



## FCDC Latino Caucus General Meeting Thursday, **April 25, 2024 @ 7 PM – 8:00 PM**

**Attendees in the order of zoom logon:** Gil Davenport, Maritza Zermeño, Marta Calderon, Leonel Rojas, Bob Fasick, Todd Thurwachter, Federico Cura, Antonia Fasick, Jose Peralta, Chris Falcon, Elizabeth Guzman

**Call to Order** – The meeting was called to order by Maritza Zermeño at 7:03 PM

○ Procedures Used – Maritza Zermeño explained that since the reorganization the procedures for this meeting are to approve the agenda and continue with the points in it.

**Approval of Agenda** – Maritza moved to approve the agenda, Marta Calderon second the motion. Approved by unanimous consent.

○ Maritza, as chair, proposed to appoint a secretary to take minutes of the meetings. Hearing no objections to the proposal, Maritza appointed Marta Calderon to take the minutes.

○ Maritza informed the monthly meetings will be the last Thursdays of the month.

○ Maritza read the Latino Caucus Mission Statement approved in the previous year and moved to reaffirm it again. Marta Calderon and Leonel Rojas seconded the motion. Hearing no objections, the Mission Statement was adapted by unanimous consent. Statement attached.

**Welcome and Introductions** – The following attendees introduced themselves and expressed their interests: Marta Calderon and Leonel Rojas, Franconia District Latino Outreach Liaisons; Todd Thurwachter interested in participation of all NOVA minorities in Democratic activities, erosion of the Latino support of the Dem party, misinformation of voters; Bob Fasick attempted to talk but had problems with the mic; Jose Peralta interested in increasing the presence of Latinos in events in the county; Federico Cura interested in democrats messaging and communications.

**Featured Speaker:** Elizabeth Guzman, Candidate for Member of Congress (VA 7) Past Virginia State Delegate (31<sup>st</sup> District) introduced herself and her political successes in the past. She requested the support of the Latino Caucus in her election.

- Interest in volunteering for (early voting, knocking doors, phone calls) with Team Guzman can be sent to [elizabeth@guzmanforcongress.com](mailto:elizabeth@guzmanforcongress.com).
- Donations can be made via link: <https://secure.actblue.com/donate/guzman-for-congress>

**Comments by visiting officials, candidates and invited guests:** Maritza introduced and gave the floor to Chris Falcon, first Latino Clerk of the Fairfax Circuit Court.

Chris introduced himself, the responsibilities of his office, and announced the following new services coming within this year:

- Satellite services in Reston at Cathy Hudgins Community Center: one morning a month, a mobile office will provide court services there. This service is likely to be expanded to other places in the county.

- A new free online information on criminal and civil cases service to be announced soon.
- Language access: continued effort to hire staff with multiple language skills.

Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/FalconforFairfax](http://www.facebook.com/FalconforFairfax)

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** Maritza will pass more information, at a later time, about how to contribute to the basket for the auction of the Fairfax Country fundraising event, the Blue Fairfax Dinner on June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024.

Jose Peralta raised the importance that Latinos have a representation in the events like CULMORE COMMUNITY DAY: Saturday, May 4, 2024, to communicate to the Latino community what the elected democratic Latinos are doing. Maritza explained that the Caucus has tables, tents, banners, and other material needed for participation in events. Jose will send Maritza a list of events where the Caucus can participate in the incoming months.

Leonel Rojas raised his concerns about the need to adjust and rethink the message to the Latinos. Todd Thurwachter expanded on the need to communicate the successful Biden Administration programs that prevented a collapse of the country after COVID. Federico Cura added the need to reframe the messages using the Party moral values such as freedom and prosperity for all. He offered to make a presentation on the basics of messaging to the Latino Caucus.

**Next meeting:** May 30, 7 PM.

### Announcements

Maritza asked for ideas for the basket the Caucus will be donating to the auction of the Fairfax Country fundraising event, the Blue Fairfax Dinner on June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024.

The following information was posted in the chat by the attendees:

Cinco de Mayo Celebration – FCDC Diversity Outreach Committee  
 May 5, 2024 @ 5:30 pm – 9:00 pm  
 Mason District Government Center  
 6507 Columbia Pike, Annandale  
 Free  
 Nelly Samaniego email: [nellysamaniego7@gmail.com](mailto:nellysamaniego7@gmail.com)

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Within the next 10 years, Latinos will be the largest minority ever in the United States - we are almost 20% now - and remember - 2/3 of all Latinos in the U.S. are under the age of 18!

---00---

Post today w/hashtag #JusticeCantWait  
 The Maga Supreme Ct justices must stop obstructing justice to serve a GOP agenda. #JusticeCantWait

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We are trying to get the Biden/Harris campaign to put key messaging on its issues and reasons to vote for Democrats on [www.JoeBiden.Com](http://www.JoeBiden.Com) in other languages, like Spanish, Chinese, Arabic, Korean, etc., like the DNC's [www.IWillVote.Com](http://www.IWillVote.Com). If you agree and support this idea, please contact me at [ToddThurwachter@hotmail.com](mailto:ToddThurwachter@hotmail.com)

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CULMORE COMMUNITY DAY: Saturday, May 4, 2024  
10 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
Woodrow Wilson Library  
(6101 Knollwood Drive, Falls Church, VA 22041)  
Admission is FREE!

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2024 Election Themes  
Our Freedoms  
Our Families  
Our Futures

**Adjournment:** the meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM

**Happy Half-Hour:** informal meeting continued for a few minutes

Attachments: Latino Caucus Mission Statement

List of Pending Actions



Mission Statement  
The Latino Caucus  
Fairfax County Democratic Committee  
Adopted August 25, 2022

The Vision/Mission of FCDC Democratic Latino Caucus (FCDCLC) is to expand the number of active Latino/Hispanic members, foster member's participation at all levels of FCDC, and address issues affecting Latino/Hispanic voters in Fairfax County. We will accomplish this through fundraising, community events, new membership drives, orientation into FCDC, education on voter registration, volunteering, and get out the vote (GOTV). We believe Power is in diversity and uniting for a common cause.

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Estado de la Misión  
El Caucus Latino  
Comité Demócrata del Condado de Fairfax  
Adoptado el 25 de Agosto de 2022

La Visión/Misión del Caucus Latino Demócrata de FCDC (FCDCLC) es expandir el número de miembros Latinos/Hispanos activos, fomentar la participación de los miembros en todos los niveles de FCDC y abordar los problemas que afectan a los votantes Latinos/Hispanos en el Condado de Fairfax. Lograremos esto a través de recaudación de fondos, eventos comunitarios, nuevas campañas de membresía, orientación sobre FCDC, educación sobre el registro de votantes, voluntariado y salir a votar (GOTV). Creemos que el Poder está en la diversidad y en la unión por una causa común.



**List of Pending Actions (As of 5/30/2024)**

Date	Action	Responsible	Status	Expected End Date
4/25/2024	List of events to participate in the incoming months	Jose Peralta	In Progress  Participated in Culmore Community Day, May 4, 2024	
4/25/2024	Messaging presentation	Federico Cura	Pending	
4/25/2024	Meeting with Maritza and Gil to discuss assistance with the communication tasks	Leonel R., Marta C., Federico C.	Completed	5/3/2024