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Elections 2026

Latino American Today endorses Statewide Ticket and candidates in SD65 and SD53

MINNESOTA'S
FUTURE IS OUR
FUTURE

Shared Values, Safe Communities & Fiscal Trust

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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TAD
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RON
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EL FUTURO DE
MINNESOTA ES NUESTRO
FUTURO

Valores Compartidos, Comunidades Seguras y Confianza Fiscal

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.



Rocco is a candidate for **State Senate in SD65**, downtown Saint Paul, the West Side, Frogtown, the northern half of West St. Paul. Rocco is a military veteran, husband, father, and private sector worker who also worked as a personal trainer and art director. His top priorities are public safety, law and order, ending fraud and waste, and affordability for working families. He wants targeted transit improvements, with a plan for an elevated ramp above Lafayette Road to connect with Interstate 35E North. Rocco received an endorsement from the Hispanic Republican Assembly of Minnesota. Rocco is proud of the Latino community in his district. “Latinos are proud of their community and work hard to make it a great place to live, work and raise a family.”

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.

La edad madura: el otoño de la vida



Por Dr. Saúl Carranza

Hay una etapa de la vida que llega casi sin pedir permiso. Un día descubrimos que los años han pasado más rápido de lo que imaginábamos. Los hijos han crecido, algunos sueños han cambiado y nuestro cuerpo ya no responde de la misma manera. Es lo que muchas veces llamamos la crisis de la mediana edad.

El otoño nos ofrece una hermosa imagen para comprender este momento. Las hojas cambian de color, los días se hacen más cortos y la naturaleza se prepara para una nueva etapa.

Sin embargo, hay algo especial en aquello que ha madurado y que ahora revela colores que antes no podíamos apreciar. Algo semejante ocurre con la vida humana: los cambios no necesariamente significan pérdida; muchas veces nos permiten descubrir una belleza que solamente llega con los años.

Uno de los grandes aprendizajes de la madurez es comprender de una manera diferente que nuestra vida es pasajera. Cuando somos jóvenes pensamos principalmente en comienzos: los estudios, el matrimonio, el trabajo, la casa, los proyectos y los sueños. Pero llega un momento en que comenzamos a preguntarnos no solamente qué queremos hacer, sino qué haremos con los años que Dios todavía nos conceda. Moisés expresó esta realidad en una oración que sigue siendo profundamente actual: “Enséñanos de tal modo a contar nuestros días, que traigamos al corazón sabiduría” (Salmo 90:12).

Contar nuestros días no significa vivir con miedo al futuro. Significa aprender a valorar el presente. La madurez nos permite apreciar cosas que antes dábamos por sentadas: una conversación con nuestros hijos, un abrazo de nuestros seres queridos, una amistad, una oración tranquila, una oportunidad para servir o simplemente despertar una mañana más.

Cuando comprendemos que el tiempo es limitado, aprendemos a recibir cada día con mayor gratitud.

La madurez nos enseña que no todos los sueños tienen que cumplirse para que una vida tenga significado. Algunos cambian; otros son reemplazados por propósitos más profundos. El valor de una vida no se mide únicamente por lo que alcanzamos, sino también por las personas que amamos, las dificultades que atravesamos, el carácter que formamos y la manera en que hemos servido a los demás.

La persona madura ha conocido alegrías y decepciones, victorias y fracasos. Ha amado y también ha perdido. Ha cometido errores y ha tenido que comenzar de nuevo. Todo ello puede convertirse en una fuente de sabiduría. Nuestros hijos, nietos, jóvenes de nuestras iglesias y las personas que Dios pone en nuestro camino necesitan escuchar nuestras historias. No historias de perfección, sino historias de gracia. Necesitan saber que Dios estuvo presente cuando tuvimos dudas, cuando fracasamos, cuando lloramos y cuando tuvimos que comenzar nuevamente.

Llegar a la edad madura es, en sí mismo, un privilegio. No todos llegan. Todavía podemos amar, perdonar, aprender, servir, abrazar, orar y bendecir. Todavía podemos dejar una huella.

