

Texas Representative Roberto R. Alonzo's

Capitol Report



NALEO Census Advocacy Day

Latino elected officials from all over the country convened for a Census Advocacy Day in Washington DC last week. The main objective for the day was to urge members of Congress to provide the funding needed to prepare for Census 2020 and achieve the most accurate count possible of our nation's booming Latino population. The National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) is a preeminent national leader in advocacy to ensure that the Census provides the most comprehensive portrayal possible of the Latino community, as well as the entire population.

This country's future prosperity is shaped in part by the accuracy of the data collected by the Census Bureau on the nation's population, as well as its racial, ethnic and national origin groups. Accurate Census data is essential for the fair and effective allocation of government resources to federal programs, including funds for programs that enhance education and economic opportunities for Latinos. Without a strong Census that provides accurate data, the federal government could end up allocating few resources to localities with large numbers of Latinos and other underrepresented groups. Similarly, Census data is used for reapportionment and redistricting, and is crucial to ensure that Latinos have a fair opportunity to choose their elected officials.

"With the Latino community now at 53 million strong, full and accurate data about the population is critical for our country's social, economic, and civic well-being. It is critical that we mobilize and stand together to stress to Congress the importance of allocating sufficient funding for a Census that provides the most complete and accurate data possible on the Latino community. The urgency to engage the Latino community as a whole has never been greater," stated Rep. Roberto R. Alonzo



Sonia Sotomayor: The First Latina Supreme Court Justice

Justice Sotomayor made history as the first Latina Supreme Court justice, and it was her impressive legal trajectory and accomplishments as a federal judge which got her there. Nominated by President Barack Obama on May 26, 2009, Sonia Sotomayor became the first justice of Hispanic heritage, and the Supreme Court's third female justice in history

Sotomayor's story resonates deeply with many Latinos since she does not come from privilege or money. In fact, Justice Sotomayor and her brother were raised in a New York City working-class housing project by her Puerto Rican widowed mother. Yet Sotomayor's intellect and hard work earned her a scholarship to Princeton University, where she earned the highest undergraduate award for her academics. She then went on to earn her Doctor of Jurisprudence degree from the prestigious Yale Law School.

Sotomayor continued to rise through the corporate legal ranks, while also volunteering her time on the board of the Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund, as well as other organizations. She was appointed U.S. District Court judge for the Second Circuit in New York City, and later the U.S. Second Circuit Court of Appeals. Despite her many accomplishments, Sotomayor remains humble and grounded, as well closely tied to her community.



Rep. Alonzo meets with Congressman Marc Veasey and NALEO members to discuss issues surrounding the 2020 Census.