



## **Georgia Latino Forum Resolution 012608D**

**by: América Gruner (Dalton)**

### **A RESOLUTION ON CIVIC PARTICIPATION**

Recognizing that civic education is a high priority in nurturing the democratic impulse and civic participation of the growing Latino electorate.

WHEREAS, a presidential election year raises difficult and important questions regarding issues affecting the Latino community; and

WHEREAS, voting is a fundamental right that serves as the foundation for the freedoms and opportunities that Americans enjoy; and

WHEREAS, the Latino community is the fastest growing sector of the Georgia population and the Latino electorate is growing at astounding rates; and

WHEREAS, as of November 1, 2007, according to GALEO and the Secretary of State of Georgia, the total number of registered voters in the state was 4,427,386 with only 2.2% (97,819) being Latino; and

WHEREAS, based on the demonstrated growth (according to GALEO), the Latino electorate will now begin to have a significant impact, as documented in the Mayoral race in both Doraville and Dalton. Based on current growth trends, 2008 will also see Georgia's Latino registered voters surpass 100,000; and

WHEREAS, concerted effort is required to strengthen the Latino electoral potential by implementing non-traditional and long-term strategies, through the experience, expertise, and leadership of community based organizations; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that at least 3.6 million Latinos are eligible to become citizens, therefore it is essential to build a participation continuum which links eligible immigrants to citizenship, citizens to voter registration and education, and those registered voters to the voting booth and other means of civic engagement; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Georgia Latino Forum recognizes and encourages organizations and groups that actively promote voter registration and participation, that institute civic awareness programs, candidate forums, and voter registration drives

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Georgia Latino Forum recognizes the great value and responsibility of an engaged citizenry through voting for a better Georgia: and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Georgia Latino Forum supports ensuring all eligible U.S. citizens exercise their right to vote in all elections; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Georgia Latino Forum supports the various efforts across Georgia led by various groups on effective voter registration and voter education initiatives, such as the Georgia Latino Vote, to ensure all eligible Latino U.S. citizens participate in all future elections.

\_\_\_\_\_ Adopted, Saturday, January 26, 2008

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Sharon Maloney, Chair, Georgia Latino Forum