



5th Latino Hour Reception

*Celebrating the contributions of
Latinos to our Commonwealth and
welcoming the new administration!*

Saturday, January 17, 2026

2:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Hilton Richmond Downtown



**VIRGINIA LATINO
LEADERS COUNCIL**



Welcome and Greetings from VLLC President, J. Walter Tejada

A heartfelt Thank You to everyone attending and supporting The 5th Latino Hour Reception! We deserve to celebrate our community and our achievements. The Virginia Latino Leaders Council officially began in 2015 as a nonpartisan, all-volunteer statewide organization of Latino leaders and activists committed to civic engagement and advocacy, including establishing dialogues with state and local government officials. But we organized the first Latino Hour back in 2002 simply as an ad hoc group of activists to provide a Latino presence at the Gubernatorial Inaugural activities.

We began at a time with few statewide Latino advocacy organizations and leaders. Today, we couldn't be more proud of the number of amazing Latino leaders in elected, business, and community leadership roles. Many of you are here today, and we take a moment to honor your powerful contributions to the Commonwealth. At a time our community is facing many challenges, we are proud to say Latinos are here and we're making a significant difference. Now more than ever, we must engage at the local, state, and national levels. We must continue to develop Latino leaders who can join staff in important jobs and in locally influential committees that advise governments, and who can eventually run for public office. In this way we will continue to gain a voice at the table to shape public policy.

Today, we salute and thank you for joining the celebration of Latino contributions to our civic life, and for all your efforts to support our community. We **especially thank our sponsors** who helped make this reception a reality. We welcome and congratulate the incoming Spanberger Administration, and look forward to working together in the coming days to support our Latino community and strengthen our state. ¡Adelante!

Reach us at virginialatinoleaderscouncil.com
valatinoleaderscouncil@gmail.com



Honoring Current Latino Elected Leaders

Promoting Latino Leadership, Building for Tomorrow



Canek Aguirre, Councilman, City of Alexandria
Maritza Alger, School Board Member, Newport News
Yesy Amaya, Council Member, Manassas Park
Diana Brown, School Board Member, Manassas City
Cesar del Aguila, Council Member, Town of Herndon
Chris Falcon, Clerk of the Court, Fairfax County
Kelvin Garcia, Council Member, Town of Herndon
Elizabeth Guzman, State Delegate, District 22
Phil Hernandez, State Delegate District 94
Johanna Hicks, Council Member, Town of Christiansburg
Andres Jimenez, Fairfax County Supervisor, Mason District
Alfonso Lopez, State Delegate, District 3
Michelle Maldonado, State Delegate, District 20
Fernando "Marty" Martinez, State Delegate, District 29
Jason Miyares, Attorney General
Dalia Palchik, Fairfax County Supervisor, Providence District
Jose Quiroz, Sheriff, Arlington County
Alex Reyes, Council Member, Town of Herndon
Vivian Sanchez-Jones, Council Member, City of Roanoke
Marcia St. John-Cunning, School Board Member, Franconia District, Fairfax County
Zuraya Tapia-Hadley, School Board Member, Arlington County
Sonia Vasquez Luna, Council Member, Manassas City
Yesli Vega, Prince William County Supervisor, Coles District



If we missed anyone, please let us know at
valatinoleaderscouncil@gmail.com. Please tell name of the official, elected position, and contact info if possible!



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

To Virginia's Latino leaders,

As we gather this weekend, we reflect on all we have accomplished and look forward to the work that still lies ahead.

Last year, we showed Virginians what putting Virginia's future first looks like — with leaders relentlessly focused on growing Virginia's economy, strengthening Virginia public schools, and making life more affordable in every corner of the Commonwealth. Thank you for sharing this vision with your friends, family, and neighbors and for encouraging them to make their voices heard.

Now, we begin the hard work to make that vision a reality. Over the next four years, I look forward to working together to tackle the biggest challenges facing our Commonwealth — and making sure the voices of all Virginians are heard as we endeavor to do so.

None of this is possible without the efforts of dedicated leaders like you. I look forward to all we will accomplish to build a brighter future for our Commonwealth — together.

With gratitude,

Abigail D. Spanberger
Governor of the Commonwealth of Virginia

Many thanks to our Sponsors and Partners!

Platinum

UnidosUS Action Fund

Gold

Dominion Energy
Virginia Latino Caucus

Silver

The Honorable Andres Jimenez

Juntos

LiUNA

32BJ SEIU

Todos Neighborhood Market

Virginia League of United Latin American Citizens

Compadre/Comadre

Friends of Carla Bustillos

Hispanic Leadership Forum of Hampton Roads, Inc.

