

NEWS AND PROFILES CONNECTING THE LATINO AMERICAN COMMUNITY IN MINNESOTA

September 2026 Issue 467
**Latino
American
Today**
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America Celebrates **HISPANIC HERITAGE**



Hispanic Heritage Month • September 15 - October 15
El mes de la herencia hispana • 15 de Septiembre - 15 de Octubre



History of National Hispanic Heritage Month

September 15 to October 15

Honors the histories, cultures, and contributions of U.S. citizens with roots in Spain, the Caribbean, Mexico, and Central and South America. This observance began as a week-long celebration in 1968 and was expanded to a full month by President Ronald Reagan in 1988. The dates are significant, falling on the independence days of five Central American countries – Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua – on September 15, with other independence days like Mexico's on September 16 and Chile's on September 18 also occurring during this period.

What it is:

- A period to recognize the diverse heritage, traditions, and achievements of Hispanic and Latino communities in the United States.
- A celebration of cultures from 20 Latin American countries and territories.
- An opportunity to acknowledge their significant contributions to American society and to build unity within the community.

Historia del Mes de la Herencia Hispana

15 de Septiembre - 15 de Octubre

El Mes Nacional de la Herencia Hispana, que se celebra del 15 de septiembre al 15 de octubre, rinde homenaje a las historias, culturas y contribuciones de los ciudadanos estadounidenses con raíces en España, el Caribe, México y América Central y del Sur. Esta conmemoración comenzó como una celebración de una semana en 1968 y fue ampliada a un mes completo por el presidente Ronald Reagan en 1988.

Las fechas son significativas, ya que coinciden con los días de la independencia de cinco países centroamericanos (Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras y Nicaragua) el 15 de septiembre, y con otros días de la independencia, como el de México el 16 de septiembre y el de Chile el 18 de septiembre, que también tienen lugar durante este período.

Qué es:

- Un período para reconocer el patrimonio, las tradiciones y los logros diversos de las comunidades hispanas y latinas en Estados Unidos.
- Una celebración de las culturas de 20 países y territorios de América Latina.
- Una oportunidad para reconocer sus importantes contribuciones a la sociedad estadounidense y para construir la unidad dentro de la comunidad.



On The Cover:

El mes de la herencia hispana
Hispanic Heritage Month

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Mes de la Hispanidad: alegría, unidad y amor al prójimo



Por Dr. Saúl Carranza

El Mes de la Hispanidad es una hermosa oportunidad para celebrar nuestras raíces, nuestras tradiciones y la riqueza cultural que compartimos. Es un tiempo para recordar con alegría de dónde venimos, valorar nuestras historias y reconocer que, aunque pertenecemos a pueblos diferentes, tenemos mucho que nos une. Nuestra diversidad no tiene que separarnos; al contrario, puede convertirse en una fuente de enriquecimiento, respeto y fraternidad.

Celebrar la Hispanidad es celebrar una gran familia formada por distintas naciones, acentos, comidas, músicas, costumbres y maneras de expresar la vida. Cada cultura aporta algo único a esta comunidad. En esa diversidad descubrimos que nadie tiene que renunciar a sus raíces para caminar junto a los demás. Podemos sentirnos orgullosos de nuestra identidad y, al mismo tiempo, abrir el corazón para conocer, valorar y respetar la identidad de nuestros hermanos.

Desde la fe cristiana, esta celebración adquiere un significado todavía más profundo. Jesús nos dejó una enseñanza sencilla y exigente: “**Ámense unos a otros**”. Este mandamiento nos invita a mirar al prójimo no como un extraño, sino como un hermano. El verdadero espíritu de la Hispanidad no consiste solamente en recordar nuestras tradiciones, sino en construir relaciones basadas en el amor, el respeto, la solidaridad y el servicio.

En un mundo donde tantas veces aparecen divisiones, prejuicios y enfrentamientos, estamos llamados a ser instrumentos de unidad. La diversidad cultural puede

enseñarnos a escuchar, a comprender otras experiencias y a reconocer la dignidad de cada persona. Cuando dejamos de lado aquello que nos separa y buscamos lo que podemos construir juntos, damos un testimonio concreto del amor cristiano.

