



ADVISE AND INFORM
ON LEGISLATION
AND POLICY WITH
LATINO
MINNESOTANS

MCLA's Overview

Senate State and Local Government and Veterans Committee

January 31, 2023

MCLA: Advise-Influence-Connect with the Community



Latino Day at the Capitol, March 2020

Altar Dia de los Muertos at the Capitol, November 2022

The Minnesota Council on Latino Affairs was established in 1978 (MN Statute 15.0145)

Non-partisan state agency in the Executive Branch. 15 Council Members.

Purpose: work for the implementation of the social, economic, political and legal equality of Latino Minnesotans with the state legislature and government

Three main policy/legislative areas: Education, Health Equity, and Economic Development, integrating the immigration experiences of our constituents.

MCLA's team

4 FTEs



Rosa Tock
Executive Director
-Health Equity-



Katya Zepeda
Legislative and Policy
Director
-Education-



Nicauris Heredia Rosario
Legislative and Policy
Director
-Economic Development-

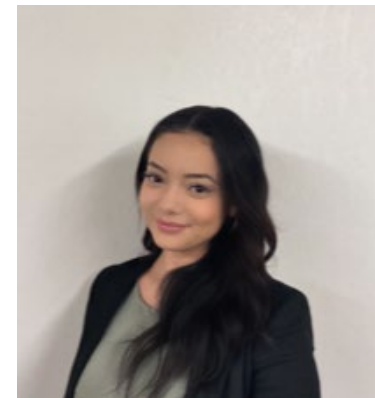


Wendy Sanchez
Office Manager

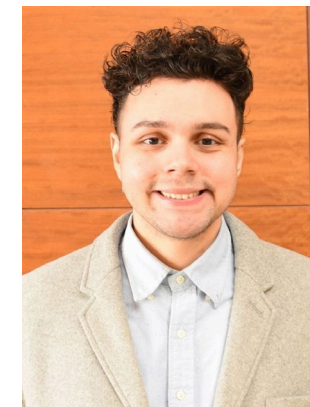
2023 Session
1 Temporary FTE
1 student worker
1 intern



Patricia Torres Ray
Public Affairs Director



Nayeli Bucio Carreno
Policy Fellow



Alejandro Caceres-Aranda
Policy Fellow

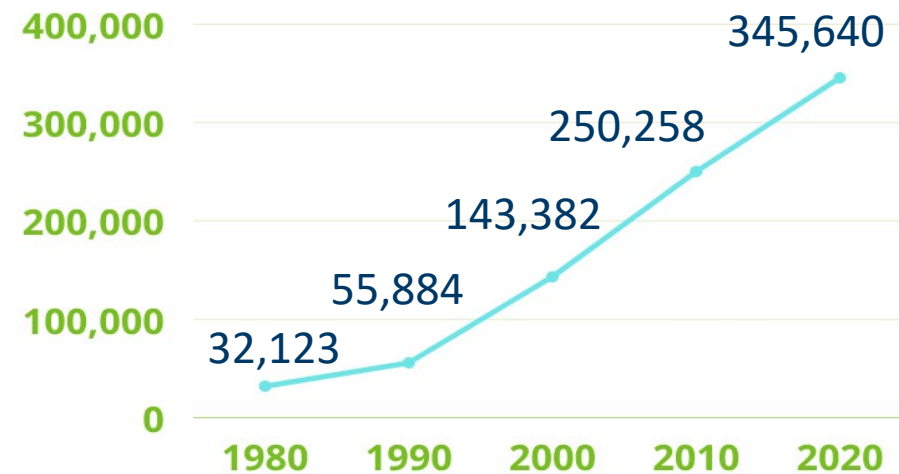
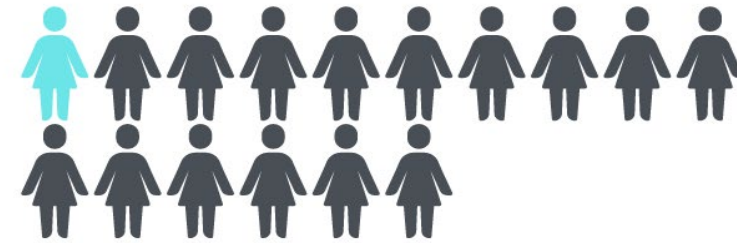


A Portrait of Latino Minnesotans



We are an integral part of Minnesota

- Between 2010 and 2020, the Latino population grew by 38 percent vs. 7.6 percent for Minnesota's overall population growth.
- Population grew from 250,258 in 2010 to 345,640 in 2020.
- Latinos represent almost 1 of every 16 of our state's residents or 6.1 percent, up from 4.7 percent in 2010.
- By 2035, it is projected that the Latino population will grow to 551,600 residents



