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**Illinois Latinos were 121% of State Growth during Last Decade:
Census Data Brief to be Released at October 18 Policy Event**
Celebrated journalist Ray Suarez headlines Latino Policy Forum’s first-ever breakfast fundraiser, policy briefing on the “Changing Face of America”

EDITOR’S NOTE: *Media representatives are invited to attend the event at no cost but must pre-register to reserve a seat. Upon request, reporters may review an embargoed copy of the “Latinos in the Decade” census data brief to be released at the event. Please contact Sara McElmurry at 312-351-3890 or smcelmurry@latinopolicyforum.org for details.*

CHICAGO—October 11, 2011—The Latino Policy Forum will host its first-ever breakfast fundraiser and policy briefing, “Latinos and the Changing Face of America: Policy Perspectives” on October 18. The event, headlined by PBS *News Hour’s* Ray Suarez, will facilitate dialog on the shifting demography of the US and its economic, cultural and political implications. The Forum will also release a new issue in its SOL (“Statistics On Latinos”) data brief series at the event. As the 2010 Census confirmed that Latinos are now the second-largest ethnic group in Illinois, the brief, titled “Latinos in the Decade: The 2010 Census and Illinois,” offers Illinois- and Chicago-specific data and analysis, with a special focus on the implications of Latino suburbanization.

“Across the nation, 1-in-6 residents is now Latino. When we look at Chicago, the number jumps to more than 1 in 4. But what may surprise many people is that 60-plus percent of Illinois Latinos now live outside of Chicago,” said Sylvia Puente, executive director of the Latino Policy Forum. “When we talk about demographic growth, it is no longer just a matter of Illinois’ Latino community becoming larger; instead, all of Illinois is becoming more Latino. When we embrace changes like these, they become opportunities.”

The event will be held at the Union League Club of Chicago (65 W Jackson). Co-chairs include Clare Muñana, president of Ancora Associates, Art Velasquez, president and CEO of Azteca Foods, and Vincent Casillas, president and CEO of Casillas Strategy Group. Doors open at 7:30 a.m.; breakfast will be served at 8 a.m. Tickets can be purchased online at latinopolicyforum.org or by phone at 312-376-1766 x223.

The Latino Policy Forum thanks champion-level sponsors Allstate, Ancora Associates, ComEd and Crain’s; change agent-level sponsors Chicago Latino Network, Franczek Radelet, Hispanic Housing Development Corporation, Hoy Newspaper, McCormick Foundation, Midwest Generation, Pritzker Children’s Initiative, Diana and Bruce Rauner, State Farm, and Walgreens; and ally-level sponsors ABC7 Chicago, El Valor, and Jewel-Osco.

SOL (“Statistics On Latinos”) is a series of periodic policy briefs that combines data with insightful analysis from the Latino Policy Forum. The series will provide a unique snapshot of the growth, influence and challenges of the local Latino community, for use by community leaders, urban planners, elected officials, journalists, and anyone interested in building a shared future for all of Illinois.

About the Latino Policy Forum

The Latino Policy Forum is the only organization in the Chicago area that facilitates the involvement of Latinos at all levels of public decision-making. The Forum conducts analysis to inform, influence and lead. Its goals are to improve education outcomes, advocate for affordable housing, promote just immigration policies, and engage diverse sectors of the community, with an understanding that advancing Latinos advances a shared future. For more information, visit www.latinopolicyforum.org.

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