



**For Immediate Release:**  
October 29, 2024

**STATEMENT FROM ILLINOIS LATINO AGENDA:  
Latino Leaders Appalled by Racist Anti-Latino Rhetoric, Call for Respect not  
Ridicule**

*\*media interviews available\**

**CHICAGO** – The following is a statement by the Illinois Latino Agenda (ILA) in response to [the racist rhetoric that took place at a recent Trump rally](#):

“At a time when candidates should be actively engaging with our communities, discussing our most pressing issues, and mobilizing us to participate in the democratic process, we instead are witnessing open racism.

“The racist comments targeting Puerto Rico and Latino cultures at a recent Trump rally are appalling, perpetuating harmful stereotypes that impact how Latinos are perceived, treated and valued across the nation.

“We stand united in condemning this hurtful rhetoric, which is an insult to all Americans and undermines the strength of our shared democracy. This language is partly meant to keep us at home on Election Day – don’t let it.

“In the face of this national hate-baiting, it’s critical that our fellow Latinos remember that we are a powerful force, contributing significantly to America’s culture and economy. In fact, the U.S. Latino GDP is [\\$3.7 trillion, the fifth-largest in the world](#). Try as they might, we cannot let the hate discourage us from using our voice on Election Day.

“We need to show up to vote, as disenfranchised as we may feel with the language we’re hearing, because our communities deserve leaders who respect and uplift us, not those who diminish and insult us. The only way that happens is if we use our power to vote on Election Day.”

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