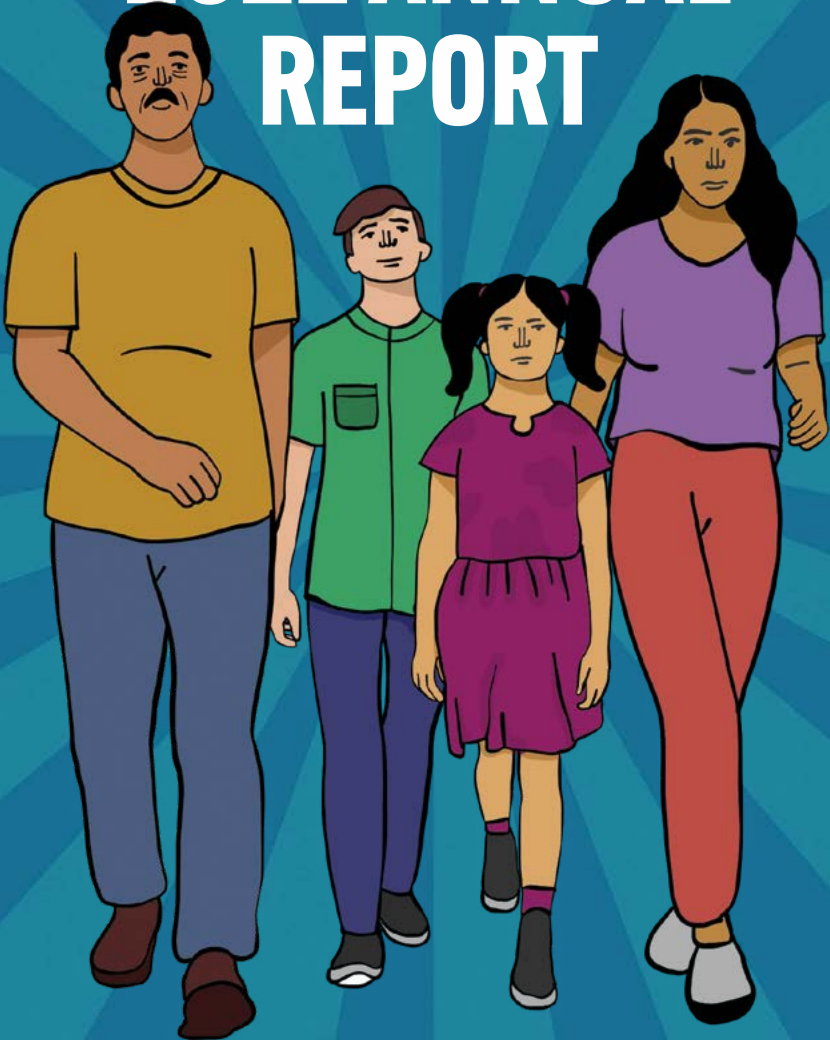


UCLA Latino Policy &
Politics Institute

2022 ANNUAL REPORT



Building Our Shared Future





OUR SHARED FUTURE


America's prosperity is inextricably intertwined with the well-being of Latinos. The UCLA Latino Policy and Politics Institute (UCLA LPPi) is committed to identifying the unique needs of the nation's diverse Latino communities, driving policy and promoting representation that will make good on the ideals and promise of America - now and far into the future.



Leveraging the Power of Our Diverse Communities

Letter from Sonja Diaz, Founding Director

Unprecedented challenges and opportunities were a hallmark of 2022. The televised congressional hearings on the January 6, 2021 insurrection at the nation's capitol forced the country to confront the danger that extremist threats pose to democracy. We collectively mourned multiple mass shootings, including the horrific death of 19 children and two teachers in Uvalde, Texas. The Supreme Court continued to erode fundamental rights, including the constitutional right to abortion. Many continue to experience the fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic, a looming recession once again underscores income inequality and the transition to a low-carbon economy has not yet reached low-income communities that need the environmental relief the most.



With our work, we consistently put a critical lens on issues to ensure that Latinos aren't left behind and have the resources necessary to thrive."

SONJA DIAZ

UCLA LPPI Founding Director

But challenges often also come with opportunities and hope. Across the country, midterm election voters rejected candidates who did not reflect their values, five states protected abortion rights at the ballot box and a record number of women were seated in Congress and elected to statewide offices. Colorado and Illinois elected the first Latina to represent them in Congress. After years of inaction, Congress passed a historic infrastructure and jobs plan that will begin to address the threats of climate change in our communities. And the Respect for Marriage Act became law, protecting the right to same-sex and interracial marriages.

With ongoing challenges that range from climate change to the rollback of fundamental rights, UCLA LPPI remains committed to using its tools and resources to advance data-backed research to promote democracy and highlight opportunities for the nation's diverse, youthful communities to thrive. In doing so, we advocate for three essential needs: policy change that leads to equity-centered investments, increased political representation and accountability. With our work, we put a distinctly Latino lens on issues to help achieve these three goals.

In 2022, that meant conducting research that would demonstrate the continued impacts of COVID-19, especially on Latinas, from increased caregiving responsibilities to an uptick in financial stress for Latina entrepreneurs in Texas, California and Arizona. It also meant critically examining Latino voter behavior in past elections and the landscape of political representation to encourage creating space for Latinos at the policymaking table. We hosted events that brought together policy experts and advocates to share the Latino perspective on reproductive rights, criminal justice and



the climate crisis. Through this work, we incubated and supported the leaders and scholars necessary to build substantive representation focused on opportunity for all through our fellowship and emerging scholars programs that put students and early career academics on the frontlines of our work.