La madurez nos invita a reconciliarnos con el paso del tiempo. No podemos detener los años, pero sí podemos decidir cómo vivirlos. Podemos lamentar lo que se fue o agradecer lo que permanece. Podemos mirar el futuro con temor o caminar hacia él con fe. Mi oración es que podamos vivir esta etapa no con temor, sino con serenidad; no preguntándonos cuánto tiempo nos queda, sino qué podemos hacer con el tiempo que Dios todavía nos regala, sabiendo que el Dios que nos acompañó en cada etapa seguirá siendo fiel hasta el final.

Middle Age: The Autumn of Life

By Dr. Saúl Carranza

There is a stage of life that seems to arrive without asking permission. One day we realize that the years have gone by faster than we ever imagined. Our children have grown up, some of our dreams have changed, and our bodies no longer respond the way they used to. This is what we often call the midlife crisis.

Autumn gives us a beautiful picture of what this stage of life can be like. The leaves change color, the days become shorter, and nature prepares for a new season. Yet there is something special about things that have matured and now reveal colors we could not appreciate before. Something similar happens in human life: change does not always mean loss. Many times, it helps us discover a kind of beauty that only comes with the passing of time.

One of the great lessons of growing older is realizing, in a deeper way, that life is temporary. When we are young, we mostly think about beginnings: education, marriage, work, a home, plans, and dreams. But there comes a time when we begin to ask ourselves not only what we want to do, but what we will do with the years God still gives us. Moses expressed this truth in a prayer that is still deeply meaningful today: “Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom” (Psalm 90:12).

Counting our days does not mean living in fear of the future. It means learning to appreciate the present. Growing older helps us appreciate things we once took for granted: a conversation with our children, a hug from someone we love, a friendship, a quiet time of prayer, an opportunity to serve, or simply waking up to see another morning. When we understand that our time is limited, we learn to receive each day with greater gratitude.

Growing older also teaches us that not every dream has to come true for a life to have meaning. Some dreams change; others are replaced by deeper purposes. The value of a life is not measured only by what we accomplish, but also by the people we love, the difficulties we overcome, the character we develop, and the way we have served others.

A mature person has known joy and disappointment, victories and failures. We have loved, and we have also experienced loss. We have made mistakes and have had to start over. All of these experiences can become a source of wisdom. Our children, grandchildren, young people in our churches, and those God places in our lives need to hear our stories. Not stories of perfection, but stories of grace. They need to know that God was there when we had doubts, when we

failed, when we cried, and when we had to begin again.

Reaching middle age is, in itself, a privilege. Not everyone gets there. We can still love, forgive, learn, serve, embrace, pray, and bless others. We can still leave a mark on the lives of those around us.

Growing older invites us to make peace with the passing of time. We cannot stop the years, but we can decide how we will live them. We can mourn what is gone or be grateful for what remains. We can look at the future with fear or walk into it with faith.

My prayer is that we will live this stage not with fear, but with peace; not asking how much time we have left, but what we can do with the time God still gives us, knowing that the God who has been with us through every stage of life will remain faithful to us until the very end.

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Build a Strong Succession Plan for Your Business



Marcia Malzahn

By Marcia Malzahn

As an entrepreneur, you need to build a strong succession plan for your business to ensure longevity. In this article, we address several important questions you need to answer at some point to ensure your business survives you. Baby Boomers are currently retiring in the thousands and if you are one of them, you need to act fast. A well-thought-out Succession Plan will give you peace of mind and an exit strategy for when you choose to retire. **Below are the key questions you must answer to build a strong succession plan for your business:**

What will your legacy be as a business owner?

Most human beings want to make a difference in the world and leave it better than they found it. As a business owner, you can make a difference in the lives of the people your business helps. What will your legacy be? How do you want to be remembered? Even if you sell your business because you couldn't find a suitable successor, you can be remembered as the founder.

The bank I helped start in 2005 is now at \$2.7 billion in assets. I was the first employee the president/CEO hired and along with a small team we got the bank started. I hope my legacy is that the bank is still running strong. I helped create a strong foundation and infrastructure for the bank to grow and build upon it for years to come.

If you know what you want your legacy to be, then start there. Develop a succession plan that will ensure your successor has the same core values and desire to succeed as you. Leaving a strong successor in place will be part of your legacy.

Who are you mentoring to follow your footsteps as a leader?