We are diverse and contribute to every county of the state

We live in every county of the state

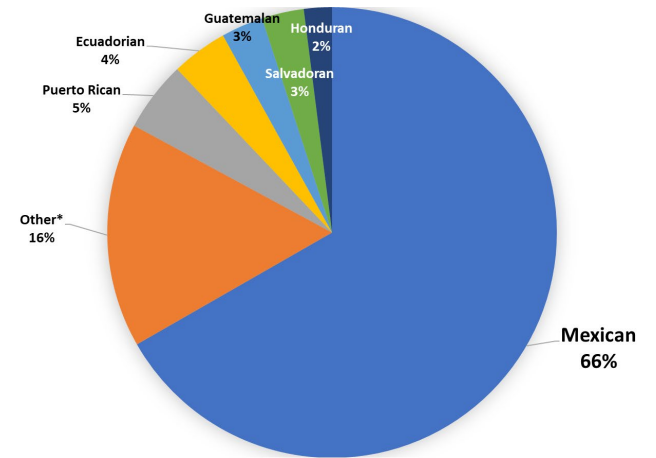
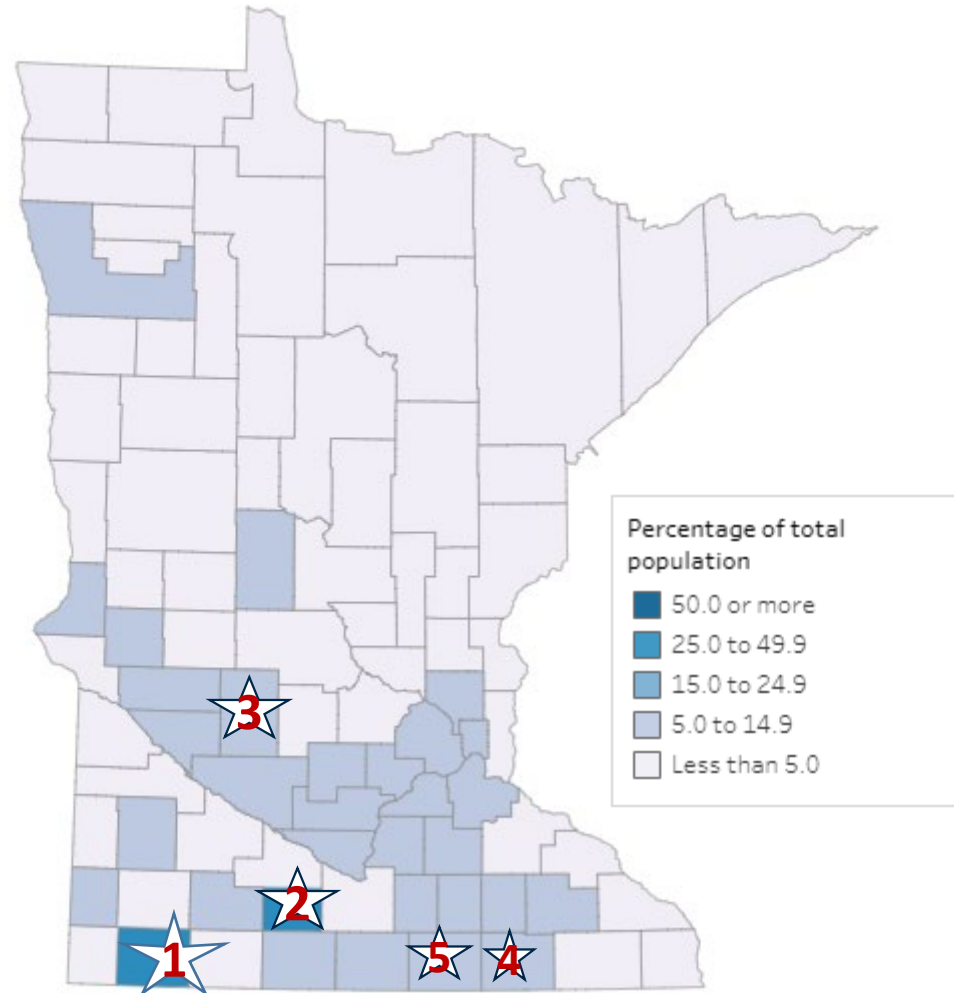
Top 5 counties (% of county population)