In 2023, we will do more. Our upcoming U.S. Latino Data Hub will provide community members, advocates, policymakers and academics access to vital data on key indicators of opportunity and well-being for Latinos across all 50 states. New partnerships and data investments will enable us to conduct research that leads to program models that improve Latino-led economic development, eliminate barriers to wealth creation and support a just climate transition in states like California, Arizona and Texas. Through a collaboration with the UCLA Chicano Studies Research Center (UCLA CSRC), UCLA LPPI will also advance research that identifies challenges and solutions to ensure Latinas—who represent a significant share of our future workforce and are plagued by the most egregious gender pay disparity— are not left behind in benefitting from government innovation.

The goal of our work is to center Latinos and other communities of color so that policy leaders can prepare the nation to meet today's challenges and seize tomorrow's opportunities. That means policy change and accountability measures that solve challenges uncovered through data, recognize Latinos as the mosaic they are and create a new narrative of inclusion for communities that are too often overlooked.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

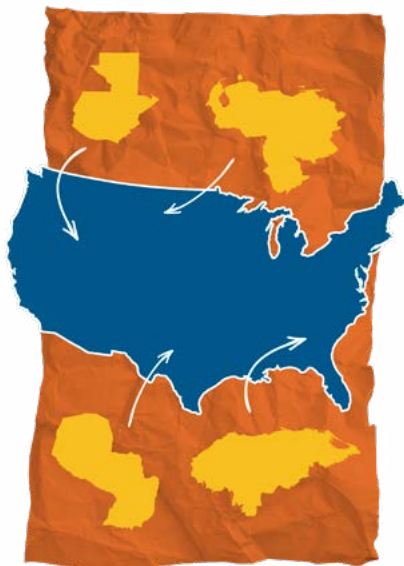
Centering the Nation's Diverse Latino Communities in the American Story

A Mosaic Not a Monolith	06
A Year of Big Wins & Big Moments	08
Building a Nation Grounded in Equity	10
Revolutionizing Institutions and Systems	16
Amplifying the Chorus	22
Changing the Narrative	24
Developing The Leaders of Today and Tomorrow	26
The Team Building a Brighter Future	30
Translating Grassroots Needs	34
Shaping a Critical Latino Analysis	38
Driving Organizational Sustainability	42
Building the Future We Deserve in 2023	44

Latinos: A Mosaic Not a Monolith



Latinos are projected to grow to 28% of the U.S. population by 2060.



Where Latinos live and where they are emigrating from is diversifying. Populations of Venezuelans, Paraguayans, Hondurans, and Guatemalans are experiencing the fastest growth, and increasing numbers of Latinos are moving to the South and Midwest.



Latinas are projected to make up increasing shares of America's labor force and their economic well-being is critical to Latino household social mobility and advancement.



Two-thirds of all Latinos are U.S. born, and more than 80% are U.S. citizens.

2022: A Year of Big Wins and Big Moments

In 2022, UCLA LPPI continued creating greater visibility for Latinos and pushing for data-driven policy and substantive representation reflective of their needs. Some of our biggest wins and moments included:



Transitioning from an Initiative to an official Institute with UCLA, solidifying our position as the preeminent think tank addressing the needs of Latinos across the country.



Dr. Laura Chavez-Moreno

Adding seven new faculty experts driving research on the intersection of urban infrastructure and the environment, workers and ethnic studies curriculum.



CA State Senator María Elena Durazo

Securing \$15 million dedicated to the Latina Futures, 2050 Lab, a research initiative to ensure Latinas thrive now and into the future.



Developing the U.S. Latino Data Hub, a database for disaggregated data on the Latino diaspora that will serve as a resource to ensure policy, action and accountability for the nation's diverse Latino communities.



Launching a unique, applied policy research award program that supported six Latino-led projects to expedite the uptake of evidence-based practices with a Latino lens on issues ranging from homelessness to educational equity.



Seminal research on California's gubernatorial appointments that led to historic Latina appointments and renewed momentum for legislation that would mandate demographic data collection and publication of all state appointments.



Over \$1.6 million in total new grant funding secured to support culturally relevant research on Latino life in the U.S. and the efficacy of policy interventions in Latino communities.



Building new research-community partnerships, including a national Latina lawyers collaborative, a Latino well-being data collaboration with the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute, and a Latino ad hoc table to work with the Los Angeles Times.

Building a Nation Grounded in Equity

UCLA LPPI was founded on the idea that **every issue is a Latino issue**. We examine policy opportunities and challenges through a Latino lens to identify solutions and inform action that moves the needle for Americans too often overlooked or underestimated. Through a national portfolio of work aimed at achieving substantive representation, UCLA LPPI seeks to remedy structural inequity through data-backed interventions that expand meaningful opportunity for the nation's communities of color.

With our work we:

Center Latinos in research that explores life in the U.S. and is responsive to the immediate and long-term policy needs of Latinos and other communities of color. This includes promoting research with a Latina lens by funding Latina researchers exploring gender issues within the Latino diaspora.

Mobilize changemakers from the streets to the legislative floor to amplify data-driven solutions that will create transformational change and safeguard an inclusive democracy and economy.

Advocate for more substantive Latino political representation that is accountable to and reflective of changing demographics in communities across the nation, so that no one is left behind, and Latinos are recognized as integral to America's current and future prosperity.

Develop emerging leaders who will build a better tomorrow as the nation's next generation of advocates, professors, policymakers and entrepreneurs.

Help shift the culture of the nation's leading public university toward a model Hispanic-Serving Institution where Latino students, staff and faculty not only survive but thrive.





2022 Highlights

In 2022, the U.S. faced the continued fight for our democracy, an uneven and inequitable economic recovery, attacks on fundamental rights and increasing disasters caused by unchecked climate change. From understanding Latino voters in a critical election year, to putting a Latina lens on issues like reproductive rights and entrepreneurship, UCLA LPPI leveraged its research to inform emerging policy debates and the political calculus of elected officials. Through innovative programs and community partnerships, UCLA LPPI worked to promote accountability, advance data-driven policy and drive the substantive representation necessary to build thriving communities.

