



STRONGER COMMUNITIES. STRONGER AMERICA.

Remarks of
JANET MURGUÍA
PRESIDENT AND CEO, UNIDOS US

Submitted to

**the Democratic National Committee's
Platform Drafting Committee**

Submitted by

UnidosUS

Raul Yzaguirre Building
1126 16th Street NW, Suite 600
Washington, DC 20036-4845

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I am Janet Murguía, President/CEO of UnidosUS, the nation's largest Latino civil rights and advocacy organization. I appreciate the opportunity to speak with you. We seek systematic change, with an Affiliate Network of 300 community-based organizations, to challenge the barriers that constrain our dynamic community.

Latinos are a growing political force. In 2020, Hispanics became the largest non-white voting bloc. Today, nearly 40% of Latino presidential voters are new since 2016. Some 36 million Latinos are eligible to vote this year—up 4 million since 2020. It is so important that Latinos see our priorities clearly addressed by policymakers, who must proudly embrace racial equity and inclusion as essential American values at the core of our shared future.

Latinos start businesses and participate in the workforce at higher levels than any other demographic group and are a source of economic contribution that cannot be stopped—but should be unburdened to achieve shared prosperity.

First, we envision an inclusive economy that creates opportunity for hard-working people, provides adequate wages and addresses the high cost of living. To be clear, economic indicators show that working families, including Latinos, are better off today than in 2020 due to historic levels of investment by the Administration and Congress.

At the same time, we face challenges. For example, the pay gap for Latinas is one of the largest of any group. We support increasing wages, expanding the Child Tax Credit, increasing food supports, access to affordable housing and ensuring every family has the health care and coverage they need.

Second, we need immigration policies that are firm, fair and free of cruelty, including a practical pathway to citizenship for people who have lived here and contributed for a long time. Our new poll shows Latinos want balance: relief for the long-residing undocumented is their highest priority, but they also strongly support border security and better collaboration with our neighbors in the region on asylum.

Finally, we must have free and fair elections. All eligible voters need clear and factual information, a sense of security in voting and to never be racially profiled at the polls. False and dangerous disinformation about non-citizen voters in federal elections or conspiracies is an attempt to discredit our democracy. Instead, we need clear information from trusted voices, including in the languages people speak.

While it is a challenging moment for civil rights, the question of who we are as a country has never been more pressing. We are looking for bold leadership that works for every American, embraces the incredible richness of our nation and shows how bright our future will be if we come together. We urge you to ensure that the platform presents an inclusive vision that invests in families and acknowledges our diversity, while it meets the needs of millions of hardworking Latinos and others who power our communities, economy and culture.