



June 17, 2020

One week ago today, the California State Assembly passed legislation, Assembly Constitutional Amendment 5 (ACA 5), to refer a constitutional amendment to the ballot for voter consideration. The California Repeal Proposition 209 Affirmative Action Amendment (2020) being placed before voters in November is a necessary step to end structural violence and systemic racism in our state. Hurdles must be overcome to get the amendment on the ballot, as we deal with a state legacy of sustaining the status quo. Then, California voters must be galvanized to pass the historic measure which would restore a hallmark of racial equity: affirmative action.

Assemblymember Kansen Chu, candidate for County District 3 Supervisor, abstained, being one of three Democrats who did not cast a vote. Only one week earlier, Mr. Chu publicly stood beside co-leaders of Latinos in Action 2020 and signed an Equity Pledge.

Mr. Chu's silence by his abstention is painfully deafening and evidences what protesters have blazed across signs throughout our nation: that *Silence Is Violence* and our community is again traumatized.

By his abstention, Mr. Chu failed generations of Latinos, African-Americans, poor API and Indigenous, students. As these communities are systematically locked out of higher education and economic opportunity, too many become locked up by the prison industrial complex through mass incarceration, subjected to a school to prison pipeline. By this immediate breach of his Equity Pledge, Mr. Chu established that we cannot trust him to fight for equity or keep his word.

Mr. Chu's allegedly racist remarks regarding Latino parents and students failing to value educational achievement could not be further from the truth. Educational success continues to be a top priority within our Latino community as evidenced by Pew Research Center reports and by the history of San Jose Latino grassroots leaders, families and students in their fight for access whether it has been walkouts or desegregation lawsuits.

Latinos in Action 2020 stands united with community leaders and dignitaries in strongly condemning the abstention and alleged racist remarks to press by Mr. Chu. We are deeply disturbed and now doubt Mr. Chu's intention to represent San Jose Latino, African-Americans, poor API and Indigenous families on the County Board of Supervisors.

Latinos in Action 2020 also admonishes Mr. Chu's opponent in the general election for County District 3 Supervisor, Otto Lee. At a time when we are called to be in solidarity as communities of color, it was hurtful that Mr. Lee did not seize this moment to meaningfully engage our Latino community. Instead, he launched a political controversy without first knowing the response of the community and including the grassroots of the Latino community, indicating a jarring gap or lapse in understanding service and partnership with our community.

Neither candidate for County District 3 Supervisor has demonstrated mastery, nor competency, in navigating service to diverse ethnic constituents. District 3 deserves no less. Diversity is not a basis for divisive politics. Rather, the diversity of Supervisorial District 3 offers the best of our County and the District 3 Supervisor must

rise to the occasion of unifying our diverse communities, not dividing us. Neither D3 candidate served the Latino community through their actions of the past week.

Latinos in Action 2020 is a Movement to empower civic engagement by the Latino community. Voter engagement is core among our consensus-based, community-crafted Platform, which is posted on our website. To each candidate and to their respective supporters, our message is clear: The Latino community is not invisible and we will not be taken for granted.

Latinos in Action 2020 demands that D3 Supervisorial Candidates engage our Latino community at the grassroots and work in partnership with our grassroots leaders. Earn Latino votes by building strong relationships and committing to journey and learn from our community. Hold a town hall with our community to better understand our needs & contributions. Latino families are not political pawns. Latino families and their needs must not be exploited for political gain. When you make a commitment to champion equity, whether signing a pledge or otherwise, you shall be held accountable for action. We call on both candidates to reflect their commitment to the Latino community with humility, remorse, self-evaluation and willingness to grow. Engage us and serve our community - *today*.

Latinos in Action 2020 CORE committee:

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President Emeritus.
The National Hispanic University

Gina Gates
Community Advocate
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Jesus Flores
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Teresa Castellanos
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Poet, Music Creator (Grupo Solidaridad)

Louie Rocha
Community and Labor Activist

Rafael Morales
Community Organizer

Rebeca Armendariz
President, Board of Directors, CARAS

Yolanda Guerra
Educator and Visual Artist

Salvador Bustamante
Executive director, LUNA

Serena Alvarez, esq.
Community Advocate

Latinos in Action: 2020 is a strategically organized civic engagement movement that seeks to create a powerful political force in the Silicon Valley composed of Latino leaders and their allies to collectively respond to the problems affecting the Latino Community. For further information call 408-466-2722 or 408-309-3580