

Largest Illinois Latino-Led Coalition Disappointed by Lack of Latino Voter Outreach by Gubernatorial Candidates

Chicago, IL – The Illinois Latino Agenda (ILA), the largest Latino-led coalition in the state, is extremely disappointed that three out of four of the candidates running for Governor of Illinois were unresponsive to Latino issues and concerns.

Despite Latinos accounting for the largest minority group in Illinois at 17 percent of the population and over one million eligible voters, candidates running for the state’s highest office have done little to court their votes.

The ILA provided an opportunity to all four Illinois gubernatorial candidates to address the issues affecting Illinois Latinos in the form of an open-ended questionnaire. The questionnaire contained 17 questions spanning topics including education, economic development, health care, immigration integration, housing, state budget and operations. After attempting to contact each candidate, through multiple platforms, only one of the four candidates responded and submitted answers to the survey.

Furthermore, it’s been reported that the gubernatorial candidates have spent just 1 percent of the estimated \$40 million in TV advertising buys on Illinois Spanish language stations.

Given these opportunities to directly reach Latino voters, it appears the candidates are not taking our vote seriously, said Latino Policy Forum Executive Director Sylvia Puente.

“While Latino voters have a civic duty to vote in every election, the candidates running for office have equal responsibility to conduct research, make suitable efforts to inform voters of their platform and earn their vote,” Puente said. “The Illinois Latino Agenda gave the candidates an opportunity to do this through the candidate questionnaire and three of the four of them did not respond.”

“Given the importance of the issues facing our community The Resurrection Project along with other Latino organizations in Illinois are committed to getting voters to turnout” said Raul I. Raymundo, CEO of the Resurrection Project, a Latino Agenda member. “It’s imperative that candidates stop ignoring Latinos and double their efforts to reach this community in the closing days of the election.”

The Latino Policy Forum and other ILA members are non-partisan organizations. The ILA conducted a similar questionnaire in 2014 prior to the gubernatorial election and only one of the two candidates responded. You can view gubernatorial candidate J.B. Pritzker’s complete, unedited responses submitted [here](#).

The following ILA organizations have signed on to this statement

Alivio Medical Center
Arden Shore Child and Family Services
Association of Latinos/as Motivating Action (ALMA)
ASPIRA of Illinois
Casa Central
Center for Changing Lives
Centro de Información
Chicago Commons
Chicago Hispanic Health Coalition
Corazon Community Services
El Hogar Del Niño
Enlace Chicago
Erie Neighborhood House
Gads Hill Center
Healthcare Alternative System (H.A.S., Inc.)
Hispanic Alliance for Career Enhancement (HACE)
Hispanic Housing Development Corporation
Hispanic Lawyers Association of Illinois (HLAI)

Illinois Public Health Association
Instituto del Progreso Latino
La Casa Norte
Latino Policy Forum
Latinos Progresando
LUCHA (Latin United Community Housing Association)
League of United Latin American Citizens – Midwest (LULAC)
MALDEF (Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund)
Mujeres Latinas En Acción
National Museum of Mexican Art
Puerto Rican Arts Alliance (PRAA)
Spanish Coalition for Housing
Spanish Community Center
The Puerto Rican Agenda of Chicago
The Resurrection Project