



FOURTH TEXAS LATINO POLICY SYMPOSIUM (Preliminary Announcement)

December 2-3, 2021

The 4th Texas Latino Policy Symposium (TXLPS) will be conducted at St. Mary's University in San Antonio. The state's on-going regressive policymaking, divisive racialized political environment, and the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic all increased Latino political power and policy influence challenges.

The TXLPS continues with its foundational outcome goal to increase the economic mobility of Latino families. Employment, income, education, health care, housing, neighborhood economic development, criminal justice, immigration, tax policy, and civic/voter power development are action concerns.

Latino populations have increased in rural areas, and in medium size and large cities. Houston and Dallas are now more than 40 percent Latino. The 'border' is expansive yet continues to be under-invested from state leaders. El Paso is not Brownsville, i.e., each border community's social and economic opportunity infrastructure demands strategic attention.

Public policy concerns regarding the social and economic significance of these demographic changes have had limited impact on policymakers. Decades have elapsed with the state's public policy response continuing to be sorely inadequate.

Because of grass-root coalition electoral advocacy, inclusive and equitable human capital investments initiative have surfaced at the local level. Examples include universal pre-k, pay leave, employment training, affordable housing, 'equitable' economic development, unfair and costly incarcerations, and policing reforms. As a result, local governments are increasingly the enemy of current state political leadership for their 'progressive' initiatives.

Policy research information, political power, and communication/messaging are critical resources to influence local and state policymaking. The 4th TXLPS envisions redistricting, electoral power building, and priority policy issues as agenda topics.