

## **PRESS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **The Latino-Focused Civic Engagement Campaign Kicks Off and Encourages Voter Registration**

GEORGETOWN, Del. — The League of Women Voters of Sussex County and the Delaware Hispanic Commission are partnering to reach out to the Latino community to assist with voter registration.

The voter registration campaign, called “Be Our Voice,” is already on the move with teams visiting neighborhoods, events and college campuses to register new citizens as voters and enlist Latinos who cannot vote to influence their relatives and peers toward greater participation in democracy.

Delaware Hispanic Commission Co-chair Charito Calvachi-Mateyko explained that Latino voters will understand through the campaign that U.S. citizens care for them.

“They will make sure well in advance that every eligible person is registered to vote. And again, days in advance of Election Day, they will contact this person to remind them to go to the polls,” she said.

Calvachi-Mateyko said the idea is that if a prospective voter says, “I can’t vote (or register) because I must take care of my children,” Latinos will offer to watch the children for a few hours. Or if the voter says, “I don’t have a car,” Latinos will volunteer to provide a ride to the polls.

“Our community is composed of strong, hardworking people eager to help increase the number of people who vote,” she added.

Jennifer Lopez, a Delaware Technical and Community College student, said the campaign is very symbolic.

“While we can bring more people to the polls through this effort, it is also very moving to me to think those who are voting are the voices of the silent 12 million undocumented people who work and contribute to America,” she said.

Teams of volunteers are visiting and canvassing the Latino community in Sussex

County. Volunteers are needed. To participate, contact [conjon5@icloud.com](mailto:conjon5@icloud.com) or [charitocw@aol.com](mailto:charitocw@aol.com), or call [717-951-0905](tel:717-951-0905).

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The League of Women Voters — a nonpartisan political organization that encourages informed and active participation in government — works to increase understanding of major public policy issues and influences public policy through education and advocacy. Membership is open to men and women of all ages. With 800 affiliates across the country, the league is one of the nation's most trusted organizations.

The Delaware Hispanic Commission aims to expand and improve the representation of and advocacy for Delaware's Hispanic community in order to identify and address the most important needs of Delaware's rapidly growing Hispanic population. The Commission strives to improve the lives of many Hispanic Delawareans through the collaboration of nonprofits, state agencies and media organizations dedicated to solving the community's educational, health, housing, employment, legislative and legal issues.

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## Civic Engagement Meets Grand Pageantry



### Photo caption

Connie Jones, a member of the League of Women Voters of Sussex County, and Charito Calvachi-Mateyko, co-chair of the Delaware Hispanic Commission, register voters at the Miss XV Magazine EXPO held at Independence Hall, Millsboro, on April 3, 2016. From left to right: Tabatha Ramirez, Charito Calvachi-Mateyko, Connie Jones and Josselyne Maza.