



# Commemoration of Hispanic History in Congress

**OCTOBER 7, 2025 | 9 AM - 4 PM**

Cannon Caucus Room  
Cannon House Office Building 390  
27 Independence Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20003

THE *L*ATINO  
COALITION



## **CELEBRATING A MILESTONE, EMBRACING THE FUTURE!**

In 2025, the 119th Congress set a new benchmark with 52 Latino members, the most Latin American members of Congress in U.S. history — 7 U.S. Senators and 45 Representatives. With Latinos comprising more than 20% of the U.S. population but holding just 10% of Congressional seats, the gap in representation remains. To mark this historic milestone and spark a broader national dialogue, the United States Capitol Historical Society invites you to an extraordinary, one-day symposium exploring the complex and evolving legacy of Latino representation in the U.S. Congress. This powerful gathering of lawmakers, scholars, Congressional staff, and cultural and civic leaders will reflect on the past, examine the present, and imagine a more equitable future for Latino political engagement in the United States.



# PROGRAM

9:15 AM

Opening Remarks

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9:30 AM

Presentation

Hispanic Trailblazers in  
Congressional History

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10:45 AM

Panel 1

Latino Voices Behind the Scenes –  
Congressional Staff Perspectives

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12:00 PM

Break for Lunch

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1:00 PM

Panel 2

Latino Politics & Cultural Power

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2:15 PM

Panel 3

From Firsts to the Future –  
Latino Representation Today

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3:30 PM

Closing Reflections

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# SPEAKERS

## Katherine A. Scott

*United States Senate Historian*  
U.S. Senate



## Matthew Wasniewski

*Historian of the House of Representatives*  
U.S. House of Representatives



## Leonardo Mendoza

*President of the Congressional Hispanic Staff Association*  
U.S. House of Representatives



## Patrick Herrera

*President of the GOP Latinos Staff Association*  
U.S. House of Representatives



## Mary Ann Gomez Orta

*President & CEO*  
Congressional Hispanic Leadership Institute



## Carmen Lamas

*Latino/a Literature and Studies Professor*  
University of Virginia



## Carlos Orta

*President & CEO*  
The Latino Coalition



## Jorge Zamanillo

*Director of the Smithsonian's National  
Museum of the American Latino*  
Smithsonian Institution



## Ileana Ros-Lehtinen

*Former Congresswoman (R-FL)*  
U.S. House of Representatives



## Tony Gonzalez

*Congressman (R-TX)*  
U.S. House of Representatives

