

UNITED LATINOS

UNITED FOOD AND COMMERCIAL WORKERS

¡Sí Se Puede!

UNITED LATINOS NEWSLETTER, JANUARY 2019

PRIDE · EMPOWERMENT · DIGNITY · EDUCATION · SOLIDARITY



Pa' delante: Strategizing for the Road Ahead

Let us take a moment to reflect on all the accomplishments that our organization has achieved during this past year. Together we have valiantly supported Latino communities, from aiding our Puerto Rican family to standing with immigrants. Moreover, the United Latinos has stayed true to its mission and has remained a source of support for our members. This year alone we awarded 177 New American Citizenship Scholarships. Our next step is to ensure that those members become engaged voters. As the new year begins, it is my pleasure to share with you the new goals that the United Latinos Board has set for the upcoming years. Last summer, during our Executive Board Meeting, we reflected on the Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats that our organization, our Union, and Latinx community faces. From this reflection grew a “Four Pillar Strategy” from which we hope to persevere over our threats, build from our weaknesses, fight our challenges, grow from our opportunities, and celebrate our strengths.

Administration is our first pillar. Under the leadership of UL Vice President Laura Edwards, the Administration Committee will be responsible for the day-to-day tasks of the United Latinos including our New American Citizen Scholarship and our John Rene Memorial Scholarship. Additionally, with this pillar in place, we are gearing up for the next two years leading up to the 2020 Election. Our New American Citizen Scholarship is crucial given that once our members are U.S. Citizens they become eligible voters. We have to mobilize our communities and make sure that every UFCW member who qualifies become a citizen utilizes our program. Moreover, we have to reach out to the Latino community and push for voter registration and voter turnout. Supporting and mobilizing our members is one of our biggest strengths.

Communication is our second pillar. It is important for us to also identify our weaknesses to be able to grow stronger as an organization. One of the biggest gaps we identified was communication. We have not been communicating with our members on a regular basis. This lack of communication causes other issues to arise. For example, we do not hear about issues happening at a Local level that impact our membership. If we do not reach out, then we are not able to provide support to individual Locals, members, and activists when issues arise. We commit to be present, in light of this promise, we have created a Communications Committee chaired by UL Secretary Treasurer Kelly Martinez. Tasked with increasing our organization's awareness in areas of the UFCW that are not very active. Juntos, we have the potential to build a strong organization that sets the Latino Labor Agenda within our Union.

