



League of United Latin American Citizens

RESOLUTION TO ADVANCE VOTING RIGHTS

WHEREAS, LULAC is our Nation's oldest, largest, and most respected Hispano/Latino civil rights organization, established in 1929. Our mission is to seek the advancement of Hispanic Americans in the areas of education, employment, and civil rights; and

WHEREAS, following the Supreme Court's ruling in *Shelby County v. Holder* in 2013, extremist right wing legislators in many states rushed to enact voting restrictions that internationally disenfranchise millions of Americans; and

WHEREAS, right wing lawmakers have systematically removed voting resources from low income and minority communities, including shutting down voting sites, refusing to update voting machines, and failing to adequately train polling volunteers; and

WHEREAS, unconstitutional racial gerrymandering across states such as North Carolina, Georgia, Texas, and Virginia have diluted the impact of the Black and Latino vote, creating a super-majority for white conservative legislators in those states; and

WHEREAS, felon disenfranchisement—a long-time voter suppression tactic—has suppressed the African American vote dramatically in the state of Florida; one in four African Americans in Florida cannot vote due to felon disenfranchisement; and

WHEREAS, voter ID laws that place undue financial burden on the elderly, immigrant populations, and lower income persons have increased exponentially over the past two years; and

WHEREAS, curbs to early and absentee voting dramatically undermine the voting power of women—and African American women in particular who make up 36 percent of early voters; and

WHEREAS, Election Day is not a federal holiday, with the result that many people—particularly hourly waged workers who are disproportionately women of color—are unable to take the day off to vote; and

WHEREAS, the Trump Administration and Republican leaders in Congress have created a false narrative around virtually non-existent 'voter fraud' to justify voter suppression; and

WHEREAS, women are overwhelmingly underrepresented in political offices across the board, and those numbers are even lower for women of color; and

WHEREAS, having feminist women in political office promotes the introduction of legislation that bolsters the rights of women and families;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that LULAC launch an “Advance Voting Rights” campaign to:

1. stop voter suppression at the local, state, judicial, and national levels,
2. increase awareness about the disproportionate impact of voter suppression on women (especially women of color, low income persons, seniors, and younger people), and
3. pass a Voting Rights Advancement Act to stop gerrymandering intended to discriminate against communities of color and women voters, voter purging, and disenfranchisement; and

BE IT FUTHER RESOLVED that LULAC will work with our allies and coalition partners in support of state-level legislative, electoral, and litigation strategies to combat instances of voter suppression, including partisan suppression, especially in state such as North Carolina, Texas, Virginia, Florida, Michigan, Georgia, Alabama and Arizona; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that LULAC will work with its allies, and other civil rights organizations, to educate voters and promote women, especially Latina and minority women, and other marginalized people to run for local, state, judicial, and federal elected offices.

Voted & approved by the National Assembly of the 2018 LULAC National Convention on July 21, 2018.

Domingo Garcia
LULAC National President