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Georgia Association of Latino Elected Officials (GALEO) Newsletter

GALEO News and Updates

October 2004

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Dear Jerry,

Only a short year ago, the Georgia Association of Latino Elected Officials was initiated to provide another voice to the growing Latino community in the state of Georgia. This is our first anniversary as an organization.

GALEO's Mission Statement reads:

The Georgia Association of Latino Elected Officials (GALEO) is established to increase representation of Latino/Hispanic elected and appointed officials, to proactively address the issues and needs of the Latino community, and to engage the Latino/Hispanic community in the democratic and policy process across the State of Georgia.

We have expanded our Board of Directors, accounting for additional Latino elected officials we have in the state of Georgia. Our work at GALEO is only beginning. Unfortunately, the numbers speak for themselves. There are well over 3,800 county and state level elected officials in Georgia. The Latino community can count on one hand the number of elected officials at this level: one State Senator, two State Representatives, and two State Court Judges. Additionally, we have two city council members of Latino descent.

Despite these challenges, we have been able to accomplish significant progress this year. For example, we have initiated, participated and completed a statewide voter registration and voter education campaign, Georgia Latino Vote 2004. Through these efforts, we partnered with the National Association of Latino Elected Officials (NALEO) and identified an additional 50,000 Latinos in our state voter registration database. Based on this finding, the total number of Latino registered voters stands at approximately 77,000. Additionally, we were able to highlight the 90% phenomenal growth rate for Latino voter registrations statewide. Through our partner voter registration teams, an additional 4,000 voters were registered for the upcoming elections.

GALEO is also proud to be spearheading efforts to provide Leadership Plenty, in collaboration with the Pew Partnership for Civic Change and Kennesaw State University. The Leadership Plenty curriculum will be implemented through the state in targeted Latino communities through the work

**Doraville City Council
for Recognition of
Hispanic Heritage
Month**

**Elected Officials Should
Know Better**

**Thank you to our
100 Founding
Friends!**

Legislator's Circle

Juan Blanco

Robert Mendez, Indwell
Corporation

Felipe Yanes

***Centenar de Amigos
Fundadores de GALEO /
100 Founding Friends of
GALEO***

AARP Georgia

Don Aldrige

Alston & Bird LLP

American Blanching
Company, Inc.

AMERIGROUP Corporation

Attaché Public Affairs, LLC

Alberto Bazan

Juan Blanco

Blue Cross Blue Shield

Briarcliff Pediatrics, PC

Manuel Chavez & Susana
Maria Chavez

Cingular Wireless

Hon. Terry Coleman

of dedicated trainers and volunteers. GALEO served as a partner for the national roll out of the program to be conducted in Spanish. Trainers for Leadership Plenty who are able to conduct the leadership training in Spanish are located in Georgia through the collaborative efforts of GALEO, the Governor's Latino Commission for a New Georgia and Kennesaw State University.

GALEO has been active in the community and will continue its active role in providing leadership for many of the issues that directly impact Latinos in Georgia. GALEO is considered a strong pioneer for state development of the Latino community since there is no other organization like GALEO anywhere in the country. To that end, GALEO has had discussions with NALEO about the possibility of working with other states to allow for GALEO to serve as a model for future development in emerging Latino communities.

We are very proud of the successes and achievements GALEO has been able to accomplish in such a short time of only one year. However, we cannot do this without the continued support from our community, our business partners, our supporting organizations, and supporting individuals. With this in mind, we are asking supporters of the Latino community to contribute to the great work we are doing and become members of GALEO.

As we complete our first year, GALEO is proud to have taken such an instrumental role in the community's continued development. Thank you for your time and please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions.

Thank you,

Jerry Gonzalez

Executive Director

404.745.2580

jerry@galeo.org

Vote next week during early voting or don't forget to vote on Tuesday, November 2nd! Su Voto Es Su Voz!

• Upcoming Events

- Hall County Candidate Forum, Tues., Oct 26th
- Cobb County Candidate Forum, Wed, Oct. 27th
- Mexican Center, Day of the Dead Celebration
- GALEO Fall Fundraiser, 7 Stages, La Casa de Rogoberta Mira al Sur

Read on...

(HD-118), Speaker, GA
House of Representatives

Brenda Foye Cornelius

Covad Communications
Company

Delma De La Fuente

Honorable Tony Del
Campo, DeKalb County
Court Judge

Rocio Del Milagro Woody

Chance Evans

Fannie Mae

Jane Fonda

Jerry Gonzalez

HCA - Hospital Corporation
of America, SE Region

Heritage Capital Advisors,
LLC

Hewlett Packard

Holland & Knight LLP

Charles H. Kuck

Lanza Group, LLC

John M. Mallette, Jr.

Honorable Pedro Marin,
State Rep.(HD-66)

National Distributing
Company, Inc.