A strong succession plan includes the future leaders and the “technical” experts that will take the business to the next level. You need both types of successors. You may have an excellent successor to lead the company into the future. But he/she may lack the specific technical expertise to make the gadgets, or be the “cook,” or be the technology expert. The new leader must understand the business, care about your customers, and know how to hire the right people. The president & CEO must know how to lead the team and be able to articulate the company's vision.

If you have identified the future leader, are you mentoring that person? The mentorship part of the succession plan is critical for the successor's success. This is where you share not just “the secret sauce” but your heart for the company. You introduce him/her to the top clients and teach them about those relationships. Also, part of mentoring is helping the successor identify their knowledge gaps and personal development opportunities. Once you identify what those areas are, you develop a Personal Development Plan. This plan includes leadership development, soft skills, technical on-the job training, and managerial skills needed. The soft skills include communication, negotiation, presentation, and organizational skills.

Managerial skills are different from leadership talent development. Understanding labor laws, approving timecards and vacation, and conducting performance reviews are managerial skills that need to be learned. Additionally, managers must know how to hire and fire, understand the employee benefits, and work with HR in employee matters. Leadership development includes learning how to lead others, forming the right teams, identifying future successors, and sharing the company's vision. As a mentor, you cover all these different aspects with your mentee, your successor.

Who are you training in “how to run the business”?

There is yet another aspect to identify the right successor. You must find someone who understands the type of business and industry you're in. The successor must learn “how to run the business” which includes understanding your market, your customers, industry, vendors, and regulations.

If you own a restaurant, your successor must know the restaurant business. If you run a supermarket, your successor must understand pricing, marketing strategies, and suppliers. An accounting firm's president, for example, must hire CPAs that stay current on their certifications and know tax laws. A law firm must ensure to vet the attorneys to

ensure they're knowledgeable of laws in their areas of expertise. Knowing how to run the business you're in is crucial to the success of the successor and for you to leave a positive legacy.

How are you investing in your current leadership to identify potential successors?

As your business grows, regardless of industry, you start expanding your leadership team. Investing in your leadership team is crucially important for the growth of your organization. The types of investments include education and training, obtaining the appropriate certifications, and developing their skills as mentioned above.

When you assign new responsibilities to your current employees, how do they react? Do they get annoyed or do they get excited? Are others in the team asking one person to take the lead on special projects? Those may be your natural leaders in the company. Paying attention to behavior helps you identify your internal successors not only for your own role but for others' too. Natural leaders always rise to the top of the list – whether because they volunteer for additional duties or because others ask them.

Investing in your potential successors – especially the ones you're targeting for leadership positions – is vital to your succession plan. Lastly, one way to invest in your potential successors is with your time, to get to know them personally. Only spending time with each potential successor allows you to know who the right person is to succeed you. This process includes your family members or non-family employees.

Do you have a team of professionals to help you during the journey (tax accountant, attorney, banker, wealth manager)?

If you're approaching retirement age and are serious about having an exit plan you need a team of professionals to help you in the transition. The exit plan can include the sale of the business or transferring it to the next generation. You need experts to help you with the legal side, tax implications, and what's the best way to transfer ownership.

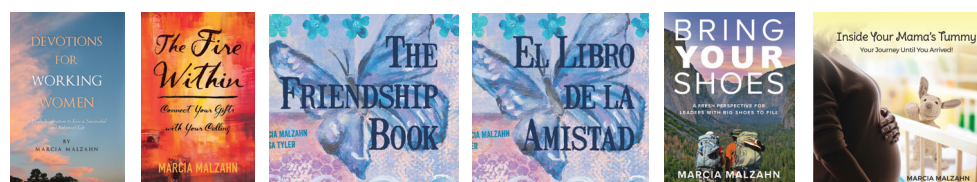
It is important to plan ahead and build a strong succession plan for your business. Obtaining the necessary help and advice early will ensure you don't rush at the end. Additionally, you must always be prepared in the event you experience a health issue and need to exit prematurely.

Conclusion

Whether you are retiring soon or in ten years, it's never too early (or too late) to build a strong succession plan for your business. Your plan should begin with the legacy you want to leave. Include in your plan intentional mentoring and training for future leaders. Also, ensure your successors understand not only how to lead people but also how to run the business, serve customers, manage key relationships, and navigate the industry.

