 36 years.

Q: Who do you admire most?

A: Jesus Christ.

Q: Who is your mentor?

A: I follow the doctrines of Jesus Christ, he guides me to be the person I am today.

Q: What made you want to get involved with LULAC?

A: Since my arrival in the USA and Boston specifically, I have worked with the Latino community. LULAC is formed by volunteers, which makes it an excellent tool. LULAC'ers are those who whole hearted want to help our community. Through the years I tried to engage women from across this country, including the Island of Puerto Rico, creating consciousness and commitment in their ability to become leaders.

Q: What do you think is one of the most important issues affecting Latinos today?

A: It is not easy to raise consciousness and to self-empower Latinos of all ages across the country but certainly it is not impossible. And that has been and is my mission in LULAC: to advance the economic condition, the educational attainment, the political influence, just and fair immigration to all, self-determination, health and civil rights to all.

Q: What was your most memorable LULAC moment?

A: Every year when we offer the scholarship to the students and see their faces of accomplishment and satisfaction to continue with their studies.

Q: What are the activities that you are involved in?

A: Outside LULAC I am involved in:

- Block groups "Crime Watch" with local police, city councilors, neighborhood associations among others.
- Elected member of the Pastoral Council for Sacred Heart Church.
- Domestic violence local boards and women's shelters
- Human Rights First.
- Cuban American Women Coalition and many others.



Q: What is an important leadership characteristic?

A: Perseverance, loyalty, continuity implementing ideas or programs, honesty and above all to respect one and other.

Q: What do you do when you are not with LULAC?

A: Defender of human rights and civic rights to all.

Q: What has been the biggest impact on you this year?

A: As a mother, I particularly feel very proud that my daughter Annabelle has enter law school, and as a member of my community, the continuing fight to obtain fair and just immigration for all.

Q: What are you most proud of accomplishing?

A: Work with our youth in providing scholarships and getting them involved actively in voter registration/naturalization drives as well a becoming very active with women's shelters.

Q: What is your message to those reading this?

A: I strongly urge the Hispanic community to get involve in voter registration/naturalization, to consider furthering their careers, and above all a message for women, to fight for equal and fair labor laws. To get involve in issues affecting our community, I strongly believes in the LULAC mission. We need you join us. "Together we will make the difference".



## LULAC Proves a Popular Choice for University of California Interns

By Gerardo Marquez

Since 1999, The University of California Washington Center has been providing California students the opportunity to rub elbows with the nation's elite in Washington, D.C. The center operates a program which allows University of California (UC) students to participate in internships in the nation's capital while remaining full-time students. Students live at the center for an academic quarter and take courses at the center taught by UC professors. Most students are required to complete a research paper on a political topic of their choice. They also intern with either members of Congress, non-government organizations, government agencies or advocacy groups.

Interning in Washington exposes students to the inside workings of politics and provides them with valuable data for their research papers. The LULAC national office has been an internship choice for UC students since the program began. Students who have interned with LULAC have been especially passionate about issues concerning Latin Americans.

Historically, students have taken the initiative in leading campaigns against legislation that negatively impinges on the civil rights of the Latino community. It's only natural that students who are passionate about issues concerning Latinos choose LULAC in that the organization has championed Latino civil rights since the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century. Student interns integrate themselves within the dynamics of LULAC, and gain great insight

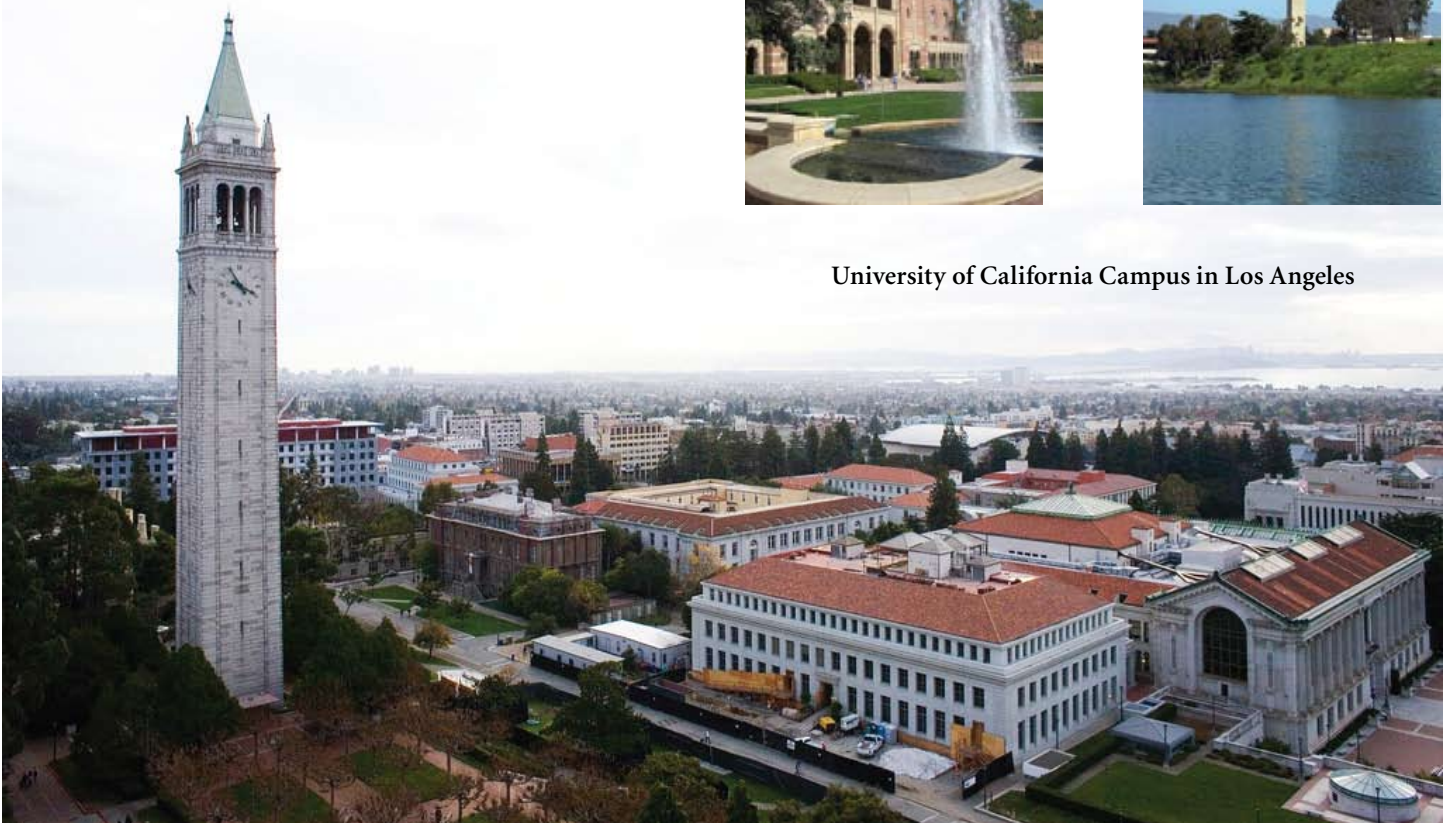
on operating a non-profit advocacy organization.

The UCDC program has proven to be more than a temporary East Coast experience for students from the Golden State. Many students in the program have been offered positions by the organizations with which they have interned. For example, Elizabeth Garcia, a UC Davis graduate, interned with LULAC when in the UCDC program. "I fell in love with the East Coast during my time in D.C.," she said. "My internship with LULAC was an awesome experience that led me to greater opportunities." Elizabeth's stellar work performance earned her a position with the national office as the LULAC program manager and policy analyst.

The UCDC program receives students outside of the University of California, including the University of Michigan and Ohio. LULAC has been a popular choice among those students. LULAC continues to embrace ambitious students from the UCDC program who are willing to promote and contribute to its mission.



University of California Campus in Los Angeles



## Message from the National Vice-President for Women

In a journey that began about four years ago, it is somewhat difficult to imagine where we began, much less where we have traveled. When elected to serve as a national officer and Chairwoman of the Women's Commission in this nation's largest and most prestigious Latino advocacy organization, the Commission found itself at the crossroads of "enormous challenge and opportunity of a lifetime". Most people will concur that we collectively, chose the latter and in so doing we transcended an environment of probabilities into a realm of "do-ability".

