



William C. Velásquez Institute

**Press Statement
FOR IMMEDIATE DISTRIBUTION**

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WCVI Endorses California's Measure R on 2020 Ballot

(LOS ANGELES) – WCVI (William C. Velasquez Institute) today endorsed Measure R, a California measure on the March 3, 2020 ballot that will bring oversight, transparency and accountability to the LA Sheriff's Department.

Measure R will require L.A. County to invest in rehabilitation and mental health treatment; L.A. County will be required to grant the Sheriff's Department Civilian Oversight Commission (COC) with subpoena power to effectively and independently investigate misconduct; the COC will be mandated to develop a plan to reduce jail populations; and L.A. County will be mandated to redirect all cost savings from reduced incarceration to public priorities like drug treatment, housing, and mental health care.

Measure R is an important step towards fixing LA's broken jail system by directly addressing problems of Sheriff deputy misconduct and corruption, and demanding solutions to severe overcrowding and inadequate mental health care in our jails.

WCVI President Lydia Camarillo, issued the following statement on Measure R:

"Measure R on the 2020 ballot will give teeth to the civilian board through subpoena power. It's the first time in LA's history that the people have taken criminal justice reform to the ballot box and Latinos will help decide this important measure. Only a Yes on R vote on our March 3rd primary ballots can secure this key oversight function and root out corruption and misconduct in the Sheriff's department. Vote Yes on Measure R in 2020."

"Your Yes vote on Measure R will put your tax-dollars to work. Your tax-dollars will be used to find solutions in our Latino and Black communities for housing and mental health care", said Patricia Gonzales, WCVI Vice President.

To learn more about Measure R visit: <https://voteyesonr.org/>

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The William C. Velásquez Institute (WCVI) is a tax-exempt, non-profit, non-partisan public policy analysis organization chartered in 1985. WCVI (originally the Southwest Voter Research Institute) was founded by the late Latino icon Willie Velasquez. Willie correctly foresaw that Latino voters would inevitably overcome their political exclusion and needed to develop their policy and governance capacity. For more information on WCVI, please visit: www.wcvl.org.