



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Latinos Successfully Pursue State Legislative Office Nationwide in Election 2018**

*Following Election 2018, Latinos will serve in 26 State Senates and 34 State lower houses*

*A total of 326\* Latinos will serve in State Legislatures across the country, including historic numbers in Colorado, Delaware, Washington and Wisconsin*

**Washington D.C.** – The National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) Educational Fund today released its analysis assessing Latino gains in state legislatures following Election 2018. A full [analysis](#) of Latinos that will serve in State Senates and State lower houses (including a breakdown by state and political party) is available [here](#).

“Latinos made history, both as voters and candidates in Election 2018,” stated Arturo Vargas, NALEO Educational Fund chief executive officer. “Once again, Latino candidates demonstrated that they can successfully run for state legislative seats across the country, winning races in areas with both Latino population centers and without. There is no such thing as a Latino or non-Latino district anymore, with Latinos once again bringing the expertise and skills needed to secure support from a broad coalition of Americans in Election 2018.”

As candidates, Latino leaders sought positions in state legislatures across the nation in Election 2018. Pursuing seats in 26 State Senates and 34 State lower houses, Latino candidates ran in both traditional Latino population centers, and in regions with emerging Latino communities such as the Plains States, the Midwest, the Deep South, and New England.

#### **Key Findings from NALEO Educational Fund’s post-election analysis include:**

- **Latinos in the State Senates Post-Election 2018:**
  - **Class:** The number of Latinos serving in State Senates is set to decrease by two following Election 2018. At least 80 Latinos\* will serve in State Senates, with the possibility of more if Latinos end up filling the seats being vacated by Latino State Senators that won their bids for Congress and Statewide office this year. These opportunities include the seats being vacated by Ricardo Lara (who won his bid for California Insurance Commissioner), Howie Morales (who successfully ran for New Mexico Lt. Governor), and Sylvia Garcia (who is one of the first two Latinas elected to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives from Texas).
  - **Party Affiliation:** Following Election 2018, 73 Democrats will serve in State Senates, up from 71. Republicans in the upper chamber of State Legislatures will experience a decline, shifting from 11 to seven.

- **Gender:** There will be shift in gender when the State Senates reconvene in the new year. Latinas made gains in Election 2018, with 36 elected to serve in State Senates, up from 32.
- **Historical Significance:** A record number (2) of Latinos will serve in the Delaware State Senate post-Election 2018.
- **Latinos in U.S. House of Representatives Post-Election 2018:**
  - **Class:** The number of Latinos serving in State lower houses will decrease by one, down to 246.\* This number could increase by one if Sabrina Cervantes is successful in her race for California Assembly District 60, which has yet to be decided.
  - **Party Breakdown:** Following Election 2018, 212 Democrats and 34 Republicans will serve in the lower house of State Legislatures (shifting from 204 Democrats and 43 Republicans).\* This party affiliation tally could shift based on the outcome of Cervantes' race for California Assembly, and the outcome of the New Mexico 63<sup>rd</sup> House Contest. The latter features two Latino candidates, Martin Ruben Zamora (R, who has a narrow lead) and George Dodge, Jr. (D).
  - **Gender:** The number of Latinas serving in State lower houses will increase by five (143 Males and 103 Females; with the possibility of 104 Females if Cervantes wins her race) from prior to Election 2018 (149 Males and 98 Females).
  - **Historical Significance:** A record number of Latinos will serve in the State lower houses of Colorado, Washington and Wisconsin.

A full [overview](#) of Latinos that will serve in state legislatures nationwide is available [here](#). The [analysis](#) includes a breakdown of Latino representation gains/losses in State Senates and State lower houses by state and party.

*\*Note: Election results are based on those published by states or media sources as of the writing of this release and are not yet official. As of this writing, in the California Assembly District 60 contest, Sabrina Cervantes (D) has an extremely narrow deficit in her race against her opponent. Should she prevail, the number of Latinos in state legislatures after Election 2018 would be 247. In addition, in the New Mexico 63<sup>rd</sup> House contest, Martin Ruben Zamora (R) has a narrow lead over George Dodge, Jr. (D). Because both candidates are Latino, a change in the ultimate outcome of this race would not affect the total number of Latinos in state legislatures after Election 2018, but it would affect the partisan composition.*

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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.*