

# National Hispanic Leadership Agenda

## MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

December 17, 2020

President-Elect Joseph R. Biden  
Office of the President-elect  
Washington, D.C.

Dear President-Elect Biden,

The National Hispanic Leadership Agenda (NHLA), comprised of over forty of the leading national Hispanic civil rights and public policy organizations, has come together to enthusiastically endorse Richard L. Revesz, Lawrence King Professor of Law and Dean Emeritus at New York University School of Law, for the position of Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Collectively, NHLA leads advocacy on the pressing civil rights and policy issues affecting the 60 million U.S. Latinos. NHLA strives to increase Latino visibility and leverages its collective efforts to build a stronger Latino influence in our country's affairs.

Revesz has spent 35 years advocating for stringent environmental policies that protect the American people from the ravages of pollution. And he has brought light to how disadvantaged, vulnerable, and marginalized communities are disproportionately affected by the harms caused by pollution. In a variety of venues, he has decried Trump Administration policies that combine to impose disproportionate harms on Latino communities. For example, his work, in both English and Spanish, brings to light how Trump's environmental, health care, and immigration policies combined to have particularly pernicious effects on Latino communities. Along similar lines, the Institute for Policy Integrity at NYU Law School, which he directs, has documented how the Trump Administration's deregulatory push has exacerbated the COVID-19 pandemic, with the effects being particularly pernicious in low-income and communities of color.

In both his academic and advocacy work, Revesz has advocated strengthening the standards for particulate matter, which is the pollutant that produces the largest number of deaths in the United States, with serious environmental justice consequences. And in one of his many influential academic articles, Revesz has explained how cap-and-trade schemes need to be modified to prevent hot spots.

Revesz had leadership roles defending the environmentally protective policies of the Obama Administration through congressional testimony; advocacy before the Environmental Protection Agency; influential amicus briefs in the federal courts, including the U.S. Supreme Court; and frequent and visible interventions in the public arena through op-eds, blog posts, and media appearances. He has also been a significant voice explaining how the Trump Administration has distorted science and economics in attempting to justify its deregulatory policies, writing an op-ed or blog post roughly every

Alianza Americas  
American G.I. Forum  
ASPIRA Association  
AVANCE Inc.  
Casa de Esperanza: National Latin@ Network  
Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute  
Farmworker Justice  
Green Latinos  
Hispanic Association of Colleges & Universities  
Hispanic Federation  
Hispanic National Bar Association  
Hispanics in Philanthropy  
Inter-University Program for Latino Research  
Labor Council for Latin American Advancement  
LatinoJustice PRLDEF  
League of United Latin American Citizens  
MANA, A National Latina Organization  
Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund  
Mi Familia Vota  
NALEO Education Fund  
National Association of Hispanic Federal Executives  
National Association of Latino Arts and Culture  
National Association of Latino Independent Producers  
National Conference of Puerto Rican Women, Inc.  
National Day Laborer Organizing Network  
National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislators  
National Hispanic Council on Aging  
National Hispanic Foundation for the Arts  
National Hispanic Media Coalition  
National Hispanic Medical Association  
National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health  
National Latinx Psychological Association  
Presente.org  
SER Jobs for Progress National  
Southwest Voter Registration Education Project  
U.S.- Mexico Foundation  
UnidosUS  
United States Hispanic Chamber of Commerce  
United States Hispanic Leadership Institute  
United States-Mexico Chamber of Commerce  
Voto Latino

month and, in amicus briefs, taking the lead on the analytical underpinnings of the deregulatory measures, working closely with the major environmental organizations and the Attorneys General for progressive states. He supervised the preparation of six extensive transition documents setting forth an agenda for the Biden Administration on environmental, climate change, and clean energy issues.

Revesz's 11 years as Dean of the New York University School of Law gave him significant experience running large, complex organizations. As one of his initiatives to further the Law School's commitment to the goals of diversity, equity, and inclusion, he established the AnBryce Scholarship Program, which gives full-tuition scholarships and extensive programmatic support to students, including a significant number of Latino students, who are the first in their families to attend graduate or professional school and come from backgrounds of severe socioeconomic disadvantage.

Revesz made the remarkable journey that took him, over a period of only nine years, from Argentine immigrant speaking Spanish as a native language, to U.S. citizenship, to a judicial clerkship for U.S. Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall, and then to positions of significant leadership in the environmental, academic, and legal worlds.

We previously [requested](#) that you ensure that a diverse slate of Latinos comprises at least 20% of your appointed positions, including no fewer than five in Cabinet-level positions. Given the nominations announced to date, that goal is falling short. Environmental, climate, and toxic impacts fall disproportionately on communities of color, and as the second largest population in the country, the impact on Latino populations - the future workforce of this country - cannot be overstated. It is critical that in this area, Latinos are represented at the highest levels, not just for Latino communities, but for the good of the country.

For all of these reasons and more, Revesz is uniquely qualified to be the next Administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Mark Magaña  
Co-Chair, Environmental and Energy Committee, NHLA  
Founding President & CEO, GreenLatinos



Laura Esquivel  
Co-Chair, Environmental and Energy Committee, NHLA  
Vice President, Federal Policy and Advocacy, Hispanic Federation