Buscar el bien común también significa preocuparnos por quienes tienen mayores necesidades. Una celebración verdaderamente cristiana no puede quedarse solamente en la música, la comida y la alegría, aunque todos estos elementos sean hermosos. También debe despertar en nosotros el deseo de servir, compartir y tender la mano. El bien común se construye cuando cada persona aporta sus talentos para crear una sociedad más justa, fraterna y acogedora.

Que este Mes de la Hispanidad sea, por tanto, una fiesta llena de alegría, pero también una oportunidad para renovar nuestro compromiso con la unidad. Que nuestras diferencias sean motivo de admiración y no de división. Que nuestras tradiciones nos recuerden que tenemos una historia que compartir y un futuro que construir.

Celebrar la Hispanidad desde la enseñanza de Cristo es celebrar la vida, la cultura y la fraternidad. Es reconocer que somos diversos, pero capaces de caminar juntos; diferentes, pero llamados al mismo amor. Que este mes nos ayude a vivir con un corazón abierto y generoso, recordando siempre que el camino hacia una comunidad más unida comienza con un gesto sencillo: **amarnos unos a otros y buscar juntos el bien común.**

Hispanic Heritage Month: Joy, Unity, and Love for Our Neighbor

By Dr. Saul Carranza

Hispanic Heritage Month is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate our roots, our traditions, and the rich cultural heritage we share. It is a time to joyfully remember where we come from, appreciate our stories, and recognize that even though we come from different countries and backgrounds, there is so much that brings us together. Our diversity does not have to divide us. Instead, it can become a source of enrichment, respect, and friendship.

Celebrating Hispanic heritage means celebrating a large family made up of different nations, accents, foods, music, traditions, and ways of experiencing life. Every culture brings something special to our community. In our diversity, we discover that no one has to give up their roots in order to walk alongside others. We can be proud of who we are while also opening our hearts to learn about, appreciate, and respect the identity and experiences of our brothers and sisters.

From a Christian perspective, this celebration takes on an even deeper meaning. Jesus gave us a simple yet powerful command: “**Love one another.**” This teaching calls us to see our neighbors not as strangers, but as brothers and sisters.

Cultural diversity can teach us to listen, understand different experiences, and recognize the God-given dignity of every person. When we set aside the things that divide us and focus on what we can build together, we give a living and practical testimony of Christian love.

May this Hispanic Heritage Month, therefore, be a celebration filled with joy, but also an opportunity to renew our commitment to unity. May our differences become a reason to appreciate one another rather than a reason to divide us. May our traditions remind us that we have a history to share and a future to build together.

To celebrate Hispanic heritage through the teachings of Christ is to celebrate life, culture, and community. It is to recognize that we are diverse, yet able to walk together; different, yet called to the same love. May this month inspire us to live with open and generous hearts, always remembering that the path toward a stronger and more united community begins with something simple: **loving one another and working together for the common good.**

IGLESIA CRISTIANA FAMILIA DE DIOS

with
English
Translation.

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ADORACIÓN

TODOS LOS DOMINGOS 1:00PM

Ministerio de MUJERES
Hijas del Rey
 2º sábado de cada mes **DESAYUNO**
 9:00 AM

Ministerio de VARONES
LOS CUATES
 Reunión especial el 2º sábado de cada mes

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LIVE

VEN ADOREMOS EN FAMILIA

VIERNES
 Estudio bíblico, grupo de oración y testimonio.
 Grupo discipulado.
7:00PM

SABADO
 Servicio de Damas.
 -cada segundo sábado del mes.
9:00AM
 Ministerio de hombres "Los cuates"
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One Critical Strategy to Retain Your Business Customers



Marcia Malzahn

By Marcia Malzahn

There are multiple strategies to retain your business customers. In this article, we focus on one critical strategy to retain your business customers – Maximize your Centers of Influence.

Let's start by defining "Center of Influence." In business, we refer to centers of influence (or "COIs") as those individuals that continually send you customers. Whether the customers are individuals or businesses, your COIs are a constant pipeline for your business. In this article, we focus on maximizing your COIs that refer business customers to you. But the strategies work similarly with consumer customers too.

