



## League of United Latin American Citizens

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(v30)

September 10, 2024

The Honorable Merrick B. Garland  
Attorney General of the United States  
U.S. Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W.  
Washington, DC 20530

### RE: Immediate Action Requested – Investigation into Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton Raids of Latino Communities

Attorney General Garland,

As organizations dedicated to uplifting, defending, and protecting marginalized communities nationwide, we urgently call on the U.S. Department of Justice to investigate what appears to be politically motivated actions by Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton and other officials.

Attorney General Paxton has been relentlessly targeting and harassing Latino-led organizations, like the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), along with individual citizens. This isn't just troubling—it's a blatant infringement on their civil rights, part of a disturbing pattern of voter suppression and intimidation. In Texas, where Latinos make up 40.2% of the population, the state's largest ethnic group, these actions are especially concerning. Texas is a majority-minority state, with Latinos, African Americans, and Asian Americans together making up 58% of the population<sup>1</sup>. These raids have a chilling effect on civic participation in these communities, underscoring a broader and more alarming strategy of suppressing minority voices.

For context on this recent matter on August 20, 2024, Mrs. Lidia Martinez, an 87-year-old LULAC member with 35 years of dedicated service, went through an experience that no one should ever face. Her home was raided by officers executing a warrant authorized by Paxton. Despite her full cooperation, Lidia was subjected to hours of intense interrogation, and her personal belongings, including voter registration card and mobile phone were seized. Unfortunately, this wasn't an isolated incident—three other LULAC members have been similarly targeted, fostering a climate of fear that chills community engagement<sup>2</sup>.

This is part of a broader and deeply troubling pattern. Just a few months earlier, in June 2024, Paxton launched an investigation into Catholic Charities and its Executive

<sup>1</sup> Texas Monthly, 23 July 2024, [www.texasmonthly.com/news-politics/texas-majority-minority-state-political-implications/](https://www.texasmonthly.com/news-politics/texas-majority-minority-state-political-implications/)

<sup>2</sup> The New York Times, 25 Aug. 2024. <https://www.nytimes.com/2024/08/25/us/texas-latino-democrats-raids-paxton.html>



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Director, Sister Norma Pimentel, accusing them of ‘human trafficking’ simply for offering food, clothing and shelter to Latino migrants in need<sup>3</sup>.

This pattern goes beyond isolated incidents, including the recent purge of nearly a million voters from Texas voter rolls in August 2024, likely disproportionately affecting Latino, African American, and Asian American citizens<sup>4</sup>. These actions reveal a deliberate strategy to suppress and marginalize minority communities. Similar challenges are being faced in other states like Georgia, Florida, and Arizona where voter suppression efforts are also targeting these groups<sup>5</sup>.

Given these developments, we respectfully urge you, as United States Attorney General, to take decisive action:

- ***Advocate for Enhanced Federal Oversight:*** Implement stronger federal oversight mechanisms to scrutinize state-level investigations into voter fraud, ensuring they are conducted fairly and without bias, and to prevent any misuse or harassment of citizens.
- ***Investigate Civil Rights Violations:*** Conduct a comprehensive investigation into the civil rights violations and voter intimidation efforts targeting Latino leaders, LULAC members and others who may have been targeted for registering members of marginalized communities.

Actions like those highlighted are designed to instill irrational fear of the growing diversity in our population. We urge you to safeguard the right to vote and ensure that racial and ethnic minority communities can participate in this election season without fear, intimidation, or suppression. Should you have any questions, please reach out to Juan Proaño, LULAC Chief Executive Officer, at [jproano@lulac.org](mailto:jproano@lulac.org).

Thank you for your ongoing attention to this critical issue.

