

LEAGUE OF CALIFORNIA CITIES LATINO CAUCUS NEWS



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IN MONTEREY!**
(See page 2 for details)

NEW APPROACHES & TOOLS FOR YOUTH VIOLENCE PREVENTION

Over the past few decades, levels of youth violence in California have swelled, spreading to nearly all parts of the State. Leaders at the local level have been struggling to reach solutions, utilizing everything from increased police force to innovative prevention programs that target youth as early as preschool. Now, local leaders may be given another set of valuable tools to remedy our statewide situation. This spring, members of the Assembly Committee on Youth Violence Prevention implemented a plan to educate themselves on various issues related to gang violence and prevention strategies. The Committee, which includes Assembly Speaker Nunez, Assembly Members Caballero, Coto, De Leon, DeSaulnier, Feuer and Swanson, also planned to create a “tool kit” to help local communities seek legislative and state support. Since then, the Committee has conducted three meetings in Los Angeles, Salinas and Oakland, in which experts outlined in detail the multifaceted causes of increased gang violence, prevention program models that have shown success and the fiscal impacts of utilizing preventive measures implemented by government and non-profit groups.

The work of the Committee and the Governor’s recent announcement of The California Gang Reduction, Intervention and Prevention Program (CalGRIP) underscore a growing emphasis on prevention in local and statewide efforts to stop youth violence. The Governor noted that “the three strategies everyone agrees work best [are] suppression, intervention and prevention,” which he claims are integral to the CalGRIP initiative. A main goal of the Committee is to strengthen the partnership between state and local efforts, including existing programs run by nonprofit organizations, to create [CONT. P.3]

NEW WAVE OF LATINA LEADERSHIP



This year marks an unprecedented moment for Latina leadership in California. Three elected Latina officials—all LCCLC Board Members—currently serve as presidents for key state organizations: Maria Alegria for the League of California Cities, Nora Campos for the League of California Cities-Latino Caucus and Sally Zuniga Flowers for the California Contract Cities Association. Alegria, a former President of the Latino Caucus and long-time Mayor of Pinole, is the first Latina to take the helm as President of the entire League. Campos, who has served on the San José City Council since 2001, is in her second term as Caucus President. A Latino Caucus Board Member for four years, Zuniga Flowers has had an illustrious career in business leadership and public service, including her current position as Mayor Pro Tem for the City of Artesia.

These powerhouse presidents are building on a long line of Latina leadership that has evolved with the LCCLC. They are past Board Members and Presidents who have committed themselves to serving as exemplary leaders. Our legacy of Latino leadership includes Rosario Marin, Former United States Treasurer; Assembly Member Nell Soto; Maria Contreras-Sweet, the first Latina Secretary of the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency of the State of California; Senator Jenny Oropeza and former Senator Deborah Ortiz. All have impacted statewide and national politics while contributing to the success of the Caucus. We look forward to Presidents Alegria, Campos and Zuniga Flowers taking us to the next level as they set precedents and continue to serve our communities.

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The Latino Caucus of the League of California Cities serves as a leader to improve the quality of life, advocate on behalf of the Latino community, and provide, promote and develop leadership. The Latino Caucus is an effective voice in the development of public policy affecting our cities, constituents, and all of California.



2007 SUMMER CONFERENCE & 6TH ANNUAL GOLF CLASSIC

July 26-27, 2007 Monterey, California

FORUM

Thursday, July 26, 2007 @ 10:00am-11:30am
Serra Ballroom, Portola Plaza Hotel

No Nonsense: This is how Affordable Housing Works

JOINT RECEPTION

Thursday, July 26, 2007 @ 5:30pm
De Anza Ballroom, Portola Plaza Hotel

6TH ANNUAL GOLF CLASSIC

Friday, July 27, 2007 @ 11:00am Registration; 1:00pm Start
Rancho Cañada Golf Course, 4860 Carmel Valley Road, Carmel
Registration includes a **post-game reception, great prizes, complimentary box lunch, golf cart and beverages.**

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

NORA CAMPOS, SAN JOSE

The Latino Caucus has evolved to serve as an important institution through which we effectively build leadership, advocate for important priorities, and work together to achieve our shared objectives. Mobilizing resources, strengthening relationships, and building a common agenda have emerged as central themes for the Latino Caucus and for me personally as President of the Caucus.

Networking and coalition-building among Caucus members have allowed members to respond to the urgent issues affecting the Latino community, as a united voice. For example, I am very proud to have coordinated an unprecedented coalition among education leaders, local elected officials, and leaders of national organizations to strengthen Latino participation in the education system.

Education is one of the most critical issues facing the Latino community throughout California cities and our involvement is paramount to ensuring that the educational system works better for our families, children, and the generations to come. We must continue to build collaborative relationships so that we can proactively develop policy, secure resources, and implement solutions to address our concerns from education, housing, economic development, and quality of life issues to our enduring commitment to fairer immigration policy.

From a history of grassroots activism, the Latino community is developing a cadre of effective leaders that affect change from within government as well. The Latino Caucus is a part of that inspiring process, and we have come far in preparing for a stronger and more successful future. In my last year as President, I would like to thank caucus members and our partners for their commitment to confronting the challenging yet promising times ahead.

