



NEWS RELEASE

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NALEO Recognizes Right to Vote of Puerto Ricans in Florida

Access to the ballot box is a sacred right afforded to Puerto Ricans and all U.S. Citizens

Washington, D.C. – *The National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) today released a statement from its executive director Arturo Vargas following recent remarks suggesting that the right to vote should be limited for displaced Puerto Ricans living in Florida:*

"We condemn any suggestion or remark insinuating that displaced Puerto Ricans living in the state of Florida following Hurricane Maria should be denied the right to vote. As U.S. Citizens, Puerto Ricans both on and off the island are entitled to the same rights afforded to all U.S. Citizens, including the right to cast ballots in our nation's elections.

"As the foundation of our democracy, the right to vote is sacred. It should never be exploited for campaign or political purposes. We call on our nation's leaders to rise above partisan politics and uphold the values of our nation by recognizing the importance of our electoral process and the right for Puerto Ricans and all Americans to elect the leaders of their choice. We further call upon the U.S. Department of Justice to ensure that every U.S. Citizen, regardless of race or ethnicity, has full and free access to the ballot."

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About NALEO

The National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials is the non-partisan leadership organization of the nation's more than 6,600 Latino elected and appointed officials.