



## *League of United Latin American Citizens*

### TEXAS LULAC'S Legislative Agenda

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District 3- Dallas

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District 4- El Paso

Ruben Ramirez

District 6- Midland/Odessa

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District 7- Austin

Herlinda Garcia

District 8- Houston

Arlene Garcia

District 9- San Angelo

Benny Martinez

District 10- Victoria

Totsy Armadillo

District 11- Corpus Christi

Marcelo Tafoya

District 12- Austin

Pepe Trujillo

District 13- Weslaco

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District 14- Laredo

Gabriel Rosales

District 15- San Antonio

Rosa Hernandez

District 17- Temple

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District 20- McAllen

Lee Saldivar

District 21- Fort Worth

### **Call to Action**

-From the Texas State Director, Joey Cardenas III, on behalf of the State Board

To All Members of Texas LULAC:

Brothers and Sisters, it is extremely important that you as a leader in the community gather and inform as many voting persons as possible on those issues that will be having a lasting impact today and tomorrow on our community and by extension on Texas as a whole. As many of you may already know, 90% of the growth in Texas over the last ten years was due to the growth in our community, slightly more than 3 million persons. While we may have the advantage of numbers, we must exercise political muscle at the voting box; we must offer ourselves up as candidates; we must be present at the Capitol in Austin. If we do not do these things, then our numbers will not mean anything. Only we can choose to take advantage of this opportunity.

**You must take action! You must go vote! You must take others to vote! You must be vocal! You must participate! You must lead!** I know that many of you already do these things, but now is a crucial time and we must inspire others to act. This is our moment; this is our time! We must not; we cannot fail! LULAC exists to promote and benefit all our community, especially those who do not have a vote- **our children, our youth.** What we do or do not do will have a lasting impact on the legacy that we leave to them. Texas must not become a California, a Florida, or an Arizona! But only you can prevent this; LULAC will make the difference and keep this from happening in Texas.

This is a call to **ACTION**, not words! Texas LULAC knows well that this upcoming legislative session in Austin is going to be a test and challenge to the Latino community of Texas. There are many persons in Texas who fear our community because of our numbers, language, and culture. They know that the future of Texas rests with our community, that we will inherit the Texas of tomorrow. These persons will do everything in their power to prevent this as we saw in the last legislative session with the numerous anti-Hispanic bills that were proposed. Texas LULAC calls on all its members to stop anti-Hispanic legislation. We want our members to urge all others to do whatever they can to help as individuals, but as members of LULAC, we ask that you vote for those persons who will support us today and in the future. We need all of you to get our issues out there and inform persons of the need to prevent this type of hateful legislation. We need our members to get involved locally by becoming precinct chairs for their party. Furthermore, we ask that you make plans to attend two advocacy days in Austin. The first will take place on January 11<sup>th</sup>, 2011, the opening day of the new legislative session; the second will take place on February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2011, the Texas LULAC Legislative Gala.

This upcoming legislative session will have Arizona like legislation introduced in Texas by two state representatives from Tyler and Tomball; both Leo Berman District 6 of Tyler and Debbie Riddel District 150 of Tomball are on record as the authors who will introduce the Arizona-like legislation in the House. In the Texas Senate, Tommy Williams of Senate District 4 in the Woodlands will introduce it. In Texas, we must not

be caught off-guard like the communities of Arizona and other states. In Texas, we must be proactive and take action now as well as voice our stance against this legislation early in the session. Let me remind all of you that in Arizona, 60% of Hispanics were in favor of SB 1070, because they thought that it was only an immigration bill that would not affect them or have an effect on their children. But they were wrong! They soon were first-hand witnesses to racial profiling and their children were denied any exposure to the historical contributions of Hispanics or any other ethnic group. You must remember that most non-Hispanics see **all** of us as recent arrivals. It is when we fool ourselves into believing that immigration is not our issue that those against our community prevail. I am sad to inform you that in Texas, in a recent poll, 30% of Hispanics said that they support Arizona-like legislation! The difference between Texas and the other states is that Texas has a very large and strong LULAC presence that is active!