Rigoberto Valdez, Jr.
President of United Latinos

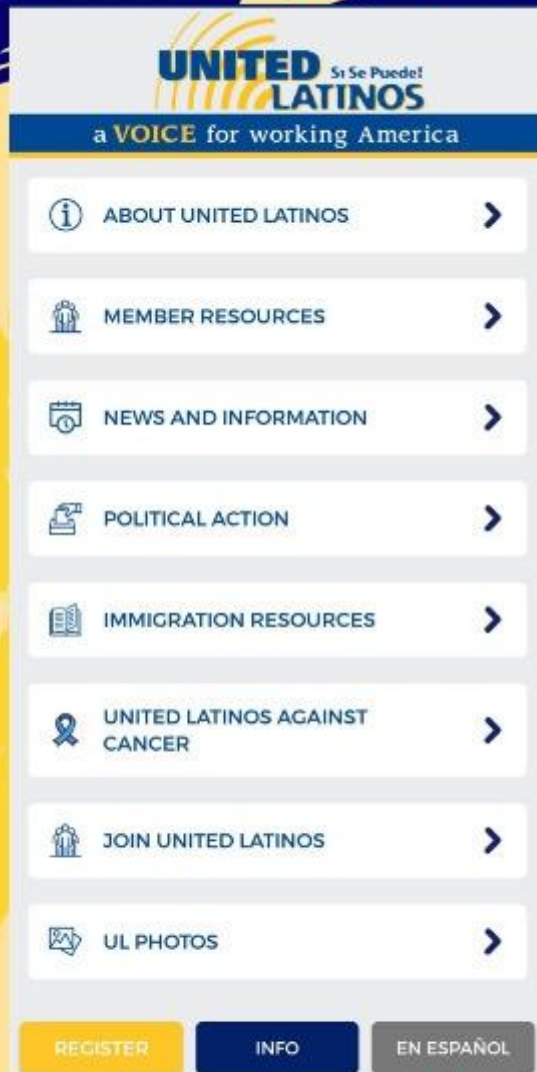


Membership is our third pillar. One Million Latinxs turn 18 every single year. When talking about opportunity, let's talk about our political power! Not only in the U.S. but we are uniquely situated by virtue of our position to grow our members in Canada. The United Latinos has the opportunity to build, engage, and activate members to engage civically. This is why we have established the third of our four pillars, the Membership Committee chaired by yours truly. We will be devoted to increasing membership throughout the U.S. and we will closely work with our Canadian family to activate new members.

Lastly, Program is our fourth pillar. Within UFCW, we have the capacity to increase visibility and show how intersectional this issue truly is—from refugees, to undocuqueer, to non-latinx immigrants. Beyond UFCW, we have the capacity to take a stance and advocate for global issues impacting our constituency. Chaired by UL Executive Vice President Juan escareño, the Program Committee, will be tasked with developing and executing activities, actions, and events to resist our current political climate and to politicize current and future UL members. This past year, we are experienced a wave of anti-immigrant and anti-worker rhetoric resulted in destructive policy that harms all the working class. We are aware that many policies and tactics are a direct attack on workers, immigrants, and people of color. Our strategic objective is for our organization to be more vocal and take a stance on these issues. Under this political climate, the United Latinos must remain active; we must remain true to the values that formed our organization, the ganas to amplify our voice, be acknowledged, and develop leadership. Remember, when they operate out of hate we have the duty to mobilize, educate, and organize in a transformative manner. For the years ahead, I know that we can collectively transcend their hatred, their bigotry, and their racism.

I am sure that “The Four Pillars” will set a strong foundation for the future generations of United Latinos. We are eager to start working with you to build collective power during 2019 and beyond. Above all else, gracias, thank to for your support, commitment, and dedication to United Latinos of the UFCW.

UL APP



The **United Latinos App** is available for FREE in the Apple Store and the Google Play Store. This App allows us to provide our membership with resources. We have carefully developed the App to include pertinent information about the United Latinos, provide our users with easy to access immigration and membership resources like our John Rene Scholarship & our New American Citizenship Scholarship applications.

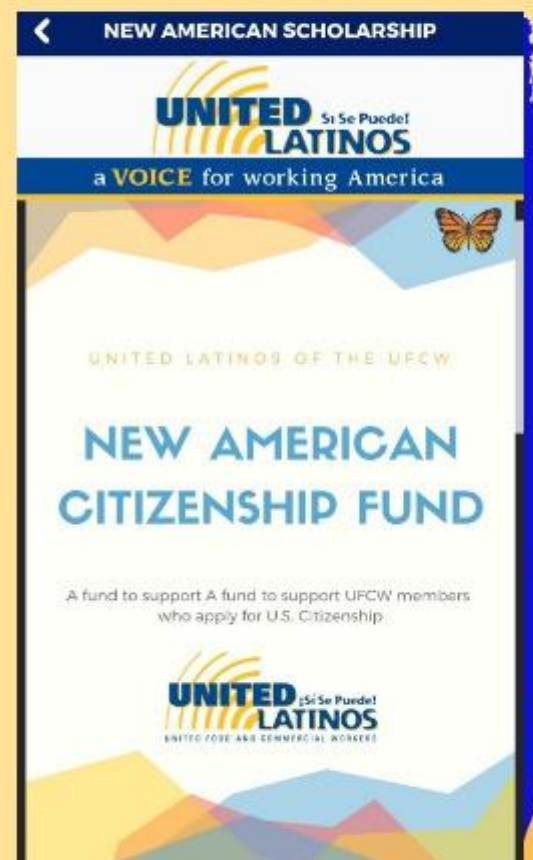
The UL App also serves as a tool for civic engagement our "Political Action" tab allows our members to learn who their local and state representatives are. It is also available in Spanish.

