



El Pueblo, Inc.
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Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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EL PUEBLO, INC. JOINS NATIONAL DEMOCRACY SUMMER CAMPAIGN

Raleigh, NC— On July 1st, El Pueblo, Inc. is proud to join grassroots organizations all over the country in launching Democracy Summer— a coordinated effort to strengthen the power of immigrant communities and our allies at the ballot box. *El Pueblo Votes!* will work in partnership with organizations around the state to combine voter registration, voter education, and a media campaign to ensure that opportunities exist for all of us to celebrate and participate in our democracy.

North Carolina has emerged as a focal point in the nation's current immigration reform debate after a fifteen year period of unprecedented growth in the state's Latino population. Most current estimates of the population show a total Latino/Hispanic population of 650,000 with about 300,000 being of undocumented status. While the population has grown immensely, the growth of the Hispanic electorate in North Carolina continues to be an issue. Less than 1% (28,819) of the 3.2 million registered voters in North Carolina identified as "Hispanic" on their voter registration forms. The lack of representation at the ballot box during an election year debate on immigration reform could allow elected officials to discount a significant and important community in the state.

"As an advocacy organization, we recognize that our work in public policy and advocacy cannot be fully accomplished if our community members are not recognized as vested in and valuable constituents of the state of North Carolina," said Marisol Jimenez-McGee, Advocacy Director for El Pueblo, Inc..

El Pueblo Votes! will work throughout the summer with a team of faith-based organizations, student groups, and community members to ensure that the Latino community in North Carolina is a fully empowered and recognized as a civically-active community.

El Pueblo is a nonprofit, statewide advocacy and public policy organization dedicated to strengthening the Latino community in North Carolina.

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