

PROCLAMATION

The 15 million Latinos who call our state home help California thrive. A diverse group with roots throughout Latin America and beyond, many Latino Californians also trace their heritage to the original Indigenous communities of Latin America and Africa. During Latino Heritage Month, we honor them and recognize all they have helped build in our state. They are our teachers and business owners, scientists and soldiers, farmworkers and first responders, artists and activists, colleagues and friends. Latino Californians make incalculable contributions to our neighborhoods, communities and every sector of the economy, and we are a greater and more vibrant place because of them.

It is in part due to these extraordinary contributions that Latino Californians have borne a particularly heavy burden during the COVID-19 pandemic. The overwhelming number of Latinos who work on the front lines of the fight against COVID-19 risk increased exposure to the virus. Coupled with generational health disparities, Latino Californians have faced devastating, disproportionate impacts due to this disease. This Latino Heritage Month, we soberly acknowledge these harms stemming from social and racial inequities and continue our commitment to tackling these disparities during this unprecedented health and economic crisis and beyond.

As we fight this pandemic together and look towards a brighter, more equal future, we also honor the resilience of this community. Even within the last decades, Latino Californians have persisted through discrimination and recessions and continued to build and grow our state undeterred. This month, we remember the Latino Californians who have long led the movements for justice and equality that are so crucial today.

California knows that our diversity is our strength, and Latino communities contribute to that strength every day. Our future as a state is bound together with the future of Latino communities. Roughly half of our state's children are Latino, and they will shape California in the decades to come.

I urge all Californians to join me during Latino Heritage Month in celebrating these extraordinary communities and their role in our state and continuing to stand with Latino Californians today and into the future.

NOW THEREFORE I, GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor of the State of California, do hereby proclaim September 15 to October 15, 2020, as "Latino Heritage Month."

IN WITNESS WHEREOF I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of California to be affixed this 15th day of September 2020.

GAVIN NEWSOM
Governor of California

ATTEST:

ALEX PADILLA
Secretary of State