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CENTER FOR
LATIN AMERICAN
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AMERICAN UNIVERSITY | WASHINGTON, DC

American University's 2nd Annual Latino Public Affairs Forum: The Role of the Latino Vote in the 2016 Presidential Election

Monday February 29, 2016

Abramson Family Founders Room, AU School of International Service

Speaker Biographies

Matt A. Barreto is Professor of Political Science and Chicana/o Studies at UCLA and co-founder of the research and polling firm Latino Decisions. He received his PhD in political science from the University of California-Irvine. Barreto's research uses pre-election polls, exit polls, public opinion and election surveys to understand minority and immigrant voting behavior in the United States, in particular among Hispanics/Latinos. He is the author of *Ethnic Cues: The role of shared ethnicity in Latino political behavior* (University of Michigan Press, 2010). Through his work with Latino Decisions, Barreto has also overseen large multi-state election eve polls, battleground tracking polls, extensive message testing research and countless focus groups. He has been invited to brief the U.S. Senate, the White House, Congressional Committees, and has been a keynote speaker at many of the major Hispanic association conferences. In addition to his research on Latino voting patterns, Barreto has conducted extensive research on voting rights, and has been an expert witness in numerous Voting Rights Act lawsuits.

Glen Bolger is partner and co-founder of Public Opinion Strategies, a national political and public affairs survey research firm whose clients include leading political figures, Fortune 500 companies, and major associations. Public Opinion Strategies has 13 U.S. Senators, six governors, and more than 65 Members of Congress as clients, and over the years has polled in many Super PACs, successful governor's races and winning senate and congressional campaigns. Bolger was the pollster for Restore Our Future, the Mitt Romney Super PAC, which played a key role in Romney's primary wins, and he was part of the polling team for American Crossroads. Bolger is the only pollster to be a three time winner of the "Republican Pollster of the Year" award from the American Association of Political Consultants, winning the prestigious award for his work in 2002, 2009, and 2012. Prior to co-founding Public Opinion Strategies, Bolger was the Director of Survey Research & Analysis for the National Republican Congressional Committee, the political arm of the House Republican Conference. He is a graduate from The American University.

Luis Fortuño is a former Governor of Puerto Rico and current partner at Steptoe and Johnson LLP's Washington office, where he is a member of the Corporate, Securities & Finance Group and the Government Affairs and Public Policy Group. He received his JD from the University of Virginia Law School. In 1993 Fortuño was appointed executive director of the Puerto Rico Tourism Company and president of Puerto Rico's Hotel Development Corporation. In 1994 he was appointed Puerto Rico's Secretary of Economic Development and Commerce, a position he held until 1997, when he returned to private practice for another eight years. Fortuño has also served as Puerto Rico's National Committeeman at the Republican National Committee. In the 2004 general elections, Fortuño was elected as Puerto Rico's representative in the US House of Representatives. As the Governor of Puerto Rico between 2009 and 2013, he implemented the largest tax cut in the

territory's history. In the last year of his term, Puerto Rico experienced economic growth for the first time in six years.

Eric Hershberg is the Director of the Center for Latin American & Latino Studies (CLALS) and Professor of Government at American University. Dr. Hershberg received his Ph.D. in political science from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He is a frequent commentator on U.S. electoral trends and the impact of public policies on Latino communities, specializing in the Latin American political economy, and has taught at New York University, Southern Illinois University, Columbia, Princeton, and the New School. His most recent publications include two co-edited volumes, one with Maxwell A. Cameron, entitled *Latin American Left Turns: Politics, Policies, and Trajectories of Change* (Lynne Rienner, 2010) and the second, *New Institutions for Participatory Democracy in Latin America: Voice and Consequence* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2012), with Maxwell A. Cameron and Kenneth E. Sharpe.

David Karol is Associate Professor of Government and Politics at the University of Maryland. He received his PhD in Political Science from the University of California-Los Angeles. His research focuses on parties, interest groups, political institutions and American political development. His book, *Party Position Change in American Politics: Coalition Management* (Cambridge University Press, 2009), explores key aspects of party position change, including the speed of shifts, the stability of new positions, and the extent to which change occurs via adaptation by incumbents. Karol's current research concerns the role of elite opinion in American politics, showing how it produces durable policy disagreements between congresses and presidents regardless of which party controls these institutions. Karol serves on the editorial board of the *Journal of Politics* and the Council of the American Political Science Association's section on Political Organizations and Parties.