Highlights include:

Latinos: A Mosaic, Not a Monolith Report

Senior Research Analyst Jie Zong built out a comprehensive portrait of Latinos in America that examined demographic and socioeconomic changes among Latinos in the U.S. between 2000 and 2020. This report provided a baseline of data illustrating the growing diversity of Latinos and the need for comprehensive tracking and disaggregation of data by ethnicity rather than just race. Through this work, UCLA LPPI offered stakeholders a look at the complexity of Latinos in the United States, how the population continues to change and an opportunity to think more holistically about how to address the needs of such diverse communities. This work also provided a sneak peek into the type of data analysis that will be publicly accessible through the U.S. Latino Data Hub, launching in 2023.



Snapshots like these allow us to take stock of the true diversity that exists in America. They also let us see where inequity exists – even within communities – so we can direct resources and investment to create opportunity for all.”

- JIE ZONG, SENIOR RESEARCH ANALYST



Driving Accountability for Transformative Change

The Fight for Substantive Representation

UCLA LPPI published five reports in 2022 focused on political representation and voting issues. These reports provided a data-backed snapshot of Latino voter behavior that countered predictions that Latinos would support right-wing candidates and underscored the need for more investment in Latino voter outreach and engagement. *“From Eligibility to the Ballot Box: Examining the Racial and Ethnic Voter Turnout Gaps in the U.S. and California”* showed that once Latinos are registered, they turn out to participate in our democracy in similar numbers to other voters. However, the report also highlighted that more work is needed at the beginning stages of the voting process. Researchers found that the biggest gap in participation occurred in shifting Latinos from eligible voters to registered ones, demonstrating that early investment in Latino voters has the potential to reap significant rewards.

UCLA LPPI also focused on promoting more substantive political representation for Latinos and ensuring that true accountability was built into systems aimed at repairing disparities in that representation. The report *“From Disparity to Parity: Latino Representation in Appointed Positions within California’s Gubernatorial Cabinet, State Boards, and Commissions”* identified a significant gap in Latino appointees in a state where Latinos are over 39% of the population. Following our advocacy work with legislative and other leaders across the state, Governor Gavin Newsom elevated Hon. Patricia Guerrero to Chief Justice of the California Supreme Court and Dr. Diana Ramos as the first Latina Surgeon General.




Josefina Flores Morales

Latinas Shaping America's Future

Led by the efforts of Directors Sonja Diaz and Veronica Terriquez, the California Legislature allocated \$15 million to UCLA LPPI and UCLA CSRC to create the Latina Futures, 2050 Lab, a first in the nation research initiative to make sure that Latina voices are shaping our institutions and are present in the halls of power — now and well into the future. The funding will support policy research, leadership programs and civic engagement to build the pipeline of academic and policy leaders for generations to come.

The seed for the 2050 Lab was the California Latino Legislative Caucus' Unseen Latinas initiative, an effort to address the continued and growing inequality that Latinas experience in economic outcomes, career and leadership opportunities and educational attainment. This allocation recognizes the outsized role Latinas currently play in the economy and the growing impact their contributions will have on California's prosperity in the coming decades. It is also testament to the work UCLA LPPI has done to engage California lawmakers through rigorous research that helps them serve their constituents better and reduce inequity in the process.



While 2022 was a year when a growing number of policymakers recognized Latinas as the economic engine of America, it was also a year in which Latinas' rights were eroded alongside other women and people with the capacity for birth.

In one fell swoop, the U.S. Supreme Court eliminated the constitutional right to abortion in *Dobbs v. Jackson*, denying millions access to this critical health care service. With the historical understanding that these kinds of issues often hit women of color the hardest, Senior Policy Fellow Dr. Josefina Flores Morales, along with other UCLA LPPI researchers, jumped into action to ensure there was a Latina lens that would illuminate the specific barriers to care Latinas face in accessing reproductive services.

Their report, "*Differential Rights: How Abortion Bans Impact Latinas in Their Childbearing Years*," found that Latinas - who already face heightened barriers in accessing health care - would disproportionately experience increased risk of unwanted pregnancies and maternal mortality due to abortion bans enacted in over two dozen states across the country in the wake of the *Dobbs* decision. They also found this risk would occur in Latinas' most economically productive years. This rapid-response research underscores the importance of bringing dedicated racial, ethnic and gender lenses to every issue and how doing so can provide a clearer picture of where disparities exist, help policymakers determine a path forward and provide a baseline to measure success.



Responsive research like this is vital to understanding emerging issues and ensuring equitable solutions. It can push policymakers to assess harm in new ways and to take urgent action to implement policy solutions that improve lives."

- **DR. JOSEFINA FLORES MORALES, SENIOR POLICY FELLOW**

Revolutionizing Institutions and Systems

An African proverb says, “If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.” At UCLA LPPI, we understand the power of collective action. We are constantly working to maximize our impact through partnerships that bring new voices to the most pressing issues and will deploy our research on the ground to advocate for new evidence-based policy. Here we highlight a few of the partnerships that pushed us further in 2022 and will deepen our impact in 2023.

