



SOUTHWEST VOTER REGISTRATION EDUCATION PROJECT & WILLIAM C. VELASQUEZ INSTITUTE

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SVREP & WCVI Name Lydia Camarillo President

(San Antonio, TX – December 18, 2018) Southwest Voter Registration Education Project (SVREP) & William C. Velasquez Institute (WCVI) board of directors' name Lydia Camarillo President.

“The board of directors for SVREP and WCVI are proud to name Lydia Camarillo president of SVREP & WCVI. She is a nationally recognized leader, with experience as an organizer and a public policy advocate, she is an unwavering warrior with a singular commitment to empowering the Latino community. There is no one more qualified to lead SVREP and WCVI than Lydia Camarillo”, said Juan Maldonado, SVREP & WCVI Chairman.

“I am honored to be named SVREP and WCVI president. I look forward to working with the board of directors and staff for both SVREP & WCVI, as well as allies and supporters to continue Antonio González's legacy. We will continue our struggle against all anti-Latino, and anti-immigrant efforts, to empower the Latino vote and to fight for justice,” said Lydia Camarillo.

After the untimely passing of Antonio González, the board of SVREP and WCVI is confident that Camarillo will elevate the organizations to its next phase flawlessly. Camarillo will serve as the organizations fourth president following Antonio González (1994 to 2018), Andrew D. Hernandez (1988-1994) and William C. Velásquez (1974-1988).

Lydia Camarillo has served as Vice President of SVREP since 2003. She was SVREP Acting President from July of 2005 to January of 2006 when Antonio González took a sabbatical to become a visiting scholar at the David and Lucile Packard Foundation and as Executive Director of SVREP from December 1994 to September 1999. Camarillo worked with González to mobilize the Latino vote, train candidates and organizers, build power and empower the Latino community.

Under Camarillo and SVREP's President González, the Latino participation in the democratic process tripled, from 5.4 million Latinos registered to vote to 15.5 million, between 1994 and 2016. During the same period the Latino turnout increased from 2.4 million to 13.5 million at the national level. In 2018, the Latino turnout surpassed the 2014 turnout numbers and, in some districts, turnout mirrored 2016 presidential general election rates.

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Founded in 1974, SVREP is the preeminent Latino voter participation organization in the United States. Its mission is to politically empower Latinos and other minorities. SVREP has registered more than 2.7 million Latino voters, trained 150,000 Latino leaders and won 155 federal and state voting rights actions.

WCVI measures Latino voter patterns and trends, and conducts research aimed at improving the level of political and economic participation in Latino. It provides platforms to exploring and developing innovative public policies strategies on the issues facing Latinos in the US as well as to building and normalizing relations with leaders south of the border, and the Caribbean.