Investing time in your current leadership team will help you identify natural leaders and prepare them for greater responsibility. Finally, surrounding yourself with trusted professionals – such as your tax accountant, attorney, banker, and wealth manager – will help you make wise decisions and create a thoughtful exit strategy that protects the future of your business and gives you peace of mind.

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](http://CrowningAchievementsInternational.com) or email her at mmalzahn@crowning-achievements.com.



Learn media making and storytelling skills with our Media Education team.

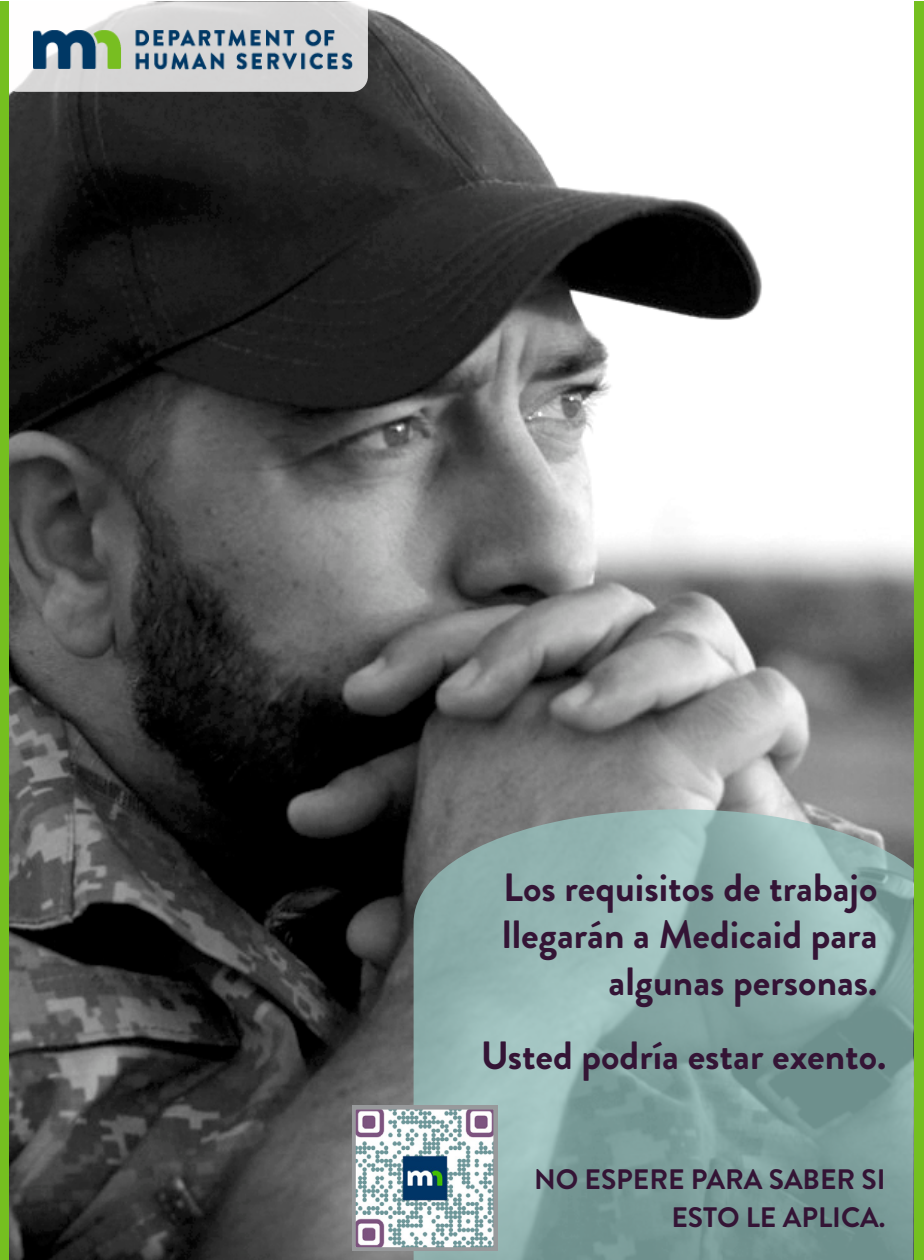
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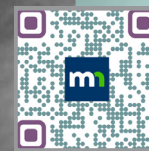


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Paul Wikstrom

Congressional Candidate Supports Small Business

Paul Wikstrom, a candidate running for U.S. Congress to represent Minnesota Congressional District 4, recently discussed economic development during a visit to Payne Avenue in St. Paul, Minnesota. The visit highlighted Wikstrom's focus on the contributions of the local Latino business community. He noted that their growth is important for the regional economy.