Texas LULAC will make the difference, just as we did in the last legislative session. In this upcoming legislative session we will have to once again fight against the voter ID bill, against English only, against skyrocketing tuition, against high-stakes testing, against an unacceptable dropout rate, and bad education legislation. We must also continue to fight for the Texas Dream Act in the form of SB 1403, for the preservation of the Top 10%, for the effective implementation of bilingual education programs, for stronger anti-bullying language, and for the inclusion of the contributions made to Texas History by Hispanics. We must pressure our politicians to find a sensible solution to school finance so that public schools in Texas can attain the highest quality of education for our children. We must demand that our teachers get better pay and that they are better trained to meet the needs of our children, and we must demand affordable higher education to meet the economic and labor needs of tomorrow's Texas.

But there will be no greater test than that of re-districting in Texas. Over the past three census cycles, Hispanics have consistently been left out of the full representation that they deserve based on the growth of the Hispanic community, which accounts for the majority of the growth in Texas. In 1990, the state was given 3 new Congressional districts of which one was majority Hispanic and held for a time by Senator Tejada of San Antonio; in 2000, Texas received two new Congressional districts of which one was majority Hispanic and was later taken away under the DeLay re-districting scam for which LULAC had to file a law-suit that would prevail. Now, in 2010, Texas stands to gain 4 new Congressional districts due to the growth of the Hispanic community that is projected to account for 90% of the growth this census cycle. LULAC is on record as asking that all 4 Congressional districts be majority Hispanic districts, as well as new House and Senate districts; in the past some Hispanic politicians have negotiated on behalf of our community and have settled for far less than it deserves. LULAC will not allow nor tolerate any one politician or group of politicians to speak on behalf of our community when it does not serve the best interests of our people; 80 plus years of active service to our community has earned LULAC the right to call out any unscrupulous politicians wherever and whoever they may be. The challenge to the political maturity of Hispanics this legislative session will be whether we will be able to assert the gains we have made without compromising the needs and best interests of our community against those who would seek to undermine our community. This is the common goal that we must all adopt: To commit ourselves to take all action possible to move the Hispanic agenda forward so that History will one day record this moment as a turning point in the political dynamics of Texas. But only you can make that choice to make this possible; only you can make that commitment to your children, your community, to yourself. LULAC and your family, past, present and future, demand it of you!

## Plan of Action

The LULAC Texas State Board at its strategic retreat in Dallas adopted the following issues to focus on during the upcoming legislative session. The issues are in order of importance as rated by the leadership of the organization as follows:

1. Education
2. Immigration
3. Re-districting/Political Access
4. Health
5. Work Force/Business
6. State Budgetary shortfall

The 82<sup>nd</sup> Texas Legislature will begin on January 11, 2011. The status of proposed bills will be available after the session begins by calling the Legislative Reference Library's Bill Status Information Office at 1-877-824-7038, or go to the Library's web-site at [www.lrl.state.tx.us](http://www.lrl.state.tx.us), or go to the Texas Legislature's web-site at [www.capitol.state.tx.us](http://www.capitol.state.tx.us). If you don't know the specific number of the bill, you can find it by providing the topic of the bill to the library or capitol staff.

We strongly urge all persons to know who their House Representative and State Senator is, as well as their contact number in Austin and their home district office number. You can find this information by going to [www.capitol.state.tx.us](http://www.capitol.state.tx.us) and clicking on the home button for either the House or the Senate on the left-hand side of the page; this will take you to either web-site where at the top you can click on the button to find who represents you. It is important that you contact your House and Senate representative by e-mail, phone, and **especially in writing**. By using one of these three contact methods, you will maximize your effort's impact; while petitions and form letters may be convenient, they are impersonal and so do not carry the same weight as a constituent's personal communiqué. Please send hard copies of your e-mails and letters to the LULAC State Address at 5400 Jeffburn Cv., Austin TX 78745 for our records as proof of your support or opposition to use when we meet with various Representatives and Senators.

