



# STRENGTHENING OUR VOICES

NATIONAL HISPANIC CAUCUS OF STATE LEGISLATORS

NEWSLETTER | FALL 2007

## From the President



Dear Friends,

Welcome to the Fall issue of our newsletter, *Strengthening Our Voices*. In this issue we highlight what's coming up at our 5th National Summit of Hispanic State Legislators. I look

forward to seeing you at our Summit on November 15-18 in Miami, Florida.

Top on our agenda is the 2008 Presidential election and where the candidates stand when it comes to addressing the concerns of the Hispanic/Latino population. We care about education, homeownership, economic empowerment, healthcare and immigration because it impacts our families greatly.

I also want to let you know that I will complete my term as NHCSL President in November, thus this is my final message to you via our newsletter. I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your support and hard work during my tenure. While we accomplished a lot, there is still more work to do.

I encourage you to continue to address the challenges in your state with passion and energy for the next generation. We can all make a difference if we work together.

Sincerely,

Assemblyman Felix W. Ortiz (NY)  
NHCSL President

## NHCSL SUMMIT TO ADDRESS POLICY PRIORITIES

**SUMMIT EDITION**

**M**aking a difference requires a few bold steps. That is what NHCSL plans to do at the 5th National Summit in Miami, Florida during the weekend of November 15-18, 2007. The organization will host various discussions with state legislators and experts on issues that impact the Hispanic community such as immigration, education, health, and economic development.

The gathering will also bring together long-time and new supporters of the organization from the public and private sector to not only learn about the issues, but also to celebrate NHCSL's achievements. "One key step to making a difference in the Hispanic community is through political participation. With the combined efforts of NHCSL members and staff, the organization has effectively moved the Hispanic agenda ahead," said NHCSL President Assemblyman Felix Ortiz (NY).

A Pew Hispanic Research Center report on the 2006 elections showed that "Hispanics accounted for 5.8% of the (total) votes

cast in 2006, up from 5.3% in 2002". While the increase shows a positive trend, voting disparities still reflect a large gap in political participation along race lines.

As the presidential campaigns pick up speed in the next several months, these findings give credence to the need for Hispanic state legislators to dialogue with the presidential candidates. NHCSL has invited all of the presidential candidates to participate at the Summit. "A dialogue between the candidates and state legislators is vital to determine their commitment to the Hispanic community," said Ortiz. Many issues, including immigration reform, still need resolution. Clear examples of this were seen across the country in the past year when millions of people rallied for comprehensive immigration reform. "There is no better time than the present for us to ensure that the Hispanic population remains central to discussions about education, immigration, healthcare and the war in Iraq," Ortiz said.

For more information about the 5th National Summit please visit [www.nhcsl.org](http://www.nhcsl.org).

By José Saavedra

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*Source: Pew Hispanic Research Center. Fact Sheet. "The Latino Electorate: An Analysis of the 2006 Election." 24 July 2007. pp 3-4.*

## Summit Highlights



Make plans now to attend the National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislators (NHCSL) **5th National Summit on November 15-18, 2007**. The Summit will be held at the Four Seasons Hotel in Miami, Florida. The title sponsors are Burger King and Comcast.

The Summit is designed for participants to connect one-on-one with Hispanic state legislators and discuss the issues that impact the communities we serve. As the premier national association of Hispanic state legislators, NHCSL continues to have meaningful discussions to help create and implement policies that are effective. Join Hispanic state legislators from across the country, corporate executives, educators, policymakers, and other national, state and local elected officials at the Summit.

**Register Today at [www.nhcsl.org](http://www.nhcsl.org)!**

### Summit Sponsorships Available

"Noche de Celebracion"	\$50,000
Gold Sponsor	\$25,000
Patron Sponsor	\$15,000

Each sponsorship includes a series of benefits and offerings. Visit [www.nhcsl.org](http://www.nhcsl.org) for more information.



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Speaker Marco Rubio



Senator Kenneth McClintock



John Chidsey

## NHCSL Hosts Speakers Roundtable

This year's NHCSL Summit will include a Speakers Roundtable that will include **Florida House Speaker Marco Rubio**, **Puerto Rico Senate President Kenneth McClintock**, and **Puerto Rico House Speaker Jose Aponte Hernandez**, among others. **Utah State Senator Ross Romero** will moderate the discussion where the audience will hear the perspectives from the nation's leading state legislators about education, immigration, health and what is at stake with the up-and-coming presidential elections.

The Speakers Roundtable is scheduled on Friday, November 16 at 9:30 am.

## Burger King CEO John Chidsey among "Noche de Celebracion" guests

**John W. Chidsey** is the Chief Executive Officer of Burger King Corporation and a member of the Board of Directors. Prior to being named CEO, he served as president and chief financial officer. Chidsey will participate at the Summit's Saturday "Noche de Celebracion" event.

