

NHLA MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

American G.I. Forum

ASPIRA Association

Avance Inc.

Casa de Esperanza

Cuban American National Council

Farmworker Justice

Hispanic Association of Colleges & Universities

Hispanic Federation

Hispanic National Bar Association

Labor Council for Latin American Advancement

Latino Justice PLDEF

League of United Latin American Citizens

MANA, A National Latina Organization

Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund

National Alliance of Latin American and Caribbean Communities

National Association of Hispanic Federal Executives

National Association of Hispanic Publications

NALEO Educational Fund

National Association of Latino Independent Producers

National Conference of Puerto Rican Women, Inc.

National Council of La Raza

National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislators

National Hispana Leadership Institute

National Hispanic Council on Aging

National Hispanic Environmental Council

National Hispanic Foundation for the Arts

National Hispanic Medical Association

National Hispanic Media Coalition

National Institute for Latino Policy

National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health

National Puerto Rican Coalition

SER Jobs for Progress – National

Southwest Voter Registration Education Project

United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

United States Hispanic Leadership Institute

United States-Mexico Chamber of Commerce



National Hispanic Leadership Agenda

December 10, 2013

Honorable Charles Schumer
Chair
U.S. Senate Committee on Rules and Administration
305 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Honorable Pat Roberts
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on Rules and Administration
305 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

**RE: Election Assistance Commission Nomination Hearing
United States Senate Rules and Administration Committee
Wednesday, December 11, 2013**

Dear Senators:

On behalf of the National Hispanic Leadership Agenda (NHLA), a coalition of the nation's 36 preeminent national Latino organizations, we write in support of the nomination of Ms. Myrna Perez, Esq. as Commissioner of the Election Assistance Commission (EAC). We request that this letter of support be placed into the official record of the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration.

For American democracy to function effectively, all eligible voters must be allowed to participate in elections. Minority communities are often subject to discrimination as they organize politically and begin to make new political gains. Latino voters have also increasingly become targets of voter suppression in recent years. For this reason, please note that it is our intent to score any votes associated with this nomination in our NHLA Congressional Scorecard on the 113th Congress. The NHLA Congressional Scorecard rates members of Congress on votes taken in the House and Senate that our membership deems important to the social, economic, and political advancement and quality of life of Hispanic Americans.

Ms. Perez, who President Barack Obama previously nominated by to serve as EAC Commissioner in 2011 and re-nominated six months ago on June 7, 2013, has been at the forefront in the effort protect Latino voting rights.

She currently serves as Deputy Director of the Brennan Center for Justice at NYU School of Law, a nonpartisan law and policy institute. In this capacity she has worked on a variety of voting rights issues, including redistricting, voter registration list maintenance and access to the ballot box. Prior to joining the Center, Ms. Pérez was the Civil Rights Fellow at Relman & Dane, a civil rights law firm in Washington, D.C., and a clerk for the Honorable Anita B. Brody of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania and for the Honorable Julio M. Fuentes of the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit.

In addition to her extensive legal experience, Ms. Pérez offers an impressive educational background. She earned her undergraduate degree in Political Science from Yale University in 1996 and her master's degree in public policy in 1998 from Harvard University's Kennedy

School of Government, where she was the recipient of the Robert F. Kennedy Award for Excellence in Public Service. As a Presidential Management Fellow, she served as a policy analyst for the United States Government Accounting Office where she covered a range of issues including housing and health care. Ms. Pérez then went on to graduate from Columbia Law School in 2003, where she was a Lowenstein Public Interest Fellow.

In 2002, several NHLA member organizations supported the Help America Vote Act (HAVA), a bill passed by the United States Congress to make sweeping reforms to the nation's voting process. HAVA also mandated the creation of the Election Assistance Commission, a commission that has provided the nation's growing Latino community with a national voice in the administration of our federal elections thanks to the leadership of former EAC Commissioners Ray Martinez and Rosemary Rodriguez.

When confirmed, we are confident that Ms. Pérez will continue a legacy of leadership serving admirably as an EAC Commissioner. We hope you will join us in recognizing her strong qualifications by voting to advance her nomination to the full Senate floor and by working with your colleagues to secure her final confirmation on the Senate floor.

Sincerely,



Hector Sanchez
*Chair, National Hispanic Leadership Agenda
Executive Director, Labor Council for Latin American
Advancement*



Brent Wilkes
*Vice-Chair, National Hispanic Leadership Agenda
National Executive Director, League of United Latin
American Citizens*

CC: Members, U.S. Senate