Make plans to attend both Texas LULAC Advocacy Days in Austin on January 11<sup>th</sup>, and February 24<sup>th</sup>, 2011. We will be sending out talking points on the issues as they become available for your convenience. We will be meeting in the lower levels of the Capitol extension for a briefing on the actual Advocacy Day. Please come prepared with a map of the capitol complex and your representative and senator's office number, which can be obtained at [www.capitol.state.tx.us](http://www.capitol.state.tx.us) for office visits. Also, please let our LULAC HOPE (Hispanics Organized for Political Education) chairman, Past National President Hector Flores know in advance that you will be in attendance so that he can coordinate with other persons who might need a ride or who might be able to provide you with a ride.

Texas LULAC has also organized a statewide re-districting committee to help and answer any questions that you may have with regards to this very important issue. Remember that all political districts in the state will be re-drawn in your region and county. It is important that you participate in the re-drawing of your school and city council districts. Please contact any of the following persons for details of this process:

Lee Saldivar- District 21-Fort Worth  
Hector Flores- District 3 –Dallas  
Mary Ramos- District 8 –Houston  
Elvia Hernandez- District 4 –El Paso  
Gabriel Rosales- District 15 –San Antonio  
Genaro Chavez- District 7 –Austin

The contact information for everyone on the State's re-districting committee is located on the State's web-site at [www.tx-lulac.org](http://www.tx-lulac.org) and the chair of the committee is the co-chair of LULAC HOPE, Mr. Flores

Every member of Texas LULAC should contact their district director with a list of local issues and concerns for official adoption at the district's next scheduled meeting before the month of December. The district should then instruct the district director to present this list for discussion and state board adoption at the December 11<sup>th</sup> Texas LULAC State Quarterly Meeting to be held in the city of McAllen. Members can find what district they are in and who their district director is by going to [www.tx-lulac.org](http://www.tx-lulac.org) and clicking on the "district map" button or "state executive board" button.

All members are encouraged to visit your House and Senate representative at their local district office as often as possible to emphasize Texas LULAC's issues, and to present and make known their own local issues. You must be willing to be vocal in your efforts and report back to Texas LULAC any progress or developments that your visits have attained. In the event that your representative is not responsive to you and your community, you are asked to organize a protest rally, demonstration, and/or march. Please include your children and our college students in these events.

Texas LULAC asks all council presidents to organize and lead a delegation of members to Austin throughout the legislative session aside from the State's advocacy days. It is important that our community be constantly present at the capitol in the event that testimonials are needed before the House or Senate committee hearings. In the past, we have had to scramble to find members to hold the line for us. We must be vigilant of what goes on in Austin, for at any time action against our community may be taken.

**All LULACers and their friends and family must be prepared to march on Austin when and if it becomes apparent that the state's political parties are going to dismantle and suppress our gains and/or abandon our community, children, and students.**

Many LULACers have personal rapport and relationships with members of the Texas House and Senate on both sides of the political spectrum; Texas LULAC calls on these members to use their influence to prevent negative anti-Hispanic bills from coming to the floor of either chamber and to promote sensible bills that will benefit all Texans today and tomorrow. We ask these members to personally assume the task of being intermediates between these representatives and the Organization.

Those of you who are members of the collegiate and university councils will be invited to a LULAC collegiate conference in Austin Texas in conjunction with the Texas LULAC legislative gala on the 24<sup>th</sup> of February because your empowerment as student leaders must inspire strong student activism at all Texas institutions of higher learning.

## The Facts

It is important that you remind your representatives that our community contributed 90% of all the growth in Texas, which is approximately 3 million persons.

They also need to be reminded that 50% of the Texas Hispanic population is under the age of 18, and will be the majority of future voters.

The 7 largest counties in Texas by population are also 50% of the total population in Texas.

The 7 largest counties in Texas by Hispanic population are also the 7 largest counties.