1. Nobles: 32.6%
2. Watonwan: 28.7%
3. Kandiyohi: 13.5%
4. Mower: 12.7%
5. Freeborn: 10.3%

Sources: ACS, 2019 U.S. Census Bureau & Pew Research, MCLA/RT based on 2020 Census Demographic Data Map Viewer, and B03001: Hispanic or Latino origin by specific origin, Minnesota, ACS2019. U.S. Census Bureau

Percent Hispanic or Latino
by County: 2020

Minnesota: 6.1%



Number of Latino eligible voters: 127,000

Latino communities are assets to secure Minnesota's prosperity and quality of life

- Human, social and cultural capital: Latinos and other BIPOC communities are driving the population growth in MN
- 25: median age vs. 38 for the state
- \$5 Billion+: Latino buying power in the state
- \$600+ million: tax payments
- Entrepreneurship: 12,000 businesses
- Relatively low unemployment but occupational segregation: 3.8% as of Dec. 2022 (up from 2.7% in Dec. 2021)
- 72.5%: estimated employment to population ratio (for the state, the E/P ratio is 66.5%) but many have multiple jobs with no benefits

But disparities and opportunity gaps persist, exacerbated by the pandemic

The state of Minnesota has an historical opportunity to invest in Latino communities by:

- Funding school programs and services such as ELL, early care and education, and wraparound services and supports to improve academic performance, and increase graduation rates
- Improving affordable access to college for Latino youth
- Investing in programs for affordable housing, especially in Greater Minnesota
- Investing in targeted programs to secure job opportunities by hiring, training, and retaining a diverse workforce in strategic sectors of the economy, including recruiting teachers of color
- Securing Latinos' wellbeing and preventive health by addressing the social determinants of health (affordable housing, good paying wages, transportation, access to parks, health insurance for all, etc.)
- Removing barriers to finance stability and provide incentives for small businesses, especially in Greater Minnesota
- Investing in programs to help families generate intergenerational wealth
- Fostering environments and enacting policies and laws to welcome and integrate newcomers to offer a sense of belonging

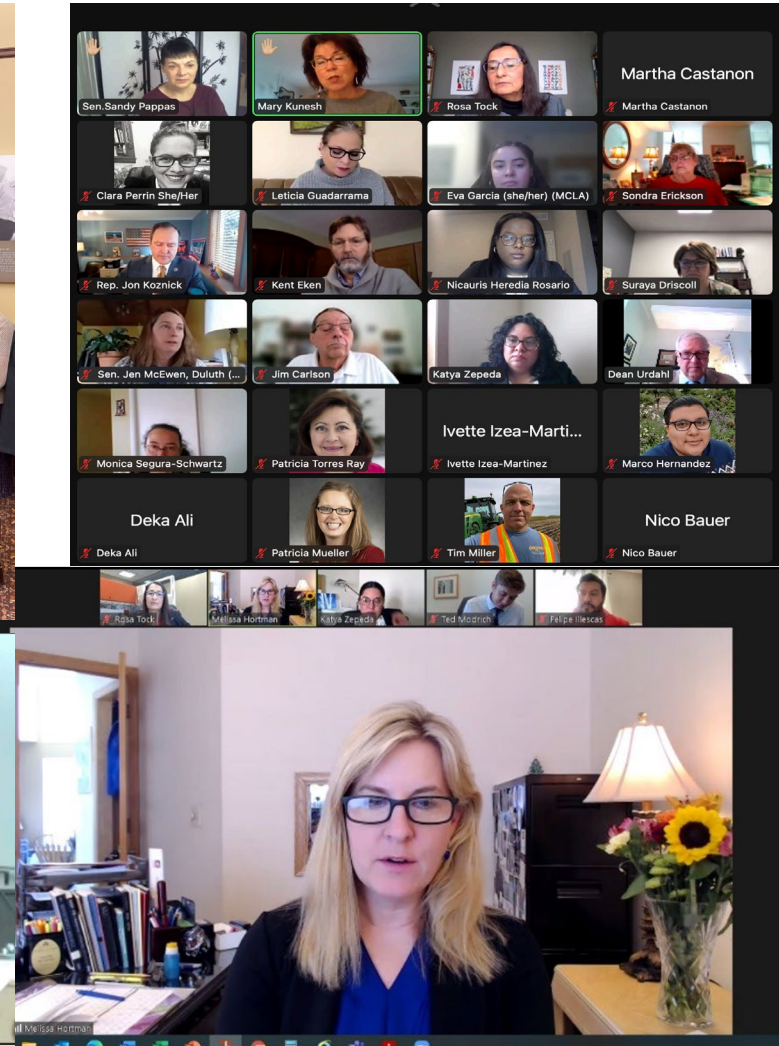


MCLA's Achievements (2021-2022)