Disponible en Español

Descarga la App de UL!



Download the UL App!



UFCW United Latinos Empower Workers in Puerto Rico



United Latinos of the UFCW held their executive board meeting in San Juan, Puerto Rico, on August 8 to 11 to help members of UFCW Local 481 and their families recover from the devastating effects of Hurricane Maria. Members of United Latinos also attended the Labor Council for Latin American Advancement (LCLAA) 2018 Convention, which was held in San Juan at the same time.

During the convention and meetings, United Latinos were able to pass a resolution on solidarity with UFCW workers in Puerto Rico, participate in day of service events and hold solidarity actions against the privatization of public education. The day of service was geared towards rebuilding and repainting a shelter for young, disabled women and a nonprofit center aimed at assisting women who are escaping domestic violence.

“The LCLAA convention in which we participated as part of UFCW / United Latinos was a great opportunity to strengthen ties of solidarity and to say thank you for all the support we have received in Puerto Rico from our UFCW matrix, an action that we will always carry in our hearts,” said Andrés Lloret Gutiérrez, president of UFCW Local 481. “We were able to strengthen alliances to face the great challenges that lie ahead, not only of workers’ rights, but also in defense of civil rights. We thank United Latinos and its executives for an enriching experience. Count on us in Puerto Rico to fight together for the good of the workers.”

“I am excited for the possibilities that can and will arise from the collaborative endeavors of Latinos and the greater communities in politics, organizing and civic engagement,” said UFCW Local 770 Organizing Director Rigo Valdez, who was elected as a LCLAA board member at the convention. “Together we can strengthen the labor movement and promote and empower Latinos across the country. I am proud of the work the United Latinos and UFCW Local 481 have done and I am proud of our collaborative plan to move on the solidarity resolution.”

During the 2018 UFCW Convention the United Latinos pledged support to the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society and proudly joined the Movement of Labor Against Cancer.

The United Latinos of the UFCW, is proud to follow the leadership of President Marc Perrone and join in solidarity with LLS. This partnership has been salient to the UFCW for more than 35 years, and Locals across the US & Canada have raised more than \$85 Million dollars for blood cancer cures. We are humbled to join such meaningful work.

Please refer to the 2018 UFCW Resource Partnership Guide, available in English and Spanish through our website: ufcwunitedlatinos.org



LEUKEMIA &
LYMPHOMA
SOCIETY®

LIGHT THE
NIGHT® WALK
taking steps to make someday today



DECEMBER 11, 2018

OPEN LETTER TO OUR BROTHER OSCAR SAENZ



As you close this chapter of your life as a dedicated and committed union leader it is with a heart full of gratitude, respect and admiration that we write this letter.

For decades the United Latinos has witnessed the compassion that you have for members of the UFCW – your quiet and gentle manner that so fully dignifies working women and men.

We are humbled by your wisdom - - your capacity to show each and every worker how to find themselves – to see themselves – to voice their hopes and their dreams.

We have seen you share your knowledge, experience - - your power with all of us. It has been an honor to work beside you. You are a teacher, a mentor, and a leader that guides with a kind heart and a sharp mind.

Most of all, you have shown us how to stand against the powerful, the ruthless, the hypocrites. It is like you have a radar - - you spot them a mile away – no se te pasa ninguno - and you walk directly toward them – that is courage!

It has been an amazing privilege to stand around you as you confront them - - with absolutely no fear - - with powerful righteousness – with that determination – with the patience of a true warrior - - no abuse, no humiliation – not in front of you, Oscar Saenz. There is no neutrality – you call it - you speak truth to power.

But what is truly amazing Oscar – is that this is what you have done every day – every plant – every city – in almost every local throughout our Union - - for over 20 years! You bring your best – no matter what shift or what day of the week. Your stability has been our stability.

Your consistency and your persistence has taught us that our work is not a tunnel between two vague clarities - that justice will never be found in the middle - you find the most direct path. We hope that we all find your courage, your clarity, your wisdom.