Our National Women's Conferences took Latinas' experiences, challenges and solutions not only to locales where they had not convened, but more importantly, to where they were most needed. This is an initiative we can take pride in but one which we must continue to re-define and improve on. As members of the nation's leading advocacy organization on Latina issues, we are no strangers to the problems which beset our communities due to our changing demographics; but more often than not, caused by external entities who continue to manufacture perceived threats and the promotion of falsehoods about the Latino presence in our country. For many of us, the mantra of Empowerment for Women has long been our mission statement. So one of the key tasks at hand several years ago was to develop a clear roadmap and set of tools by which we could all approach a path towards completion of our mission statement:

- a) A nationwide campaign awareness on the prevention of heart disease in women.
- b) Empowering our members to conduct voter registration drives in their communities.
- c) Supporting our members to run for political office "and getting elected"
- d) Remaining vigilant and encouraging more women to serve on corporate boards.
- e) Advocating in the areas of business entrepreneurship, education, workforce development, financial literacy, pay equality, and health issues.
- f) Being role models to teen girls and young adults and always reminding them to respect each other, their elders and most important of all, to live their lives with dignity and give back to their communities.
- g) Supporting women's programs and Yes,
- h) Marching for justice and human rights and against domestic violence.

In looking back at our national women's conference themes, we must also look forward to see how we can improve our roadmap and create a better tool chest for Latina empowerment.

2005 theme "Latinas – Leaders on the Pathway to the Future – Mind-Body-Soul" Las Vegas, Nevada

2006 theme "Women – A Journey to Greatness"- New York City

2007 theme "Knowledge that Nurtures" - Miami, Florida

2008 theme "Today's Women - Visionaries Shaping our Nation's Leadership" San Antonio, Texas



Photo by Luis Nuno Briones

(L-R) Former LULAC Youth National President Youth Brianna Hinojosa-Flores - Texas, Current LULAC Youth National President Jessica Martinez - New Mexico, Former LULAC Youth National President Vicky Neaves - Texas.

We can all be proud of milestones and achievements in the recent past; for it is through your hard work and commitment that a measure of success has been achieved. I am mindful of the sacrifices made by families of Commission members and the support of all members and staff. We have taken the first step and words cannot express my deep gratitude for all your efforts in achieving this. But I am most mindful of the fact that we must complement our plans and ideas with funds in order to initiate them and I salute our corporate sponsors for their support during my tenure.

I look forward to working with the LULAC National Women's Commission and I firmly believe that I am and will forever be a better person for having been given the privilege of serving as your National Vice-President for Women.

Sincerely,



Photo by Luis Nuno Briones

Margaret Moran  
Chair – Women's Commission



# LULAC Joins Coalition to Focus on Need for Retirement Security

LULAC has joined the Americans for Secure Retirement coalition to raise awareness among policymakers about the need to address the challenges that Hispanics and all Americans face to achieve financial security in retirement.

There are more than 44 million Hispanics in the United States, and nearly 40 percent of them are middle-class. As the U.S. Hispanic population continues to age along with the total U.S. population, Hispanics will need to place a greater focus on planning for their retirement and ensuring that they can maintain their standard of living throughout their retirement years. Despite this growing need, however, most Hispanics – along with most Americans – pay little or no attention to planning and looking ahead to their retirement years.

Several factors contribute to the retirement challenge facing Americans:

- Americans are living longer than ever before and a lot longer than many projected when they were planning for retirement or making retirement spending decisions. According to the 2007 Retirement Confidence Survey by the Employee Benefit Research Institute, 75 percent of male workers expect to live until age 78, while 80 percent of female workers expect to live until age 80. Americans are also spending more time in retirement than previous generations. Between 1900 and 2000, the percentage of men 65 years or older still in the work force dropped from about 66 to less than 20 percent.

- Less than half of Americans have any type of employer sponsored retirement plans. Thirty years ago, 40 percent of workers had a traditional pension; today the amount is 21 percent and dropping. Many retirees will have to bear the responsibility for generating, from a lump sum or other savings, a steady stream of income for as long as they live.

- Social Security and personal savings are sources of retirement income are not enough. On average, Social Security provides only about 38 percent of pre-retirement earnings. Yet, a large number of Americans plan to rely on Social Security as their sole retirement

income. In addition, America's personal savings rate stands at a negative rate, meaning that people have little reserves to rely on during their retirement years.

Hispanics face even greater challenges. They are less likely to have an employer sponsored retirement program, have lower savings rates and receive less Social Security benefits than the total of the U.S. population. In fact, a poll conducted by Americans for Secure Retirement on Hispanics and retirement found that, on average, Hispanics have only about \$5,000 in savings and 60 percent are not offered retirement plans through their employers.

Among the options available, one retirement vehicle that we have found can help Hispanics and all Americans have a more secure retirement, are annuities. Annuities are the only retirement plan that can offer a steady stream of income for life; no other financial instrument can offer that. The Americans for Secure Retirement coalition supports The Retirement Security for Life Act (H.R. 2205/S. 1010), which would create a tax incentive for non-qualified annuities. This incentive would exempt 50 percent of the payout from an annuity from federal taxation, up to a maximum of \$20,000 per year. For the average taxpayer, this would represent savings of about \$5,000 per year. The legislation enjoys strong bipartisan support in the United States House of Representatives and Senate with nearly 70 cosponsors in the House and 12 in the Senate.

By addressing retirement security, LULAC once again demonstrated it is at the forefront of issues affecting Hispanic-Americans. The coalition welcomes LULAC to our family and looks forward to a long and successful partnership.

For more information about the Americans for Secure Retirement coalition, please visit [www.paycheckforlife.org](http://www.paycheckforlife.org).

## PHOTOS FROM AROUND THE LEAGUE



Photo by Luis Nuno Briones

(L-R) Karina Trejo, District III Youth Director; Richard Sambrano received "Man of the Year" Award from district 3; Coty Rodriguez, Director for district 3 in North Texas and Adrian Rodriguez, National LULAC Vice President for the Southwest.



Photo by Luis Nuno Briones

National, state, local LULAC and Latino elected officials held a press conference in Phoenix, Ariz., protesting Sheriff Joe Arpaio's anti-immigrant policies.





**AMERICANS FOR SECURE RETIREMENT  
WELCOMES THE LEAGUE OF UNITED  
LATIN AMERICAN CITIZENS AS THE  
NEWEST MEMBER OF ITS GROWING  
COALITION.**

Americans for Secure Retirement is a coalition of over 50 member and affiliate organizations representing women's, small business, agriculture, Hispanic, and African American groups as well as the life insurance industry. The coalition works to raise awareness about the retirement challenges facing Americans and advocates for policies that help Americans secure a steady stream of income for their retirement.

We look forward to working with LULAC to pursue policies that help Hispanics and all Americans have a financially secured retirement.



For more information about ASR, please visit [www.paycheckforlife.org](http://www.paycheckforlife.org)

## AMENDMENTS COMMITTEE REPORT

### Recommendations for 2008 Amendments

The Amendments Committee met via telephone conference on May 14, 2008 to discuss and take action on the proposed amendments received from Councils in good standing. The Chair, Ray Mancera, called for a roll call and present and voting were: Ray Mancera, Ray Velarde, Luis Vera, and Toulia Politis Lugo. Absent were Pablo Martinez, Angie Garcia, and Vera Munoz. Quorum was established.

Amendments were read into the record, discussed and voted on separately. Amendments were either voted up or down with no additions or modifications.

All amendments and the Committee's recommendations will be forwarded to the National Board of Directors for their review as called for in Pages 53-54, Article XIV, Section 2 "to ascertain that all is in order and no conflicts exists". Also, as per the same provisions, the amendments will be sent "to all Councils in good standing for their study thirty days prior to the National Convention date". 30 days prior is June 9, 2008.

Thereafter, "at the Convention the Chair of the Amendments and Resolutions Committee will read each amendment once and offer the recommendations of the committee before the National Assembly discusses and votes on the amendments."

"A two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the certified delegates at the National Convention is necessary for approval of an amendment."

COUNCIL	Received	Approved	Denied	Tabled
1088	3	0	3	0
1057	1	1	0	0
60	7	7	0	0
132	161	45	5	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>1</b>

#### 2008 Amendments Committee

Ray Mancera, Chair; Luis Vera; Pablo Martinez; Ray Velarde; Vera Marquez; Toulia Politis Lugo; Angie Garcia

Below is a table summary of the Amendments listed by Council/Amendment Number along with the committee recommendations for each.