### 7 largest counties by population

1. Harris-	4,096,052
2. Dallas-	2,435,919
3. Tarrant-	1,825,548
4. Bexar-	1,636,642
5. Travis-	992,773
6. Hidalgo-	793,137
7. El Paso-	773,125

**TOTAL: 12,553,196**

### 7 largest Hispanic counties by population

1. Harris-	1,819,708
2. Dallas-	1,021,443
3. Bexar-	965,727
4. Hidalgo-	725,433
5. El Paso-	651,192
6. Tarrant-	555,001
7. Travis-	371,701

**TOTAL: 6,110,205**

Two/ thirds of the Hispanic population in Texas lives in the 7 largest counties

The total population of Texas is 25,373,947 of which 9,847,852 are Hispanic or 36.9% of the total population in Texas.

Know that **Hispanics do vote** when they have made a personal connection with the issue or election. Remind persons who say that Hispanics don't vote that the same was being said when Julian Castro was running for mayor of San Antonio in a field of six other candidates. Everyone said that there would be a run-off because Hispanics don't vote. Castro won decisively with 54% of the vote! In Harris County, when Adrian Garcia of Houston announced that he was running for Harris county sheriff, many said he didn't have a chance, despite the large Hispanic community. Not only did he win, but he also received the most votes of any candidate in Harris County, the third most populous county in the nation!

The facts all indicate that the inevitable truth is that the future of Texas is squarely in the hands of Hispanics. Texas is in transition politically and demographically, but whether that will be an advantage or not is exactly what is at stake this legislative session. We cannot expect, nor do we want anything to be given to us that we have not earned or struggled for over the decades. All of you will agree that our community is deserving and long over due this accord! But this is only an opportunity, and like all opportunities, it must be taken or else it will pass! We owe this opportunity to all those who came and struggled before us, many of whom are not with us to share in this moment. Let us be resolved not to let this opportunity pass us by for the sake of our future generations.

## The Issues

### Education

- **Quality Education for English Language Learners (ELLs)**  
Reform and improve education by supporting reforms for **effective** secondary educational programs that serve English Language Learners including stronger accountability standards, curricular reforms at the secondary level, and addressing qualified teacher shortages through recruitment and retention programs. These reforms will result in closing the achievement gaps and reducing the drop-outs.
- **Drop-Outs**
  1. Reform and improve education by identifying a menu of best practices that are research based to address dropouts.
  2. Introduce legislation that will require institutions to include in their graduation degree plan developed courses that focus on addressing potential drop-out students and drop-outs as part of their teacher certification programs.
  3. Support legislation that will require institutions that grant teacher certification and who are also identified as an HSI (Hispanic Serving Institution) to develop leadership programs for minorities in the field of education.
  4. Support legislation that will create a state-wide Blue Ribbon Committee made up of those institutions of higher learning that are identified as HSI to create a Think-tank to be centered at Texas State University in San Marcos to research, monitor, and propose solutions to student drop-outs.
- **Equitable School Finance System**  
Invest in the economic future of Texas by supporting a return to formula-based funding that maintains a school finance system that allows schools to access equal revenue at a similar tax effort and properly funds special needs students.
- **Universal Access to Schools**  
Oppose all efforts to deny access to education and ensure access to parents and children living in Texas to educational services regardless of immigration status.
- **State Board of Education Reform**  
Reform the State Board of Education (SBOE) to ensure that the adopted and future TEKS curriculum standards are accurate, comprehensive, in compliance with legislative intent and responsive to community input.
- **Affordable Tuition Rates in Higher Education**
  1. Oppose any measure that restricts or prohibits minority access to needed financial aid and Texas grants.
  2. Support affordable access to higher education by restoring the state regulation of tuition.
  3. Oppose any measure that further restricts Texas high school graduate access to in-state tuition.
- **Top 10%**  
Oppose any legislation that would reduce, eliminate or make exceptions to the top 10% rule.
- **Bullying**  
Support enhanced anti-bullying legislation that will mandate that the education administration code include a directive to identify a point of contact for bullying.