On behalf of the UFCW United Latinos, we are going to miss you, brother. Our members are going to miss you – our Union is going to miss you. A fancy title does not make leader - and YOU have been our leader. The United Latinos will honor your legacy – we promise to work with an open heart and thoughtful mind – exactly as you have taught us.

It is with a heart full of gratitude, of love, that we wish you and your family all the health, love and happiness you deserve.

Con Amor y Respeto,
Los Latinos Unidos de la UFCW

LATINX VOTER HIGHLIGHTS

MIDTERM ELECTION 2018

FACT: 54 Million Latinxs live in the United States, comprising 17% of the population. However, just 1% of the nearly 500,000 elected officials in federal, state, and local governments nationwide are Latinx.



11% of eligible voters nationwide are Latinx.

Seven-in-ten or 71% of Latinx eligible voters live in just six states: California, Florida, New York, Texas, and Illinois



94%

Of young Latinxs polled said that they will continue to vote in every state and local



3.4

Million Latinxs turned eighteen before the 2018 mid-term election



69%

Of Latinxs voted for the Democratic candidate

FACT: Latinxs are the second fastest growing group of U.S. Citizens. Since 2014, over 400,000 Latinxs from Mexican origin have naturalized and are eligible voters.

27% of Latinxs said that they were voting in a midterm election for the first time

Latinxs made their voices heard and showed their power at the ballot box. Two-thirds (67%) of Latinxs polled said that the administration's policies have been harmful towards Latinxs.

A poll by Latino Decisions showed that 65% of Latinxs had not been contacted about registering to vote and/or voting.

WITH THESE STATISTICS WE CAN BEGIN TO GEAR UP FOR THE 2020 ELECTION!

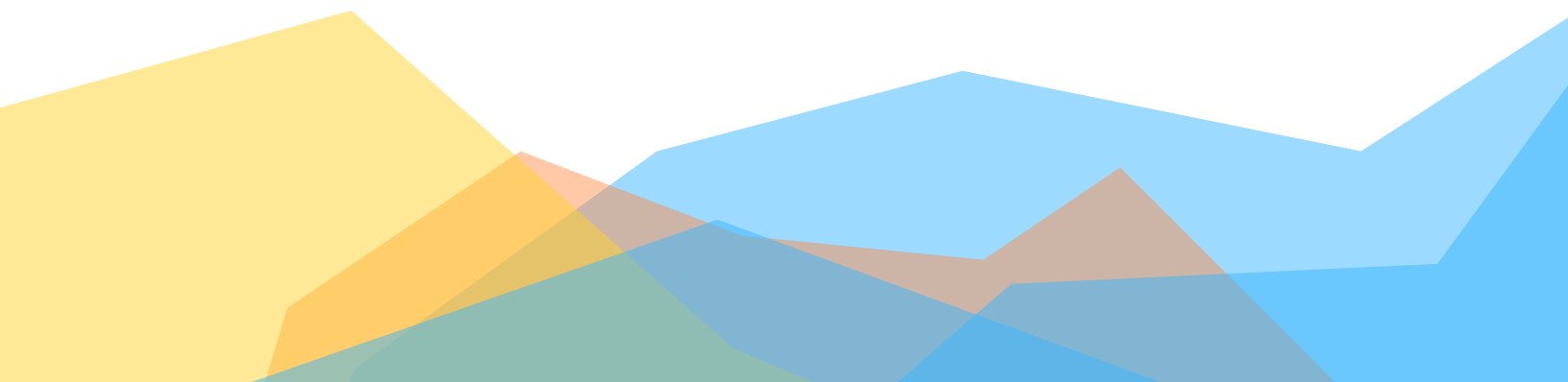
How Latinos impacted the 2018 Midterm Election

During the 2018 Midterm Election, Latinos stood together to represent their families and communities. Latino presence was essential in key states like Nevada, where our UFCW Familia showed up in strong numbers to support pro-labor candidates. Truth be told, our UFCW sense of justice and “Si Se Puede” spirit is what makes us strong. Together, in solidarity with other Unions like UNITE HERE, we turned Nevada blue. An amazing feat given jarring statistics coming from right-to-work states nationwide. With a union membership of 12.7, Nevada is among the few right-to-states with a fairly high union rate. After the election, the HuffPost reported that Nevada unions had registered 10,300 new voters since the 2016 election. In addition, the UFCW sent a contingency of members who worked tirelessly for months to ensure a pro-union victory in Nevada.

