THE ISSUES

1. SAFER COMMUNITIES
   Latinos are hardworking people who desire to live in safe neighborhoods, but too little is being done to create programs that prevent crime in our communities. Even though a year in jail costs more than a year in college, many politicians look only at prison, and not at alternative programs that can reduce crime.
   A Pro-Hispanic Candidate or Incumbent:
   ✓ Supports a comprehensive approach to reduce youth violence which includes programs for prevention, treatment, intervention and suppression, and better options than just throwing young people in prison.
   ✓ Supports effective programs that help ex-offenders who have paid their debt to society become good citizens and, in that way, help prevent crime.

2. ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES
   Hispanics play an important role in the economic prosperity of the nation. Latino consumers have almost $1 trillion dollars in buying power, pay billions in taxes to the federal government every year, and send billions to their families in Latin America. More needs to be done to help Latinos build wealth.
   A Pro-Hispanic Candidate or Incumbent:
   ✓ Supports helping struggling families save their homes from foreclosure.
   ✓ Supports strong federal laws that help people pay a fair price for their home and that reduce bad lending practices known as predatory lending.
   ✓ Supports fixing the remittance market so that the money Latinos send to their families abroad is not lost unnecessarily to hidden fees.
   ✓ Supports programs that help people save money for the future, such as Individual Retirement Accounts, retirement pensions, and tax credits to build savings accounts.

3. QUALITY EDUCATION
   Latinos see education as the key to a better future. We are concerned that only about half of Latinos graduate from high school, and therefore we support greater investment in public schools and funding for early childhood education, bilingual services, and access to higher education. These improvements are also important for the nation; with more than ten million Latino children in public schools, these children will be significant contributors to our country’s future workforce.
   A Pro-Hispanic Candidate or Incumbent:
   ✓ Supports high-quality family literacy and early care and education programs for young Latino children and their families.
   ✓ Supports programs with well-prepared bilingual teachers and staff who can communicate with parents in Spanish when needed.
   ✓ Supports the “DREAM Act” to help immigrant students go to college.

4. ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE
   While Latinos contribute to the nation’s economic health through their hard work, too many do not have access to the care and information they need to stay physically and mentally healthy. Almost one-third (32.1%) of Latinos do not have health insurance, and millions more cannot get standard health care services that every American needs.
   A Pro-Hispanic Candidate or Incumbent:
   ✓ Supports health care reform that will create pathways to coverage for everyone in the U.S.
   ✓ Supports more access to quality health care and will commit to improve the availability of health care in Latino communities.
   ✓ Supports greater enforcement of civil rights in health settings.
5. IMMIGRATION REFORM

The U.S. immigration system is broken and needs to be reformed. The system in place now results in families being separated, people dying at the border, and no channels for immigrants to become legal. This system also hurts honest businesses that need more workers, while it benefits bad employers and “coyotes” who exploit immigrants.

A Pro-Hispanic Candidate or Incumbent:

✓ Supports comprehensive immigration reform at the federal level which includes: 1) a path to legalization for undocumented immigrants; 2) a way to keep families together; 3) a guestworker program that allows needed immigrant workers to enter the U.S. legally; and 4) an effective way to enforce the new system and make the country safe.

✓ Opposes anti-immigrant policies that divide communities and create intolerance.

✓ Opposes patchwork legislation at the state and local levels which does nothing to fix the real problem.

6. JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Hispanics are the fastest-growing segment of the workforce, representing 14.1% of U.S. workers. Yet, many Latinos are stuck in jobs offering little to no benefits, low wages, and few opportunities to move up. This is especially harmful during these times of economic hardship, when Latino unemployment is rising more quickly than that of other groups.

A Pro-Hispanic Candidate or Incumbent:

✓ Supports job training programs that help Latinos move out of entry-level, low-wage jobs.

✓ Supports putting more money into programs that integrate English-language learning and skills training.

✓ Supports expanding unemployment insurance to cover more workers during an economic downturn.

Are you a citizen?
Will you be 18 or older on November 4?
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