Latino Public Policy Day

Welcoming Remarks

9:00 am-9:10 am

Richard Cruz, Chairman, Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission
Jose Calderón, President, Hispanic Federation
Governor of Connecticut Dannel P. Malloy (Pending Confirmation)
Keynote Speaker US Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Julian Castro (Pending Confirmation)

Session Collaborators

9:20 am-10:20 am  League of Women Voters (LWV) of Connecticut
and National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL)

Session Title: 5 Years to Eliminate Political Gerrymandering in Connecticut

LPRAC Moderator: George Hernández
Presenter(s): Gloria Bent, President of the League of Women Voters of Connecticut
Wendy Underhill, Program Director for Elections and Redistricting, National
Conference of State Legislatures

Description:

While the next national census count and redistricting seems a long way off in 2020, now is the time to consider how redistricting decisions are made. Please join the League of Women Voters of Connecticut and the National Conference of State Legislatures in an exploration of the possibilities for ensuring non-partisan redistricting in Connecticut.

LPRAC is a nonpartisan policy agency within the legislative branch of government created in 1994 by an act of the Connecticut Legislature (i.e., P.A. 94-152, amended by P.A. 03-229 and amended by P.A. 09-07). Under Public Act 09-07, LPRAC consists of 21 appointed community leaders that are mandated to advise the Connecticut General Assembly and the Governor on policies that foster progress in the Latino communities residing in Connecticut.
10:30 am-11:30 am  American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Connecticut

Session Title: Second Chance Society, What’s Next?

LPRAC Moderator: George Hernández
Presenter(s): David McGuire, Legislative and Policy Director, ACLU of Connecticut
Description:

Last year, the legislature passed a sweeping set of criminal justice reforms that will spare more than 1,100 non-violent drug offenders from prison and save millions in corrections costs. In 2016, the legislature will continue to look at both making Connecticut’s criminal justice system fairer and getting ex-offenders back to work.

11:40 am-12:40 pm  Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission (LPRAC), The Sheff Movement, Connecticut Parent Power, and Commission on Children

Session Title: Two-way dual language immersion – a new model for regional magnet schools in Connecticut?

LPRAC Moderator: Dr. Agnes Quiñones
Presenter(s): Dr. Elizabeth Howard, Associate Professor of Bilingual Education, University of Connecticut
Description:

The Hartford School District has both the largest number of Hispanic students in Connecticut and the largest population of Spanish-dominant English Language Learners. This is a unique opportunity for English-dominant children from throughout the Hartford area to engage in mutual learning with Spanish-dominant children in a proven academic model and increase college and career opportunities for both. This model can be developed as part of the Sheff v. O’Neill system and then expanded in other parts of the state.
12:50 pm-1:50 pm       Connecticut School Finance Project

**Session Title:** Connecticut’s Changing Face: A Catalyst for Fair School Funding

**LPRAC Moderator:** Dr. Agnes Quiñones

**Presenter(s):**
- Katie Roy, Director and Founder, Connecticut School Finance Project
- Steve Batt, Associate Director, Connecticut State Data Center
- Patricia Calvo, Director, Windham Youth Services Bureau
- Victor de la Paz, Chief Financial Officer, New Haven Public Schools
- Jason Rojas, Connecticut State Representative for East Hartford and Manchester
- Derek Thomas, Fiscal Policy Fellow, Connecticut Voices for Children

**Description:**
Over the next 10 years, Connecticut will experience significant shifts in its population of school-age children as many higher need schools districts will see increases in enrollment, while many lower need districts will experience declining enrollment. To meet the changing needs of Connecticut’s students, schools, and communities, Connecticut needs an equitable school funding system based on the learning needs of students where all students are treated fairly and the changing needs of communities and the state are adequately met.

2:00 pm-3:00 pm       Open Communities Alliance (OCA)

**Session Title:** Data Needed for Better Housing Investments

**LPRAC Moderator:** Elena Trueworthy

**Presenter(s):** Erin Boggs, Esq., Executive Director, Open Communities Alliance

**Description:**
Connecticut is one of the most racially, ethnically, and economically segregated states in the country. This triggers vast disparities in both housing options and educational outcomes that damage Connecticut’s economic competitiveness. We must make well-informed decisions on where to make investments in housing that result in tangible improvements in K-12 educational achievement so we have a well-educate homegrown workforce to expand the state's economy.
3:10 pm-4:30 pm      Hispanic Federation (HF) and Permanent Commission on the Status of Women (PCSW)

**Session Title:** Health Equity and Supporting Healthy Lifestyles for Connecticut’s Latinas

**LPRAC Moderator:** Emanuela Palmares-Leaf

**Presenter(s):**
- Ingrid Alvarez, Connecticut State Director, Hispanic Federation
- Jillian Gilchrest, Senior Policy Analyst, PCSW

**Description:**

Serious health disparities persist between Latinos and the general population, including increased incidence of preventable diseases and disproportionately high mortality rates. Illness in the Latino community, especially the immigrant community, is compounded by poverty, language barriers, and limited healthcare interaction. Additionally, cultural competence of health care providers and health systems’ ability to understand and respond effectively to cultural differences exacerbate the prevalence of preventable diseases and conditions. Connecticut’s Latino families are less likely to be insured, more likely to lack basic health knowledge and less likely to access health education and prevention opportunities to alleviate health disparities.

**Closing Remarks**

4:30 pm-4:40 pm

Werner Oyanadel, Executive Director, Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission

**Objective:** This event will highlight important issues and policy goals for Connecticut’s growing Latino population. Latinos are starting to show their political influence in Connecticut where historic demographic change is underway. The young Latino workforce is Connecticut’s next middle-class and they are making clear what they want from state government. Registration details and specific information on sessions throughout the day will be released soon.

**Thursday, February 4, 2016 – Snow date 2/5/16 – 9:00 am – 4:30 pm**

CT State Capitol – 210 Capitol Avenue, Room 310, Hartford, CT

**Contact:** Mr. Orlando J. Rodriguez – 860-240-0050 – Orlando.Rodriguez@cga.ct.gov

[Here is the registration link](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/connecticut-latino-public-policy-day-tickets-20580084587)

LPRAC is a nonpartisan policy agency within the legislative branch of government created in 1994 by an act of the Connecticut Legislature (i.e., P.A. 94-152, amended by P.A. 03-229 and amended by P.A. 09-07). Under Public Act 09-07, LPRAC consists of 21 appointed community leaders that are mandated to advise the Connecticut General Assembly and the Governor on policies that foster progress in the Latino communities residing in Connecticut.