Marley Pulido Vargas

The Honorable J. Walter Tejada

Virginia Hispanic Chamber of Commerce

Amigos/Amigas

Democratic Latino Organization of Virginia

Mayela Heifetz-Tablada * Organization for Latino Health Advocacy

Andy Perez * The Honorable Jose Quiroz

Estuardo & Elizabeth Rodriguez * Justin Rouse

The Honorable Shelly Simonds

The Honorable Zuraya Tapia-Hadley

Hosts

Maritsa Alger * Jasmin Chavez * Javier Cuevas * Rosalia Fajardo

The Honorable Chris Falcon * Hope and Power Strategies

Debra Linick * Latino Advocacy of the DMV

The Honorable Ignacia S. Moreno * Marilyn Nevy Cruz

Lyons Sanchezconcha * The Honorable Tannia Talento

Thank you also to Virginia Coalition of Latino Organizations



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Office of the Lieutenant Governor

Warmest Greetings To the Virginia Latino Leaders Council

I am delighted to celebrate the vibrant culture and contributions of Latino Americans across our Commonwealth. This 5th quadrennial celebration highlights the significant and invaluable presence of the Latino community in Virginia and across the United States in fields as diverse as business, education, medicine, government, the arts, sciences, technology, and so much more.

I look forward to welcoming the Virginia Latino Leaders Council to my new office, as we recommit to celebrating and supporting the culture, successes, and the vibrant community of Latino Americans.

Un Cordial Saludo al Consejo de Liderazgo Latino de Virginia

Estoy encantada de celebrar la vibrante cultura y las contribuciones de los latinoamericanos en todo nuestro estado. Esta quinta celebración cuatrienal destaca la importante e invaluable presencia de la comunidad latina en Virginia y en todo Estados Unidos en sectores tan diversos como empresas, educación, medicina, gobierno, las artes, ciencia, tecnología y muchos otros.

Espero con interés dar la bienvenida al Consejo de Liderazgo Latino de Virginia a mi nueva oficina, mientras reafirmamos nuestro compromiso de celebrar y apoyar la cultura, los logros y la vibrante comunidad latinoamericana.

Ghazala F. Hashmi, PhD
Lieutenant Governor



Date: Tuesday, February 3, 2026 **Please join us for our annual Advocacy Day. Together, we will meet legislators, elevate community voices, and advocate for legislation that improves the lives of Latinos and immigrant communities in Virginia.**

Together, we will advocate for:

- Protecting and Strengthening Our Constitutional Rights
- Support Immigrant Rights
- Ensure Access to Healthcare
- Invest in Education
- Address Housing Concerns

**To register
Scan QR Code:**



The Virginia Coalition of Latino Organizations, VACOLAO, is a non-partisan Organization. We have been advocating for the rights of Latinos and immigrants in Virginia since our foundation in 2001.

We work to educate, empower, and secure equal treatment, opportunity, and representation for Latinos in Virginia.



**Serving the Latino Community in the
Virginia General Assembly**



**Thank you to the members of the
Virginia Latino Leaders Council
for your advocacy on behalf of the
Virginia Latino community. The
Virginia Latino Caucus is proud to
continue working alongside you
to advance and uplift our
communities.**

www.VALatinoCaucus.org

Program

2:30 Doors open. Welcome to the 5th Latino Hour Reception
Networking, appetizers, drinks, music, dancing?

3:00 First recognition of Platinum, Gold, and Silver Sponsor
Recognition of Compadres, Comadres, Amigos y Amigas
More networking, appetizers, drinks, music, dancing?

3:25 Speaking program

- Platinum Sponsor: UnidosUS Action Fund
- Partner: VACOLAO
- Gold Sponsor: Dominion Energy
- Official VLLC welcome
- Recognition of elected officials attending
- Recognition of Latino elected officials
- Recognition of former Latino elected officials
- Recognition of Latino candidates
- Gold Sponsor: Virginia Latino Caucus
- Final Remarks

3:55 Party/Dancing

4:30 End of 5th Latino Hour Reception

¡Muchísimas Gracias!



THERE'S ENERGY IN DIVERSITY.

With a talented workforce of over 19,000, we've found that bringing all kinds of people together makes us stronger, smarter and more innovative. We believe a diverse team is an opportunity to explore new ideas and deliver our best to every community.