William LeoGrande is Professor of Government and a specialist in Latin American politics and U.S. foreign policy toward Latin America, particularly Cuba. LeoGrande has been a frequent adviser to government and private sector agencies. He has written five books, including *Our Own Backyard: The United States in Central America, 1977 – 1992*. Most recently, he is coauthor of *Back Channel to Cuba: The Hidden History of Negotiations between Washington and Havana*. Previously, he served on the staffs of the Democratic Policy Committee of the United States Senate, and the Democratic Caucus Task Force on Central America of the United States House of Representatives. Professor LeoGrande has been a Council on Foreign Relations International Affairs Fellow, and a Pew Faculty Fellow in International Affairs. His articles have appeared in various international and national journals, magazines, and newspapers.

Mark Hugo Lopez is Director of Hispanic Research at the Pew Research Center. He received his PhD in economics from Princeton University. At Pew Lopez studies the attitudes and opinions of Latinos, Hispanic views of identity, the political engagement of Latinos in the nation's elections, and Latino youth. Lopez also coordinates the Center's National Survey of Latinos, an annual nationwide survey of Hispanics. He was the research director of the Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement (CIRCLE) as well as a research assistant professor at the School of Public Policy at the University of Maryland. Over the years he has authored numerous reports about the Hispanic electorate, Hispanic identity, and immigration. Lopez frequently appears in national and international media in both Spanish and English.

Neri Martinez is Director of the Republican State Leadership Committee's Future Majority Project, where she trains and supports female and minority candidates for state-level office. She previously served as the RNC's Hispanic Outreach Director in North Carolina, during the 2012 presidential

campaign, where she was credited for significantly increasing the Hispanic vote in the state from the previous cycle. She specializes in such questions as U.S. demographic changes, diversity initiatives, GOP voter engagement and outreach strategies, women and Latino political participation, candidate recruitment, training, and mentorship, media and communications in diverse communities, and effective campaigning. Ms. Martinez was educated at the Institut d'Etudes Superieures des Arts and is a graduate of Florida International University. In March 2015 she received the Susan B. Anthony Award from the Republican National Committee.

Clarissa Martínez-de-Castro is Deputy Vice President of Research, Advocacy, and Legislation with the National Council of La Raza in Washington, D.C. Ms. Hernandez currently oversees NCLR's work on immigration and efforts to expand Latino engagement in civic life and public policy debates. Her areas of expertise include immigration policy, advocacy, and politics; Latino issue perspectives; the Latino electorate (citizenship, registration, and turnout); Latino voter mobilization efforts; state advocacy; and coalition-building. She received her master's degree in Public Administration from the Harvard Kennedy School of Government. Prior to joining NCLR, Ms. Hernandez was a manager for the Coalition for Comprehensive Immigration Reform.

James Thurber is University Distinguished Professor of Government at American University and Founder and Director of AU's Center for Congressional and Presidential Studies. Under his direction, CCPS organizes biannually the Campaign Management Institute and the Public Affairs and Advocacy Institute over the last two decades. Thurber was the principal investigator of a Pew grant to study campaign conduct, and of a study of lobbying and ethics for the Committee for Economic Development. Thurber is author of numerous books, articles, and chapters on Congress, congressional-presidential relations, congressional ethics and reform, interest groups and lobbying, and campaigns and elections. His most recent book, with Antoine Yoshinaka, is *American Gridlock: The Sources, Character and Impact of Political Polarization* (Cambridge, 2015).

Maria Urbina is Vice President of Politics and National Campaigns at Voto Latino. Ms. Urbina heads voter engagement strategy development and runs multiple national campaigns. Prior to joining Voto Latino, Ms. Urbina served a Senior Advisor for Hispanic and Asian affairs in the office of Senator Harry Reid (D-NV) and has worked on Latino political outreach on several campaigns including Senator Reid in 2010, President Obama in 2012, and Senator Mark Udall in 2014. She is a graduate of the University of Nevada, receiving degrees in journalism and political science, and an alumnus of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute of Public Policy Fellowship.

Matthew Wright is Assistant Professor in the Department of Government at American University's School of Public Affairs. Dr. Wright received his Ph.D. in political science from the University of California, Berkeley in 2010 and spent one year as a Post-Doctoral Research Fellow at the Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University. His research has explored numerous topics relevant to American politics and comparative politics more generally, including the causes and implications of political identity, immigration, assimilation and citizenship policies. He also researches the politics of ethnic diversity, national identity and patriotism; religion and politics; political culture; and U.S. voting behavior. His work has been published in a number of peer-reviewed journals, including *Comparative Political Studies*, *Political Psychology*, and *Perspectives on Politics*, among others.