For several weeks, together in solidarity with Local 711 and other Nevada unions, UFCW members, organizers, and staff Got Out The Vote to elect Jacky Rosen to the U.S. State Senate and Steve Sisolak as Governor of Nevada. UFCW Local 5 and Local 8 sent members to Reno, and UFCW Local 1428 and Local 770 sent Members to Las Vegas. Our rank-and-file members were eager to take the streets and encourage their fellow members to vote for candidates who are willing to fight for living wages, better working conditions, and “one job should be enough.” Collectively they knocked 35,000 doors and had over 6,000 conversations with Nevada workers. Together we turned Nevada Blue and made a statement that WE are Union Strong.

Latinos shattered records across the country. One of the major reasons for Latino voter engagement was the anti-immigrant rhetoric of the Trump Administration. Two-thirds (67%) of Latinos polled said that the administration's policies have been harmful towards Latinos. As such, Latinos made their voices heard and showed their power at the ballot box. There was a record of 29 million Latinos eligible to vote in this year's midterm elections. Amongst them, 27% said that they were voting in a midterm election for the first time. Overall, exit polls highlighted that Latino voter turnout doubled from 2014. It is crucial to note that young Latino voters were a driving force in this election—from being on the ground canvassing to GOTV, registering themselves and others to vote, and becoming first time voters. Nearly three million Latinos have turned eighteen in the last four years.

It was a historic year for Latinos in politics, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez was elected to represent NY-14, making her the youngest congresswoman in history. In addition, 69% of all Latinos who voted in the midterm election said they voted for the Democratic candidate. The Latino vote was crucial in several states with competitive races for U.S. Senate and governor. States like Texas with 30% registered Latinos, Arizona with 23%, and Nevada with 19%, in these states, Democrats won the Latino vote. For instance, in the Texas Senate race, 64% of Latinos voted for Democrat Beto O'Rourke and 53% of Latinos voted for Democrat Lupe Valdez in the State's race for governor. In addition, Texas voters elected the first to Latinas to represent them in congress, Veronica Escobar will represent Texas' Congressional District 16 and Sylvia Garcia who will represent District 29.



Puerto Ricans and new U.S. citizens increased the number of Latino eligible voters during the midterm election. Since 2014, over 400,000 Latinos from Mexican origin have naturalized and are eligible voters. In addition, the number of Latinos from Puerto Rico residing in mainland U.S. increased in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria. The state of Massachusetts and Florida saw the highest spike of Puerto Ricans seeking refuge, in those states, community organizations rallied the Puerto Rican community and registered them to vote during the midterm elections.

Latino voter turnout went up 174% in the 2018 midterm elections. Latino voters showed out to the polls because labor, community, and political organizations organized to get out the vote. Latinos showed up to the polls because folks like the United Latinos knocked on doors, listened to voters, and reminded them of the power that our collective voice yields. As a result, Latinos voted for Democrats by a margin of nearly three to one! Exit polls showed that 81% of Latinos ages 18 to 29 voted for Democrats. Our voice and vote matters. We have proven that in states like Nevada which is comprised of 28% Latino residents and with over 328,000 Latino eligible voters. Amongst all Latinos who voted in the Nevada election, 72% voted for Democrats to represent them in the House of Representatives and 69% of the Latino vote went to the Democratic Governor candidate Steve Sisolak—making him the first Democratic Governor since Bob Miller's election in 1989.

As labor leaders, we must not fall into the mis-constructed assumption that all Latinos are “painted with the same brush,” meaning that all Latinos by default lean Democrat and are progressive. According to midterm exit polls, a quarter of Latinos (23%) identify as republican and among this group 59% approve of President Trump's job performance. We must continue to GOTV among Latino communities. The United Latinos can work towards increasing Latino voter participation and Latino voter registration. We will win, if we focus our efforts in increasing voter turnout for pro-union candidates. As labor, we refuse to take a stance for the values that the Trump administration is fostering. This year we took a stance against a harmful administration, against anti-immigrant rhetoric, against a wall. As workers we stood in solidarity with thousands of teachers who went on strike for wages and better working conditions. United, we got out the vote and elected pro-labor representatives. Together, we will continue to fight for working class people and our UFCW familia.