- **Special Education**  
Support legislation mandating that the parents of special education students who are also limited English proficiency (LEP), be provided all documentation in their native language during the ARD and the development of the student's IEP.

### **Immigration**

- **Community Policing**  
Promote safer cities through community policing and opposing any proposals that encourage state and local law enforcement of federal immigration statutes.
- **Safer Drivers**  
Promote safer drivers, access to insurance, and more secure communities by rejecting rules that make acquiring Texas driver licenses more difficult for Texas residents.
- **Comprehensive Immigration Reform in Texas**  
Promote legislation that includes a Texas guest worker program, the continuation of the Texas Dream Act, and the security of the Texas border in a humane and dignified manner for all.
- **Anti-immigration Legislation**  
Oppose all anti-immigration/anti-Hispanic legislation that is hateful and discriminatory in nature that may have the potential to lead to racial profiling.

### **Re-Districting/Political Access**

- **Voter ID**  
Oppose burdensome voting procedures at the polls such as requiring additional photo voter identification after a voter presents his or her voter registration certificate or other identification.
- **Access to the Process**  
Ensure minorities are fairly represented in the drawing of political boundaries in compliance with the Voting Rights Act at all levels of the process.
- **Existing Minority Districts**  
Support the preservation of current minority districts at the Congressional, state and county levels.
- **New Congressional Districts**  
Support the creation of minority-majority U.S. Congressional Districts reflective of the growth of minorities in Texas.
- **New Texas Districts**  
Support the additional creation of Texas House and Senatorial Districts commensurate with the growth of minorities in Texas.

### **Health**

- **Affordable Health Care**  
Ensure that all Texans, especially children and persons on fixed incomes have access to affordable health care and prescription drugs from competitive insurance providers.
- **Preventive Health Care**

Support legislation that promotes wellness focusing on programs that compliment individual and community-based preventive initiatives, especially in the areas of diabetes and Alzheimer.

- **Pre-existing Conditions**

Oppose any legislation or policies that deny or curtail benefits due in part or in whole to pre-existing medical conditions.

### **Work Force/Business**

- **Workforce**

Supports legislation that enhances training, retraining, and career programs for displaced and/or underemployed professional and nonprofessional workers.

- **Competitiveness**

Supports initiatives that will enable Texas to remain competitive and encourage the establishment and growth of Hispanic enterprises.

- **HUB (Historically Underutilized Business)**

Support legislation and policies that further enhances the establishment and maintenance of HUB goals in state procurement, and accountability measures for achieving it

- **Economy.**

Support legislation that encourages Texas business credit, economic development programs, and small business assistance programs through access to capital, and job creation.

### **Texas State Budgetary Shortfall**

- **State Educational Programs**

Oppose any legislation that would cut, de-fund, or eliminate any state educational programs that are effective and necessary to the success of any student sub-groups that are part of the accountability system.

- **Tax Loop-Holes**

Support and strongly encourage legislation that will raise state revenues through the elimination of tax loopholes and corporate headquarters designation tax loopholes.

### ***ACKNOLEGEMENTS***

**Texas LULAC wishes to recognize its collaborative relationship with MALDEF, American G.I. Forum, Texas NAACP, Equality Texas, ACLU of Texas and the Greater Dallas Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (GDHCC). Texas LULAC adopted in part MALDEF's agenda at its Temple TX board meeting, as well as utilizing the business expertise of the GDHCC and that of the ACLU in its legislative agenda. Texas LULAC also maintains an MOU with the Texas NAACP that was signed in Dallas with Executive Director Gary Bledsoe to promote mutually beneficiary cooperation between communities. Texas LULAC supports the initiatives of Equality Texas in its efforts to strengthen anti-bullying legislation and wholeheartedly appreciates the work of the American G.I. Forum on the issue of drop-outs. Texas LULAC thanks all of these organizations for their continued friendship and support, and looks forward to the realization of a better Texas for all Texans.**