



National Hispanic Leadership Agenda

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

August 25, 2016

Mr. Donald J. Trump
C/O
Donald J. Trump for President
725 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10022

Dear Mr. Trump:

In response to your recently-publicized efforts to speak with Latino leaders, the National Hispanic Leadership Agenda (NHHLA) extends an invitation to you once again to engage in a public policy discussion with our board members about critical issues facing America’s Latino community. This is the third time we are inviting you to meet with us, since the initial invitation in the fall of last year, as part of our nonpartisan presidential engagement campaign.

As the coalition of the nation’s 40 most preeminent Latino nonpartisan advocacy organizations, NHHLA is a critical component of any engagement with the Latino community as a whole. Our board brings together Latino leaders from across the nation, with members that include civil rights advocates, small business owners, elected officials, veterans, community-based service providers, workers, and professionals in medicine, law, labor, media, education, and the arts.

Last year, we launched our nonpartisan presidential engagement campaign, with the goal of engaging all the presidential candidates in a substantive dialogue about the policy issues facing our community. Some of the presidential campaigns have been part of this effort from the beginning and through every step of the process. Unfortunately, despite our efforts beginning last year, we have not had any response from your campaign. As a nonpartisan coalition, NHHLA does not endorse any candidate; our aim is to educate and inform all candidates about our community’s policy priorities. Through such a dialogue, candidates and their campaigns are better able to participate more constructively in discussions about advancing the well-being of the entire nation.

As we have expressed numerous times, your rhetoric of relentless attacks against our community is an issue of serious concern and has had a significant impact, fueling an alarming trend in our nation. We have witnessed an increase in bullying against Latino children in schools; racial profiling is also increasing against our families, and we have also seen a substantial increase in hate crimes against Latinos. The rise in these types of incidents has had a direct and

- Alianza Americas
- American G.I. Forum
- ASPIRA Association
- Avance Inc.
- Casa de Esperanza: National Latin@ Network
- Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute
- Cuban American National Council
- Farmworker Justice
- Hispanic Association of Colleges & Universities
- Hispanic Federation
- Hispanic National Bar Association
- Inter-University Program for Latino Research
- Labor Council for Latin American Advancement
- Latino Justice PRLDEF
- League of United Latin American Citizens
- MANA, A National Latina Organization
- Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund
- 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 Hispana Leadership Institute
- National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislators
- National Hispanic Council on Aging
- National Hispanic Environmental Council
- National Hispanic Foundation for the Arts
- National Hispanic Media Coalition
- National Hispanic Medical Association
- National Institute for Latino Policy
- National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health
- National Puerto Rican Coalition
- Presente.org
- 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

detrimental effect on the quality of life within our communities and has deepened the vulnerability of our families. We call upon you to consider the consequences of your disparagement of our community and to cease propagating this rhetoric immediately.

We also offer you a renewed opportunity to enter into substantive discussions with our community's leadership on critical policy issues. There are 58 million Latinos in this country, comprising more than one-sixth of the total U.S. population. Latinos make significant economic, political and social contributions, and we are wholly integrated into the fabric of this nation. Our values are closely tied to the core principles of this country. Given our community's size and stature, our priorities are, by definition, the priorities of the nation as a whole. To put it simply, America cannot succeed unless Latinos also succeed.

Earlier this year, we also sent your campaign a copy of NHLA's 2016 Hispanic Public Policy Agenda, a quadrennial comprehensive outline of the policy concerns and priorities of the nation's Latino community. This report is also accessible online at www.nationalhispanicleadership.org. We urge you and your campaign to review and consider the priorities in this report.

Along with the report, we also invite you, once again, to answer the 20 questions in our presidential candidate questionnaire (enclosed) that was first sent to your campaign in February of this year. While we received responses from other candidates in the spring, to date we have not received any responses from your campaign.

Your responses, if any, provided by September 2, will be included in a nonpartisan voter guide that will be distributed publicly in September, and will provide the Latino community with an additional resource to learn about the substantive positions of those seeking our nation's highest office. We will present responses from both major party candidates equally, without editorial comment, scoring, or editing (unless the 250 word limit per answer is exceeded, in which case we will endeavor to summarize your response without changing its meaning). If you decline to provide written responses to our questionnaire by September 2, we will summarize your positions based on publicly-available sources.

To arrange a meeting and commence this critical conversation, please have your staff contact NHLA through Mónica Ramírez at [\(202\) 508-6919](tel:(202)508-6919) or monica@nationalhispanicleadership.org.

With the election drawing close, there is limited time left to engage with our leadership. Any outreach to our community requires a serious and good faith discussion of the issues. It is incumbent on all presidential candidates to seek out opportunities to have a dialogue with the many diverse communities within our country. Our hope and expectation is that your current efforts in the media will be matched with a sincere engagement with our community's leadership.

Sincerely,



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



Thomas A. Saenz
Vice Chair,
National Hispanic Leadership Agenda
President and General Counsel, Mexican
American Legal Defense and Educational Fund