**The LATINO CAUCUS NEWS
strives to provide a forum
for communication among
members. If you would like to
include an announcement in an
upcoming issue, please contact
our office at (916) 669-1343 or
CallLatinoCaucus@aol.com**

LEGISLATIVE SPOTLIGHT

Senator Alex Padilla

How have your experiences as Los Angeles City Council President and President of the League of California Cities prepared you for public service in the California State Legislature?

First and foremost they taught me how critical local government is to our economy, our environment, public safety, you name it. There is no denying that when it comes to issues that impact people on a daily basis, it is local government they turn to. So, we have a huge responsibility in Sacramento to recognize the role of local government, respect it and do our best to support it.



In addition, my service as President of the League and President of the Los Angeles City Council provided me a unique opportunity to look at things from a more macro perspective. We often focus specifically on the district we represent. But when you are elected to lead a larger body, like an entire council or the statewide League of California Cities, you have responsibility to look at the big picture and consider the greater good. You have to be open to the unique needs and concerns that exist beyond your district and even your own city. These experiences allowed me to engage in statewide negotiations with legislative leaders and hone important skills that are serving me well in the State Senate.

As a newly elected Legislator representing the 20th Senate District, what are your legislative priorities and goals?

They are the same as they were when I served on the City Council. I continue to be focused on all issues that will bring greater pride to the residents of my district. Be the issue a new Children's Museum, enhanced public safety, better public transportation or more successful public schools, my role and title may be different, my office may be in Sacramento, but I continue to do my best to represent the people of the San Fernando Valley.

"NACHO" EVERYDAY DEVELOPMENT by Robert Apodaca

The spiraling cost of real estate and increased transportation costs is forcing elected officials to re-think land use policies, encourage more adaptive re-use of buildings and shared uses of space. Let's tour a development that embraced "out of the box" thinking and action, a pre-requisite for growth plans in California.

Fruitvale Village, located in Oakland, California, is a 250,000 square feet transit oriented development (TOD) that has captured the attention of elected and transit officials, developers, land use planners, environmentalists and smart growth advocates. Built on a Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) surface parking lot, this very mixed-use development is integrated within yards of the entrance to the rapid transit station. The ground floors of (2) four-story buildings that form a plaza with several place-making elements, has 30,000 square feet of retail space. Public and non-profit tenants in the complex include a library, medical clinic, a head start project serving 160 children, office space for the Unity Council, the developer of the village, a senior day care center and family counseling offices. Residential units (47), 2-story lofts, top off the buildings. The collaboration between BART, the City of Oakland, the Unity Council, Federal Government and numerous funding sources has established a new benchmark and is inspiring communities throughout the country.



McLarand Vasquez Emsiek & Partners (MVE), with architectural and planning offices in Irvine, Oakland and Honolulu, is recognized as a leader in urban in-fill and TODs.

YOUTH VIOLENCE TOOLS (FROM P. 1)

the most effective, long-lasting and fiscally-responsible solutions to youth violence. Members are being urged to have such policy changes ready in time for next year's budget.

One proposed bill dealing with these issues is AB 1033 (Caballero), which seeks to encourage family intervention in gang recruitment practices by creating a misdemeanor offense applicable to those contributing to the delinquency of a minor. By using the lesser offense in conjunction with the existing felony offense, the bill assumes to target the wide range of gang recruiting.



Photographs by F. Romero

2007 LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE IN REVIEW

On Wednesday, May 16, 2007, the Latino Caucus held its 16th Annual Legislative Conference in Sacramento. This year's Forum on Civil Engagement attracted nearly a hundred attendees from around the State. The Honorable Senator Gil Cedillo conveyed the importance of our alliance with the Legislative Latino Caucus as we all work toward improving the quality of life for California Latinos. Later, Efrain Escobedo from NALEO gave a detailed presentation regarding voter roll files.



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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT JOHN E. ARRIAGA

A record number of thirty-four newly elected legislators were sworn in last December, twenty-five of which have backgrounds in local government. Since then, the LCCLC has continued to work with Legislators and with members of the Legislative Latino Caucus, in particular, to better serve as a resource for local elected officials throughout the State. By keeping abreast of current legislative issues impacting local government and advocating on behalf of our communities, we strive to maintain this mission.

The Latino Summit Group continues to hold meetings and advocate on issues central to the lives of California Latinos. In a recent address to the Chair of the Legislative Latino Caucus, Summit Group members outlined a call for legislative action regarding housing and education.

We look forward to continuing our work with new Senators and Assembly Members in our efforts to make California a great place for all.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SUMMER CONFERENCE & 6TH ANNUAL GOLF CLASSIC
MONTEREY JULY 25-27, 2007

ANNUAL CONFERENCE, GALA AWARD RECEPTION & MEMBERSHIP MEETING
SACRAMENTO SEPT. 5-8, 2007

NATIONAL LEAGUE OF CITIES/HELO CO-HOST AWARD RECEPTION
NEW ORLEANS NOV. 13-17, 2007

BECOME A MEMBER!

JOIN TODAY AND EXPERIENCE THE BENEFITS!

- \$100 Elected Official
- \$150 Associate (Municipal & Nonprofit Staff)
- \$500 Small Business (25 Employees or Less)
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