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**Leading Candidates for Governor Headline the Los Angeles Latino Chamber of Commerce's California Gubernatorial Forum**

**Featured Candidates Included Antonio Villaraigosa, Delaine Eastin, and John Chiang. Assistant Editor in Chief Christina Bell Moderated The Forum**

**LOS ANGELES, CALIF., APRIL 10, 2018** – On Wednesday, April 4<sup>th</sup>, the Los Angeles Latino Chamber of Commerce (LALCC) hosted its first ever California Gubernatorial Forum with featured candidates, Antonio Villaraigosa, Delaine Eastin and John Chiang. In addition to having the candidates present, the LALCC invited LA Times' Assistant Managing Editor, Christina Bellantoni as moderator. Held inside the historical Mark Taper Auditorium at the Downtown LA Library, the California Gubernatorial Forum opened its doors to a total of 200 registered attendees, including LALCC members & guests.

Introducing the forum was Chairman of the LALCC Board Gilbert R. Vasquez and LALCC Executive Director Moises Cisneros, who began the program by addressing the need for community members to be engaged in conversations surrounding the California economy and its impact on the Latino community. Christina Bellantoni explored these issues in her questions to the candidates, including the potential for a Chinese trade war and how that would affect 1.5 billion of California's exports, the current political climate and how that is creating tension between California and the White House, acquiring funding for early childhood education / lower college tuition, Proposition 209, and more.

The latter half of the program was dedicated to a Q & A session, in which candidates were able to answer questions from audience members. Audience participants included Alex Nogales from the National Hispanic Media Coalition, who asked if candidates would support making it mandatory for film credit recipients to employ vendors that accurately reflect the ethnic makeup of California, and Julius Argumedo from the California Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, who asked what the candidates would do to ensure the appointment of ethnic minorities on Boards & Commissions.

## Quotes From The Candidates

*On addressing the issue of Latinos being denied access to capital and being left being in economic opportunities:*

Antonio Villaraigosa – “The next governor has to focus on the fact that small business is the motor force of the California economy. So we got to make it easier to get loans. We know that redlining still exists. **We see enough studies that show that Latinos and African Americans are denied applications to a greater degree and we’ve got to change that.**”

Delaine Eastin – “Education is the cornerstone of successful change in the economic condition for any group of people. The state of California has got to get its value straight. **To be 41<sup>st</sup> in people spending and number 1 in prison expenditure are not my values. Putting people in jail is an expense, educating people is an investment.**”

John Chiang- “ We need to level the playing field. We need to change private sector leadership and the way that they govern. In office, I pushed for more people of color, I pushed for more women on corporate boards. **You can’t have Latinas being paid 43 cents on the dollar when white males are being paid a dollar. That’s just dead wrong.**”

Click Here For A Full Livestream Of The Event: <https://goo.gl/yWHD7A>  
For Photos: Follow Our Album on Facebook: <https://goo.gl/mr7gSC>

Facebook: @LALatinoChamber

Twitter: @LALatinoChamber

Social Media Tags of the Event Included “ #GoldenStateRace “ & “ #LatinosVote “

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### **About the LALCC**

The Los Angeles Latino Chamber of Commerce (LALCC) is a nonprofit, 501(c) (3) organization and a 501(c) (6) trade group created for the purpose assisting and unifying Latino business owners to grow and create a positive economic impact in Los Angeles.

The LALCC:

- Advocates for Latino business owners throughout the greater LA region
- Shapes the environment to double the revenues of the 300,000 Latino business owners in Los Angeles County
- Provides overall leadership on relevant business topics and economic development issues
- Provides technical assistance to help Latino entrepreneurs grow their business and strengthen the Los Angeles economy