One simple example of a COI are dentists. If you are an orthodontist and own a practice, who is your best source of referrals? The children's dentist! Children initially go to a pediatric dentist to ensure everything is fine. Dentists teach children about cavities and also observe how their permanent teeth are growing. As soon as the dentist detects that the permanent teeth are not straight, they tell parents to think about braces. Dentists usually have a couple of their preferred orthodontists, and they give the parents their contact information. Parents then follow up with the "trusted orthodontist" who will take care of their children's teeth and visit your clinic. At that point, it's up to you, the orthodontist, to ensure they buy your services and stay with you.

Customer retention is just as crucial as customer acquisition.

Customer retention should be an ongoing strategic objective for businesses. It is just as crucial as customer acquisition. And one could even say that losing an existing customer is more costly than acquiring a new one. Why? Because you have to "undo" everything you set up for each customer and start the process of acquiring another one. All your time spent training the customers or additional resources hired becomes an expense with no income to show for.

There are multiple reasons business customers leave your company. One important reason is simply *ownership succession*. The ownership transition from one generation to the next may not include your business or services. The next generation successors don't have an existing relationship with your business. Therefore, they go to other companies they know or have relationships with already established.

Another reason is that the current owners sell the company to a new team of investors or another established company. The new owners use different businesses than yours to meet their needs, maybe even your competitors. This applies to any business regardless of what services you offer to other businesses.

Who are the primary Advisors for businesses?

Business owners work with three primary advisors during an ownership succession whether the successors are family members or outside investors. And the succession process begins 24 to 36 months before any deal is closed. Below are the three primary advisors to businesses:

1. **CPAs and Accountants:** Business owners work with their CPAs on tax matters and in preparing financial statements to present to potential buyers.

2. **Mergers & Acquisitions (M&A) Attorneys:** The attorneys get involved in drafting the Letters of Intent (LOI) for the potential buyers. The business owners selling their business hire their own attorneys to review the LOIs.
3. **Wealth Advisors:** Business owners typically work with their wealth advisors ongoing. They may be the first ones to know when the owner is planning on selling the business. The wealth advisors begin the planning process and work with the tax accountants on multiple scenarios years before deals close.

How to identify and maximize your COIs.

It is important to first identify your Centers of Influence so you can then maximize the relationship. Below are some strategies on how to do so:

- As you acquire a business customer, ask them who their key advisors are and ask for an introduction. You can then start building your own relationship with your customers' advisors.
- You can also ask existing business customers who their key advisors are and establish a relationship with them.
- If you have already identified your COIs, then get to know them better at the personal level. It's important that your COIs feel appreciated and valued. Your COIs may or may not be your customer but treat them as your best customers!
- If you can, reciprocate and become their COI as well. Sending referrals to other business owners that provide complementary services to yours is a win-win.
- Always say "thank you" to your COI and let them know if the referral became a customer. COIs like to know what happened to the referral.
- Lastly, ensure you build relationships with your COIs' successors too. If your COI is a partner at an accounting firm and he/she is going to retire, ensure they introduce you to their successor. Take the initiative to get to know their successor and offer your services to help their customers. Do the same with attorneys or wealth managers if they share about their own retirement timeline.