Thereafter are the actual amendments listed by:

First: Those recommended for approval,  
 Second: Those recommended for denial and  
 Third: Those tabled

Council - Amendment #	RECOMMEND			Council - Amendment #	RECOMMEND	
	YES	NO			YES	NO
1088 - 1		No		1088 - 3		No
1088 - 2		No				
1057 - 1	Yes					
60 - 1	Yes			60 - 5	Yes	
60 - 2	Yes			60 - 6	Yes	
60 - 3	Yes			60 - 7	Yes	
60 - 4	Yes					
132 - 1		No		132 - 31	Yes	
132 - 2	Yes			132 - 32	Yes	
132 - 3		No		132 - 33	Yes	
132 - 4	Yes			132 - 34	Yes	
132 - 5		No		132 - 35		No
132 - 6	Yes			132 - 36		No
132 - 7	Yes			132 - 37	Yes	
132 - 8		No		132 - 38	Yes	
132 - 9	Yes			132 - 39	Tabled	
132 - 10	Yes			132 - 40		No
132 - 11	Yes			132 - 41	Yes	
132 - 12	Yes			132 - 42	Yes	
132 - 13	Yes			132 - 43	Yes	
132 - 14		No		132 - 44	Yes	
132 - 15	Yes			132 - 45	Yes	
132 - 16	Yes			132 - 46	Yes	
132 - 17	Yes			132 - 47	Yes	
132 - 18	Yes			132 - 48	Yes	
132 - 19	Yes			132 - 49	Yes	
132 - 20		No		132 - 50	Yes	
132 - 21	Yes			132 - 51	Yes	
132 - 22		No		132 - 52	Yes	
132 - 23	Yes			132 - 53	Yes	
132 - 24		No		132 - 54		No
132 - 25		No		132 - 55		No
132 - 26	Yes			132 - 56	Yes	
132 - 27	Yes			132 - 57	Yes	
132 - 28	Yes			132 - 58	Yes	
132 - 29	Yes	No		132 - 59	Yes	
132 - 30	Yes			132 - 60	Yes	
				132 - 61	Yes	

#### AMENDMENTS RECOMMENDED FOR APPROVAL

##### COUNCIL 60 - Houston, Texas:

AMENDMENT #1: Amend Article VI, Section 7, Subsection b, of the LULAC Constitution by adding the following paragraph:

(3) Remove a LULAC Youth Supervisor or Sponsoring Council from such supervision or sponsorship for good cause. Good cause shall constitute, but is not limited to the following: (i) exhibiting lack of responsibility and guidance to the Youth Council; and (ii) not acting in the best interest of the Youth Council members.

# CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

**AMENDMENT #2:** Amend Article VII, Section 2, of the LULAC Constitution by **adding the following paragraph:**

a. The focus of the LULAC Youth program is the development of young people in bettering themselves and their community through positive educational experiences. LULAC Youth members shall be supported by responsible LULAC adult members who have demonstrated an interest in the well being of our youth.

**AMENDMENT #3:** Amend Article VII, Section 6, Subsection b, of the LULAC Constitution by **placing a period** after the words “Youth Executive Board”; **striking** the word “which” and inserting the following words (in bold). The result to read as follows: b. A local Non-Youth Council may organize **and sponsor** Youth Councils by making applications to the National LULAC Youth Executive Board. **The Sponsoring Council** shall name one or more supervisors; responsible to said Council for the efficient and progressive guidance of the Youth Council.

**AMENDMENT #4:** Amend Article VII, Section 6, Subsection b, of the LULAC Constitution by **adding the following paragraph:**

(1) The application shall be accompanied by two (2) affidavits: An affidavit from the Sponsoring Council President stating that the Youth Supervisor is a person of good moral character; and an affidavit signed by the prospective Supervisor that he/she has never been convicted of a felony or other offense that will affect his/her relationship with the youth members.

**AMENDMENT #5:** Amend Article VII, Section 6, Subsection g, #4 of the LULAC Constitution by **inserting** the words “Deputy District Director for Youth” after the “communication between the.” The result to read as follows:

(4) Encouraging and maintaining communication between the **Deputy District Director for Youth**, Senior/Young Adult Councils through monthly reports to the sponsoring Senior Council and exchange of visits by members of both Councils.

**AMENDMENT #6:** Amend Article VII, Section 6, Subsection g, #5, of the LULAC Constitution by striking the word “control” and **inserting** the word “guidance.” The result to read as follows:

(5) Being vigilant about proposed candidates for membership in the Youth Council and maintaining **guidance** over the admittance of nonmembers to meetings and other functions of the Youth Council.

**AMENDMENT #7:** Amend Article VII, Section 6, Subsection g, of the LULAC Constitution by **adding** the following provisions:

(6) Obtaining permission slips from parents or legal guardians of LULAC youth members for out of town travel.

(7) Supervising and monitoring the youth attending any District, State and/or National Conventions, conferences or meetings, including seminars, banquets, luncheons and other meetings. The supervisors shall preferably be a male and a female. Additionally, the Supervisors shall be responsible for their respective youth council’s well being at all LULAC functions and events.

(8) Ensuring the Youth Council is active and in good standing at all levels of the League: Local, District, State and National Levels.

(9) Ensuring Youth members pay their dues in a timely manner.

## COUNCIL 1057 – Tucson, Arizona

### **Submitted One Amendment Only**

Page 50. ARTICLE XIII Financial Provisions Section 1—Revenue Sources:

a. Charter Fees:

The sum of ~~\$50.00~~ **\$75.00** is hereby set as the fee of issuance of a Charter by the Supreme Council to a group that applies and is approved for affiliation as a Local Council with the League. Said fee shall be renewed on an annual basis and be due to the LULAC National Treasurer on the first day of January of each year and payable no later than March 31 of that same year by each Local Council. Any Council not having paid said fee by the March 31 due date shall have its charter revoked and will be required to apply for a new charter and pay all fees as prescribed for the chartering of a new Council. Said fees shall be deposited in the General Fund of the National Office.

b. Membership Initiation Fees:

A National Membership Fee of ~~\$4.00~~, **\$6.00**, payable to the National Office, shall be required of all new members, as well as of ex-members who have been dropped from their Council rolls for non-payment of dues and who desire to reapply for membership rather than pay dues in arrears. Said dues are to be collected by the Local Council and forwarded to the National Office for deposit in the General Operations Account. **This fee is in addition to the National Fee of \$15.00 per member per year.**

Page 67 ARTICLE III Membership Dues

Section 1—National: The National dues for LULAC active members shall be ~~\$1~~ **\$1.25** per month payable in quarterly installments to the councils for remittance to the National Office. National dues expire on December 31st of each year, and are due on January 1st of the new calendar year. National dues are payable for 12 months in advance if a member is renewing membership, or for pro-rated portion of the calendar year if coming from a new member. The National dues are payable to the Councils for remittance to the National Office by the end of the quarter in March. A pilot system of direct invoicing to members is hereby authorized. The LULAC National Treasurer shall report to the Supreme Council at various intervals.

Section 2—Membership Initiation Fees: A National Membership initiation fee of ~~\$4~~, **\$6.00** payable to the National Office, shall be required of all new members, as well as of ex-members who have been dropped from their council rolls and who desire to reapply for membership rather than pay dues in arrears. Said dues are to be collected by the Local Council and forwarded to the National Office for deposit in the General Operations account.

## COUNCIL 132 – El Paso, Texas

**2 Amendment:** Page 5 Article IV Section 1 Subsection a. (7)

*Explanation:* Currently if a member wishes to transfer to another council he/she must submit a “request” to their council. This implies that the council has the authority to grant or not the “request”. If a member wishes to transfer for whatever reason only a “notification” should be in order. This amendment further adds a member cannot belong to two councils at a time. This insert reduces or eliminates members potentially creating havoc or worst double voting.

Proposed Change to now read:

- (7) To have their membership transferred to another Council upon written **request notification** to their home Council and the approval of the receiving one. Such transfer may be temporary or permanent and all details of dues, honors, membership classification, etc. shall be handled by the secretaries of the respective Councils. **However, at no one time can a member belong to two councils. The member’s council of record with the National Office at the time of conflict will prevail.**

**4 Amendment:** Page 7 Article IV Section 4

*Explanation:* Current reading states the National Assembly shall confer the title of “Distinguished Member” to members of Congress but does not identify if they must be current members of Congress only or also past. New wording states they can either be current or past.

Proposed Change to now read:

- (3) All **current and past** members of Congress on the active rolls of the League;

**6 Amendment:** Page 7 Article IV Section 5

*Explanation:* This amendment adds language that upon certification in “writing” by a Senior member’s council either of the National Boards can grant the Senior member the recognition.



# CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

Proposed Change to now read:

Section 5—Senior Members: In recognition for devoted service to LULAC, a member who has continuously paid dues for 50 or more years, shall be considered a Senior member. Membership to this classification shall be certified **in writing** by that members' council **and approved by the National Board or Directors or National Executive Committee.**

**7 Amendment:** Page 8 Article V Section 1

*Explanation:* Amendment increases the annual fee for National Associates from \$25 to \$50. It further stipulates either National Board must approve the application.