Driving Local Commerce

Wikstrom met for the tour with Latino entrepreneurs, Rick Aguilar and David Sepeda, he noted the many Latino owned businesses on the avenue.

They discussed the opportunities and challenges owners face day to day. They stopped and looked at the, soon to open, Plaza del Sol project that will serve as an economic hub, providing spaces for small businesses to thrive, create jobs, and support the community. "The local Latino business community is not just a sub-section of our economy; it is important to our district's growth," Wikstrom stated. He noted that supporting these business owners can strengthen the community and that he has his plans for support.



(L to R) Rick Aguilar, Paul Wikstrom and David Sepeda

A Platform for Small Business Support

Wikstrom, an engineering manager with a background in problem-solving and community leadership, has discussed supporting small businesses. His visit to Payne avenue, aligns with his campaign goals to:

- Discuss ways to support entrepreneurs launching new ventures.
- Discuss access to capital and resources for localized infrastructure projects.
- He advocates for policies that support entrepreneurs, stating that local investments can yield widespread societal benefits.



Plaza del Sol

JUEGO DE VILLANOS

GRAN ESTRENO
MARTES 20 OCT
6PM



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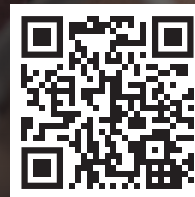
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AVANCE GLOBAL

2026, Las Vegas, NV

Avance Global 2026, held at the Bellagio Resort & Casino, September 14-16, was a big success. Over 5,000 entrepreneurs, investors, corporate leaders, and changemakers gathered for the premier event focused on Latino prosperity and economic mobility. Participants engaged in over 200 sessions led by 350+ speakers across nine distinct tracks, including capital, entrepreneurship, media, real estate, sports, leadership, and culture. **High-Profile Headliners:** Featured prominent speakers and leaders such as Memo Ochoa, José Andrés, Daniel Lubetzky, and Isabel Guzman, alongside a new women's entrepreneurship and leadership track. **Collaborative Milestones:** Debuted *The Gala* in partnership with We Are All Human on September 15 to celebrate Latino excellence in arts and business

NAHREP Twin Cities sent an impressive group to the conference, led by President, Estefania Borns, Board members and supporters. The next event for NAHREP Twin Cities is their annual Gala, on October 15 in Minneapolis. You can register at: nahreptwincities.org/events!



NAHREP Twin Cities members led by President, Estefania Borns (2nd from left)



Huge gracias to Wells Fargo for helping make this experience possible!