List of Partners:

Arizona

- ★ Arizona Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
- ★ Arizona State University, Center for Latina/os and American Politics Research

California

- ★ California Latino Capitol Association Foundation
- ★ California Latino Legislative Caucus
- ★ California Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
- ★ Hispanas Organized for Political Equality
- ★ Latina Lawyers Bar Association
- ★ Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund
- ★ National Hispanic Media Coalition
- ★ The Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights
- ★ The Los Angeles Times
- ★ The Unity Council
- ★ UCLA Chicano Studies Research Center
- ★ UCLA School of Law Chicana Latinx Law Review

Colorado

- ★ The Luminarias Project, University of Denver, Latinx Center

Florida

- ★ University of Florida, Samuel Proctor Oral History Project

New York

- ★ City University of New York Hunter, Center for Puerto Rican Studies
- ★ Drug Policy Alliance
- ★ Latino Justice PRLDEF
- ★ New York University, The Latinx Project

Texas

- ★ Hispanic Advocates Business Leaders of Austin
- ★ National Association for Latino Community Asset Builders

Washington, DC

- ★ Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute
- ★ Hispanics in Philanthropy
- ★ Hispanic National Bar Association
- ★ Labor Council for Latin American Advancement
- ★ NALEO Educational Fund
- ★ National Coalition for Asian Pacific American Community Development
- ★ National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislators
- ★ UnidosUS





UCLA LPPI Ad Hoc Latino Leaders Group

Since 2018, UCLA LPPI has brought together over 40 prominent Latino civil society leaders to participate in the Ad Hoc Latino Leaders Group, a volunteer collaborative of leaders seeking to elevate Latino representation in the world's fourth-largest economy. With the election of Governor Gavin Newsom in 2018, Latino leaders from the Bay Area, Central Valley and Southern California met to share vital perspectives on emerging issues like the housing crisis and the COVID-19 pandemic to advise state government on how to achieve a California for all that is inclusive of and equitable to the state's plurality population.

While operating through virtual meetings for most of the pandemic, the group had its first in-person gathering in Los Angeles to discuss its ongoing vision for a Latino policy agenda, add new voices to build sustainability and add diversity of perspective to the group and celebrate four years of trusted collaboration. Through this ad hoc group, UCLA LPPI is creating a path to elevate dynamic Latina/o leaders to positions of power and influence, articulate necessary budget investments and promote nuanced narratives to shape public opinion through strategic communications and cross-sector partnerships.



Like other people of color, Latino communities are consistently left out of policymaking decisions. This work will ensure that Latinos cannot be ignored in the economy they help fuel and that equitable solutions are advanced to ensure they thrive as we transition to a low carbon economy.”

- DR. SILVIA R. GONZÁLEZ, DIRECTOR OF RESEARCH

Arizona State University, Center for Latina/os and American Politics Research (ASU CLAPR)

UCLA LPPI partnered with ASU CLAPR to secure a \$1 million grant from the JPMorgan Chase Foundation. The funding will support collaborative research focused on uplifting minority small business owners in Arizona and California. Researchers will focus on identifying barriers to wealth creation and examining the impact that Latino-led community economic development had on Latino barrios during the pandemic. As part of this work, UCLA LPPI is also zeroing in on the government’s massive infrastructure spending and climate change benchmarks. ASU CLAPR and UCLA LPPI will collaborate to design and implement an Action Lab to activate the research across sectors. This will be a community capacity-building module that will deliver culturally competent research training and public policy curriculum for underrepresented leaders in Arizona and California. Focusing on the needs and experiences of small business owners who are people of color will help cement a learning community across two states with substantial Latino populations.





Latinos are often ignored in policy spaces because they are seen as disposable, which has a lot to do with the stories told about us in the pages of powerful institutions like the LA Times. Our work to push the paper to be more inclusive is about having the space to tell our own stories and ensuring we are no longer left behind.”

SARAH REYES, MEMBER OF THE AD HOC TABLE AND CHIEF COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER, THE CALIFORNIA ENDOWMENT

The Los Angeles Times

UCLA LPPI released a report in 2021 finding that the Los Angeles Times consistently failed to include Latino voices in its opinion and editorials section – a section vital to the public’s and policymakers’ understanding of policy issues, community needs and possible remedies. Throughout 2022, UCLA LPPI built on the report’s findings to advance accountability by supporting an ad hoc table of Latino leaders that engages directly with the paper’s executive leadership on a monthly basis. Together, this group works toward solidifying concrete action steps to improve Latino representation across the paper’s products. These efforts resulted in two UCLA expert briefings to the newsroom by Dr. Rodrigo Domínguez-Villegas on Latino voters and Dr. Ana-Christina Ramon on representation in Hollywood, and shortly after our efforts, the Los Angeles Times announced the Latino Initiatives project, which explores Latino culture and identity by elevating new voices and finding creative ways of storytelling.

with featured content

Latino culture is American culture. A new generation is proving it



The Washington Post

NEWSY CASE

Why are prominent Los Angeles Latinos saying such racist things?

Many marginal and conservative adopt anti-Black racism to secure their tenuous gains as new Americans. Latinos fit this pattern, our research finds.

Analysis by Eliot Pincus, Allison Palmer, Crystal Robertson and Bianca V. Woods
October 15, 2022 at 6:00 a.m. EDT



Los Angeles City Councilman Eliot Pincus reacts after speaking about the racist conspiracy theories about his son during buscaino council meeting (Credit Washington Post)

SHARE 1.1K | COMMENT 1 | FOLLOW 1 | LIKE 1

This week, racist comments by Los Angeles City Council President Nury Martinez, council members Gil Cedillo and Kevin de León, and labor leader Ron Herrera — all self-identified Latino progressives — hit the national news. Although some might have been surprised to hear four prominent Latinos espouse anti-Black prejudice, this sentiment exists widely among many other members of this ethnic group.

While that problem is often discussed, especially among the two communities most affected, few have systematically examined the causes, political consequences and potential solutions. That is what our research has focused on for the past four years. Here is what we know so far.

Don't miss any of TIME's smart analysis! Sign up for our newsletter.

Where does Latino anti-Black racism come from?

Some observers may dismiss this episode as simply a few biased people. Others might attribute the incident to some Latinos' exposure to anti-Black ideologies in their home countries.



