

# **VIRGINIA 2015**

## **Latino Civic Engagement Forum**

**Organized by  
Virginia Latino Leaders Council  
and  
Virginia Coalition of Latino Organizations**



**Sunday, June 14, 2015  
9:30 AM – 1:30 PM**

**Holiday Inn Rosslyn  
1900 N. Fort Myer Drive  
Arlington, VA**

# Virginia Latino Leaders Council

P.O. Box 6219 Arlington, VA 22206

[virginialatinoleaderscouncil.org](http://virginialatinoleaderscouncil.org)

Dear friends/amig@s,

Thank you for joining us as we seek to enhance the voice of the Latino community in Virginia. I am delighted that the Virginia Latino Leaders Council and VACOLAO have organized this event to bring what I hope will be one of many activities where Latino civic engagement is the focus, and the voices and priorities of Latinos in Virginia are realized.

By way of background, the origins of the Virginia Latino Leaders Council began last September, when a large group of Latino activists from throughout Virginia was invited by Governor Terry McAuliffe to meet with him and members of his Administration to discuss issues of importance to Virginia's Latino community. It was an excellent conversation on the issues that matter to our community and to the Governor.

Following the meeting, a few of us began discussing the idea of forming a statewide organization comprised of Latino leaders and activists. This group would focus on promoting the 716,000 Latinos in Virginia, per the U.S. Census, and an estimated 271,000 Latino eligible voters according to the Pew Research Center, into civic engagement in local and state commissions, voting, and on establishing a dialogue with the current and future state government administrations. These activities and a structure for Latinos in Virginia to engage with Virginia's government officials at the state and local level will be the focus of the Virginia Latino Leaders Council.

Even though we started with a small group primarily from Northern Virginia to organize the Virginia Latino Leaders Council, it is our intent to expand the group to have Latino representation from throughout the Commonwealth. We kept the group small initially to quickly form a structure from which we could effectively launch.

As we proceed to take the next step in bringing Latino activists and leaders together throughout our Commonwealth, it's my pleasure to welcome you to Virginia's 2015 Latino Civic Engagement Forum. Today, we will address a number of important issues relevant to our community. I am honored to have other civic organizations joining us this morning and to have Virginia Attorney General, the Honorable Mark Herring as our keynote luncheon speaker.

Thank you for joining us at this important event.

Sincerely,

J. Walter Tejada,  
President

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9:30 - 10:00 Registration (Shenandoah Room)

10:00 Leni Gonzalez, Chair, Virginia Coalition for Immigrant Rights

10:05 J. Walter Tejada, President, Virginia Latino Leaders Council

10:15 Beatriz Amberman, VACOLAO Vice Chair

10:20 Premier Sponsor: Voces Verdes, Ms. Analisa Freitas

10:25 Estuardo Rodriguez, Chair, Virginia Latino Advisory Board

10:35 *Contributions of Latinos in Virginia*

Speaker: Ms. Laura Goren, The Commonwealth Institute for Fiscal Analysis

10:55 *The Importance of the Virginia Latino Vote*

Speaker: Randy Borntrager, Political Director, People for the American Way

11:10 *Driver's Licenses for Virginia's Undocumented Immigrants*

Speaker: Edgar Aranda-Yanoc, Chair, VACOLAO

11:20 *Latinos in the Governor's Administration and on Commissions*

Speaker: Jaime Areizaga-Soto, Deputy Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs,  
Office of the Governor

11:30 *Medicaid Expansion in Virginia*

Speaker: Ms. Jill Hanken, Health Issues Specialist, Virginia Poverty Law Center

12:15 Lunch (Vantage Point -17<sup>th</sup> Floor)

Welcome remarks: Andres Tobar, Event Coordinator

Keynote Introduction: J. Walter Tejada

**Luncheon Keynote Speaker:  
The Honorable Mark Herring  
Virginia Attorney General**



## SAVE THE DATE

### "6th Virginia Immigrant Advocates Summit"

September, 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>, 2015

4444 Arlington Boulevard, Arlington VA 22204  
(Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington-UUCA)

Since its foundation, the Virginia Immigrant Advocates Summit has brought hundreds of immigrant rights advocates from across Virginia to discuss, learn, and strategize on issues important to the immigrant communities residing in the Commonwealth. We are very excited to announce that this year's summit will be a **two-day** event that will offer more time for workshops as well as opportunities to network and socialize.

**WHEN:** Friday and Saturday, September 25th and 26<sup>th</sup>, 2015

**WHERE:** 4444 Arlington Boulevard, Arlington VA 22204 (UUCA)

For more information and sponsorship opportunities, please contact us at  
[vacolao@gmail.com](mailto:vacolao@gmail.com)

More information concerning the Summit and registration will be coming soon. Stay tuned!

# LATINOS SUPPORT CLIMATE POLICY



**75% OF LATINOS SAID IT WAS  
“EXTREMELY TO VERY IMPORTANT”  
FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO FIGHT  
CLIMATE CHANGE AND GLOBAL WARMING**

When presented ideas  
on how to fight  
climate change,

**9 OUT OF 10**  
LATINOS FAVORED:



**92%**

Better gas mileage  
for automobiles



**94%**

Energy efficient  
homes/buildings



**92%**

Use of renewable  
energy

**78%**



**WOULD BE MORE  
SUPPORTIVE  
OF THEIR MEMBER  
OF CONGRESS**

if they expressed support  
for limiting pollution that  
causes climate change.

**80% SUPPORTED  
PRESIDENTIAL ACTION  
TO FIGHT CARBON POLLUTION**



Latino Decisions interviewed 805 total Latino registered voters, nationwide from November 25 - December 4. Respondents were interviewed in English or Spanish, at their discretion by fully bilingual interviewers. The overall survey contains a margin of error of +/- 3.5% and on split sample items, the margin of error is +/-4.9%. Respondents were reached using a blended sample of landline telephones, cell phones, and the Latino Decisions online web panel.

**VOCES**  
LATINO LEADERSHIP IN ACTION



The Earth's Best Defense

*32BJ is United with You to Promote Civic Participation Among  
Immigrants in Virginia*



**Héctor Figueroa**  
President

**Larry Engelstein**  
Executive Vice President

**Jaime Contreras**  
Vice President

## **The Tejada Victory Fund**



Thank you to everyone who helped organize, promote, and is attending this civic engagement forum today. We are taking part in a fundamental tradition and core value of our nation: the opportunity in our society to speak out, become informed and strategize how to most effectively ensure that our voices are heard.

¡Adelante!