Proposed Change to now read:

Section 1—National Associate: Individuals who wish to support the organization may become National Associates of LULAC by contributing a minimum of ~~\$25~~ **\$50** annually to the National Office **and approval by National Board of Directors or National Executive Committee.**

**9 Amendment:** Page 9 Article V Section 1 Subsection b.

*Explanation:* Amendment clarifies an Associate cannot be a delegate to “any” convention. It further restricts their involvement in “appointive” positions nor can they be convicted felons.

Proposed Change to now read:

- b. Limitations: Individual Associates may not be delegates to ~~the National any~~ Convention, nor are they entitled to be nominated for elective office **or appointive positions. Convicted felons are not eligible as associates.**

**10 Amendment:** Page 9 Article V Section 2 and 3

*Explanation:* In Page 9 Section 2 speaks about “National” Associates in the body so the heading should contain the same word. Also Section 3 speaks in the body about councils having “corporations” as associate so the heading should also contain the word.

Proposed Change to now read:

Section 2—**National** Corporate Associate  
Section 3 – Council **or Corporate** Associate:

**11 Amendment:** Page 10 Article VI Section 1 Subsection d.

*Explanation:* District Director does not play a role in “presenting” charters. Application for charters are currently sent to the National Office and only the “National Board of Directors” can approve same. This amendment speaks to the current practice and proper procedure to follow.

Proposed Change to now read:

- d. Quorum: The certified delegates from one third (1/3) of the active Councils at the time of an annual convention or special-called session of the National Assembly shall constitute a quorum without reference to the number of District, State or National Officers who have a vote in said sessions. No Council that has been in existence less than thirty days or whose **application** for charter has not been **officially presented by the District Director approved by the National Board of Directors** thirty days or more before a session of the National Assembly shall be considered in determining a quorum. However, such Councils may send delegations as observers without vote.

**12 Amendment:** Page 10 Article VI Section 2

*Explanation:* Amendment consolidates 8 and 9 and adds all other appointments the National President makes i.e. Parliamentarian, Chaplain, and Director of Publicity. Page 25 “National Officers” identifies those elected and those appointed but without vote. Amendment 15 also speaks to the same matter but for the National Executive Committee.

Proposed Change to now read:

Section 2—The National Board of Directors:

- a. Definition and Composition: The National Board of Directors is the delegated executive arm of the National Assembly and shall be composed of the following:
  - (1) National President;
  - (2) Immediate Past National President;
  - (3) National Vice Presidents;
  - (4) Past National Presidents (**may vote subject to Subsection e. below**);
  - (5) National Treasurer;
  - (6) National Youth President;
  - (7) State Directors;
  - (8) ~~National Legal Advisor (without vote);~~
  - (8) ~~National Secretary (without vote);~~
  - (8) **Appointed Officers—National Secretary, National Legal Advisor, National Parliamentarian, National Chaplain, and National Director of Publicity (all without vote).**

**13 Amendment:** Page 11 Article VI Section 2 Subsection b. (4 & 5)

*Explanation:* Page 19 speaks about the authority a **council** has on matters involving misconduct by members and the consequences of their actions such as suspension or expulsion (6) and on matters involving impeachment and removal of officers (7):

(6) To suspend or expel from its ranks any member guilty of actions contrary to the best interests of the Council or the League in general, as provided in Article VIII, Section 8, Subsection a.(1) thru (8);

(7) To impeach and remove from office any of its officers guilty of the causes enumerated in Article VIII, Section 8, Subsection a. (1) thru (8);

Error is that both subsections refers them to Article VIII, Section 8, Subsection a. (1) thru (8). Indeed Subsection (4) below addresses the appeal of a member/council to the National Board but the amendment inserts the “suspension or expulsion” wording found in Page 19. The same is done with Subsection (5) with the insertion of the words “impeach and remove” officers from office as those found in Page 19 but adds “expel” as another consequence the National Board may impose.

Proposed Change to now read:

- (4) To listen to appeals from members and/or Councils **including charges of suspension or expulsion from the League** and to rule according to the facts of the case;
- (5) To **impeach, remove, expel or** suspend any member or officer from office any person of whatever rank for dereliction of duty, conduct unbecoming to an officer, violation of constitutional provisions, Bylaws, policies or other activities contrary to LULAC principles and welfare, and not in line with the best interests of the organization;

**15 Amendment:** Page 13 Article VI Section 3 Subsection b.

*Explanation:* Same as Amendment 12. All appointive positions are grouped together and declared non-voting.

Proposed Change to now read:

- b. Composition: The National Executive Committee will be composed of the following members:
  - (1) The National President;
  - (2) The Immediate Past National President;
  - (3) The National Vice Presidents;
  - (4) The National Treasurer;
  - (5) The National President of LULAC Youth.
  - (6) **Appointed Officers—National Secretary, National Legal Advisor, National Parliamentarian, National Chaplain, and National Director of Publicity (all without vote).**

**16 Amendment One:** Page 13 Article VI Section 3\_ Subsection c. (5)

*Explanation:* Better identifies it's the National entities it speaks about and that any action taken by the Nat'l Executive Committee must be ratified at the “first” meeting of the Nat'l Board of Directors.

Proposed Change to now read:

- (5) To act on behalf of the League on matters arising extemporaneously which require action or direction pending a meeting of the **National Board of Directors** or the Assembly. Policy or directives established by the **National Executive Committee** must be ratified at the **first** meeting of the National Board of Directors immediately following the action by the **National Executive Committee**;

**17 Amendment:** Page 14 Article VI Section 3 Subsection e.

*Explanation:* The National Executive Committee is composed of a lesser number of persons which can potentially give rise to not achieving quorum. This amendment instructs the National President to request “rsvp” from it's membership before unnecessary expenditures are made.

Proposed Change to now read:

- e. Quorum: One-half (1/2) of the voting Members of the Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum. **To assure a quorum, the National President shall request that members indicate within two weeks or less of receiving the notice of meeting whether or not they will be in attendance. Failure to receive favorable notice from the necessary majority shall indicate postponement of the meeting to a later date. All procedures set for calling these meetings shall be followed in the case of a postponed meeting. Any action of the National Executive Committee taken without a quorum shall be invalid. National Executive Committee members may send representatives but their presence cannot be used to establish quorum nor will they be allowed to vote. Voting by proxy is prohibited.**

# CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

**18 Amendment** Page 15 Article VI Section 5 Subsection a.  
*Explanation:* Adds Deputy Dir for the Elderly and identifies those appointive positions.

Proposed Change to now read:

Section 5—The State Executive Board:

- a. Definition and Composition: The State Executive Board is the delegated executive branch of the State Assembly and shall be composed of:
  - (1) The State Director;
  - (2) The Deputy State Director;
  - (3) **The Deputy State Director for the Elderly;**
  - (4) ~~The Deputy State Director for Women's Activities;~~
  - (5) The Deputy State Director for Young Adults;
  - (6) The Deputy State Director for Youth;
  - (7) The State Treasurer;
  - (8) The Immediate Past State Director;
  - (9) The District Directors;
  - (10) Appointed Officers—State Secretary, **State Legal Advisor, State Parliamentarian, State Chaplain, and State Director of Publicity** (all without vote).

**19 Amendment:** Page 15 Article VI Section 5 Subsection d.  
*Explanation:* Increases the number of State Executive Board meetings from 1 to 2 and inserts notice of other meetings to be at least 30 days prior. Meetings should be Saturday's as a courtesy to Board members who work during the week.

Proposed Change to now read:

Section 5—The State Executive Board:

- d. Meetings: **The minimum number of scheduled meetings of the State Executive Board shall be two. The only scheduled meeting of the State Executive Board The first** shall be the organizational one which shall be held at the site and immediately following the close of the State Convention. **The second shall be anytime thereafter with 30 days notice by the State Director to State Executive Board members.** In case of an emergency situation, the State Director, **or a minimum of 1/3 of the members of the Executive Board,** may call a **special meeting with 72 hour notice** of the State Executive Board, advising the members by the quickest means of communication. State Executive Board meetings shall be **held on Saturdays and** for one day only.

**21 Amendment:** Page 16 Article VI Section 7 Subsection a.  
*Explanation:* District Executive will mirror the State and National Executive Boards.

Proposed Change to now read:

Section 7—The District Executive Board:

- a. Definition and Composition: The District Executive Board is the Executive branch of the District Assembly and shall be composed of:
  - (1) The District Director;
  - (2) The Deputy District Director;
  - (3) **The Deputy District Director for the Elderly;**
  - (4) **The Deputy District Director for Women;**
  - (5) **The Deputy District Director for Young Adults;**
  - (6) The Deputy District Director for Youth;
  - (7) **District Treasurer**
  - (8) The Immediate Past District Director;
  - (9) The Presidents of the Local Councils in the District;
  - (10) Appointed Officers: **District Secretary, District Legal Advisor, District Parliamentarian, District Chaplain, and District Director of Publicity** (all without vote)

**23 Amendment:** Page 17 Article VI Section 7 Subsection c.  
*Explanation:* Increases the number of Dist Exec meetings from 1 to 2 just like the State (see 19). Complete original wording is deleted and new verbiage is added since it was difficult to edit.