DominionEnergy.com/Diversity



Democrat ★ Supervisor ★ Mason

Andres Jimenez

Thank you to the **Virginia Latino Leaders Council** for your strong and steadfast advocacy. I look forward to our continued partnership, work, and support for the community in the year ahead.

www.AndresForMason.com

Virginia LULAC
Empowering Virginia's Latino Community

Education • Economic Opportunity • Civic Engagement • Civil Rights

Virginia



Be part of the movement.



Join leaders, advocates, and community members working to create a stronger, more inclusive Virginia.

 Serving Communities Across Virginia

 www.valulac.org

 virgini;lulacofficial@gmail.com

TODOS



NEIGHBORHOOD MARKET

32BJ SEIU MEMBERS KEEP VIRGINIA RUNNING

32BJ SEIU IS PROUD TO
CELEBRATE LATINO
CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE
COMMONWEALTH!

WHEN WE FIGHT
WE WIN



Stronger Together

LiUNA! METROPOLITAN AREA OF
PHILADELPHIA/BALTIMORE/
WASHINGTON LABORERS'
DISTRICT COUNCIL
PA • DC • MD • VA *Feel the Power*

Celebrating the contributions of
LATINOS
to our Commonwealth
and welcoming the
NEW ADMINISTRATION

RYAN N. BOYER, SR
Business Manager

JULIO PALOMO
Local 11 Business Manager

SONIA VASQUEZ LUNA
Local 572 Business Manager

JUNTOS



Building Latino political resilience, power, & representation in elected & appointed office.

Latinos make up 11% of the Virginia
yet we hold less than 2% of elected
and appointed roles.

JUNTOS we can change that →



JUNTOSPAC.ORG

Honoring Former Latino Elected Leaders

Promoting Latino Leadership, Building for Tomorrow



Hala Ayala
Isis Castro
Hector Cendejas
Pablo Cuevas
Cristina Diaz-Torres
David Farajolloja
Rick Roca
Sal Romero
Chris Suarez
Tannia Talento
J. Walter Tejada
Emma Violand Sanchez

Recognizing Past Latino Candidates



Paul Berry
Carla Bustillos
Vanessa Cardenas
Kelvin Garcia
Victoria Luavanos
Teresa Martinez
Rick Roca
Mady Rodriguez
Andres Tobar
Albert Vega
Erika Yalowitz
Maritza Zermeño

👉 If we missed anyone, please let us know at valatinoleaderscouncil@gmail.com.
Please tell name of the official, elected position, and contact info if possible!

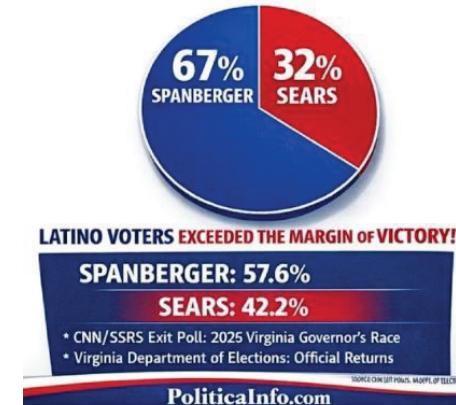
Did you know? Data from Virginia LULAC:

Virginia is home to over **900,000 Latinos**, representing roughly **10.6%** of the state's population. ([Encyclopedia Virginia](#)) This growing demographic is economically, socially, and culturally woven into the fabric of our Commonwealth.

Why Our Vote Matters:

- **Economic stake:** Latino-owned businesses are thriving in Virginia. According to the U.S. Small Business Administration, Hispanics make up approximately **9.5%** of workers and own **9.2%** of small businesses in the state. ([Office of Advocacy](#))
- **Projected growth:** The Latino population in Virginia is among the fastest growing. Projections suggest Latinos could make up **17%** (over 1.6 million persons) of the state's population by 2030. ([vlab.virginia.gov](#))

Latino Voters Delivered Abigail Spanberger's Victory



Finally, many thanks to Daniel Sanchez, DWAI Creations, for his endless patience and upbeat help in so many ways!



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**UNIDOSUS ACTION FUND CONGRATULATES GOVERNOR SPANBERGER
ON HER HISTORIC INAUGURATION!**



We look forward to working with Virginia Latino Leaders Council to build on the progress we have made to open more doors of opportunities for the VA Hispanic community.

UNIDOSUS
ACTION FUND