Amplifying the Chorus

UCLA LPPI has always believed that storytelling is integral to maximizing the impact of research. By focusing on facts that move Latino communities from the periphery to the core of policymaking conversations, UCLA LPPI can change perceptions and push policymakers to make more informed decisions that improve the quality of life for Latinos and all Americans. In 2022, we strengthened our ability to shift the narrative through strategic partnerships and speaking engagements. Some of our accomplishments include:

- ★ Hosting four webinars and co-hosting a national criminal justice symposium that brought critical nuance to major issues.
- ★ Participation in 23 virtual and in-person events across four states as a featured speaker.
- ★ Engaging 101 elected officials across 17 states through our mobilization efforts.

Here are a few of our biggest moments from the past year:



the decision would mean for communities.

★ In response to the *Dobbs* decision, which eliminated the constitutional right to an abortion, UCLA LPPI held a webinar bringing together a multigenerational panel of activists and advocates from key states to provide a unique Latina perspective on what



a Black and Brown lens. Grassroots leaders discussed policy paradoxes, the state's diverse electorate and how lessons learned in Florida can be applied elsewhere.

★ Understanding that the political landscape of Florida has national implications for the rest of the country, for the second year in a row UCLA LPPI partnered with the University of Florida's Samuel Proctor Oral History Program to host a discussion examining the midterm elections through



national conversation on how to expand our collective mission to protect democracy, fight voter suppression and ensure every American has equal access to the ballot box. UCLA LPPI's representation at the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute Leadership Conference was another high watermark for the year. UCLA LPPI's Director of Mobilization, Paul Barragan-Monge and Director of Research Dr. Rodrigo Domínguez-Villegas were featured panelists in policy sessions focused on advancing criminal justice reform and child-welfare policies to strengthen communities.

★ UCLA LPPI participated in several national conferences in 2022. One of the year's highlights included Founding Director Sonja Diaz's participation in When We All Vote's inaugural Culture of Democracy Summit. During the summit, Diaz joined a

Changing the Narrative

This was also a year when UCLA LPPI, its faculty experts and even our fellows deepened our impact by exponentially increasing our social and earned media footprint. UCLA LPPI attained 1.6 million social media impressions and directly engaged with 78,000 social media users across our digital channels. Further, we garnered over 3,000 media mentions in prominent media outlets across radio, print and television. From the Los Angeles Times and the Washington Post to National Public Radio to Univision, UCLA LPPI served as an essential resource for the media and a vehicle to put a bright spotlight on Latinos and their role in the American story.

The logo for Variety, featuring the word "VARIETY" in a stylized, black, serif font with a decorative flourish above the letters.

The New York Times

The logo for Associated Press (AP), featuring the letters "AP" in a bold, black, sans-serif font with a red horizontal bar underneath.The logo for Axios, featuring the word "AXIOS" in a bold, blue, sans-serif font.

Los Angeles Times

As Paul Barragan-Monge, the director of mobilization for the U.C.L.A. Latino Policy and Politics Institute, explained this week about Hispanic power in California, “Despite making up 39 percent of the state population, they only constituted 18.4 percent of executive appointments in the governor’s leadership cabinet.”

Los Angeles Times

Letters to the Editor

A lack of urgency around Latinx homelessness affects our ability to identify the true scale of need and to adequately estimate the resources needed to tackle the homelessness crisis. What we need now is a comprehensive effort to understand and address Latinx homelessness.



CURRENT ISSUE



The UCLA study analyzed Latino voting results for the US Senate in Arizona, Colorado, Georgia, New Mexico, and Texas. The data strongly debunks the “Latinos are going Republican” myth. It turns out that Latinos in those states voted overwhelmingly for Democratic Senate candidates, with no data indicating a decline in Democratic support for the Senate. Latino voters went 3-1 for the Democratic Senate candidates in Arizona, Colorado, and Georgia, and by a 2-1 margin in New Mexico, and Texas. What

THE AMERICAN PROSPECT

IDEAS, POLITICS & POWER

California wouldn’t be the first state to reach such levels; both Washington and Connecticut already replace lower income workers’ wages at 90% or higher when they take family leave. But the bill arrives at a critical moment, with the overall cost of living soaring, the state’s housing prices on a continued rise, and no national paid leave plan in sight.

“California in the past has stepped up to the plate in the absence of federal action, and that is to be applauded,” said Misael Galdámez, a research analyst at the UCLA Latino Policy and Politics Institute (LPP). “But policy is often a work in progress. SB 951 builds off what came before it.”

California’s PFL program allows up to eight weeks of paid leave for new parents to bond with their children, for individuals to care for seriously ill family members and for people who need time



Developing The Leaders of Today and Tomorrow to Transform Higher Education

Rigorous research and recommendations for policy grounded in evidence only get our work so far if we do not have the leaders needed to make it actionable. That is why UCLA LPPI has invested in emerging leaders since our founding. From the boardroom to the statehouse to the streets, they are the key to creating transformative change grounded in equity that carries America into a prosperous future. In 2022, we went all in to support UCLA's status as an emerging Hispanic-Serving Institution by aligning our programs to ensure Latino student, staff and faculty success. Our most significant achievements include:

- ★ Graduating 19 fellows in June 2022 and welcoming the largest fellow cohort in UCLA LPPI's history in September 2022. Of the 26 fellows, 69% are women of color and 81% are first-generation college students.
- ★ Putting fellows in leadership roles in our work, including two who published original research in an academic journal, two who wrote op-ed pieces on rent relief and Latino leadership gaps and four who participated in interviews with mainstream news outlets.
- ★ Supporting six early career scholars through applied policy research grants.
- ★ Launching the Latina Futures, 2050 Lab in partnership with the Chicano Studies Research Center.