Currently reads:

- c. Meetings: The District Executive Board shall hold a scheduled meeting at the site and immediately following the close of the District Convention and no other, unless a situation or need for a special meeting arises. The call for a special meeting shall follow the procedures established for the National Executive Board and State Executive Board under Article VI, Section 2, Subsection d., Items (2) and (3) or Section 4, Subsection d.

Proposed Change to now read:

- C. Meetings: **The minimum number of scheduled meetings of the District Executive Board shall be two. The first shall be the first organizational one which shall be held at the site and immediately following the close of the District Convention. The second shall be anytime thereafter with 30 days notice by the District Director to District Executive Board members. In case of an emergency the District Director or 1/3 of the members of the**

**District Executive Board may call a special meeting with 72 hour notice advising the members by the quickest means of communication. District Executive Board meetings shall be held on Saturdays and for one day only**

**26 Amendment:** Page 18 Article VI Section 8 Subsection b. (4)  
*Explanation:* Only the Nat'l Board can approve charters. Councils and State Dir should also be notified.

Proposed Change to now read:

- 4) Upon approval of the application by the ~~National Executive Board~~ **National Board of Directors**, a Charter will be issued by the National Office and sent to the **Council in addition to the Director of the District and State Director** in which the Council is to be located or the State Director if **no District exists.** (~~Subsection h., below~~);

**27 Amendment:** Page 18 Article VI Section 8 Subsection b. (6)  
*Explanation:* Changes the due date from March 31 to Feb 28. District Conventions are held in April and now will have at least 30 days before their convention to accept and process council rosters and eliminate credential questions. Same verbiage exists in Page 50 and is addressed by Amendment 56.

Proposed Change to now read:

- (6) Charter Fees: The sum of \$50.00 is hereby set as the fee for issuance of a charter by the ~~Supreme Council~~ **National Board of Directors** to a group that applies and is approved for affiliation as a Local Council with the League. Said fee shall be renewed on an annual basis, due to the LULAC National Treasurer on the first day of January each year and payable no later than ~~March 31~~ **February 28** of that same year by each Local Council. Any Council not having paid said fee by the ~~March 31~~ **February 28** due date shall have its charter revoked and will be required to apply for a new charter and pay all fees as prescribed for the chartering of a new Council. Said fees shall be deposited in the General Fund of the National Office.

**28 Amendment:** Page 19 Article VI Section 8 Subsection c.  
*Explanation:* Adds verbiage already found in Page 6 relating to Councils authority to name Honorary members and also to name Council Associates as in Page 19 for Art V, Sect 3.

Proposed Change to now read: New Subsection (9)  
**(9) Name Honorary members as per Article IV, Section 3(e) and Council Associates as per Article V, Section 3;**

**30 Amendment:** Page 20 Article VI Section 8 Subsection h.  
*Explanation:* Charter applications go to Nat'l Board not Executive.

Proposed Change to now read:

- h. Application for LULAC Charter: To the **LULAC National Executive Board of Directors using the form provided by the National Office.** ~~of the League of Latin American Citizens Greetings:~~

**31 Amendment:** Page 20 Article VI Section 9 Subsection b.  
*Explanation:* 18 years or older continues to be age requirement for Young Adult Council members but the wording is redone to make it clearer.

Proposed Change to now read:

- b. Members of a Local Young Adult Council must be ~~no less than~~ **18 years of age or older.**

**32 Amendment:** Page 25 Article VIII Section 1  
*Explanation:* LULAC currently has Nat'l VP for the Elderly but is not listed in the constitution. Also brought Nat'l Treasurer from 5<sup>th</sup> position to 2<sup>nd</sup> position.

Proposed Change to now read:

Section 1—Elective Officers: The following positions will be filled by majority vote of the General Assembly each year:

- a. National President;
- b. National Treasurer;
- c. **National Vice President for the Elderly;**
- d. National Vice President for Women;
- e. National Vice President for Young Adults;
- f. National Vice President for Youth;
- g. National Vice President Southwest;
- h. National Vice President Midwest;
- i. National Vice President Farwest;
- j. National Vice President Southeast;
- k. National Vice President Northeast;
- l. National Vice President Northwest.

# CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

## 33 Amendment: Page 25 Article VIII Section 2

*Explanation:* National Presidents have previously appointed Sergeant at Arms and at the local council level they are elected. Amendment formally identifies this position as an appointive one. Also adds Nat'l Board other than Nat'l Executive Committee who can approve appointments.

Proposed Change to now read:

Section 2—Appointed Officers: The National President shall nominate any qualified member in good standing to the following appointed positions subject to confirmation by majority vote of the **National Board of Directors or** National Executive Committee:

- a. **National** Secretary;
- b. **National** Legal Advisor;
- c. **National** Parliamentarian;
- d. **National** Chaplain;
- e. **National** Director of Publicity;
- f. **National Sergeant at Arms**;
- g. Any other Office designated by the President with the approval of the **National Board of Directors or** National Executive Committee.

## 34 Amendment: Page 26 Article VIII Section 4 Subsection New

*Explanation:* The first section restates the current requirement (Page 42) for candidates for a council position which is not be a publicly elected or appointed official:

(3) Not hold an elective or appointive political office at the time of his election or appointment or at any time during his tenure of LULAC office. School Board membership shall not be deemed a political office.

Second section seeks to avoid potential conflicts of interest by requiring employees of LULAC entities not run for LULAC elective positions or be eligible for appointments.

Proposed Change to now read: New Subsections

(  ) **Not hold an elective or appointive political office at the time of his or her election or appointment or at any time during their tenure of LULAC office. School Board or those positions where no wage compensation or enumeration is received shall not be deemed a political office.**

(  ) **Members deriving employment wages from any organization owned by or that bears the LULAC name are ineligible to run for or hold a LULAC office, elective or appointive. A complete year must elapse from the last employment date before they are eligible to run for a LULAC office.**

## 37 Amendment: Page 28 Article VIII Section 5 Subsection e.

*Explanation:* Added Delaware to states under control of Nat'l VP for the NE.

Proposed Change to now read: **Add "Delaware" to National Vice President of Northeast**

## 38 Amendment: Page 28 Article VIII Section 6 Subsection d.

*Explanation:* Added Nat'l Board of Directors.

Proposed Change to now read:

- d. All vacancies occurring in the ranks of the National officers in the interim between sessions of the National Assembly shall be filled with persons appointed by the National President and approved by the **National Board of Directors or** National Executive Committee. All such appointments shall adhere to the qualifications and limitations established in Article VIII, Sect 4.

## 41 Amendment: Page 30 Article VIII Section 8 Subsections b. (1)-(8)

*Explanation:* Clarifies the National Board of Directors and not Nat'l Executive Committee can hear cases of impeachment of Nat'l Officers. Adds expulsion and suspension as matters it can discuss. Adds procedure if Nat'l President is the accused.

Proposed Change to now read:

Section 8—**Expulsion, suspension**, impeachment And/Or Removal of National Officers:

- b. Charges against **an a member** or officer may be brought by a Local Council, a member, or another officer, following the guidelines below:
  - (1) Charges must be in writing, sworn to by the individual or council and giving the name of the accused and the details of causes;
  - (2) **Charges against** Officers at District, State and National levels and Local Councils **may shall** forward their charges directly to the National President. **Charges against members shall be presented at the council level**;
  - (3) **If the accused is the National President the charges shall be forwarded to the National Treasurer or any National Vice President**;
  - (4) The National President **or the National Treasurer or any Na-**

**tional Vice President**, upon the receipt of the charges, shall inform the accused and schedule a hearing for the next meeting of the National **Board of Directors Executive Committee**;

- (5) If the **National Board of Directors National Executive Committee** determines that there is no reasonable cause to support the charges, the case will be dismissed and all references to the charges will be stricken from the record;
- (6) If the National **Board of Directors Executive Committee** determines that there is reasonable cause to support the charges the National Officer shall be removed from office and this decision will be final;
- (7) If the National **Board of Directors Executive Committee** determines that the accused should also be expelled from the League, the accused shall have the right to appeal this decision to the National Assembly;
- (8) The decision of the National Assembly rendered by a majority vote shall be final;
- (9) The accused shall have the right to legal counsel at the hearing before the National **Board of Directors Executive Committee** and the National Assembly.

## 42 Amendment: Page 31 Article VIII Section 9 Subsection a (4) and (5)

*Explanation:* National Board of Directors can also approve National appointments. Correction: Nat'l Executive Committee should have been left in (4). However in (5) only National Board of Directors can hear cases of suspension and/or removal of officers.

