

**2019 Virginia Latino Advisory Board
Executive Committee Nominations**

Chair

- Cecilia Barbosa - *Accepted*
- Sergio Rimola - *Declined*
- Jorge Yinat - *Accepted*

Vice-Chair

- Juan Espinoza - *Declined*
- Karina Kline-Gabel - *Accepted*
- Ana Solorio - *Declined*

Secretary

- Paul Berry - *Accepted*
- Melody Gonzales
- Carmen Romero - *Declined*

*Ana Solorio was also nominated for Secretary by Karina Kline-Gabel. – *Declined*

Other nominations:

Dear Members of the VLAB Board,

I ask for your support for my candidacy as VLAB Chair. We have had an incredible year and we are about to begin the most exciting phase of our work: **implementing our recommendations**. I want to continue the work we started and see it to completion.

This past year, we developed twelve powerful, focused, clear, well-crafted, researched, and thoughtful recommendations for the Governor, but we cannot stop there. With your support, my role as Chair will be to guide and facilitate the Board's work in our next phase. Together we will explore and discover the unique ways we can influence the execution of our twelve policy recommendations.

We will reach out to colleagues in government and statewide organizations, community partners, and similar advisory committees to exchange agendas, engage in discussions, challenge assumptions, with the aim to influence policy and ultimately *strengthen the image and contributions of Latinos in Virginia*.

I ask you to consider not only our future direction but our Board's successes this past year. We have accomplished a lot together, with the leadership of our Executive Team and in particular, Karina Kline-Gabel, and the incredible support and wisdom of Maribel Castañeda, Fernando Mercado-Violand and Justin Bell. Among our highlights – we have:

- A strong, clear, forceful report for the Governor
- Convened a community forum in Spanish and English on Medicaid expansion that featured Deputy Secretary Marvin Figueroa as our keynote speaker
- Recognized three outstanding Virginians through our first-ever Civic Engagement Awards
- Deepened our expertise in many areas, including two new focus areas: housing and wage theft
- Strengthened VLAB's relationships and collaboration with statewide organizations
- Expanded conversations with the Virginia Asian Advisory Board

What do I bring to this position? Clear-mindedness. Focus. Thoughtfulness. Respect. Integrity. I seek first to listen and understand, and then act. Ask questions, probe, research, ask for data, find the truth. I set high standards: we need to be known for our credibility. I look for connections – among people and ideas; opportunities to collaborate. Leadership is about listening, understanding, tapping into our many strengths, and organizing it into a whole to reach our common goal. That's what I do.

We are an engaged, energized, and connected Board that is dedicated to improving the well-being of Latinx communities in Virginia. I thank all of you for lending your expertise, insight, and connections to other statewide and community groups and organizations.

VLAB can and will improve the lives of Latinos and Latinas in Virginia. This time next year, we will look back and proudly see and celebrate what we have accomplished.

Thank you for your trust and support,



February 11, 2019

Members, Virginia Latino Advisory Board, Commonwealth of Virginia

Dear Board Members,

As a member of the Virginia Latino Advisory Board (VLAB) since October 2016, I am writing to humbly ask you for my nomination and selection to the position of Chairman of the Board at the next scheduled election of officers. During my tenure and under the leadership of previous VLAB officers, I have gained a deep appreciation and respect of the Board's mission and vision and for all distinguished members. I believe the Board intends to provide valuable advise to the Governor as needed and to build bridges between the administration and the Latino community within the Commonwealth of Virginia. As you know, enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia, the Code of Virginia as amended, created the Latino Advisory Board in the Executive Branch with the duty to;

1. Advise the Governor regarding the development of economic, professional, cultural, and educational interests of the Latino community,
2. Undertake studies, symposiums, research, and reports to formulate and present recommendations to the Governor, and
3. Advise the Governor on statutory, regulatory, and other issues of importance to the Latino community.

To this end, and, within the main objectives according to our by-laws, I intend to promote the cultural values, defend the economic growth, and protect educational opportunities, as we advise the Governor on relevant issues related to the Latino community and to serve all Virginians.

My Fellow Board members, the responsibilities of the position of Chair, I will take very seriously. We all know the necessary commitments of time, dedication, and resources required to ensure that the Board is successfully positioned to provide timely, relevant, and valuable input to the Office of Governor and the Latino community at large. As a result, if I am selected as your Chair, I would work to the best of my abilities and bring a set of organizational skills, leadership, passion to the cause, attention to details, excellence, timeliness, and most importantly my total respect of your participation, inputs, and collaboration.

I highly admire your efforts for teamwork, commitment, collaboration, values, and discipline. I am very impressed by the level of dedication you have demonstrated for the benefit of our common goals. Consequently, due to our political environment, I ask you now more than ever to continue to unite in our efforts to bring relevance, purpose, courage, justice, and fairness while providing excellent advise to our elected officials and stakeholders regarding the Latino community.

Sincerely yours,


Jorge Yinat

Dear Members of the VLAB Board,

In this past year, I have proudly represented our board on the leadership team and have enjoyed working closely with VLAB Chair, Cecilia Barbosa, to usher VLAB into a new era: one of accessibility, organization, professionalism, and actions that serve our Latinx population in the Commonwealth.

Although I was nominated as secretary for the board last year, the truth is that I have been serving two leadership roles: that of vice-chair and secretary. In this capacity, I have learned how important the vice-chair role is in helping with decision making and execution of the chair's objectives. The role of vice chair requires an objective leader with diplomatic, organizational, and professional skills which I feel I can bring to this position.

I pride myself on being someone that has developed a reputation as a focused leader that works well with others and open to all ideas and opinions. Having sat on 4 community boards in the last decade, including another state board, I've developed positive relationships with a variety of Latino and education leaders and have used my networking skills to help move these organizations forward, including VLAB.

I ask for your support for my candidacy as VLAB Vice-Chair for the upcoming election. I would be honored to continue the work that I've done in my current leadership role and work towards the implementation of the recommendations that this board has developed in this past year.

Thank you for your trust and support,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'K. H.', written in a cursive style.

Paul Berry Nomination

I'm thrilled to accept the nomination to serve as the next Secretary of VLAB. My first position as the Secretary for an organization dates back to my church leadership board in college - it shaped my goals and cemented my desire to serve the public ever since.

In 2017 and 2018 I dedicated time to local activism and successfully managed a House of Delegates race. Effective communication with political staff throughout an intense campaign season required a strong attention to detail, and an ability to review and revise strategy on paper and in conversation from stakeholders. It's the same approach I take in my professional life.

In 2019 I plan on building up VLAB's success through investing my energy to support the Vice Chair and Chair, and continuing active participation in my subcommittee. I am asking for your vote so that I can make this year the one in which I am able to expand my commitment to the board and fulfill the support and logistics needs of the board leadership.

Thank you!