




# MCLA's Overview

## Senate State and Local Government Committee

January 28, 2025

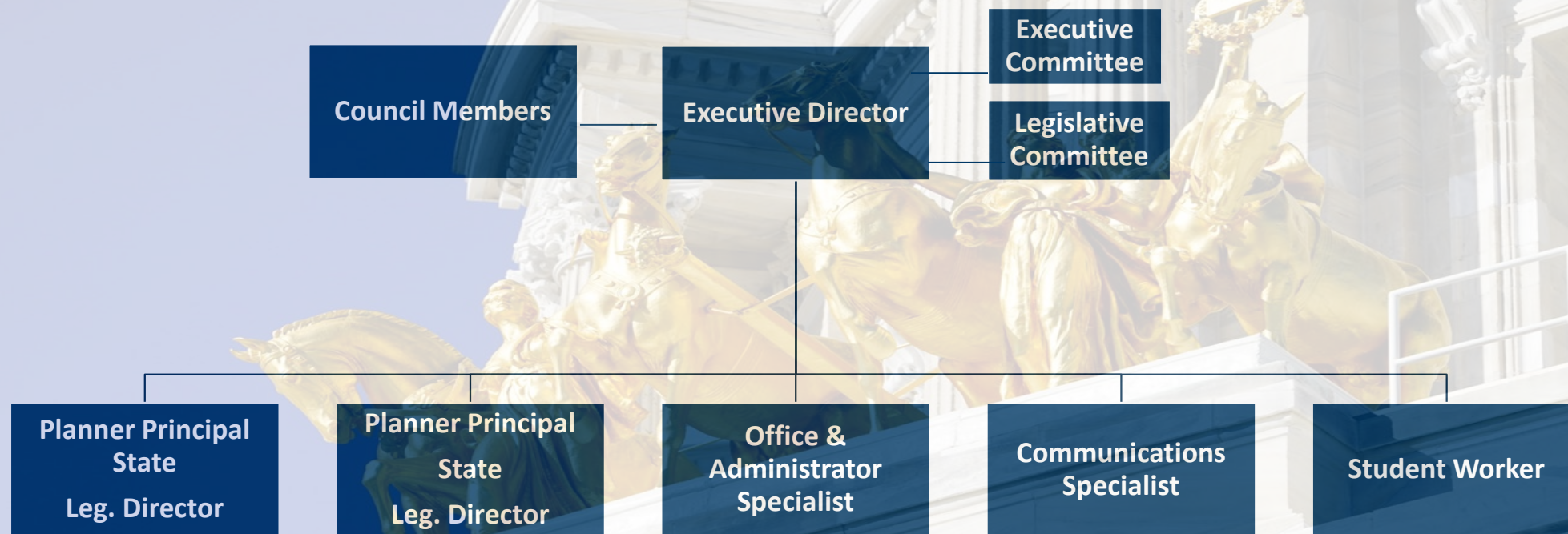


# MCLA: Advise Influence Connect

**MN  
Statute  
15.0145**

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

# MCLA's team



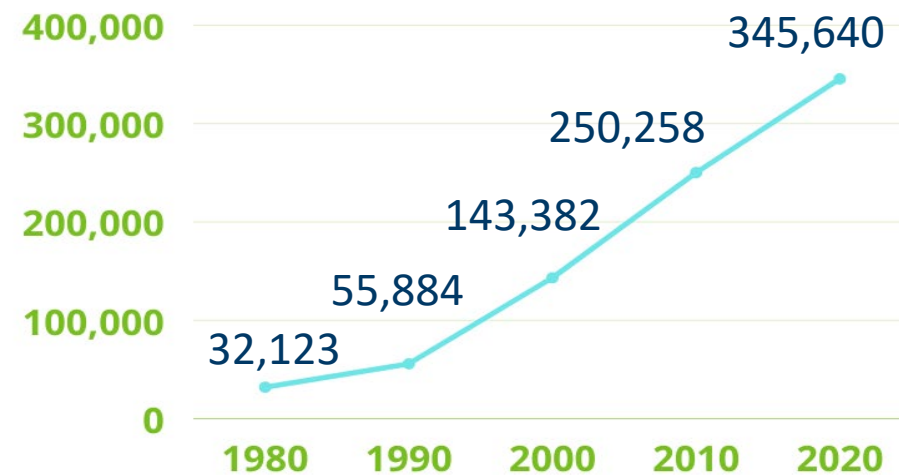


# A Portrait of Latino Minnesotans



# 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.
- Latino population grew from 250,258 in 2010 to 367,000 in 2023.
- Latinos represent almost 1 of every 16 of our state's residents or 6.4 percent, up from 4.7 percent in 2010.
- By 2035, it is projected that the Latino population will grow to 551,600 residents