Proposed Change to now read:

- (4) To name all National Committees, appoint designated National Officers, and to fill vacancies in National Offices with ~~the certification of the Local Councils involved~~ and the approval of the National **Board of Directors or** National Executive Committee;
- (5) To suspend and/or remove from office, with the approval of the National **Board of Directors Executive Committee** any National Officer who is lax or incompetent in the discharge of his duties or who is found guilty of any of the causes enumerated in Article VIII, Section 8, Subsection a. (1) thru (8);

## 43 Amendment: Page 31 Article VIII Section 10 Subsection New

*Explanation:* Added additional authority to National President but now must tender all documents to successor.

Proposed Change to now read: New sections

- (10) **Appoint all vacancies occurring in the ranks of the National Officers in the interim between sessions of the National Assembly with the consent of the National Board of Directors or National Executive Committee provided appointees fulfill those qualifications and limitations established in Article VIII, Section 4.**
- (11) **Appoint State Directors in States with less than three councils, except District of Columbia, with the consent of the National Board of Directors or National Executive Committee.**
- (12) **Deliver to my successor in office all books, papers, records and other proper of the League that may be in my possession at the close of my official term.**

## 44 Amendment: Page 32 Article VIII Section c. Subsection (4)

*Explanation:* National President can preside also on National Executive Committee meetings.

Proposed Change to now read:

- (4) To preside at sessions of the National Assembly and the National Board of Directors **or National Executive Committee** meetings when requested by or in the temporary absence of the National President;

## 45 Amendment: Page 32 Article VIII Section c. Subsection (6)

*Explanation:* Adds National Board of Directors

Proposed Change to now read:

- (6) To assume such other duties and responsibilities as may be assigned to him or her by the National President, **the National Board of Directors** or the National Executive Board, particularly within the geographical area from which he or she is elected;

## 46 Amendment: Page 34-37 Article 9 Section 9 Subsection f. (3)(4)(5), i.(2), k(1)(2)(4)

*Explanation:* Adds "National Board of Directors or" to various sections.

ADD "**National Board of Directors or**" before National Executive Board



# CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

**47 Amendment:** Page 37 Article IX Section 1 Subsection  
*Explanation:* Adds Deputy State Director for the Elderly to State Elected positions.

Proposed Change to now read: **Section I—Elective Officers:**

- a. State Director;
- b. Deputy State Director;
- c. State Treasurer;
- d. **Deputy State Director for the Elderly;**
- e. Deputy State Director of Women's Activities;
- f. Deputy State Director for Young Adults;
- g. Deputy State Director of Youth.

**48 Amendment:** Page 38 Article IX Section 6 Subsection  
*Explanation:* Same as Amendment 12. All appointive positions are grouped together and declared non-voting. State Officers just like National Officers cannot serve longer than 4 years.

Proposed Change to now read:

Section 6—Tenure of Office: All provisions in Article VIII, Section 6, Subsections a. to f. shall be applicable to State Officers, substituting the State nomenclature for that of National. A person may not seek a state office for which he has already served for four **years consecutive or intermittently**, if ~~he or she has any opposition~~.

**49 Amendment:** Page 38 Article IX Section 8 Subsection a. (4)  
*Explanation:* State Director needs only approval of St Executive Committee to appoint or fill vacancies.

Proposed Change to now read:

(4) To name all State Committees, appoint State Officers and State Office Personnel, and to fill vacancies in State Offices with the ~~certification of the Local Councils involved and the approval of the State Executive Board as provided in the State Constitution and Bylaws or as the needs of his area may require;~~

**50 Amendment:** Page 41 Article X Section 1 Subsection  
*Explanation:* District Offices mirror those of National and State.

Proposed Change to now read:

Section I—Elective Officers:

- a. District Director;
- b. Deputy District Director;
- c. **District Treasurer;**
- d. **Deputy District Director for the Elderly;**
- e. **Deputy District Director for Women's;**
- f. Deputy District Director for Young Adults;
- g. Deputy District Director for Youth;

**51 Amendment:** Page 41 Article X Section 3  
*Explanation:* Question of tenure for Dist Officers is already addressed in Section 5 (see amendment 52).

Proposed Change to now read:

Section 3—Qualifications: All District Officers, whether elected or appointed must possess the qualifications set in Article VIII, Section 4, Subsections a. ~~thru f.~~ of this Constitution, except under Subsection b., previous office holding is limited to Local District Executive Board and/or District levels. ~~A person cannot seek the position of District Executive Board President if he or she has held this position for four years, if he or she has any opposition.~~ (Addressed below)

**52 Amendment:** Page 41 Article X Section 5  
*Explanation:* District Officers cannot hold office longer than 4 years. Same as Nat'l Officers.

Proposed Change to now read:

Section 5—Tenure of Office: All provisions in Article VIII, Section 6 of this Constitution shall apply to District Officers, substituting District designations for the National designations. A person cannot seek the position of District ~~Executive Board President Director~~ if he or she has held this position for four years **intermittently or consecutively**. ~~if he or she has any opposition; if any other qualified person is nominated;~~

**53 Amendment:** Page 43 Article XI Section 3  
*Explanation:* If Amendment 34 dealing with elective political positions is approved this section becomes mute and can be deleted.

Currently reads:

Section 3—Qualifications:

- (3) Not hold an elective or appointive political office at the time of his elec-

tion or appointment or at any time during his tenure of LULAC office. School Board membership shall not be deemed a political office.

Proposed Change to now read: DELETE. Already previously addressed.

**56 Amendment:** Page 50 Article XIII Section 1 Subsection  
*Explanation:* Changes the due date from March 31 to Feb 28. District Conventions are held in April and now will have at least 30 days before their convention to accept and process council rosters and eliminate credential questions. Same verbiage exists in Page 18 and is addressed by Amendment 27.

Proposed Change to now read:

Section 1—Revenue Sources:

a. Charter Fees:

The sum of \$50.00 is hereby set as the fee of issuance of a Charter by the ~~Supreme Council~~ **National Board of Directors** to a group that applies and is approved for affiliation as a Local Council with the League. Said fee shall be renewed on an annual basis and be due to the LULAC National Treasurer on the first day of January of each year and payable no later than ~~March 31~~ **February 28** of that same year by each Local Council. Any Council not having paid said fee by the ~~March 31~~ **February 28** due date shall have its charter revoked and will be required to apply for a new charter and pay all fees as prescribed for the chartering of a new Council. Said fees shall be deposited in the General Fund of the National Office.

**57 Amendment:** Page 54 Article XIV Section 2 Subsection a. and b.  
*Explanation:* Allows amendments to be submitted via electronic mail and addresses which date shall be used to calculate the 60 and 30 day benchmarks.

Proposed Change to now read:

- a. All amendments must be submitted typewritten in ~~duplicate~~ **via electronic mail or postmarked** to the National ~~Office Board of Directors~~ sixty days before the National Convention date **which shall be when the National Assembly is scheduled to be convened to be certified and vote. The National Office in turn shall send copies of the amendments to all Councils in good standing thirty days prior to said date.**
- b. ~~After a review of the amendment or amendments by the National Board of Directors Amendments and to ascertain that all is in order and no conflicts exist, the National Secretary shall mimeograph copies of the amendment(s) and send them to all Councils in good standing for their study thirty days prior to the National Convention date~~

**58 Amendment:** Page 64 Article II (Bylaws) Section 4 Subsection d.  
*Explanation:* Restates charter applications must be received 30 days prior to the convention and states only Nat'l Board approves charters.

Proposed Change to now read:

- d. Councils organized less than thirty days prior to a convention or whose charter has not been officially presented **and approved by the National Board of Directors within the thirty days**, may send delegations to a convention but without the right to vote. ~~as stipulated in Article V, Section 7, Subsection d.; Item (3) of the National Constitution;~~

**59 Amendment:** Page 64 Article ByLaws II Section 6 Subsection a.  
*Explanation:* Adds National Board of Directors

Proposed Change to now read:

Section 6—Convention Committees:

- a. The following Convention Committees shall be nominated by National President with the approval of the **National Board of Directors** or National Executive Committee:

**60 Amendment:** Page 66 Article ByLaws II Section 6 Subsection d.  
*Explanation:* Size of committees should be odd number not even.

Proposed Change to now read:

- d. Committees shall have no less than three and no more than ~~ten~~ **eleven** members including the chairman, and no one delegation shall have more than one voting member on any one committee.