After two years of remote working, one of the highlights of our fellows program last year was the opportunity for students to visit Sacramento in May 2022 to engage in direct advocacy with the California Legislature. This trip allowed these young leaders to present novel research, propose bills to lawmakers, meet with other key policy stakeholders and governmental agencies and build connections that will last a lifetime. Experiences like this are critical to creating a pipeline of talented leaders with the tools and networks necessary to champion Latino communities and ensure our political system works for everyone.



“For a first-generation student, UCLA LPPI creates an environment of support where I’m surrounded by leaders and colleagues who not only carry many of the same experiences but who truly care that I succeed.”

- MORIS GOMEZ, POLICY FELLOW



“UCLA LPPI allows me to work on research that has the potential to have an immediate impact. This fellowship has been all I could have hoped for, allowing me to infuse research into practice to make policy more accessible to the community.”

- JULIA HERNANDEZ NIERENBERG, POLICY FELLOW



“It is refreshing to work and study in a place where you know everyone has your best interests in mind. I also feel fortunate researching issues like Latino entrepreneurship that I know will have a direct impact on my community.

- JOSE GARCIA, POLICY FELLOW

Beyond our fellows, UCLA LPPI is also committed to supporting early career researchers. In 2022, UCLA LPPI awarded six teams, led by affiliated experts, with applied policy research grants to study issues such as immigration and movement-building among people of color. Projects of note include *“What the numbers miss: redefining Latinx homelessness,”* led by Dr. Melissa Chinchilla and *“Policy Mapping Wildfire Impacts to Undocumented Latina/o and Indigenous Migrants,”* led by Dr. Michael Méndez. Leveraging UCLA LPPI research during the pandemic, Dr. Chinchilla was widely cited across news outlets and in local government proceedings as an expert voice in response to the alarming 30% increase in Latino homelessness in the City of Los Angeles. And in a year that saw one of the most active wildfire seasons of the past decade, Dr. Méndez’s work was integral to presenting a clearer picture of the human toll wildfires have on communities and the inequities that must be recognized and addressed as we tackle climate disasters across the U.S. Taken together, both Dr. Méndez and Dr. Chinchilla continue to identify through their research how Latinos are disproportionately shut out of relevant government relief programs and how some face major hurdles based on language and legal status.



I am honored to work closely with UCLA LPPI on community-engaged scholarship and research that influences public policy. They have provided important resources and support to uplift the stories of environmental injustice and community action for social change.”

- DR. MICHAEL MÉNDEZ, UCI SCHOOL OF SOCIAL ECOLOGY





Dr. David Hayes-Bautista, Dr. Veronica Terriquez, Dr. Darnell Hunt & Dr. Celia Menjivar

Finally, UCLA LPPI has been a vital partner to the university as it transitions into a Hispanic-Serving Institution by 2025. Serving as a model of how to develop Latino students, UCLA LPPI is part of a broad ecosystem that will be necessary to support Latino student success in the coming years. In recognition of their tremendous leadership on campus, UCLA Chancellor Gene Block appointed affiliated experts Dr. Sylvia Hurtado and Dr. Chon Noriega as his special advisors on Latina/o/x affairs. Dr. Hurtado brings her extensive expertise on the college experience of diverse students, campus racial climates and equity and diversity in higher education to bear on this work. Further, Dr. Veronica Terriquez, as director of the CSRC, is directing a campus-wide effort to hire 15 new faculty that study Latino life in the U.S. and who can support the unique challenges Latino students face to ensure their full potential for success is brought to the forefront.



UCLA LPPI is a critical piece of the puzzle as the university transitions into a Hispanic-Serving Institution.

- DR. SYLVIA HURTADO, UCLA SCHOOL OF EDUCATION AND INFORMATION STUDIES



The Team Building a Brighter Future

Over the past five years, UCLA LPPI has grown into a powerhouse institute that ensures Latinos cannot be ignored or cut out of the American story. We are a go-to resource for the media, policymakers, advocates and other key stakeholders who want to do better for Latino communities. We know that none of our work is possible without talented staff who put a spotlight on the needs of our nation's diverse Latino communities.

In 2022, UCLA LPPI's new staff members - with the support of our policy fellows team - put out a tremendous body of work that was responsive to emerging issues, elucidated the needs of communities, drove concrete policy outcomes and shifted the narrative to tell the real story of Latino communities who are and will continue to be America's prosperity engine.

UCLA LPPI Staff

- ★ Sonja Diaz, JD, MPP, Founding Director
- ★ Dr. Matt Barreto, Ph.D., Faculty Director
- ★ Dr. Arturo Vargas Bustamante, Ph.D.,
Director of Faculty Research
- ★ Lila Burgos, MURP, Deputy Director
- ★ Steven M. Acosta, Director of Finance
- ★ Mildred Quintos Artuz,
Director of Operations
- ★ Dr. Rodrigo Domínguez-Villegas, Ph.D.,
Director of Research
- ★ Dr. Silvia R. González, Ph.D.,
Director of Research
- ★ Juana (Hernandez) Sánchez, MPP,
Director of Programs
- ★ Cesar Montoya, JD, Senior Policy Analyst
- ★ Jie Zong, MPA, Senior Research Analyst
- ★ Misael Galdámez, MCP,
Research Analyst
- ★ Rosario Majano, MPH, Research Analyst
- ★ Julia Silver, MS, Research Analyst
- ★ Gabriella Carmona, Policy Analyst/2022
Policy Fellow
- ★ Lorena Uriarte, MS, Administrative
Analyst/Executive Assistant
- ★ Ricardo Quintero,
UCLA Luskin Director of Development
- ★ Marvin Pineda, JD,
Government Affairs Advisor
- ★ Lys Mendez, MURP, Strategic
Communications Advisor
- ★ Janine Shimomura, Strategic
Communications Advisor
- ★ Kacey Bonner,
Strategic Communications Advisor

Voting Rights Project Staff:

- ★ Chad W. Dunn, JD, Legal Director
- ★ Sonni Waknin, JD, Managing Attorney &
Voting Rights Counsel
- ★ Bernadette Reyes, JD, Voting Rights
Counsel
- ★ Michael Rios, MPP, Data Scientist



Staff Highlight

Lila Burgos

As UCLA LPPI transitioned from an initiative to an institute in 2022, Deputy Director Lila Burgos has been essential to our success in building a sustainable infrastructure as we pursue bigger grants, new partnerships and team growth.

