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**Illinois Latino Agenda releases 2014 Gubernatorial Candidate Questionnaire
“Disappointed” in one-sided results**

Chicago—October 8, 2014—What could have been an opportunity to address a community’s concerns has led to one-sided results as the Illinois Latino Agenda—the largest coalition of Latino-led nonprofits in the state—released the answers to its [2014 Gubernatorial Candidate Questionnaire](#) this week. The open-ended survey asked candidates about their plans to address issues that affect Illinois Latinos, a community that represents the largest minority group at 16 percent of the state’s total population.

In conjunction with its *Voto X Voto* campaign—which strives to inform and educate voters and reach one million Latinos through coordinated public outreach—the 21-question survey was sent twice to candidate-for-governor Bruce Rauner and Governor Pat Quinn. It included queries about each candidate’s plans in education, workforce and economic development, immigration, community safety, housing and health—issues that are of concern to Illinois vitality.

Quinn’s complete, unedited responses are available on the Latino Policy Forum’s website. However after multiple requests to Rauner, the campaign ultimately declined to complete the survey.

“More than two million Latinos live, work, and raise families in the prairie state,” said Sylvia Puente, executive director of the Forum. “It’s incredibly disconcerting when a candidate running for Governor refuses to address questions that have a direct impact on a community that makes up a growing portion of the state’s electorate.”

Currently there are more than 770 thousand Latinos of voting age and eligible to vote in Illinois. Every year more than 30,000 Illinois Latinos turn 18 and become eligible to vote.

“This questionnaire is more than a survey,” said Michael D. Rodríguez, executive director of Enlace Chicago and member of the Illinois Latino Agenda. “It’s an opportunity for a candidate to map out their plans. The next Illinois governor must have a keen understanding of what it means to invest in the Latino community and in turn investing in our state’s shared future. Failing to take this opportunity isn’t just disappointing, it’s disrespectful.”

The Latino Policy Forum and other Agenda members and coalitions are non-partisan organizations. The Agenda, conducted a similar questionnaire in 2011 prior to the Mayoral election, when six candidates, including Mayor Rahm Emanuel, responded.

Signed

1. Alivio Medical Center
2. The Association of Latinos/as Motivating Action (ALMA)
3. Arden Shore Child & Family Services
4. Centro de Información
5. Chicago Commons
6. Corazon Community Services
7. Chicago Run
8. El Valor
9. El Hogar del Niño
10. Enlace Chicago
11. Erie Neighborhood House
12. Family Focus Nuestra Familia
13. Gads Hill Center
14. Healthcare Alternative Systems, Inc.
15. Hispanic Housing Development Corporation
16. Hispanic Alliance for Career Enhancement (HACE)
17. Hispanic American Community Education and Services (HACES)
18. Illinois Association of Hispanic State Employees
19. Interfaith Leadership Project
20. Instituto del Progreso Latino
21. La Casa Norte
22. Latin United Community Housing Association (LUCHA)
23. Latino Organization of the Southwest
24. Latino Policy Forum
25. Latinos Progresando
26. LULAC of Illinois
27. Mujeres Latinas en Accion
28. The Resurrection Project
29. Puerto Rican Agenda
30. Puerto Rican Arts Alliance
31. Spanish Coalition for Housing

About the Illinois Latino Agenda

The Illinois Latino Agenda, the largest coalition of Latino-led nonprofits in Illinois, is committed to securing equitable resources and investment for Latinos while building their power, influence, and leadership through a strategic alliance of Latino nonprofits and allies in the state. With nearly 50 member organizations across the Chicago metropolitan region, the Illinois Latino Agenda reaches over 250,000 individuals, families, and business owners each year through direct assistance and indirect services in a range of areas, including health care, family services and education.

About the Latino Policy Forum

The Latino Policy Forum is the only organization in the Chicago area that facilitates the involvement of Latinos at all levels of public decision-making. The Forum conducts analysis to inform, influence and lead. Its goals are

to improve education outcomes, advocate for affordable housing, promote just immigration policies, and engage diverse sectors of the community, with an understanding that advancing Latinos advances a shared future. For more information, visit www.latinopolicyforum.org.

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