**61 Amendment:** Page 67 Article ByLaws III Section 1  
*Explanation:* Changes national dues deadline from March 31 to Feb 28 and adds Nat'l Board and Nat'l Executive Committee shall receive a report from the Nat'l Treasurer

Proposed Change to now read:

Section 1—National: The National dues for LULAC active members shall be \$1 per month payable in quarterly installments to the councils for remittance to the National Office. National dues expire on December 31st of each year, and are due on January 1st of the new calendar year. National dues are payable for 12 months in advance if a member is renewing membership, or for pro-rated portion of the calendar year if coming

# CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

from a new member. The National dues are payable to the Councils for remittance to the National Office by the end of the quarter in March **February 28**. A pilot system of direct invoicing to members is hereby authorized. The LULAC National Treasurer shall report to the Supreme Council **National Board of Directors and National Executive Committee** at various intervals.

\*\*\*\*\*

## AMENDMENTS RECOMMENDED FOR DENIAL

### Council 1088 – Tucson, Arizona:

**Amendment 1.** Page 24. Article VII. Section 6 Subsection (a)  
a. Ten or more boys and/or girls ~~who are residents of the United States of America~~, between the ages of ~~thirteen and one-half (13-1/2)~~ **nine (9)** and nineteen (19) inclusive, and meet other qualifications for membership as stipulated in the LULAC Youth Constitution and Bylaws shall be a minimum number with which to form a Youth Council. Persons who are 18 or 19 may exercise the option of joining a young adult or senior council;

**Amendment 2.** Page 8. Article V. Associates  
Individuals or organizations who do not belong to a local Council, but who wish to support the work of the Organization **or form a Council outside the U.S.** may become a LULAC Associate under one or more of the following categories. Page 9. New Section **Section 4—International Associate Council: Councils organized outside the U.S. may become International Associate Councils by contributing \$100 annually to the National Office and upon approval by the National Board of Directors. They will follow the same rules and procedures as councils in the U.S. International Associate Council's members will enjoy the rights, privileges and limitations as those listed under this Article.**

**Amendment 3.** Page 27. Article VIII. Section 5 Subsection (e.)  
National V.P. Southwest: ~~New Mexico~~ • Missouri • Oklahoma • Texas • Arkansas • Kansas  
• Louisiana • ~~Colorado~~  
National Vice President Midwest: • North Dakota • South Dakota • Nebraska • Kansas • Minnesota • Iowa • Missouri • Wisconsin • Illinois • Michigan • Indiana • Ohio  
National Vice President Far West: • California • Nevada • ~~Arizona~~ • ~~Utah~~ • Hawaii  
National Vice President Northeast: • Kentucky • Tennessee • North Carolina • South Carolina • Puerto Rico • Alabama • Georgia • Florida • Mississippi  
National Vice President Northwest: • Washington • Montana • Oregon • Idaho • Wyoming • Alaska  
National Vice President Northeast: • Virginia • West Virginia • Maryland • Pennsylvania • New York • Connecticut • District of Columbia • New Hampshire • Maine • Rhode Island  
• Massachusetts • New Jersey • Vermont  
**National Vice President Rocky Mountain: • Arizona • New Mexico • Colorado • Utah • Wyoming • Montana • Idaho**

### COUNCIL 132 – El Paso, Texas

**1 Amendment:** Page 4 Article IV Section Subsection  
*Explanation:* As currently stated the penalty for a council or person denying a candidate membership is impeachment by the District Executive Board. Error here is that only Officers can be “impeached but not Councils or persons. New wording levies the appropriate penalty to each; Council’s charter may be revoked, members may be expelled, and officers may be impeached. Another matter is the current wording states the District Board will make the determination and the guilty party shall appeal to the National Board. The new wording leaves that wording but inserts that after the District determination the affected party shall appeal first to State THEN to the National Board and inserts National Assembly at the end. This respects the hierarchy and jurisdiction of each LULAC entity. Amendment 13 also speaks to this matter when it pertains to actions the National Board can take.

Proposed Change to now read: Amend the first paragraph.  
All persons of either sex who are residents of the United States of America, or citizens of the United States residing abroad, and are eighteen years of age or older, and whose loyalty to our country is unquestionable, are eligible for membership in the League. No council at present, or in the future, shall deviate from this requirement or ask for more requirements to become a member of LULAC. All other amendments pertaining to membership whether general or special shall be declared null and void. Any councils or persons found denying a valid candidate for membership **shall may have their charter revoked, members may be expelled, and officers may be impeached** by the district executive board by a majority vote. **The guilty affected party of council may shall appeal only first to State, then to the National Board of Directors and thereafter National Assembly. Convicted felons are not eligible for membership unless their State of residency has restored their right to vote.**

**3 Amendment:** Page 6 Article IV Section 3 New Subsections  
*Explanation:* Constitution grants exemption from dues to Distinguished and Senior

**members yet is silent on what privilege exactly is bestowed by the National Assembly to an Honorary Member. This amendment extends the same privileges also to Honorary members.**

Note: Constitution is absent in regards to fees and voting privileges of Honorary Members. National Assembly is the only entity to confer this title anyway.  
Currently reads: Has only Subsections a. – e.

### Proposed Change to now read:

- f. Exempt from all National, State, District and Council dues.
- g. Placed on the rolls of their home Council and their membership taken into consideration in determining delegate strength to conventions;
- h. Entitled to all the rights and privileges of active members and to a voice and vote at District, State and National Conventions;

**5 Amendment:** Page 7 Article IV Section 4 Subsection d  
*Explanation:* Living Past National Presidents are automatically perpetual members of the National Board of Directors. The way Subsection d. reads is that to achieve quorum a minimum of three former Presidents **MUST** be present and if less than that are **NOT** present quorum cannot be established. What I believe the writers of this subsection meant to say is that if more than three appear at a meeting only three will be taken into account to establish quorum.

Another change is that the paragraph correctly starts speaking about Past National Presidents at National Board Meetings yet incorrectly ends speaking about the National EXECUTIVE Board which Past Presents are not part of except the Immediate Past National President. Amendment 14 addresses how to determine quorum when more than 3 Past National Presidents are present at a National Board meeting.

### Proposed Change to now read:

- d. All living Past National Presidents who have attained the title of Distinguished Member by virtue of their position shall be Members of the National Board of Directors with a right to a voice and vote in all matters. They shall be notified by the National President of the date and place of the National Board of Directors meetings and a ~~minimum~~ **maximum** of three, including the Immediate Past National President, shall be taken into consideration in determining a quorum of the National **Executive Board of Directors** at any meeting.

**8 Amendment:** Page 8 Article V Section 1 Subsection a. (3)  
*Explanation:* Members, unlike “Associates”, must be U.S. citizens or residents and enjoy voting; being delegates, holding office and their loyalty to our country is unquestionable. Constitution however does not require the same of Associates nor does it offer the same privileges. This amendment speaks to that difference by deleting verbiage that contradicts the difference.  
p.s. The amendment submitted does say to “delete” but does not actually “strike” the sentence (subsection (3) below) as done here.  
Currently reads: Section 1—National Associate:  
(3)———To abide by the National Constitution and Bylaws;

Proposed Change to now read: Delete. Only members need comply.

**14 Amendment:** Page 12 Article VI Section 2 Subsection e.  
*Explanation:* Amendment speaks to what happens when more than 3 Past National Presidents are present at a National Board Meeting. Seniority shall be used to determine who may sit in determining quorum and voting. This amendment is mute if Amendment 5 above is not approved. This amendment finally settles the issue if National Board member’s representatives may vote or be counted to establish quorum.

Proposed Change to now read:  
e. Quorum: One third (1/3) of the voting members of the National Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum to transact business. **A maximum of three Past National Presidents including the Immediate Past National President shall be taken into consideration in determining quorum. Excluding the Immediate Past National President seniority will be used in selecting those Past National Presidents who will be counted as part of quorum and allowed to vote.** To assure a quorum, the National President shall request that members indicate within two weeks or less of receiving the notice of meeting whether or not they will be in attendance. Failure to receive favorable notice from the necessary majority shall indicate postponement of the meeting to a later date. All procedures set for calling these meetings shall be followed in the case of a postponed meeting. Any action of the National Board of Directors taken without a quorum shall be invalid. **National Board of Directors members may send representatives but their presence cannot be used to establish quorum nor will they be allowed to vote. Voting by proxy is prohibited.**

**20 Amendment:** Page 15 Article VI Section 5 Subsection e.  
*Explanation:* Same requirements for State Exec Board members as those for Nat’l Board

# CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS

members on the matter of sending representatives.

Proposed Change to now read:

e. Quorum: One-third (1/3) of the voting members of the State Executive Board shall comprise a quorum to transact business. Failure to muster a quorum shall be cause to cancel the proposed meeting or if held without a quorum, the actions of the State Executive Board shall be invalid. **State Executive Committee members may send representatives but their presence cannot be used to establish quorum nor will they be allowed to vote. Voting by proxy is prohibited.**

**22 Amendment One:** Page 17 Article VI Section 7 Subsection b. (1)

*Explanation:* Art VI, Sect 2, Subsection b has 1 through 8 not 3.

