



NEWS RELEASE

National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) Educational Fund

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NALEO Educational Fund Executive Director to Address Need for Voting Rights Act Restoration on 2nd Anniversary of Shelby Co. Decision

Arturo Vargas will join civil rights leaders and voting rights advocates in Roanoke, Va. to support legislative action that would protect the right to vote for all Americans

Washington, D.C. – Two years after the anniversary of the Supreme Court’s decision in *Shelby County, Alabama v. Holder*, the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) Educational Fund announced that Executive Director Arturo Vargas will address the need for legislation to restore the strength of the Voting Rights Act (VRA) at a rally in Roanoke, Va.

The rally, which will bring together civil rights leaders and advocates in support of congressional action to protect the voting rights of all Americans, will take place in Elmwood Park from 12-3 p.m. EDT one day after the Voting Rights Advancement Act (VRAA) was introduced in the U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives.. Located in the district of U.S. House Judiciary Committee Chairman Bob Goodlatte (VA-6), the rally will focus on the need for Congress to restore the Voting Rights Act’s ability to once again serve as a set of protections for Latinos and all voters.

“Since the Supreme Court’s ruling in *Shelby County* in 2013, nearly seven million Latino voters have been left more vulnerable to unequal treatment or discrimination at the polls,” stated Arturo Vargas, NALEO Educational Fund Executive Director. “The time for Congress to act is now. Without congressional action, next November would mark the first presidential election held in more than 50 years that Latino voters head to the polls without crucial protections in federal law to combat racial discrimination in voting. This is simply unacceptable and contrary to our values as a nation.”

Despite recognizing that discrimination and persistent threats to the fair and equal treatment of the nation’s fastest growing electorate still exist, the Supreme Court struck a critical blow to the heart of the Voting Rights Act in its ruling in *Shelby County* in 2013. Since then, the VRA has been without a vital tool in combatting discriminatory practices across the country. With nearly seven million Latinos residing in jurisdictions that no longer have proactive protections post-*Shelby County*, it is more important than ever that Members of Congress act swiftly on a

legislative solution that will protect the ability of Latinos and all voters to exercise their right to vote.

To view NALEO Educational Fund's statement on the Voting Rights Advancement Act (VRAA), visit www.naleo.org/downloads/6_24_15_NALEO_Advancement_Act_Statement.pdf.

What:

Roanoke Voting Rights Rally on 2nd Anniversary of *Shelby County* Ruling

Who:

Arturo Vargas, NALEO Educational Fund Executive Director

Other civil rights leaders and advocates

When:

Thursday, June 25, 2015

12-3 p.m. EDT

Where:

Elmwood Park, 706 S. Jefferson St., Roanoke, VA

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About NALEO Educational Fund

NALEO Educational Fund is the nation's leading non-profit organization that facilitates the full participation of Latinos in the American political process, from citizenship to public service.