¡Sí Se Puede!

BECAUSE OF UNEQUAL PAY,
OVER A 40-YEAR CAREER,
LATINAS TYPICALLY
LOSE OVER
\$1 MILLION



Enough is enough!

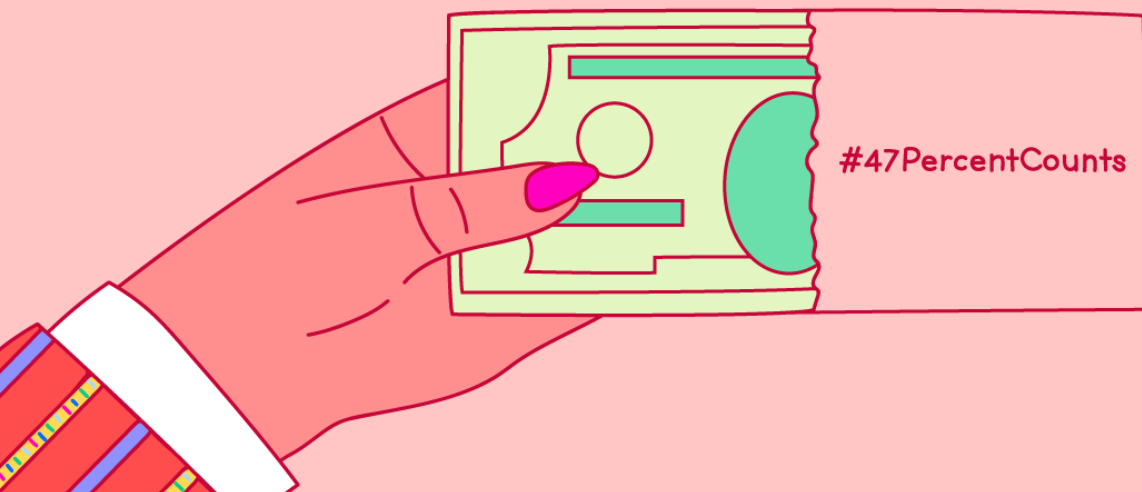
#LatinaEqualPay

MomsRising.org | MamáConPoder.org

TAKE ACTION ON

#LatinaEqualPay Day!

53¢ is not enough.



**EQUAL PAY
FOR
EQUAL WORK**



Latinas are paid just
**53 cents for
every dollar**
earned by white,
non-Hispanic men.
They deserve equal pay.

LATINAEQUALPAY.ORG
#LATINAEQUALPAY





The United Latinos of the UFCW will not remain silent in times of injustice. We stand in solidarity with immigrant families. Today, we join the outcry of human and immigrant rights organizations across the country to express our outrage over this 'zero tolerance' policy that separates children from parents at the border. This policy is leaving children with a lifetime of trauma. This grotesque administration is inflicting violence on our communities by terrorizing, dehumanizing and criminalizing immigrants who are fleeing violence.



www.ufcwunitedlatinos.org



UNITED LATINOS OF THE UFCW

NEW AMERICAN CITIZENSHIP FUND

A fund to support A fund to support UFCW members
who apply for U.S. Citizenship





UNITED LATINOS OF THE UFCW New American Citizenship Fund

A fund to support UFCW members who apply for U.S. Citizenship

The New American Citizenship Fund is made possible by UFCW local union support to the United Latinos of the UFCW. The scholarship is for UFCW members who have applied for U.S. citizenship and who have demonstrated a strong commitment to building a stronger voice for workers in their Union and in their community through active engagement in advancing social and economic justice.

The United Latinos of the UFCW has created a special fund that will distribute scholarships in the amount of \$600.00 per member.

Qualifications for the New American Citizenship Fund
Applicants must be UFCW members in good standing with a commitment to become an active participant in their Union and in their communities.