One Critical Strategy to Retain Your Business Customers – Conclusion

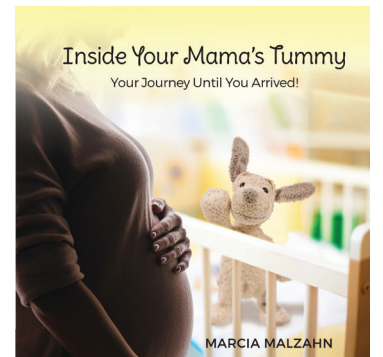
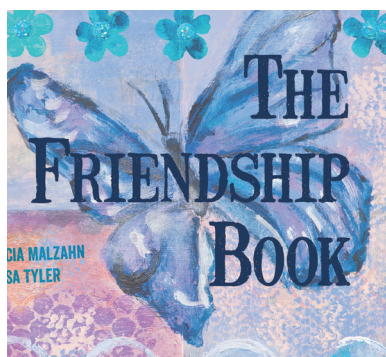
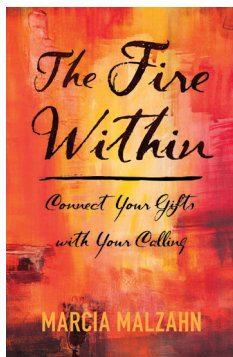
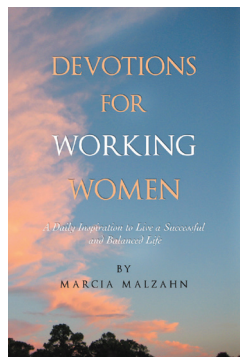
As mentioned above, there are multiple strategies to retain your business customers. One critical strategy to retain your business customers is to maximize your Centers of Influence. You acquire COIs by getting to know your business customers' advisors early in the relationship, so when the time comes to selling the business, you retain them as customers.

Knowing and building relationships with your Centers of Influence is crucial to retain your current business customers after they sell their business. Remember, it doesn't matter if the business owners sell to their family members or to new investors. What's important is that you're building relationships with the successors and your customers' advisors.

It's also important to build relationships with your COIs' successors. Doing so will guarantee your pipeline will continue growing indefinitely and it won't dry out.

I hope these strategies encourage you to identify your COIs and maximize your relationship with them, so your business continues to grow.

Marcia is an inspirational keynote speaker and published author of five books: A daily devotional – *Devotions for Working Women*, *The Fire Within* – to help you find your purpose, friendship poems in *The Friendship Book*, also in Spanish *El Libro de la Amistad* (poemas de Amistad), and *Bring YOUR Shoes* to help emerging leaders with tools on how to lead. In her latest grandma baby book, *Inside Your Mama's Tummy*, Marcia inspires grandparents to form a bond with their grandchildren.



Marcia Malzahn is also president and founder of Malzahn Strategic, LLC a management consulting firm for community financial institutions. You can contact Marcia for speaking engagements through her website at Crowning Achievements International or email her at mmalzahn@crowning-achievements.com.



