

## PROCLAMATION

California embraces and celebrates its diversity, and that includes the largest ethnic group in the state – 15.6 million Latinos call California home. Latino Californians are a diverse group with roots stretching throughout North, Central and South America, and many trace their heritage to the original Indigenous communities of Latin America and Africa. Throughout the entire year, but especially during Latino Heritage Month, we honor and celebrate the state's Latino community.

Throughout California history, our Latino communities have fought inequalities and injustices, shaping the state's social, political and economic landscapes, and that legacy continues today. When reflecting on the past year, we recognize and are grateful to the Latino Californians who helped keep our neighborhoods, communities and state vibrant and prosperous. They are our teachers and business owners, scientists and soldiers, farmworkers and first responders, artists and activists, colleagues and friends. Their extraordinary contributions have put them front and center in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic and they have met the moment with an indomitable spirit and unwavering resilience.

But, we also recognize that this once-in-a-lifetime pandemic has brought incalculable loss and despair to their communities. Coupled with generational health disparities, Latino Californians have faced devastating and disproportionate challenges. This Latino Heritage Month, we acknowledge these disparities and continue to pursue a more equal and just society that will ensure we all recover equitably from the COVID-19 pandemic.

We are a state of immigrants, in which one in four Californians is foreign-born. Latino heritage is rooted in California's identity with almost four in ten Californians identifying as Latino and where the majority of Latino immigrants are from Mexico, El Salvador and Guatemala. Diversity is California's strength and Latino communities contribute to this strength every day. This month, we honor the heritage of all Latinos in the state and celebrate the Independence Days of our neighbors Mexico, El Salvador, Guatemala, Costa Rica, Honduras, Chile, Nicaragua and Belize.

I urge all Californians to join me during Latino Heritage Month in honoring these remarkable communities and their essential contributions to our state.

**NOW THEREFORE I, GAVIN NEWSOM**, Governor of the State of California, do hereby proclaim September 15 to October 15, 2021, 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 15<sup>th</sup> day of September 2021.

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GAVIN NEWSOM  
Governor of California

**ATTEST:**

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SHIRLEY N. WEBER, Ph.D.  
Secretary of State