Proposed Change to now read:

(1) Assume those powers enumerated in this Constitution under Article VI, Section 2, Subsection b., Items (1) through (8), except that Item (1) shall be limited to appointments by the District Director and Items (2) and (3) shall be limited to the District;

**24 Amendment:** Page 17 Article VI Section 7 New Subsection

*Explanation:* District Executive members may send representatives but without vote. Same as 20.

Proposed Change to now read: New Subsection

e. **District Executive Board members may send representatives but their presence cannot be used to establish quorum nor will they be allowed to vote. Voting by proxy is prohibited.**

**25 Amendment:** Page 18 Article VI Section 8 Subsection b. (3)

*Explanation:* New wording will eliminate the confusion of when applications for a charter are timely rec'd.

Proposed Change to now read:

(3) The application, accompanied by a roster of the officers and members of the group, complete with mailing addresses, a \$50.00 charter fee and a \$4.00 initiation fee and the dues payable for each member on the roster, shall be forwarded to the National Office. All councils chartered 30 days prior to the National Convention will be allowed to have voting privileges. **Application must be received or be postmarked not later than 30 days prior to any convention.**

**29 Amendment:** Page 19 Article VI Section 8 Subsection d. (3)

*Explanation:* Same wording exists in Amendment 25. Also refers them to a subsection in P. 18

Proposed Change to now read:

(3) A Local Council organized less than thirty days prior to a District, State or National Convention or one whose charter has not been **presented** officially **approved as per Subsection b(3) above**, may send delegations but may not have the right to cast votes.

**35 Amendment:** Page 26 Article VIII Section 4 Subsection b.

*Explanation:* Restates the requirement to be eligible for elective or appointive positions including the Nat'l Legal Advisor.

Proposed Change to now read:

b. Have held an **elective or appointive** office for one year at the Local, District, State or **National** level within three years of his or her **election or** appointment. In the case of the Legal Advisor, the person must **in addition** possess a law degree and be a practicing attorney in good standing;

**36 Amendment One:** Page 27 Article VIII Section 5 Subsection c.

**(Withdrawn by Council 132 – Will be left as is.)**

Proposed Change to now read:

c. All elective National Officers, with the exception of State Directors who are elected by their respective State Assemblies, shall be elected by a majority vote of the accredited delegates to the National Assembly. For those unusual but possible instances where the balloting does not give a clear cut majority vote to any candidate, the following procedures shall prevail:

**40 Amendment:** Page 29 Article VIII Section 7

*Explanation:* National Presidents make appointments normally at the first meeting of the Nat'l Board of Directors in October. The provision below has not followed in practice so then delete.  
Currently reads:

**Section 7—Appointment Of Officers:** Nominees for appointment to National Offices shall be announced to the National Assembly by the National President Elect after all elections have been concluded and prior to the installation ceremonies. All appointments are subject to approval or rejection by the National Executive Committee at its first meeting, following the adjournment of the National Assembly. Should any appointee decline his appointment or should the National President Elect fail to have a complete roster of his appointments for the first National Executive Committee meeting, he shall then have thirty days from the adjournment date of the National Assembly to complete said roster and to submit his nominees by letter to the individual members of the National Executive Committee for their approval or rejection which shall be by registered mail vote. No appointment made by the National President is valid unless approved by a majority of the voting members of the National Executive Committee.

Proposed Change to now read: **Delete.** Already addressed in Section 2 above and other areas.

**54 Amendment:** Page 43 Article XI Section 4 Subsection a. and b.

*Explanation:* Elections at council level should be outlined in constitution.

Proposed Change to now read:

Section 4—Election or Appointment:

- a. All elective officers shall be elected by a majority vote of the Council during the month of March, ~~at such date as may be set by the Local Constitution and/or Bylaws. Should no Constitution or Bylaws be established,~~ Notice of elections, giving the place, hour and date, shall be given the members **in writing** thirty days prior;
- b. Voting shall be by a show of hands, roll call, ~~or secret ballot as the Local Constitution and/or Bylaws may establish~~ or as the Local Rules Committee may recommend and the Council may approve;

**55 Amendment:** Page 43 Article XI Section 5

*Explanation:* Additional wording found in Council's tenure of office is not relevant.

Proposed Change to now read:

Section 5—Tenure of Office: All terms of office of Local Council Officers and any limitation thereto shall be in keeping with the provisions set in Article VIII, Section 6, except that all situations are limited to the Local Council scope ~~and all references to appointed officers shall not apply since all offices of the Local Council are elective with the exception of Council Committees.~~

\*\*\*\*\*

## AMENDMENT TABLED

### COUNCIL 132 – El Paso, Texas

**39 Amendment:** Page 28 Article VIII Section 6 Subsection e.

*Explanation:* If National President Office becomes vacant within 30 days an election must take place. Adds Nat'l Treasurer eligible to be elected. Adds newly elected Nat'l President cannot retain old position:

d. All vacancies occurring in the ranks of the National officers in the interim between sessions of the National Assembly shall be filled with persons appointed by the National President and approved by the National Executive Committee. In all such appointments, the National President and National Executive Committee shall adhere to the qualifications and limitations established in Article VIII, Section 4.

Proposed Change to now read:

- e. Should the office of National President become vacant at any time for whatever reason, **within 30 days** a new National President will be elected by a majority vote of the National Executive Committee from among the National Vice Presidents **or National Treasurer. Newly elected National President may not retain his or her previous position but shall appoint their replacement as provided for in subsection d. above**



## Report Highlights Need for Action To Combat School Dropout Crisis

A highly publicized study by America's Promise Alliance spotlights a problem that LULAC has been working to address for much of its history: The alarming high school dropout rate, particularly in inner-city minority-dominated schools.

The Alliance, which was started by former Secretary of State and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Colin Powell, found that the dropout rate in the nation's high schools is even higher than previously thought. The overall graduation rate, commonly thought to be about 85%, is actually closer to 70%, according to the in-depth report released on April 1.

For Hispanics, the national graduation rate is 58%, 12 percentage points lower than the national average. That is five percentage points higher than for black students and eight higher than Native Americans but nearly 20 percentage points lower than for white students and 23 below Asian Americans.

The picture is especially bleak in urban schools, where the graduation rate is generally 15 percentage points below schools in the suburbs. "In the most extreme cases (Baltimore, Cleveland, Detroit and Indianapolis), fewer than 35% of students graduate with a diploma," the report concluded.

A full copy of the report is available on the Web at [www.americaspromise.org](http://www.americaspromise.org). You can find information about the dropout rate at your high school by going on the Web to [maps.edweek.org](http://maps.edweek.org).

LULAC's efforts to combat the high dropout rate include the Upward Bound and mentoring programs operated by LULAC National Educational Service Centers (LNESC). Upward Bound provides intensive college preparatory support for high school students from low-income backgrounds. It promotes academic and personal development with weekly sessions with an academic advisor.

Students participating in the mentor program receive one-on-one mentoring designed to improve their academic achievement and interpersonal relationships with peers, teachers, family members and other adults. The program helps deduce the school dropout rate, gang involvement and juvenile delinquency. Information about LNESC programs is available on the Web at [www.LNESC.org](http://www.LNESC.org).

LULAC is also part of the Campaign for High School Equity coalition working to boost parental involvement among Hispanics and other communities of color to improve local schools and reform federal education policies.



**Richard Roybal**  
*Executive Director*

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Richard Roybal, Executive Director | 2000 L Street, NW, Suite 610 | Washington, DC 20036

# **Gracias por conducirnos hacia el éxito**

**En Nissan, estamos orgullosos de ser miembros  
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Gathering of LULAC members during the Boston state convention on May 24.



Photo by Luis Nuno Briones

On June 8, Roger Rocha, Texas State Director swore in the new Texas LULAC elected officers and handed over the gavel to Joe Cardenas, newly elected Texas State Director.

## Yes! I want to be a LULAC member!

All persons who are residents of the United States or are U.S. citizens residing abroad, are 18 years of age or older, and whose loyalty to our country is unquestionable, are eligible for membership in LULAC. LULAC members receive a copy of the LULAC Constitution, a membership card, a membership pin, and a complimentary subscription to the *LULAC NEWS*.

- ☐ I want to join LULAC as an active member. Please send me information on councils in my home area.
- ☐ I want to join LULAC as an associate member. Please find a check of \$25 enclosed.
- ☐ I want to become a lifetime member of LULAC. Enclosed is a contribution in the amount of \$1,000.
- ☐ My company would like to join LULAC as a corporate associate. Enclosed is a contribution of \$1,000.
- ☐ Please send me information on how I can start a LULAC council in my hometown.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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