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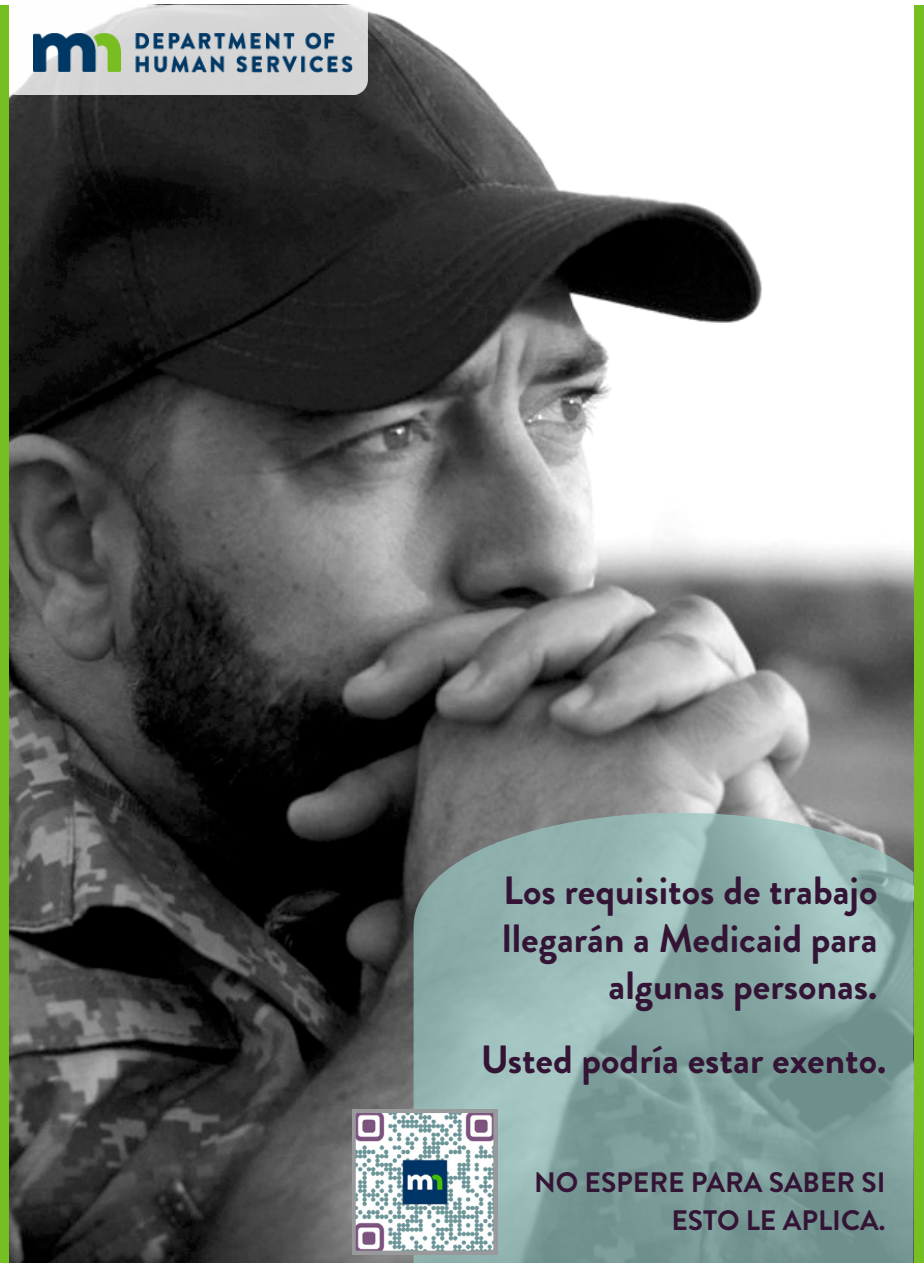
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Delphi: Building Trust Through Human Connection A Service of Preference Analytics

Artificial intelligence is transforming how we live, work, communicate, and make decisions. It offers enormous potential, but it is also reshaping how people view opportunity, leadership, and trust.

According to the Harvard Youth Poll, only 13% of Americans ages 18-29 believe the country is headed in the right direction. Nearly three times as many believe AI will eliminate more opportunities than it creates, and 59% see it as a threat to their future employment.

For leaders, this creates both a challenge and an opportunity. People want to be heard, understood, and valued – and organizations that understand them more deeply will be better positioned to earn trust, strengthen relationships, and make better decisions.

Delphi was created on a simple belief: the next competitive advantage is human understanding.

Delphi is a human insight platform that helps leaders better understand people – their perceptions, opinions, beliefs, and behaviors – and turn that understanding into practical intelligence and informed guidance.

At the heart of Delphi is the **Wisdom Council of 1,000 Minds**, a community of executives, entrepreneurs, educators, public servants, and community leaders whose collective experience reflects decades of real-world leadership, decision-making, successes, failures, and lessons learned.

Artificial intelligence excels at scale and speed. But wisdom requires experience, judgment, and nuance.

Delphi brings the two together. AI helps make decades of human wisdom accessible and useful, while lived experience provides the context and judgment technology alone cannot replicate.

The result is insight and guidance leaders can use to strengthen strategy, improve communication, engage employees and communities, navigate change, and make decisions that better reflect the people they serve.

This is not about replacing human judgment. It is about strengthening it.

The future belongs to leaders who combine the power of artificial intelligence with the wisdom of human experience to build trust, inspire confidence, and create opportunity.

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- **Latino Leaders Magazine and BMO publish annual ranking of the largest Latino-owned U.S. businesses**
- **Index 500 highlights scale, maturity, and national economic impact of Latino-owned companies**
- **Companies on the 2026 list collectively generate over \$180 billion in revenue and support tens of thousands of jobs nationwide**

As Latino-owned businesses continue to be one of the fastest-growing and most economically powerful segments of the U.S. economy – driving significant job creation, innovation, and national economic impact – Latino Leaders Magazine today released the 2026 Latino Leaders Index 500, Powered by BMO. The annual ranking highlights the largest Latino-owned businesses in the United States by revenue, reflecting the growing scale, sophistication, and national footprint of Latino entrepreneurs.