Hereby signed,

League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC)  
LULAC National Institute  
AAPI Equity Alliance  
AAPI New Jersey

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<sup>3</sup> NBC 5 Dallas-Fort Worth, <https://www.nbcdfw.com/news/local/texas-news/catholic-charities-ken-paxton-texas-border/3595660/>

<sup>4</sup> The Hill, 27 Aug. 2024. <https://thehill.com/homenews/4849711-texas-voter-roll-purge-million/>

<sup>5</sup> NBC News, 29 Aug. 2024. <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/2024-election/gop-crackdowns-noncitizen-voting-ensnare-newly-naturalized-americans-rcna168234>



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Advancement Project  
Alabama State Association of Cooperatives  
Alianza Nacional de Campesinas  
All Voting is Local  
America's Voice  
American Association of People with Disabilities  
American Civil Liberties Union  
American Federation of Teachers  
Anti-Defamation League (ADL)  
Arab American Institute  
Asian & Pacific Islander American Health Forum (APIAHF)  
Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF)  
Asian and Pacific Islander American Vote (APIAVote)  
Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance - AFL-CIO (APALA)  
Asian Texans for Justice  
ASPIRA Association  
Atrus Ballew Farm  
Autistic Self Advocacy Network  
Bend the Arc: Jewish Action  
Black Voters Matter Fund  
CapEQ  
Center for Popular Democracy  
Chicanos Por La Causa  
Chicanos Por La Causa Action Fund  
Chinese for Affirmative Action  
Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington (CREW)  
Color Of Change  
Compañeras Campesinas  
Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, U.S. Provinces  
Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute (CHCI)  
Cumberland Seed Commons  
Defend the Vote  
DemCast USA  
Democracy SENTRY  
ecoAmerica  
Equal Rights Advocates  
Equality California  
Esperanza United



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Fair Count Inc  
GALEO Impact Fund  
Hip Hop Caucus  
Hispanic Federation  
Hispanics in Philanthropy  
Human Rights Campaign  
Human Rights First  
Immigrant Legal Resource Center  
Immigration and Refugees Action Group, Havertown Area Community Action Network PA  
Just Solutions  
Justice and Joy National Collaborative (formerly National Crittenton)  
Kansas Black Farmers Association  
Latino Farmers & Ranchers International, Inc.  
Latino Texas Policy Center  
Latino Victory Project  
LatinoJustice PRLDEF  
League of Women Voters of the United States  
Lideres Campesinas  
Louisiana Advocates for Immigrants in Detention  
MANA, A National Latina Organization  
Mi Familia Vota  
NAACP  
National Action Network  
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd  
National American GI Forum  
National Asian Pacific American Families Against Substance Abuse (NAPAFASA)  
National Association of Hispanic Federal Executives  
National Association of Social Workers  
National Black Justice Collective  
National Center for Lesbian Rights  
National Coalition on Black Civic Participation  
National Council of Asian Pacific Americans (NCAPA)  
National Education Association  
National Fair Housing Alliance  
National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislators - NHCSL  
National Hispanic Council on Aging  
National Hispanic Health Foundation  
National Institute for Workers' Rights



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National Japanese American Citizens League  
National Korean American Service & Education Consortium (NAKASEC)  
National Latina Institute for Reproductive Justice  
National Network for Arab American Communities  
National Organization for Women  
National Women's Law Center  
Network Lobby for Catholic Social Justice  
PEAK Parent Center  
Poder Latinx  
Public Private Strategies  
Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights  
Rural Advancement Fund of the National Sharecroppers Fund  
Rural Coalition  
Rural Development Leadership Network  
SER National Inc.  
Service Employees International Union (SEIU)  
Sikh American Legal Defense and Education Fund  
Sisters of Mercy of the Americas Justice Team  
Slow Food USA  
Sojourners  
Southern Coalition for Social Justice  
Southern Poverty Law Center  
Stop AAPI Hate  
Sustainable Communities Network  
Texas Coalition of Rural Landowners  
The Advocates for Human Rights  
The Arc of Texas  
The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights  
The United Methodist Church General Board of Church and Society  
The Workers Circle  
The Youth Voice of Nevada  
United States Hispanic Leadership Institute  
United Steel Workers  
Voter Participation.org  
Woori Juntos  
YWCA USA

cc: The Honorable Kristen Clarke, U.S. Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights