

Political Participation by Hispanics in Oregon Still Low

(AP) - Hispanic voters exercise little political clout even though they are Oregon's fastest-growing minority. Anthony Veliz is hoping that a Hispanic name — his — on the May primary ballot will help bring about a change.

"Hispanic voters are not disenfranchised," said the 34-year-old Democrat. "They are disengaged."

Hispanics' opportunity to become a political force has come with the creation of House District 22, established under a new redistricting plan. The new district is about 40 percent Hispanic.

Veliz has announced he's running for the new House seat, but is taking nothing for granted.

Oregon's 250,000 Latinos are the sixth-fastest growing population of Hispanics in the country. Their numbers are expected to grow to 500,000 by the year 2025.

"There's a voice there, and it needs to be enhanced in state government," said Veliz.

A Hispanic name on the ballot in the district could be automatically worth perhaps 10 percent of the vote, said Bill Lunch, a political science professor at Oregon State University.

"There are 101 external factors," he said. If the campaign takes on an anti-Hispanic tone, or if there is a ballot measure that appears to be anti-Hispanic, it could bring the Latino community together and increase



Anthony Veliz, candidate for State Representative District 22, thinks about his campaign during an interview in downtown Woodburn. (AP Photo)

the turnout, he said.

Hispanics make up at least 20 percent of the school enrollment in 26 Oregon towns and cities and 65 percent in Woodburn, where the kindergarten enrollment alone is 80 percent Hispanic.

According to state figures, enrollment among Latino students has grown 8 percent to 14 percent each year since 1990. Latino students account for half of the new students in Oregon schools since 1987.

The only Hispanic currently in the Legislature is Sen. Susan Castillo, D-Eugene, who is term-limited and running for State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Oregon has sent only about a

dozen minority candidates to the Legislature in 142 years of statehood, and none until Bill McCoy, a black Democrat from north Portland, won a House seat in 1972.

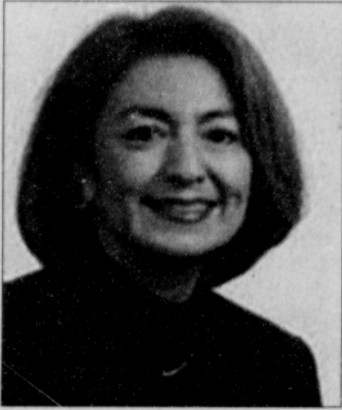
Voting has not been a priority or a tradition for many Hispanics. Voter turnout among Latinos in the Woodburn area, for example, is only about 11 percent.

"In the countries where we came from, like Mexico, we did not believe in the (voting) process, in the parties, in the candidates," said Juan Argumedo, who heads Voz Hispana, a grant-funded voter education and registration project in Woodburn.

Argumedo's group is asking young Latinos "you are eligible to vote, why don't you participate?"

Castillo Makes Bid for Schools Post

(AP) — State Sen. Susan Castillo, D-Eugene, is running for election to the state's highest position for public schools as superintendent of public instruction, the post held by Stan Bunn, a Republican.



Sen. Susan Castillo

A former journalist with Oregon Public Broadcasting and a Eugene television station, Castillo is the only Hispanic woman ever elected to the Oregon Senate.

Castillo, 50, has been in the Senate since 1997 and is barred by term limits from seeking re-election to the chamber. She is a 1981 communications graduate of Oregon State University.

The school superintendent race will be decided in the May 2002 primary. If no candidate receives a majority, a runoff will be held in November between the top two finishers. The post pays \$72,000 a year.

U.S. to Bring Taliban Prisoners to Cuba

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Pentagon has chosen a U.S. Navy base in Cuba as the "least worst" place to hold Taliban and al-Qaida prisoners after they are removed from Afghanistan.

Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said the military has made no plans to hold military tribunals at the Guantanamo Bay base. President Bush has authorized military tribunals to try terrorist suspects from other countries, but defense officials said that Rumsfeld has not decided how, where or even if those tribunals would take place.

The base, which the United States has held since 1903, is near the U.S. mainland and highly secure. The Cuban military prohibits all access to areas around the base, and the U.S. military patrols its side from behind tall fences

topped with razor wire.

Guantanamo Bay has drawbacks, too, including its location, surrounded on three sides by an island governed by Fidel Castro, an anti-American communist who has criticized the U.S. campaign in Afghanistan. But "we don't anticipate any trouble with Mr. Castro in that regard," Rumsfeld told a Pentagon news conference.