As of August 2026, the top ten Hispanic-owned businesses in the United States ranked by annual revenue – according to the latest Latino Leaders Index 500 – span across major economic sectors including automotive retail, construction, technology, and food manufacturing:

Rank	Company	Industry	Annual Revenue
1	Carvana	Automobile Retailing	\$20.32 Billion
2	MasTec	Infrastructure, Engineering & Construction	\$14.07 Billion
3	Intuitive Research and Technology Corp.	Information & Technology	\$10.00 Billion
4	Bimbo Bakeries USA	Food Services & Retail	\$8.40 Billion
5	Fanjul Corporation / Florida Crystals	Food & Beverage Manufacturing	\$7.75 Billion
6	TelevisaUnivision	Advertising, Marketing & Media	\$4.80 Billion
7	Quirch Foods	Food & Beverage Distribution	\$4.43 Billion
8	Acuity Inc.	Information & Technology Services	\$4.30 Billion
9	Coca-Cola SW Beverages (Arca Continental)	Food & Beverage Bottling	\$4.28 Billion
10	Gruma Corporation	Food Services & Retail	\$3.45 Billion



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Trade Schools offer a pathway to well-paying jobs with practical skills

Los latinos deberían trabajar más en el sector de los oficios, como la construcción, la carpintería, la fontanería, la electricidad y la calefacción, ventilación y aire acondicionado (HVAC). Ofrece una vía de acceso a empleos bien remunerados y con gran demanda, especialmente en el sector de la construcción, donde ya están muy representados, y puede ayudar a abordar la creciente escasez de mano de obra cualificada, al tiempo que ofrece oportunidades de promoción profesional y estabilidad económica.

Puntos clave:

- **Gran demanda de trabajadores cualificados**
El sector de la construcción, uno de los principales empleadores de trabajadores latinos, se enfrenta actualmente a una importante escasez de mano de obra cualificada, lo que lo convierte en un área primordial para aumentar la participación latina.
- **Oportunidades económicas:**
Los empleos en oficios suelen ofrecer salarios y beneficios competitivos, lo que supone una fuente de ingresos estable para los trabajadores latinos.
- **Diversas trayectorias profesionales:**
Los oficios abarcan una amplia gama de especialidades como carpintería, fontanería, electricidad y calefacción, ventilación y aire acondicionado, lo que permite la progresión profesional y la especialización.
- **Impacto en la comunidad:**
Una mayor presencia latina en los oficios puede beneficiar a las comunidades locales al crear una mano de obra más diversa y apoyar los proyectos de construcción locales.

Retos a superar:

- **Barreras lingüísticas:**
El idioma puede ser un obstáculo importante para los trabajadores latinos que se incorporan a los oficios, lo que requiere acceso a formación y apoyo bilingües.

The statement “More Hispanics should go to trade schools” is supported by the argument that trade schools offer a pathway to well-paying jobs with practical skills, which can be particularly beneficial for Hispanic communities due to factors like potential financial constraints, a focus on immediate career opportunities, and a high demand for skilled labor in certain trades; however, it’s important to consider individual career goals and ensure access to quality trade school programs for all demographics.

Key points supporting this argument:

- **High-demand, good-paying jobs:**
Many trade careers offer stable employment with competitive wages without requiring a four-year college degree, which can be particularly appealing to individuals facing financial barriers.
- **Hands-on learning:**
Trade schools provide practical, hands-on training that can be beneficial for learners who prefer a more active learning style.
- **Faster career entry:**
Trade school programs often have shorter durations compared to traditional college degrees, allowing individuals to enter the workforce sooner.
- **Community needs:**
Certain industries like construction, plumbing, and electrician work are in high demand in many communities and could benefit from a larger pool of skilled Hispanic workers.