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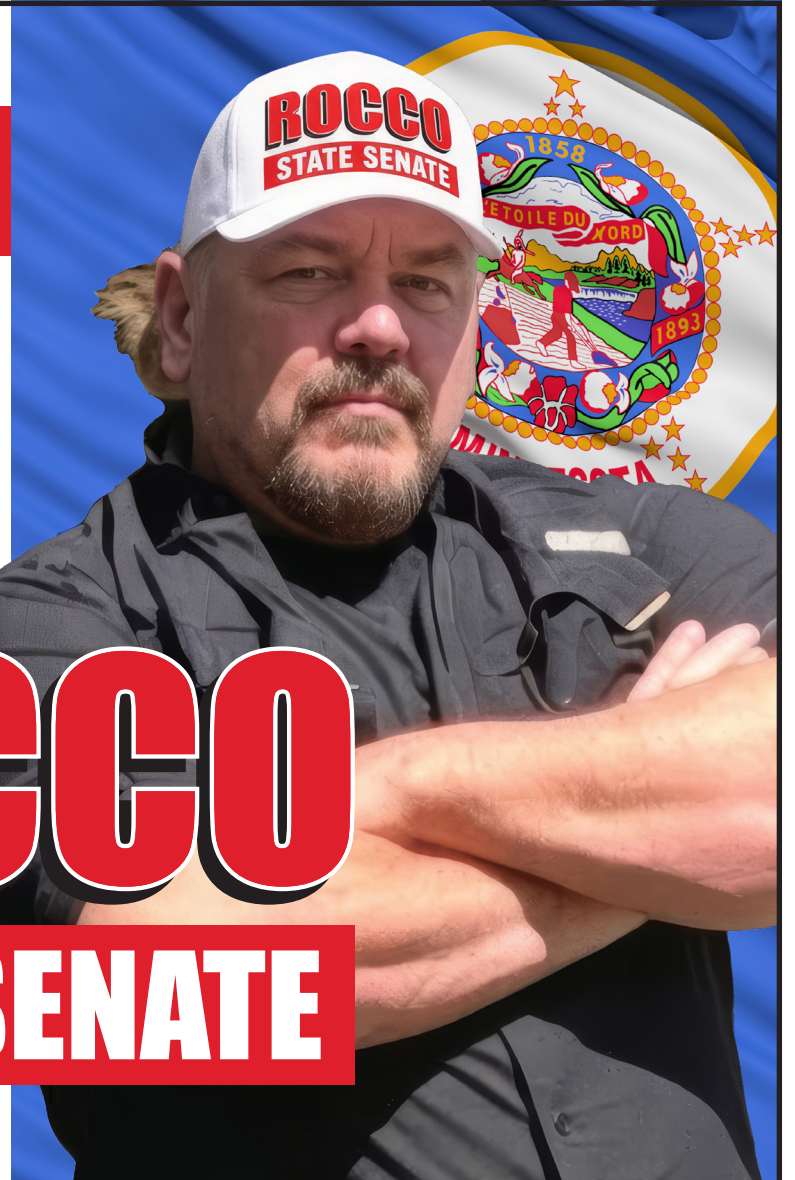
ROCCO IS FIGHTING FOR MINNESOTA FAMILIES

- Affordability issues, lowering Taxes
- Protecting Women's Sports
- One More Day Bill to protect viable Children
- Fixing 52-Lafayette Bridge bottleneck
- Restoring Minnesota's Historic Flag



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PATTI
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FOR MN HOUSE DISTRICT 53B



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Eric Pratt For Congress

Republican State Senator Eric Pratt is running for Congress in **Minnesota's 2nd Congressional District** a highly competitive swing district south of the Twin Cities. His extensive background in banking, finance, and local education, positions Pratt as an experienced leader who delivers practical results, making life more affordable by lowering costs, supporting small businesses, and boosting job growth. He plans to crack down on fraud and government waste, while simultaneously championing public safety through robust support for law enforcement and secure border policies.

CD2 is home to fast growing demographic communities, including the Latino population. Recognizing the Latino community's entrepreneurial drive, Pratt has earned key support from groups like the Hispanic Republican Assembly. He aims to support Latino-owned small businesses by cutting unnecessary regulations and expanding access to capital and focus on local education quality and community safety.

Pratt, intends to replace Washington's gridlock with common-sense economic policies that benefit all hardworking Minnesotans.



Rick Aguilar, Hispanic Republican Assembly, and Eric Pratt

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A Voice for Justice: Ron Schutz Runs for Minnesota Attorney General

Renowned trial attorney and U.S. Army veteran Ron Schutz will run for Minnesota Attorney General in the 2026 election. Widely recognized as one of the state's top legal minds, Schutz has consistently been ranked among the Top Ten Minnesota Super Lawyers. Having spent decades fighting complex legal battles in the private sector, Schutz is shifting his focus to public service to restore accountability to state government. Schutz and his family live in the western suburbs of Minneapolis, MN. Schutz, launched his campaign out of a deep concern for the rising tide of crime and multi-million dollar fraud scandals impacting Minnesota taxpayers. He argues that the incumbent has allowed ideological agendas to supersede fundamental law enforcement. Once in office, Schutz intends to implement a rigorous "clean break" strategy. His immediate priorities include aggressively prosecuting public fraud, giving local law enforcement the absolute backing they need to combat violent crime, protecting girls' sports, and ensuring strict fiscal accountability.

Central to Schutz's vision is a commitment to the foundational values that unite Minnesotans from all walks of life. His platform strongly resonates with the state's growing demographic communities, including the vibrant Latino population. For thousands of Latinos in Minnesota, daily life is guided by a profound love for faith, family, and freedom – the very same principles Schutz credits for shaping his upbringing on a Minnesota dairy farm. By focusing on public safety and economic integrity, Schutz intends to build a state where every community can thrive securely.