Rumsfeld said it will take weeks to get the Guantanamo Bay base ready to house the detainees. Although the base has been used in the past to hold Cuban and Haitian refugees, its main purpose in recent years has been to refuel and maintain Navy vessels in the Caribbean.

Chief Petty Officer Richard Evans, a base spokesman, said it now has space for about 100 prisoners.

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Partial Remodel of Suite 115
Portland, OR.

Bid Date: January 8, 2002 at 2:00 PM

Plans and specifications are available for review in our office.



DPR CONSTRUCTION, INC.

520 SW Yamhill, Suite 800, Portland, OR 97204
(503) 225-9700 FAX (503) 225-0783

Contact: Carrie Steele
CCB#106305

We are an equal opportunity employer and request sub-bids from disadvantaged, minority, women and emerging small business enterprises.

SUB BIDS REQUESTED

SUB-BIDS Requested

Multnomah County

Hillsdale Library

Bid Date: January 8, 2002 Bid Time: 11:00 AM

James W. Fowler Co.



12775 Westview Dr. - Dalles, OR 97338

(503) 623-5373 FAX (503) 623-9117

CCB#63701

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SUB-BIDS REQUESTED

Hillsdale Branch Library

Date: January 8, 2002 @ 11:00 AM

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LCG Co.

16427 N.E. Airport Way, #B, Portland, Oregon 97230

(503) 256-3016 Fax (503) 256-3684

CCB #132982

We are an equal opportunity employer and request sub-bids from minority, women, disadvantaged and emerging small business enterprises.

Minority Business Opportunity Committee

Request for Proposal

For

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&

Minority Enterprise Development Week

Recognition Luncheon

January 7, 2002

Minority Business Opportunity Committee ("MBOC") seeks proposals for Event Planning ("Respondents") with demonstrated experience and skills in providing event-planning services to plan a Minority Enterprise Development Week Recognition Luncheon. MBOC will establish contractual relationships (Contract) with a selected firm ("Consultant") to provide the 2002 MBOC Trade Fair & Luncheon. Proposal documents may be obtained by fax request to:

Stella Martinez

MBOC

C/O Portland Development Commission

1900 SW Fourth Avenue, Suite 7000

Portland, OR 97201

Fax (503) 823-3368

Submittals must be received by 5:00pm,

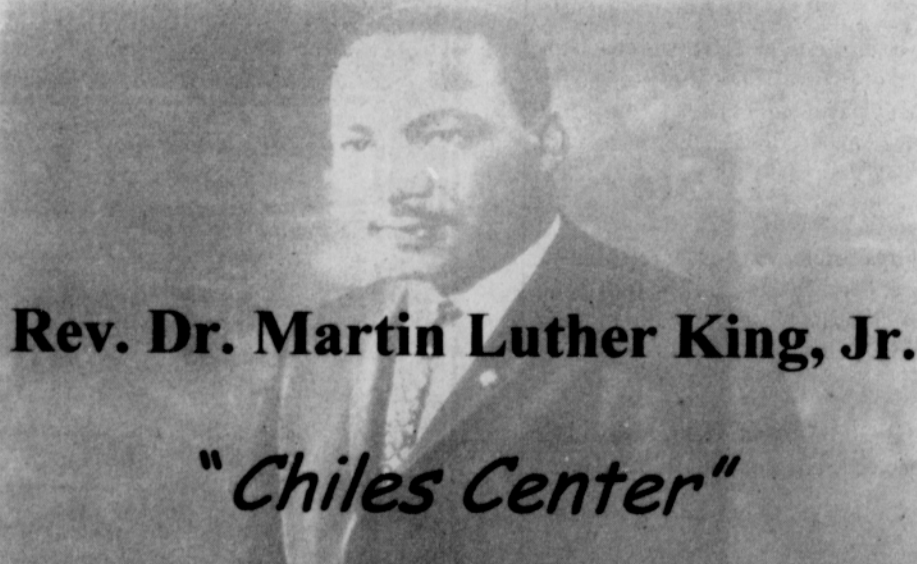
Monday, February 4, 2002

Minority Business Opportunity Committee strongly encourages the participation of Minority, Women and Emerging Small Business contractors in its projects. The successful contractor must be certified by the City as an Equal Employment Opportunity Employer and be licensed to do business in the City of Portland.

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