Dave L. Pearson Jenkin

Pfizer, Inc.

Professional Association of
Georgia Educators

Norberto Sanchez

Service Employees
International Union

Tony Sibert

● **GALEO Condemns Disenfranchisement of Latino Voters in Atkinson County**

October 20, 2004 - Three registered voters in Atkinson County selectively targeted 88 Latino registered voters and challenged their voter qualification under the allegations that they are not U.S. citizens. GALEO condemns this practice as discriminatory and as an act of voter intimidation.

[Read on...](#)

● **GALEO and Georgia Latino Vote 2004 Host Candidate Forums in Hall and Cobb Counties**

October 18, 2004 - GALEO and the Georgia Latino Vote 2004 will host two Candidate Forums in Hall and Cobb Counties. The forums are being conducted to provide an opportunity for candidates to reach out to the Latino community. Candidates are asked to share their platform issues during a short presentation and incorporate Latino and aging issues as part of their campaign platform. The candidate forums are sponsored by AARP Georgia and are open to the public.

[Read on...](#)

● **Text from Presidential Debate Question on Immigration**

Presidential Debate, October 13, 2004

SCHIEFFER: Let's go to a new question, Mr. President.

I got more e-mail this week on this question than any other question. And it is about immigration.

I'm told that at least 8,000 people cross our borders illegally every day. Some people believe this is a security issue, as you know. Some believe it's an economic issue. Some see it as a human-rights issue.

How do you see it? And what do we need to do about it?

[Read on...](#)

● **Georgia Latino Vote 2004 Encourages Absentee Voting or Early Voting to Avoid Lines on Election Day**

October 12, 2004 - The Georgia Latino Vote 2004 Project encourages Latinos to absentee vote or to vote early in order to avoid lines during election day.

Honorable Calvin Smyre,
State Rep. (HD- 111)

Lou Sobh

Honorable Mark Taylor,
Georgia Lt Gov

Tenet Health Care Systems

The Coca-Cola Company

Honorable Michael
Thurmond, Georgia Labor
Comm

Felipe Yanes

Honorable Sam Zamarripa,
State Senator (SD-36)

Are you one of GALEO's
100 Founding Friends?

[Read on...](#)

- **CNN Illustrates the Conflicts of Immigration with Families' Stories**

The show will air again on Saturday, October 23rd.

[Read on...](#)

- **Georgia Latino Vote 2004 Registers 4,073 Voters and Identifies 50,000 Additional Latinos in Voter Files**

October 7, 2004 - The Georgia Latino Vote 2004 Project has ended the voter registration portion of the campaign. The Georgia Latino Vote 2004 registered 4,074 voters, approximately 20% Latinos.

[Read on...](#)

- **GALEO Featured on AJC Political Insider**

Quick Links...

- [Our Website](#)
- [Become a GALEO Member](#)
- [Contribute to GALEO Online](#)
- [About Us](#)

Other Links...

- [Latino Voting Strength in Georgia \(June 2004\)](#)
- [GALEO Internships Available!](#)

Welcome South, amigo: George Wallace wouldn't know which schoolhouse door to stand in front of

Published on: 10/04/04

Get used to the term "majority-minority," even if it doesn't make the strictest sense.

If no group is a majority, it stands to reason there wouldn't be any minorities, because one word depends on the other. But "majority-minority" has become the way of describing those places where the rapid growth of Hispanics - and Asians, to a lesser degree - has cost whites or blacks their welter-weight ranking.

[Read on...](#)

- **GALEO Applauds Doraville City Council for Recognition of Hispanic Heritage Month**

October 7, 2004 -GALEO applauds Doraville City Council and Council member Jason Anavitarte, a GALEO member, for the unanimous approval of a resolution recognizing Hispanic Heritage Month adopted by the City of Doraville on October 4th, 2004.

[Read on...](#)

- **Elected Officials Should Know Better**

As Published on Tuesday, September 28, 2004, La Vision De Georgia Newspaper, www.lavisiononline.com.

Elected Officials Should Know Better

By: Jerry Gonzalez

In the City of Doraville, Latinos make up approximately 43% of the population. In 2003, Doraville witnessed an historic event; its citizens elected Jason Anavitarte, a Latino, to become the first Latino and the youngest person ever elected to the city council in the city's 132-year history.

Despite the recent progress of having a more representative city government, remarks and attitudes displayed by fellow Doraville council members and the Doraville mayor demonstrate the tension that exists within the community. Council Member Lamar Lang called Latinos "freeloaders", insulting the large percentage of residents in the city who are Latino and who pay taxes through property taxes or sales taxes. The Latino community makes the City of Doraville a viable and growing city in the metro Atlanta area. The Latino contributions to the city and state should not be minimized or demeaned.

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ERROR: syntaxerror
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(Administrator)
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