



**PUBLIC REQUEST TO ADDRESS
THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA**

Correspondence Received

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

HILDA L. SOLIS
HOLLY J. MITCHELL
LINDSEY P. HORVATH
JANICE HAHN
KATHRYN BARGER

			The following individuals submitted comments on agenda item:	
Agenda #	Relate To	Position	Name	Comments
3.		Favor	Alejandra Ramirez-Zarate	<p>Please see attached letter for more.</p> <p>Dear Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, I strongly support your motion to address the disparities faced by Latinos in Los Angeles County, who comprise nearly half our population yet experience significant inequities in education, housing, and economic opportunity. This motion is crucial for understanding the challenges faced by Latino students, families, and communities, and for developing effective solutions that ensure a more equitable future for all. I urge you to prioritize initiatives that address these systemic issues and create a more just and inclusive Los Angeles County.</p> <p>Sincerely, Dr. Rocio Rivas LAUSD School Board Member, District 2</p>
			DeLlora Ellis-Gant	<p>The Los Angeles African American Employees Association support the motion to address the disparities, but request that the motion be amended to include African Americans (Blacks), Black Latinos and/or the top three groups that are faced with these disparities as the data reflects they are significantly impacted as well.</p>

			The following individuals submitted comments on agenda item:	
Agenda #	Relate To	Position	Name	Comments
3.		Favor	Steve Quinonez	<p>My name is Steve Quinonez, and I am the CEO and President of the Florence-Firestone Community Organization (FFCO), which is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for residents in the Florence-Firestone community through advocacy, collaboration, and direct support initiatives.</p> <p>I want to thank Supervisor Hilda L. Solis and Supervisor Lindsey Horvath for introducing this important motion on the State of Latinos in Los Angeles County.</p> <p>Latinos make up nearly 50% of Los Angeles County, and their contributions are countless. Latino culture enriches every aspect of the County, from music and dance to food and art. Furthermore, Latinos are a key driver of LA County's economic growth and an important source of economic strength and resilience.</p> <p>Despite their immense contributions, Latinos in Los Angeles County continue to face significant disparities in several key areas, including education, health, economic well-being, housing, literacy, and access to green spaces.</p> <p>Latino students experience lower high school graduation rates and college enrollment rates. Latinos have faced chronic health care inequities, which became starkly apparent during the COVID-19 pandemic. Additionally, Latinos have less access to green space in LA County than the recognized standard for park access.</p> <p>The County must continue to work on developing a more strategic and comprehensive plan to address the challenges Latino residents face on a day-to-day basis.</p> <p>This motion is a significant step forward. It will help to understand why disparities exist among the Latino population and bring us closer to achieving equity for Latinos in Los Angeles County.</p>
		Item Total	3	
Grand Total			3	



DR. ROCÍO RIVAS

Board Member

Los Angeles Unified School District

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December 3, 2024

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Item 3: The State of Latinos in Los Angeles County: Recognizing their Importance and Addressing Disparities

Dear Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors,

I am writing to express my strong support for Item 3: The State of Latinos in Los Angeles County: Recognizing their Importance and Addressing Disparities. As a member of the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) School Board, I believe this motion is necessary to address the educational disparities affecting Latino LAUSD students.

Latino students comprise over 70% of LAUSD enrollment. However, according to the Chapman University “El Futuro Es Latino” report, these students are falling significantly behind their White counterparts in academic performance. Only 35.33% of Latino students meet English proficiency standards, compared to 65.4% of White students. In math, 24.29% of Latino students are proficient compared to 54.97% of White students. This stark disparity in academic achievement highlights the systemic barriers faced by Latino students in LAUSD schools, hindering their access to higher education and opportunities for career advancement. To address these inequities, we must develop a deeper understanding of the diverse needs and challenges within the Latino student population, considering factors such as race, ethnicity, citizenship status, and socioeconomic background, to inform the creation of effective and equitable support systems.

In addition to educational disparities, many of the families in the LAUSD are struggling with housing insecurity and insufficient income. According to a 2019 report by the United States Census Bureau, over 761,000 Latinos in the County were living below the poverty level. Additionally, one in four Latino households in Los Angeles County earned less than \$40,000 per year. Low wages have led to a high rent burden for the Latino community— 54% of Latino households in 2019 were rent burdened and 26% were considered severely rent burdened. This housing insecurity has a direct impact on students' academic success, as research shows that children experiencing homelessness or housing instability are more likely to face chronic absenteeism, academic delays, and lower graduation rates.

Los Angeles County is home to over 4.7 million Latinos, who constitute the largest ethnic group in the region and, for generations, have played a crucial role in shaping Los Angeles County's cultural, economic, and social landscape. The Latino community brings a wealth of experience, perspectives, and contributions that enrich our society. We must recognize and celebrate the richness of these collective experiences while working to improve outcomes and achieve equity for the Latino community. This will ensure a stronger future for all Los Angeles County residents.

I urge all Los Angeles County Supervisors to support this crucial motion and to prioritize initiatives that address the systemic inequities faced by the Latino community. By working together, we can create a more just and equitable Los Angeles County for all.

Sincerely,

Dr. Rocío Rivas
Board Member, District 2
Los Angeles Unified School District