



PRESS RELEASE
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**HOPE RELEASES NEW REPORT ON LATINA REPRESENTATION IN GOVERNMENT
IN THE STATE OF NEW YORK, HIGHLIGHTS GROWTH AND DISPARITIES**

*Latinas represent 12% of US congressional members but only 1% of local government
leaders across the state's counties, cities, and towns.*

New York, NY - June 12, 2024 - HOPE (Hispanas Organized for Political Equality) is proud to announce the release of its new report, "Latina Representation in New York Government." The HOPE report analyzes more than 6,000 elected leaders at federal, state, county, and municipal levels, highlighting the status of Latina political representation across New York.

New York State is home to roughly 20 million people, where nearly 1 in 5 identify as Latino representing the second largest ethnic group in the state, and close to 10% of all New Yorkers are Latina. With a focus on gender and ethnic parity among elected representatives and their constituents, the report underscores both the successes of Latina candidates in politics and the areas where increased representation is needed for one of the largest ethnic groups in the United States.

"This report serves as both a benchmark for our current state and a call to action," said Helen Torres, CEO of HOPE. "While we celebrate the strides Latinas have made in political representation, we recognize there is still significant work to be done to achieve true parity. HOPE remains committed to building sustained and robust leadership pipelines, ensuring Latinas are represented in every decision-making space impacting our communities."

"As someone who has experienced firsthand the challenges and triumphs of breaking barriers on the New York City Council, this report hits home. It underscores the vital contributions of Latinas in shaping our state's future and serves as a testament to the progress we have made. The recent changes in census data collection and voting laws are encouraging steps toward a more inclusive democracy. I am confident that New York will continue to lead the way in electing more women and people of color to public office," added Julissa Ferreras, Partner at Hollis Public Affairs, former New York City Council Woman, and advisor to the report.

Key Findings:

- **Statewide Government:** There has yet to be a Latina elected to any of the four statewide offices: Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General and Comptroller.
- **U.S. Congress:** Latinas are 12% of the congressional delegation with 3 members, where they see ethnic parity at this level of government. All 3 Latina congressional members represent parts of New York City and serve in the house of representatives. The state has yet to send a Latina or any person of color to the U.S. Senate.
- **State Legislature:** Latinas comprise 8% of the State Senate and could achieve parity by gaining one additional seat in the upper chamber. Latinas represent 5% of the State Assembly, a figure that would need to nearly double to achieve parity.
- **Local Government:** Latinas hold less than 1% of the 6,000 county, city, and town leadership positions analyzed for this report. Most of the Latino representation occurs in the City of New York where Latinas hold 9 of the 51 Council seats.
- **New York City:** "The Big Apple" is the only city in the state where Latinas see representative parity. Latinas hold 17% of City Council seats in a city where they represent nearly 15% of the population.

"Although Latinas have achieved parity in some levels of government, the effort to maintain representation that reflects the state's population continues," shared Felipa Penalzoza, lead researcher of the report and senior account executive of GrassrootsLab. "Our study highlights several key appointments to leadership positions highlighting a growing recognition that Latinas deserve to be making important decisions regarding policy. It is crucial that we continue to support and elevate Latina voices in all levels of government, ensuring they have a seat at the table where policies affecting our communities are decided."

The report will be launched at HOPE's 3rd Annual Latina History Day event in New York City on June 12, 2024, alongside 150 Latina leaders representing the public and private sectors. For more information and to access the full report, please visit www.latinas.org.

About Hispanas Organized for Political Equality (HOPE) - HOPE® is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization that has empowered our communities through advocacy, Latina leadership training, and increasing knowledge on the contributions Latinas have made to advance the status of women for the past 35 years. To date, HOPE's innovative programming has served 65,000 Latinas and touched the lives of several thousand more through our advocacy. For more information on HOPE, please visit Latinas.org.