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National Latino Civic Engagement Table Reacts to 2016 Election and the Latino Vote

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Washington, D.C. - A record number of Latino voters made their voices heard during Tuesday's election and the Latino community made historic gains in Congress. This morning, the **National Latino Civic Engagement Table** hosted a press conference in Washington D.C. to discuss the impact of the election on the Latino community and where we go from here.

[Latino Decisions](#) reports more than 13.1 million Latinos voted in this election, and increase from 2012. Of these, 79% supported Clinton, while only 18% voted for Trump.

The Latino community mobilized and increased the electorate across the country. In Texas, where Romney beat Obama by 16%, Clinton lost by just 9%. In Florida, the Cuban-American vote increased from 35% for Obama, to 47% for Clinton, while support for Trump was 15 points lower than for Romney in 2012.

Below are remarks from the **National Latino Civic Engagement Table**, partner organizations that came together this year to register voters and which consists of the Hispanic Federation, Labor Council for Latin American Advancement (LCLAA), the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), Mi Familia Vota (MFV), National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) Educational Fund, NCLR (National Council of La Raza) and Voto Latino.

"At this critical time for our nation, Latinos came out in record numbers to exercise our rights as Americans and demonstrate our importance as a powerful constituency. As a community, we are significant contributors to the political, economic and social framework of this nation. Our community envisions a future of progress and prosperity for all. In this election, we voted overwhelmingly in support of the American values of tolerance and inclusiveness. The divisive rhetoric of this presidential campaign has incited hate and led to an increase of violence against Latinos among other communities of color. Following the election, we are deeply concerned for the safety and security of Latinos in this nation" **said Hector Sanchez**, Executive Director of LCLAA. "We call upon President-Elect Donald Trump to change course on campaign promises.

We hope the president-elect will make a sincere and concerted effort to promote tolerance and respect for all Americans. We also expect the president elect to address the Latino community's priorities on immigration, worker's rights, education, health, and criminal justice reform. We will welcome affirmative steps to engage in a dialogue with our community. However, if President Trump choses to govern with a focus on anti-Latino and anti-immigrant policies, we will stand together to defend our community and our rights as well as promote fairness for all throughout this nation."

"There was much at stake in this election for the Latino community, and Latinos responded by casting their votes in historic numbers," said **Roger Rocha**, LULAC's National President. "LULAC did its part by working with its councils around the country to work the polls and engaged in phone banking and other efforts to ensure that Latinos voted. Our efforts helped ensure that Latinos voted in unprecedented numbers where they propelled Latino congressional candidates to victory. The Latino community's voting strength will only continue to grow in the coming years, and as such, politicians would be wise to begin addressing issues which are important to the Latino community. As President-elect Trump takes office, we will continue to hold him accountable to the needs of all Americans and we will work to advocate for the policies that benefit Latino families."

"The Latino community did their patriotic duty by engaging with our democracy and voting on Tuesday," said **Ben Monterroso**, executive director of Mi Familia Vota. "A tidal wave of voters fueled by resentment and fear voted for now President-elect Donald Trump. As the community processes what the results of this election mean we want to remind them that we will protect the progress we have made, like DACA and access to healthcare for millions of Latinos. We were always going to hold our elected officials accountable to represent the will of all Americans. We will organize and bring all members of our country together because this is our home, too."

"The Latino turnout surge was real in Election 2016. A historic showing from Latino voters in states like California, Florida and Nevada, helped secure historic victories for Latino candidates across the country, including electing the nation's first Latina to the U.S. Senate (Catherine Cortez Masto) this year. The Latino electorate also played a critical role in helping secure victories for Latino candidates in Congress' lower chamber last night, electing the first Dominican-American (Adriano Espaillat), first Latino to represent Nevada (Ruben Kihuen), and first Puerto Rican to serve Florida (Darren Soto) to the U.S. House of Representatives," stated **Arturo Vargas**, NALEO Educational Fund executive director. "While the results of the race for the White House may have been unexpected for many, we know that the Latino community's progress is about more than just one election and one candidate. Election 2016 was merely one stop on a very long journey towards the full political empowerment of Latinos in this country. Now the real work begins, with the coming four years offering President-elect Donald Trump and our community the opportunity to bring together a divided nation by building bridges instead of walls."

"While we are open to hearing from the President-elect, we want to reassure our community and our fellow Americans that if the new Administration continues to be steeped in the politics of

division and blame, we will continue to stand up and defend the 58 million Latinos in this country and the values our nation holds dear, such as tolerance and inclusion,” said **Janet Murguia**, President and CEO, NCLR. “We will actively and fearlessly resist policies and proposals that undermine the interests of our community and Americans at large and ask that our community, now more than ever, stay engaged and make their voices heard.”

"Voto Latino has worked for the last 12 years to build civic life among young Latinos through a digital-first approach and we are proud that Latinos got registered and participated at record levels" said **Maria Teresa Kumar**, president and CEO of Voto Latino. “Now we come together as a community and seek clarity from president-elect Trump. We expect him to govern on behalf of **all** our families and make clear that our loved ones are safe from deportation, harassment and intimidation. He must be the president for **all** Americans, including those he scapegoated on the campaign trail.”

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