



# NEWS RELEASE

**For Immediate Release**  
January 16, 2018

**Contact:** Amanda Bosquez, [abosquez@naleo.org](mailto:abosquez@naleo.org)  
(202) 546-2536, (361) 548-6989 (cell)

Daniel Ramirez, [dramirez@naleo.org](mailto:dramirez@naleo.org)  
(213) 765-9422, (805) 223-0225 (cell)

## **NALEO Educational Fund Analysis Finds Record 6,600 Latinos Serving in Elected Office Nationwide**

**Washington D.C.** – The National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) Educational Fund today released its comprehensive analysis of Latino political representation in the United States published in the *2017 National Directory of Latino Elected Officials*.

NALEO Educational Fund research found that 6,600 Latinos are serving in elected office, up from 6,011 in 2013, an increase of nearly 10 percent. This historic number includes four U.S. Senators, including the first Latina U.S. Senator, the Honorable Catherine Cortez Masto, 34 U.S. Representatives, 13 State Officials, 80 State Senators and 246 State Representatives.

The new data show significant gains in the number of Latino elected officials serving at the highest levels of office. Since 2013 the number of Latinos in Congress increased from 31 to 38, while the number in statewide office increased from eight to 13. The number of Latinos serving in state legislatures also grew, rising from 281 to 326 during this period.

<b>Latino Elected Officials by Level of Office, 2017*</b>		
<i>Level of Office</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Share of Total</i>
U.S. Senator	4	0.1%
U.S. Representative	34	0.5%
State Officials	13	0.2%
State Senators	80	1.2%
State Representatives	246	3.7%
County Officials	519	7.9%
Municipal Officials	2,119	32.1%
Judicial/Law Enforcement Officials	879	13.3%
Education/School Board Officials	2,473	37.5%
Special District Officials	233	3.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>6,600</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

2017 also marked continued gains among Latina elected officials. Directory analysis found that more than one of every three (36.4 percent) Latino elected officials is a Latina. Between 2013 and 2017, the number of Latinas serving in elected office grew faster than their male counterparts – increasing by 17 percent, compared to male Latinos, who increased by six percent.

<b>Latino Elected Officials by Gender, 2017*</b>	
Male	4,199
Female	2,401
Total	6,600

Now in its thirty-third year in production, the *National Directory* continues to serve as a useful resource to both identify Latino representatives and to measure the civic activity of the Latino community. Additional information can be found in the *2017 National Directory of Latino Elected Officials* here: [http://www.naleo.org/pr\\_dir\\_2017](http://www.naleo.org/pr_dir_2017).

*\*Source: NALEO Educational Fund, 2017 National Directory of Latino Elected Officials. The data reflect Latino elected officials who held office as of November 2017 (for Members of Congress and State Legislators) or as of January 2017 (for all other elected officials).*

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**About NALEO Educational Fund**

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