Important considerations:

- **Access and awareness:**
Efforts should be made to ensure Hispanic communities have access to quality trade school programs and are informed about the potential career paths available.
- **Career counseling:**
Guidance is crucial to help individuals choose trade paths that align with their interests and local job market needs.
- **Addressing stereotypes:**
Combatting negative stereotypes associated with trade work can encourage more Hispanic students to consider these pathways.

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Minnesota is built on hard work, family, faith, and safe communities. Republican candidates champion the principles that protect your tax dollars from fraud and help our families, small businesses, and neighborhoods thrive across our great state.

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Minnesota se construye sobre el trabajo duro, la familia, la fe y las comunidades seguras. Los candidatos republicanos defienden los principios que protegen sus dólares de impuestos contra el fraude y ayudan a prosperar a nuestras familias, pequeños negocios y vecindarios en todo nuestro gran estado.



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Elections 2026 – Endorsed Republican Candidates in SD53

By Claud Santiago

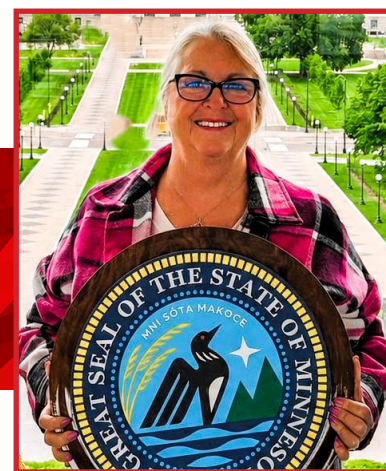
Minnesota Senate District 53, located in Dakota and Washington counties, includes Inver Grove Heights, South St. Paul, West St. Paul, Lilydale, Sunfish Lake, Newport, St. Paul Park, and parts of Cottage Grove.



A.J. Gubash is running for **State House in District 53A**. Gubash, grew up in Inver Grove Heights, MN and is proud to call it home. He served in the U.S. Army, for four years. Following his service, he attended Inver Hills Community College before continuing his studies at Hamline University, where he graduated with honors in law and politics. Gubash, believes in practical solutions and accountable government. His focus is on lowering the tax burden, strong law enforcement, expanding school choice, practical education reform and limited accountable government. A.J. Gubash, is building his campaign and looks forward to meeting with community leaders, supporters and delegates across District 53A.



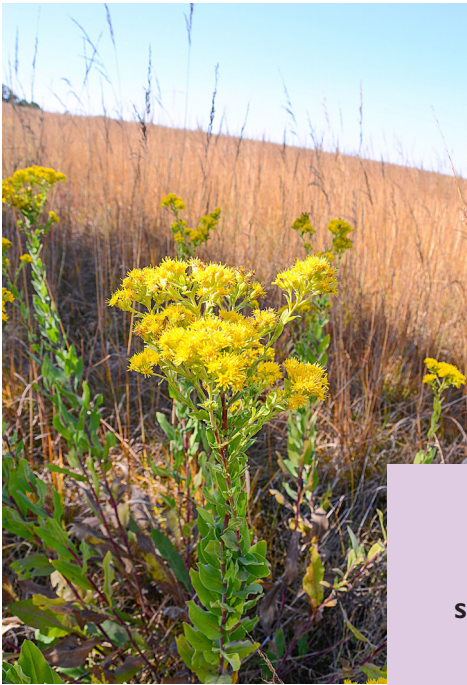
Todd Podgorski, who was born, raised and still lives in South Paul, MN with his family, is running for **State Senate in SD 53**. Todd, has spent nearly three decades protecting and serving his community, including 28 years as a Peace Officer, 14 years serving on the South St. Paul City Council and a four year term on the South St. Paul School Board. His Core Priorities include, Strengthening Public Safety, Public Health and Education. Also, investing in the Future of Public Infrastructure and Economic Development, Taxpayer Relief, Property Tax Reform and elimination of the Social Security Tax. Podgorski, also pointed out the importance of increasing single-family home options in SD53 and the Metro area. Todd, looks forward to meeting with his District 53 residents during his campaign.