# We contribute to every county of the state

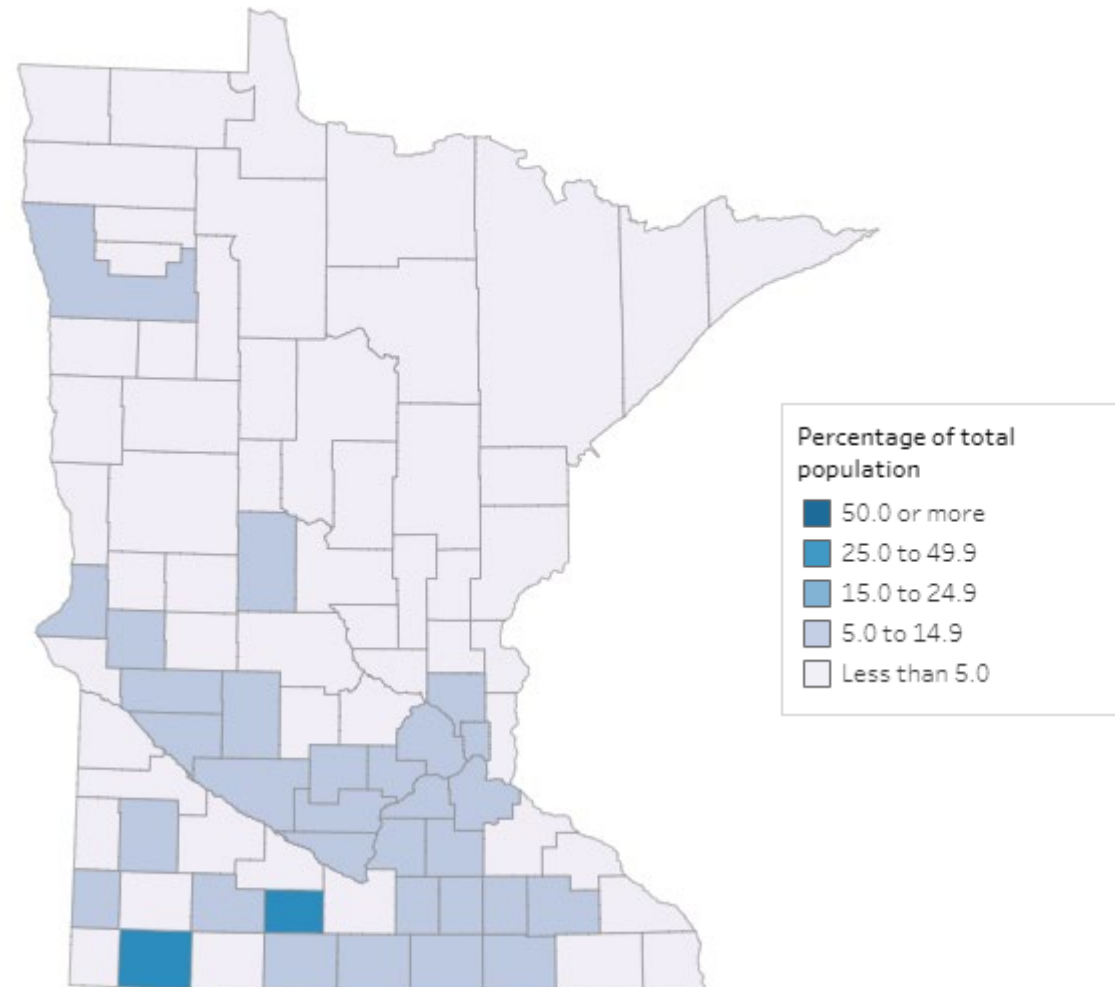
Percent Hispanic or Latino  
by County: 2020

