



For Immediate Release:

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The Illinois Latino Agenda calls on the Cook County Democratic Party to Slate a Latino for the Illinois Supreme Court in the 2024 primary election

Although Latinos are 18% of Illinois' population, none of the Justices on the Illinois Supreme Court are Latino

media interviews available

CHICAGO - The Illinois Latino Agenda (ILA) is calling on the Cook County Democratic Party to slate a Latino for the Illinois Supreme Court in the 2024 primary election when Justice Burke's term officially expires. ILA and other networks believe that there are plenty of well qualified Latinos with experience in judicial matters to warrant slating a Latino candidate for the State's highest court.

Last fall, more than 25 Latino leaders from the community, government, and private sectors, were unified in [voicing their disappointment](#) with the Illinois Supreme Court's appointment to fill the Chief Justice of the Illinois Supreme Court Anne Burke vacancy. The Court denied the historic opportunity to appoint Illinois' first Latino Supreme Court Justice when it selected Justice Burke's recommended nominee.

"The Illinois Supreme Court sorely lacks Latino representation in a state where Latinos make up 18% of the population and are one of the fastest growing demographics" **Jose M. Muñoz, Co-Chair of the Illinois Latino Agenda, said.** "We demand a fair opportunity to elect the first Latino Supreme Court Justice with the support of the Cook County Democratic Party."

Cook County's District 1, where the latest appointment was made, has a Latino population that is 26% and growing. The Cook County Democratic Party stands at the forefront of rectifying an inequity that has existed for far too long by slating a Latino candidate that would create a truly diverse elected Supreme Court

"The Illinois Judiciary has a growing number of Latinos, the most it has ever had in its 205 year history, yet a Latino has never sat on the Illinois Supreme Court," **said Juan Morado Jr., Chair of the Latino Leadership Council and Illinois Latino Agenda member.** "There is undoubtedly a pipeline of Latino Judges that the Cook County Democratic party can slate for Illinois' Supreme Court and we strongly urge them to do so."

“If there was ever a time to bring true diversity and equity to the Illinois Supreme Court, the time is now,” said **Sylvia Puente, Co-Chair of the Illinois Latino Agenda and President and CEO of the Latino Policy Forum**. “Latinos are embedded in Illinois, our communities contribute to our state’s economy and culture, and we deserve to be represented at all levels of government, the Illinois Supreme Court should not be an exception.”

Other stakeholders, including political leaders and bar associations, are expected to make their own statements in the upcoming days.

The Illinois Latino Agenda (ILA) is a coalition of 26 Latino leaders, most of whom head Chicago’s largest Latino-serving organizations.

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