Burgos brings over a decade of experience in applied research, organizational learning, and evaluation consulting that focuses on systemic change and social determinants of health. Her expertise includes leading strategic planning and facilitation processes as well as building organizational capacity for monitoring, evaluation and learning. She has worked extensively with nonprofits, government and foundations across the country to understand the impact of their projects and how they can better serve their communities.

In her time at UCLA LPPI, Burgos has already developed and implemented new strategic and operations plans and built a stronger organizational infrastructure through key hires. Burgos has also modeled for our fellows what leadership should look like to build effective organizations. With Burgos' comprehensive strategy and organizational building expertise, we are confident that this next phase of UCLA LPPI as an institute will be just as successful as the last five years.





As a young organization, UCLA LPPI has the potential for immense growth in the coming years, and within my role as deputy director, I have the opportunity to ensure that growth is sustainable and to help build the foundation for an institute that will stand the tests of time. I'm proud to be a part of taking UCLA LPPI into its next phase and to bring my whole self as a Latina leader to the role."

- LILA BURGOS, DEPUTY DIRECTOR



Translating Grassroots Needs

UCLA LPPI's advisory board helps to shape our research agenda and to identify the issues that are most important to the nation's Latino communities. In short, they provide us with perspectives informed by their work on the ground in the community to make our efforts more relevant and maximize impact. Thus, our advisory board is filled by leaders in every sector, from healthcare and philanthropy to law and media. As we move into a year of new challenges and opportunities, we are fortunate to have such an accomplished board supporting our work to drive policy change and accountability across all sectors.

Advisory Board Members

- ★ Erica Bernal-Martinez, Chief Operating Officer, NALEO Educational Fund
- ★ Patrick Isidoro Butler, Fire Chief and Harbor Master, City of Redondo Beach
- ★ Dannielle Campos, Senior Vice President & National Philanthropy Director, Bank of America
- ★ Juan Cartagena, President & General Counsel Emeritus, LatinoJustice PRLDEF
- ★ Hector Cuellar, President, Gasso Capital Markets
- ★ Max Espinoza, Senior Program Officer, Global Policy and Advocacy - North America, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation
- ★ Alfred Fraijo Jr., Partner, Sheppard Mullin Richter & Hampton LLP
- ★ Sergio Garcia, Founder, Garcia Strategic Advisors, LLC
- ★ Alicia Miñana de Lovelace, Chair, UCLA Foundation Board of Directors
- ★ Berenice Nuñez Constant, Senior Vice President of Government Relations, AltaMed Health Services
- ★ Michele Siqueiros, President, the Campaign for College Opportunity
- ★ Peter Villegas, Co-Chairman, Actum



Advisory Board Highlight

Sergio Garcia

Racial justice and equity is a priority of UCLA LPPI's work, and the same is true for Advisory Board member Sergio Garcia, a Bay Area-based legal and business leader. Garcia has served as chief legal officer to public and privately held companies and as a partner and leader at international law firms where a hallmark of his leadership is his commitment to diversity and inclusion. He has worked tirelessly to advance equity and promote civil rights through pro bono legal services and service on nonprofit boards, including Public Advocates, the Hispanic Heritage Foundation and Centro Legal de la Raza.

During his time on the UCLA LPPI advisory board, Garcia has been a co-chair of our Ad Hoc Latino Leaders Group, where he leads appointments advocacy to diversify the judiciary in California and at the federal level. Additionally, Garcia has been instrumental in connecting us to national partners, including the Hispanic National Bar Association, which is a co-sponsor of UCLA LPPI's Illuminating the Way, Latina Law Symposium slated for October 2023 in Los Angeles.

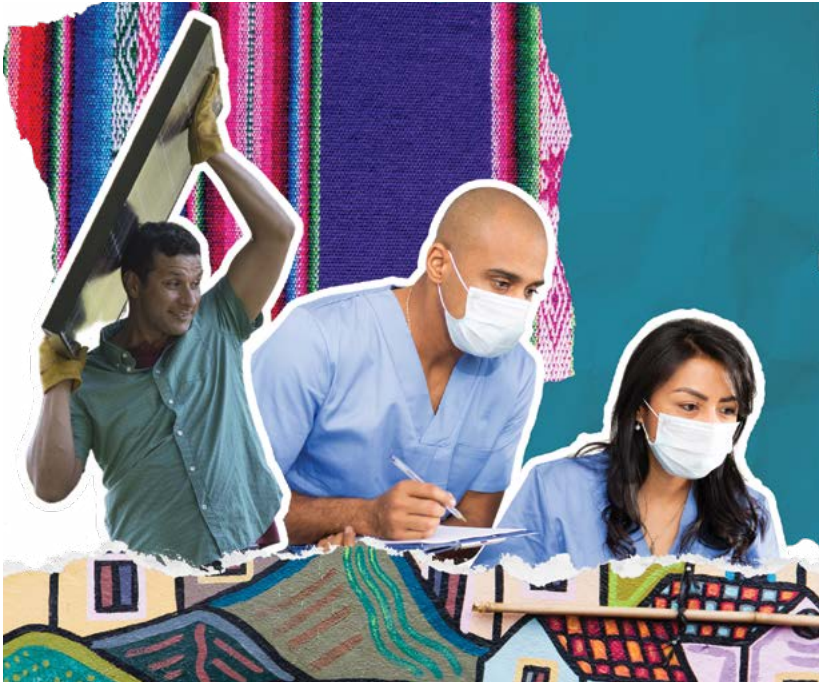
A remarkable strategist, Garcia provides cogent counsel about when and where a Latino lens can and should be applied, especially as it relates to issues of the environment. As we move into the next phase of UCLA LPPI and build its long-term future, we look forward to a continued partnership with Garcia and our entire board to drive Latino inclusion and representation in our democracy and economy.