Minnesota: 6.4%

We live in every county  
of the state

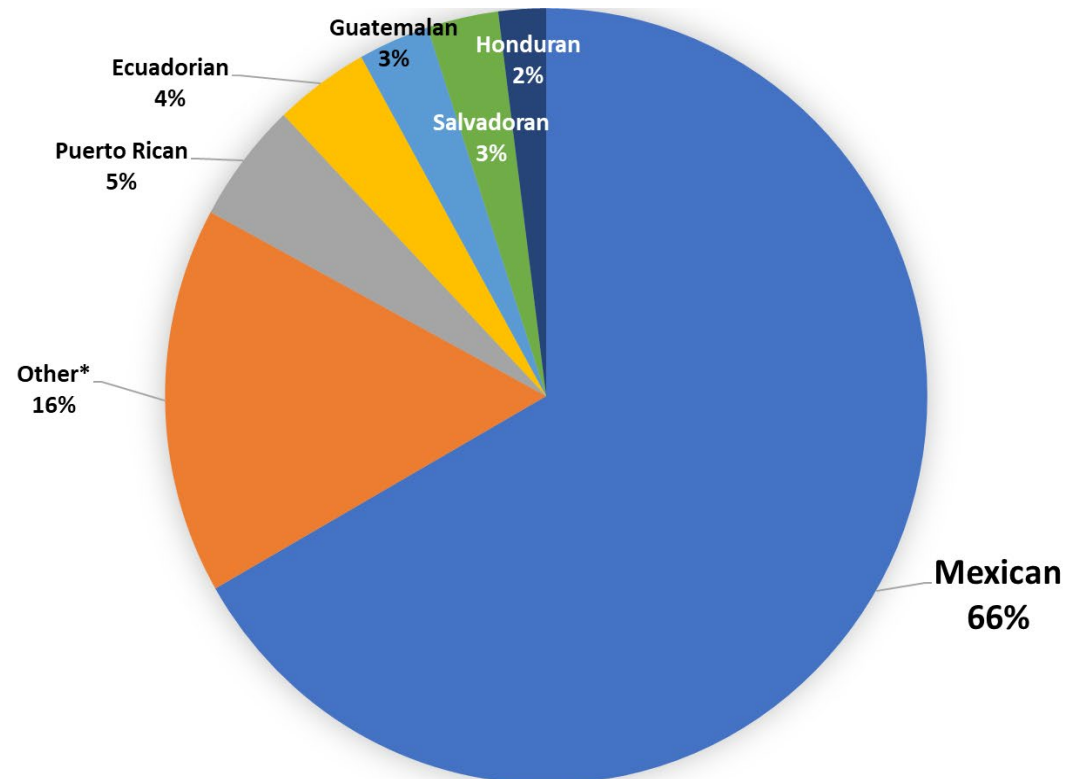
Top 5 counties (% of  
county population)

1. Nobles: 33%
2. Watonwan: 29%
3. Kandiyohi: 13%
4. Mower: 13%
5. Freeborn: 10.5%



**Sources:** MCLA/RT based on 2023: ACS 5-Year estimates, U.S. Census Bureau, Pew Research, and 2020 Census Demographic Data Map Viewer, and B03001: Hispanic or Latino origin by specific origin, Minnesota, U.S. Census Bureau

# We are diverse



**Number of Latino eligible voters: 166,900 (3.9%)**

**Sources:** MCLA/RT based on 2023: ACS 5-Year estimates, U.S. Census Bureau, Pew Research, and 2020 Census Demographic Data Map Viewer, and B03001: Hispanic or Latino origin by specific origin, Minnesota, U.S. Census Bureau

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



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Human, social and cultural capital: Latinos and other BIPOC communities are driving the population growth in MN

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25: median age vs. 38 for the state

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\$5 Billion+: Latino buying power in the state

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\$600+ million: tax payments

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Entrepreneurship: 12,000 businesses

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Relatively low unemployment but occupational segregation: 4.2% as of Dec. 2022 (up from 2.7% in Dec. 2021)

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76.5%: labor force participation is the highest in the state, but many have multiple jobs with few or no benefits

# Disparities and opportunity gaps persist

## What do we hear in the community?

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

Targeting programs for affordable housing, especially in Greater Minnesota

Securing Latinos' wellbeing and preventive health by addressing the social determinants of health (affordable housing, good paying wages, transportation, access to parks, etc.)

Removing barriers to finance stability and provide incentives for small businesses, especially in Greater Minnesota

Fostering environments and enacting policies and laws to welcome and integrate newcomers to offer a sense of belonging