Patti Mikulski, a candidate for **Minnesota House District 53B**.

I'm running because I believe our communities deserve leadership grounded in integrity, accountability, strong values, and a commitment to doing what is right for Minnesota families. I believe in listening to people, supporting public safety, protecting taxpayers, and making government work for the people it serves. This campaign is about community, common sense, and putting people before politics. I'm excited for the conversations ahead, and I would truly appreciate your support as we begin this journey together.

Prairie Splendor at Minnesota State Parks



The red of the grass made all the great prairie the color of wine stains, or of certain sea weeds when they are first washed up. And there was so much motion in it. The whole country seemed, somehow, to be running.

(Willa Cather, American novelist, 1873-1947)

All photos are from Glendalough State Park. The Goldenrod is on the west side of Sunset Lake Trail.

By Deborah Locke, Communications Specialist, MN DNR

Photos courtesy of Minnesota DNR

When people consider fall color in Minnesota, their minds usually go to the red, orange and yellow colors of leaves. But what about the other fall colors – the wildflowers that dot the state's prairies, and the waves of tall grass that turn from green to deep red? What about fodder for other human senses, like the way a prairie wind feels?

Until you learn about them, it's easy to overlook these destinations even though some are only a couple of hours drive from the metro area. Minnesota state park staff know those prairies intimately and understand that there are no hard and fast rules that dictate when colors change or flowers bloom. Jeff Wiersma, Park Supervisor at Glendalough State Park near Bettle Lake, Minn., has managed the park for 27 years. He said the best time to see prairie fall color there is about a week before Labor Day until two weeks after the holiday.

"Unless there's an early hard frost, we should have good color until mid-September, just in time for the fall leaves to start taking over," he said. The tall grass starts to change color in late August followed later by bursts of red sumac.

Buffalo River State Park on the western border of Minnesota features the best of both prairie and hardwood forests, said Alex Hilterbrand, Assistant Park Supervisor. "You'll see not only some of the best-preserved bluestem prairie in Minnesota, but also a riparian forest along the Buffalo River." (Riparian forests grow on the banks of rivers, streams or other bodies

of water and are characterized by trees and shrubs that thrive in wet conditions.)

The park's River View Trail is a mix of oak, maple and basswood trees that create a bright contrast to the amber-colored prairie grasses, Alex said. Wildflower aficionados will feast on vistas of goldenrod, aster, clover, black-eyed Susans and gentians.

The online DNR Fall Color Finder gives visitors guidance on the beginning and end of peak fall color with updates occurring every Thursday through September.

For the best sweeping prairie view at Glendalough State Park, Jeff suggests Prairie Hill Trail for fall sunflowers, asters, goldenrod, sumac, and more. "Stand on a hill and you'll see color for as far as you can see," he said.

One other element stands out for its singular beauty: the sky. The aptly named Sunset Lake offers lovely sunset landscapes that beg for the lens of a camera. Important too is a fall wind that feels different from a wind at any other season, Jeff said. "You get that little chill in the fall," he said. The winds cross and can be loud or soft, the acres of grass sway, and the world appears in solid movement. "It can be amazing," Jeff said. "The prairie is in motion in a lot of ways."

Alex at Buffalo River State Park recommends a hike on Wide Sky Trail and a stop at trail marker G. The elevation isn't steep, but you'll get a panoramic view of the park's gentle, rolling landscape. Visitors are encouraged to stop, appreciate the view, and feel the wind at whatever speed it decides to move.

The fall color finder map can be found at mndnr.gov/fallcolor. It shows not only the current fall color at a Minnesota state park or recreation area, but a tool that let's the user compare today with the fall color status from a previous year.

To locate a state park, go to mndnr.gov/parkfinder. Park trails are shown on the park map; scroll down on the map page for a trail description. A \$7 daily permit may be purchased online or at the park visitor center and must be displayed on the vehicle dashboard. Annual permits are \$35 and may be used at all of Minnesota's 73 state parks and recreation areas. Always check the park website for visitor alerts before you leave home. Dress for the weather, wear sunscreen and comfortable shoes, bring insect spray, water and snacks.



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