## Digital TV Transition: What Does It Mean for Hispanic Consumers?

NHCSL will address the issue of the much anticipated switch from analog TV to digital TV and what it will mean to Hispanic/Latino households. Analog TV has been used for U.S. television broadcasts since the 1940s and will cease after February 19, 2009, but replaced with Digital TV (DTV), a newer form of technology. Digital TV will require a DTV Converter Box and that can be costly for many households. Digital TV transition assistance, in the form of government-provided coupons intended to help reduce the cost to U.S. consumers, will be available to every American household beginning in 2008.



Join us at this session on Friday, November 16 to learn more about this issue.

*All NHCSL Summit activities noted above will be held at the Four Season Hotel located at 1435 Brickell Avenue in downtown Miami, Florida.*



## Protecting Our Communities; How to Reduce Immunization Disparities is focus at NHCSL Summit



Dr. Matilde M. Irigoyen

The rising costs and sometimes deadly consequences of vaccine-preventable diseases are at an all time high, particularly in the Hispanic/Latino community. Health experts, including **Dr. Matilde M. Irigoyen**, Chair of the Department of Pediatrics at the Albert Einstein Medical Center in Philadelphia, will discuss the challenges and consequences of immunization disparities. Dr. Irigoyen has a strong background in quality primary pediatric care, medical education and community service with special interest in integrating medical education through service learning models that are responsive to child health needs.

Illinois **State Senator Iris Y. Martinez** will moderate the session. Senator Martinez is the first Hispanic woman ever elected to the State Senate, and made history again when she became the first Latina ever appointed to a leadership position in January this year. In addition to serving as Assistant Majority Leader, Martinez also is the Vice-Chair of the Pensions and Investments



Senator Iris Y. Martinez

Committee and is a member of the Executive, Labor, Housing and Community Affairs, and Public Health Committees. Senator Martinez has been recognized for her dedicated service to her constituents and families throughout the state, especially in the areas of healthcare, education, pension reform, and women's rights. This past September Senator Martinez was honored with the Health Disparities Conference Leadership Award.

Today, according to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), every year in the U.S an estimated 40,000 adults die from diseases that vaccines could have easily been prevented. About 36,000 people die from influenza each year. Influenza and pneumonia cause more than 200,000 hospitalizations among the elderly, costing states more than \$3 billion. The statistics are astounding but some states are making a difference through some unique efforts.

States depend heavily on the federal purchase of vaccines for all ages. In FY 2005, the CDC awarded approximately \$1.5 billion in federal funds to state, local and territorial public health agencies for operating immunization programs and purchasing vaccines. States are also exploring various methods to increase immunization levels among the elderly, especially elderly Hispanics and African Americans.

Join us at the NHCSL Summit, November 15-18 in Miami, Florida, for an important discussion on this issue. ☺

**Source:** *Healthy States Brief, Protecting Our Communities, August 2006, Vol. 1, No. 8.*

## GOLF OUTING DRAWS EXCITEMENT FOR A GOOD CAUSE



- Join us at the 3rd Annual John S. Martinez Golf Outing to help raise funds for the "John S. Martinez Excellence in Leadership" Scholarship Fund. The golf outing is the official kick-off of the NHCSL Summit. The fund helps young high school students achieve their dream to attend college.
- The golf outing is November 15 and will be held at the Doral Golf Resort & Spa in Miami.
- The fund was created to honor the legacy of the late, former president of NHCSL, Representative John S. Martinez of Connecticut. Golf pros and amateurs are invited to participate.
- To register visit [www.nhcsl.org](http://www.nhcsl.org) or call 202-434-8070 for more information. ☺

### save the date!

**5<sup>th</sup> National Summit  
Four Seasons Hotel  
Miami, Florida  
November 15-18, 2007**

Register online at [www.nhcsl.org](http://www.nhcsl.org)

### ADVERTISE in NHCSL's Summit Journal

Ad space is available in the Summit Journal. The Summit Journal will be published in 2008. The deadline is December 15, 2007. Ad specifications and costs are available at [www.nhcsl.org](http://www.nhcsl.org).





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*The National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislators (NHCSL) is the preeminent organization representing the interests of 300 Hispanic state legislators from all states, commonwealths, and territories of the United States. Founded in 1989 as a nonpartisan, nonprofit 501(c)3, NHCSL is a catalyst and advocate for joint action on issues of common concern, such as health, education, immigration, homeownership and economic development to all segments of the Hispanic community. NHCSL also works to design and implement policies and pro-*

*cedures that will impact the quality of life for Hispanic communities; serves as a forum for information exchange and member networking; an institute for leadership training; a liaison with sister U.S. Hispanic organizations; a promoter of public/private partnerships with business and labor; and a partner with Hispanic state and provincial legislators and their associations representing Central and South America.*



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