



# National Hispanic Leadership Agenda

## MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

June 17, 2014

Honorable Harry Reid  
United States Senate Majority Leader  
Capitol Building, S-230  
Washington, DC 20510

Honorable Mitch McConnell  
United States Senate Minority Leader  
Capitol Building, S-230  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senate Leaders Reid and McConnell:

On behalf of the National Hispanic Leadership Agenda (NHLA), a coalition of the 37 preeminent national Latino organizations in the country, we write to urge your bipartisan cooperation in moving expeditiously in confirming the 14 Latino nominees known to be currently pending confirmation in the United States Senate.

For far too long, partisan politics and unnecessary procedural hurdles have slowed the confirmation process. Latino nominees in particular have suffered the consequences of these unnecessary battles. In 2013, NHLA launched a new Presidential Appointments Program to ensure that our federal government and the nation benefit from the talent that the Latino community has to offer. Our coalition of 37 national Latino organizations has been active in advocating for increased Latino representation in the President's Administration, supporting junior to Cabinet-level candidates including Katherine Archuleta, Director of the U.S. Office of Personnel Management, Labor Secretary Thomas Perez, and Small Business Administration Administrator Maria Contreras-Sweet, among others.

While we celebrate the addition of Latino voices in the Administration, it is unacceptable to us to continue to have a significant level of under-representation at the highest level of government. We are pleased to see that Julian Castro is advancing in his process, having testified in his nomination hearing to serve as Secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) today, and that Gustavo Velasquez Aguilar, nominee for Assistant Secretary at HUD, is on the calendar to receive a Senate vote this week.

While these are promising steps forward there are many eminently qualified nominees still pending in the confirmation pipeline. Based on our internal analysis, we are enclosing with this letter a table listing 14 pending candidates that our Latino Appointments Program is tracking – one of which has been pending for 1,189 days. All votes related to these candidates will be scored in NHLA's Congressional Score Card.

We hope you and your colleagues will work to support the confirmation of the individuals listed below – and that you will join us in working to ensure that our nation's government better reflects all Americans, including those of Latino descent. Moving toward confirming these highly qualified nominees would indicate much-needed progress toward having an Administration and federal workforce that better reflects the rich and diverse composition of our nation.

Thank you for your consideration of our views.

Sincerely,

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

- 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
- U.S.- Mexico Foundation

## TABLE OF LATINOS PENDING CONFIRMATION IN THE U.S. SENATE (as of June 17, 2014)

CURRENT STATUS	NOMINEE	COMMITTEE OF JURISDICTION
<b>Phase 1:</b> Awaiting Committee Hearing	<b>Carlos Pascual</b> , of the District of Columbia, Nominated Assistant Secretary of State for Energy Resources, U.S. Department of State. [Received in the Senate: February 17, 2012. Days pending: 852.]	Foreign Relations
<b>Phase 2:</b> Hearing Held, Awaiting Committee Vote	<b>Julian Castro</b> , of Texas, Nominated Secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. [Received in the Senate: June 02, 2014. Days pending: 16.]	Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
	<b>Estevan R. Lopez</b> , of New Mexico, Nominated Commissioner of Reclamation, Department of Interior. [Received in the Senate: March 10, 2014. Days pending: 100.]	Energy and Natural Resources
	<b>Victor M. Mendez</b> , of Arizona, Nominated Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Department of Transportation. [Received in the Senate: May 15, 2014. Days pending: 34.]	Commerce, Science, and Transportation
<b>Phase 3:</b> Committee Vote was Held, Candidates are now Waiting to be Scheduled for a Final Vote by the Full Senate  <i>(ranked by number of days pending in the Senate)</i>	<b>Juan Carlos Iturregui</b> , of Maryland, Nominated Member, Board of Directors, Inter-American Foundation. [Received in the Senate: February 27, 2014. Days pending: 111.]	Foreign Relations
	<b>Annette Joanne Taddeo-Goldstein</b> , of Florida, Nominated Member, Board of Directors, Inter-American Foundation. [Received in the Senate: February 27, 2014. Days pending: 111.]	Foreign Relations
	<b>Mileydi Guilarte</b> , of the District of Columbia, Nominated United States Alternate Executive Director, Inter-American Development Bank. [Received in the Senate: January 30, 2014. Days pending: 139.]	Foreign Relations
	<b>Gustavo Velasquez Aguilar</b> , of the District of Columbia, Nominated Assistant Secretary of the Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. [Received in the Senate: January 16, 2014. On the calendar for a final vote this week. Days pending: 153.]	Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
	<b>Leon Rodriguez</b> , of Maryland, Nominated Director of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services office at the Department of Homeland Security. [Received in the Senate: January 07, 2014. Days pending: 162.]	Judiciary
	<b>Alfredo Julio Balsera</b> , of Florida, Nominated Member, United States Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy. [Received in the Senate: January 06, 2014. Days pending: 163.]	Foreign Relations
	<b>Arnold Chacon</b> , of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Director General of the Foreign Service at the Department of State. [Received in the Senate: October 07, 2013. Days pending: 254.]	Foreign Relations
	<b>David Joseph Arroyo</b> , of New York, Nominated Member, Board of Directors, Corporation for Public Broadcasting. [Received in the Senate: September 17, 2013. Days pending: 274.]	Commerce, Science, and Transportation
	<b>Luis G. Moreno</b> , of Texas, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Jamaica. [Received in the Senate: September 11, 2013. Days pending: 280.]	Foreign Relations
	<b>Myrna Perez</b> , of Texas, Nominated Commissioner, Election Assistance Commission. [Received in the Senate: March 17, 2011. Days pending: 1,189.]	Rules and Administration