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



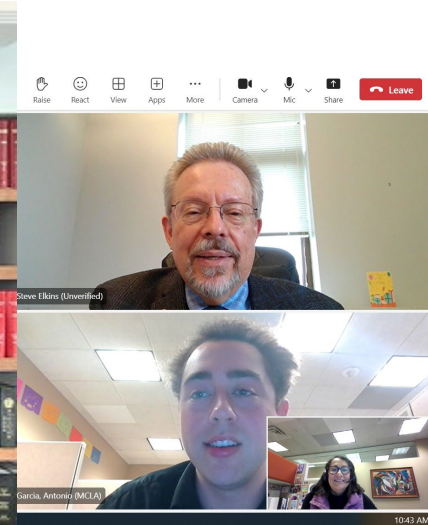


# MCLA's Achievements (2023-2024)



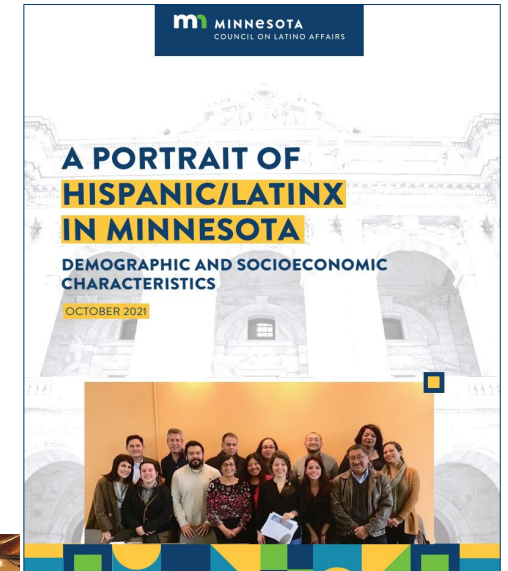
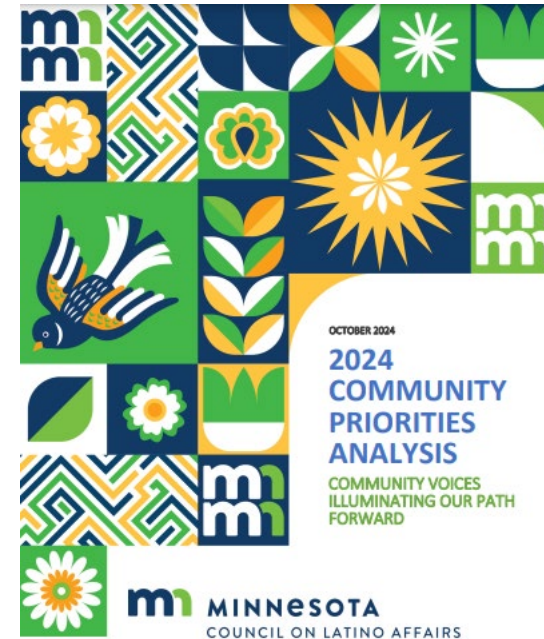
# Biennium Achievements (2023-2024)

- Led, co-led or supported **21** bills; **9** of them passed during the biennium.
- Informed and educated legislators in a **bi-partisan** fashion about our community needs and opportunities
- Co-convened an innovative space of collaboration and advocacy with 11 Latino led organizations, ***MiLLA***.
- Advised the **Governor's office** and **11** interagency workgroups ranging from health equity, workforce development, education, bilingual education, transportation and immigration.



# Biennium Achievements (2023-2024)

- Conducted **3** listening sessions in Greater Minnesota in 2024, in partnership with Latino leaders and a Latina research firm
- Produced **4 bilingual** reports for legislators, policy makers and public at large: **2** demographic reports based on the Census 2020 & ACS; **1** community survey in 2023; **1 community engagement report** centered on the legislative wins during the 2023-2024 biennium.
- Produced **24** bilingual newsletters and **4** bilingual legislative reports to inform the public.
- Produced demographic fact sheets for each state legislative district.
- Convened **2** Days on the Hill (2023 and 2024).
- Produced **5 videos** celebrating MCLA's 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2023.





# 2025 Legislative Priorities



# Economic Development/Financial Stability

- Recommends streamlined certification for foreign-trained professionals, stronger labor protections, wage equality, and expanded bilingual workforce development programs and outreach.
- Supports the establishment of an Ombudsperson for Safety, Health, and Wellbeing of Agricultural and Food Processing Workers.
- Supports the creation of an affordable auto insurance program.



# Lifelong Learning



- Our priorities include students' support from a diverse teacher workforce, expand opportunities to higher education including vocational and technical careers.
- Cultural assets are also part of the experience and success of students. MCLA is committed to advancing legislation and supporting organizations that educate about our diverse histories, traditions, and cultures to celebrate and preserve our contributions.

# Health and Wellbeing


- Support Latino organizations to bridge healthcare gaps and access to essential services, addressing language barriers, limited culturally competent care, and geographic challenges.
- Support expanding resources, information, and available assistance programs for Latino agricultural workers regarding private wells and water contamination (nitrate contamination).
- Support the creation of a Latine Violence Prevention Taskforce/Office



# Belonging and Integration



- The Council strongly supports state-level immigration policies that are humane, nondiscriminatory, and consistent with America's longstanding values of inclusion and integration.
- The Council will continue promoting awareness around the contributions of immigrants to the state's economy, culture, and society to ensure that Minnesota is a welcoming state with a future of strength and economic competitiveness residing in its vibrant and diverse social capital.



# Thank You! / ¡Gracias!



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[mn.gov/MCLA](https://mn.gov/MCLA)



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