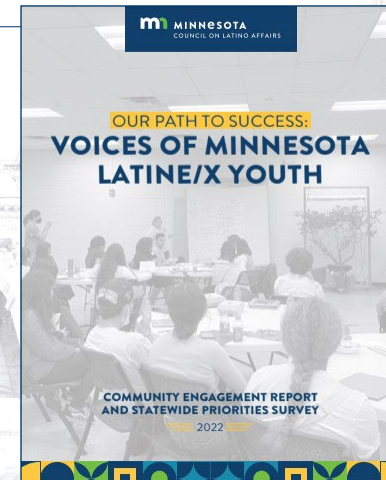
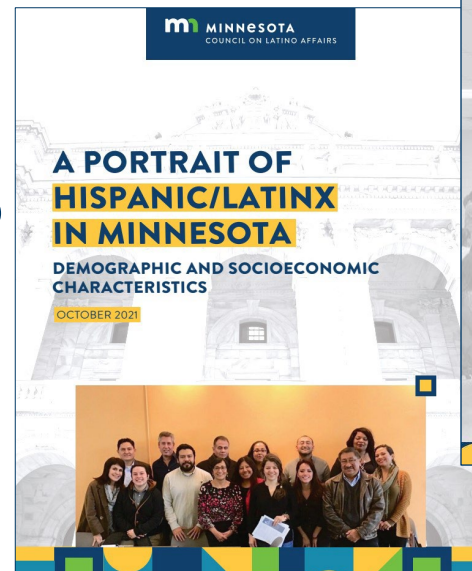
Biennium Achievements (2021-2022)

- Led and co-led **seven** bills and got two of those to the finish line in each session
- Informed and educated legislators in a **bi-partisan** fashion about our community needs and opportunities (e.g.: **Coffee and Policy** with MCLA event)
- Launched roundtable conversations around Latino higher education attainment and workforce development
- Advised the **Governor's office** and **eleven** interagency workgroups ranging from health equity, workforce development, education, language access, to immigration



Biennium Achievements (2021-2022)

- Conducted **6** listening sessions in Greater Minnesota and in the Metro Area (**one** in 2021, **five** in 2022) in partnership with Latino leaders
- Produced **3 bilingual** reports for legislators, policy makers and public at large: a demographic report based on the Census 2020, a report of a townhall in Red Wing, a report of our **community engagement** centered on the Hispanic/Latine **youth** in 2022.
- We partnered with a Latino arts organization to unveil the **first *Altar of Day of the Dead*** at the Capitol along with a Governor's Proclamation
- Produced **16** bilingual newsletters and **5** bilingual legislative reports





2023 Legislative Priorities



Economic Development/Financial Stability



New Hair Technical License (Cosmetology Bill): Creates a new Hair Practitioner License (hair-only license), removing barriers for estheticians to become licensed, operate, and work under state regulations.

Financial Literacy Classes (HF651/SF901): MCLA supports legislation mandating financial literacy classes in the Curriculum and funding for Latino nonprofits to offer financial literacy classes to our youth.

Trades & Postsecondary Attainment: MCLA will be working on strategies to advance Minnesota's Higher Education Attainment Goal.

Driver Licenses for All (HF4/SF27): MCLA supports access to Driver's License to all drivers regardless of immigration status.

MN Secure Choice Retirement Program (SF413/HF782): MCLA supports legislation that would provide employees without access to retirement savings plans the opportunity to save for retirement.

Homestead (SF174): MCLA supports legislation allowing homestead classification to use federal taxpayer identification numbers (ITIN).

Working Family Tax Credit: MCLA supports the expansion of the working family credit to include taxpayers who file using an ITIN as opposed to a social security number.

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k-12 Education and Mental Health



Katya Zepeda
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Teachers of Color): MCLA continues to lead the Increase Teachers of Color Act (2023) alongside the Coalition of Teachers of Color and American Indian Teachers in k-12 (**HF320/SF619**) and Higher Ed (**HF381/SF267**).

Multilingual learners: MCLA continues to work with partners such as LatinoLead to advance legislation and funding for ELL education.

Mental Health: MCLA continues to monitor and work with community partners to ensure how current legislation is implemented, identify areas where it needs to be strengthened.

Affordable Childcare: MCLA supports legislation that works to improve access to childcare and will work with key stakeholders to address barriers.



Thank You! / ¡Gracias!

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