UCLA LPPI is driving us toward a more equitable and just country through rigorous research and mobilization efforts that center the diverse Latino community. Their critical work makes it impossible for us to be ignored. I'm extremely proud to be their partner and part of a compelling narrative that recognizes Latinos and the essential role we play in our current and future prosperity."

- SERGIO GARCIA, SENIOR C-SUITE EXECUTIVE AND ATTORNEY



Shaping a Critical Latino Analysis

With the nation's deepest bench of Latino scholars, UCLA LPPI brings together experts from across the university to consolidate expertise on the issues that matter most for Latinos and other communities of color. Across the board, we provide a hub of resources for media, policymakers and advocates to close data gaps, understand issues and create new narratives that are reflective of the nation's diverse Latino communities. We have become an invaluable partner to stakeholders through rigorous research grounded in and informed by lived experience. And our experts continue to transform academic institutions as leaders of academic associations, leading researchers and the faculty colleagues that encourage and empower new generations of scientists.

Faculty Expert Highlight

Dr. Arturo Vargas Bustamante

Across UCLA, Latino experts are doing great work, and there is no better example than Dr. Arturo Vargas Bustamante. In 2022, Vargas Bustamante was promoted to a full professor of health policy and management at the UCLA Fielding School of Public Health and has served as UCLA LPPI's Director of Faculty Research since 2019. Vargas Bustamante is one of the foremost health policy experts in the country and uses his extensive experience to evaluate healthcare access and coverage disparities with an emphasis on immigrant and Latino communities. As an [editorial advisor](#) to Health Affairs, a leading journal, Vargas Bustamante helped curate more than a dozen research studies that provide an in-depth understanding of the effects of U.S. immigration policy on the care, coverage and health outcomes for immigrants.

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, Vargas Bustamante's research has been instrumental in understanding the true impact of COVID-19 and bringing attention to the health access barriers Latino patients faced both before and after the pandemic struck. In collaboration with an interdisciplinary team of UCLA LPPI experts, Vargas Bustamante is leading an investigation on the experience of patients of color with telemedicine to assess the efficacy of this modality in light of the pandemic and an acute shortage of Latino doctors. This research puts a spotlight on health access disparities and how the government is systematically failing to meet the healthcare needs of youthful, diverse communities of color.

Vargas Bustamante's role at UCLA LPPI is critical to recruiting new faculty experts, developing emerging scholars and, importantly, identifying evidence-based policy changes to address racial/ethnic disparities. We are privileged to work with talented researchers like Dr. Vargas Bustamante and others who bring their expertise to bear on our nation's most pressing issues.





I'm honored to be affiliated with UCLA LPPI because they consistently identify problems and offer evidence-based solutions that tell a more holistic story of the strengths and contributions of Latinos, instead of focusing on just the challenges."

-DR. ARTURO VARGAS BUSTAMANTE, DIRECTOR OF FACULTY RESEARCH

Driving Organizational Sustainability

In 2022, UCLA LPPI received significant ongoing and new funding from the California State Legislature. UCLA LPPI also received support from new philanthropic partners including JPMorgan Chase Foundation and the Evelyn and Walter Haas, Jr. Fund.

These large-scale investments and our partners' support helped make Latinos a priority during an important election year and a critical point in economic recovery. Every year, our generous donors enable UCLA LPPI to conduct research that ensures Latinos and their needs are visible, mobilize partners to make that research actionable, build data infrastructure that will inform policy and hold decision-makers accountable, drive substantive representation and continue training the leaders of tomorrow. As we head into the next phase of our journey as an institute, we are grateful to all our supporters and excited for what lies ahead.

Donors

- ★ AltaMed Health Services Corporation
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- ★ Arturo Madrid II, MA '64, Ph.D. '69
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- ★ California State Legislature
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Latina Future Check Presentation with California Latino Legislative Caucus Members

- ★ Joel Nigg
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- ★ W.K. Kellogg Foundation
- ★ Weingart Foundation
- ★ Wells Fargo Small Business Philanthropy
- ★ Zac Guevara

Building the Future We Deserve in 2023

For five years, UCLA LPPI has relentlessly worked to create a space where Latinos are visible and recognized for the significant contributions they make to America. With the midterm elections behind us, an economic downturn looming and a new realization that the nation's young, diverse residents will shape the future of our nation, our work has become more critical than ever.

In 2023, we know there will be myriad challenges from combatting the erosion of rights we have seen in recent years to addressing climate disasters, to building an inclusive and sustainable economy that allows all of us to thrive. UCLA LPPI is poised to meet those challenges and capitalize on emerging opportunities by doubling down on what we do best. Within that frame, we will launch the Latino Data Hub in 2023 to conduct novel research and provide stakeholders with a powerful resource to push for more equitable, data-driven policy. We will also officially launch the Latina Futures, 2050 Lab to understand the needs of Latinas and tap into their full potential. Lastly, we will continue driving new narratives that create greater inclusivity within America's Latinidad - narratives that are gender expansive, grounded in the principles of anti-racism, and that help us build the country we deserve.

Together with our partners, we will continue the work that ensures no one is left behind.







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