Applicants must agree to provide a minimum of ten (10) volunteer hours to a project, program or campaign as designated by the sponsoring UFCW local union.

UFCW members applying for the New American Citizenship Fund must provide proof of application for U.S. citizenship, **by providing proof of payment to the United States Customs and Immigration Services (USCIS).**

Applicants must provide a sponsor letter from their UFCW local union president. Letters should be addressed to:

RIGO VALDEZ, PRESIDENT
UNITED LATINOS OF THE UFCW
C/O UFCW 770
630 SHATTO PL.
LOS ANGELES, CA 90005

SELECTION PROCESS

The United Latinos of the UFCW will accept application throughout the year and funds will be awarded until the fund is exhausted.

NOTIFICATION

The United Latinos of the UFCW will send the scholarship award to the UFCW Union President by mail. Once the award is given to the applicant, we ask that the sponsoring local unions provide a photo of the awardee with the letter and enclosed award.





UNITED LATINOS OF THE UFCW New American Citizenship Fund

SAMPLE LETTER OF SUPPORT

The New American Citizenship Fund

Date

Rigo Valdez, President
United Latinos of the UFCW
c/o UFCW 770
630 Shatto Pl.
Los Angeles, CA 90005

Dear Rigo,

I am the president of UFCW Local _____. It is with
great pleasure that I write this letter in support of _____.

She/he has been a member of local _____ for _____ years. He/she is a
member in good standing.

I am proud to support this application for U.S. citizenship and welcome the opportunity
to count

a member of our local as a “new American” in our Union and in our community.

Enclosed

please find a copy of the receipt for the application fee paid to USCIS.

We request your consideration for the \$600.00 New American Citizenship Fund on
behalf of _____.

Sincerely,

Release Authorization

I certify that to the best of my knowledge that _____ has
submitted their application for U.S. citizen to the USCIS and that I have submitted a
copy of the application fee paid to the USCIS.



SCHOLARSHIP FUND OPPORTUNITY

Who is eligible:

This fund is open to all UFCW members who have met the qualifications for U.S. citizenship and have submitted their application to the USCIS.

UFCW must be members in good standing with their local union.

How to apply:

UFCW members must request a letter from their sponsoring local union and show ***proof of application fee payment to the USCIS.***

How to apply:

Letters must be submitted to Rigo Valdez, President of the United Latinos of the UFCW.

BECOME A CITIZEN TODAY!!!





United Latinos of the UFCW Sponsorship Form (please type or print clearly)

Local Union: _____ Region: _____ Council: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Return application and monies to:

United Latinos
% Rigo Valdez
630 Shatto Pl.
Los Angeles, CA 90005

\$300.00	For Locals with a membership under	1,000 (2 memberships)
\$600.00	For Locals with a membership between	1,001 to 5,000 (4 memberships)
\$1,000.00	For Locals with a membership between	5,001 to 10,000 (6 memberships)
\$1,500.00	For Locals with a membership between	10,001 to 20,000 (8 memberships)
\$2,500.00	For Locals with a membership over	20,000 (10 memberships)

Please list members names below based on Sponsorship listed above.

Name:	Phone:	Email:
1. _____		
2. _____		
3. _____		
4. _____		
5. _____		
6. _____		
7. _____		
8. _____		
9. _____		
10. _____		



United Latinos of the UFCW Membership Form *(please type or print clearly)*

Local Union: _____ Region: _____ Council: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Member signature: _____ Date: _____

Annual Dues are as follows below: *(please check amounts enclosed)*

- ☐ \$30 per year for Full-Time Staff/Representative/Organizer/Executive Officer
- ☐ \$10 per year for Rank & File and Associates Members
- ☐ \$400 Lifetime membership - one-time payment *(You can make two payments of \$200 in 2 consecutive years)*
- ☐ \$ Other amount for supporting member and/or supporting friend

(Fill in amount)

Please make check payable to UNITED LATINOS OF THE UFCW and mailed to:

United Latinos of the UFCW

% Rigo Valdez

630 Shatto Pl.

Los Angeles, CA 90005