Rick Aguilar, Chair of the Hispanic Republican Assembly of MN, who will support Ron Schutz!

En el centro de la visión de Schutz está el compromiso con los valores fundamentales que unen a los habitantes de Minnesota de todos los ámbitos de la vida. Su plataforma resuena fuertemente con el crecimiento demográfico del estado, incluyendo a la vibrante comunidad latina. Para miles de latinos en Minnesota, la vida diaria se guía por un profundo amor a la fe, la familia y la libertad; los mismos principios que Schutz reconoce como la base de su crianza en una granja lechera de Minnesota. Al enfocarse en la seguridad pública y la solidez económica, Schutz busca construir un estado donde cada comunidad pueda prosperar con seguridad.



Ron Schutz and Erika Rivera interview on the Minnesota Latino Radio program!

**Tu Voto
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próspero:
Valores Compartidos,
Comunidades Seguras
y Confianza Fiscal**



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Matters.**

**Together For A
Prosperous Future:
Shared Values, Safe
Communities &
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**RON
SCHUTZ**

**for ATTORNEY
GENERAL**



Celebrating Trailblazing Women Entrepreneurs

NAWBO-MN 2026 Women Business Owners
Hall of Fame Inductees

Amalia Moreno-Damgaard Founder and CEO,
Amalia | Culture Through Cuisine™

Amalia Moreno-Damgaard is a trailblazing entrepreneur and the first Latina president of NAWBO Minnesota born and raised in Guatemala. Drawing on international banking experience, she founded Culture Through Cuisine™ and grew her WBENC-certified firm nationally. An award-winning author and global keynote speaker, she advises corporations on culture and is an established voice in the media. During her NAWBO presidency, Amalia conceived Women Ignite! in collaboration with MEDA. Now in its fourth year, the initiative has convened 1,300+ diverse attendees, connecting entrepreneurs with corporate and community resources, and earned a proclamation from Governor Tim Walz recognizing its statewide impact. She co-founded Women Entrepreneurs of Minnesota and served as its first president. She has mentored countless women, served on 12 nonprofit boards and supported 25+ charitable organizations. Her honors include the NAWBO National Woman Business Owner of the Year, SBA Minnesota Women in Business Champion of the Year, IES National Immigrant Spirit Award, Latino Chamber Minnesota Entrepreneur of the Year, and WomenVenture Catalyst Award – reflecting her impact in business, leadership, and service.



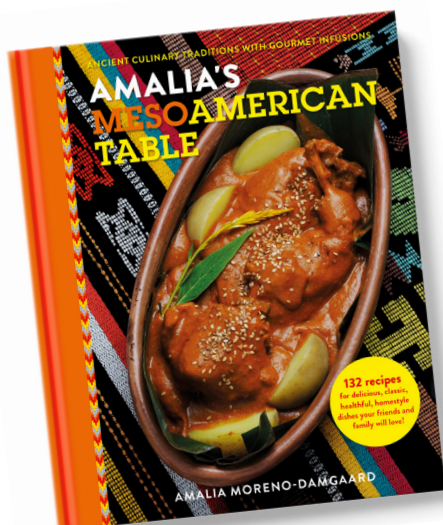
Rick Aguilar with Amalia
“Amalia is Guatemala’s gift to Minnesota”



Women Ignite event with Amalia as Keynote



Amalia at Kare 11 Saturday Morning Show
L to R Bobby Jensen, Amalia, Belinda Jensen and Chris Hrapsky



Amalia with
Carla Beaurline
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Familia, Amalia, son Jens and Kenn



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Candela, LLC	Isabella’s Grocery, LLC	Ocatime’s Relojeria	Tortilleria La Perla, LLC
Carniceria Valerie’s, Inc.	Jhoaleymat International, LLC	Omniloren, LLC	The Best Tacos Del Sol, LLC
Dcard Insurance Services Company	Joyeria Ashley, LLC	Pupuseria El Rincon Salvadoreno, Inc.	Unidos MN
Del Sol Floreria, LLC	La Loma Wholesale, LLC	ProNat, LLC	Zero Degrees, Inc.
Deportes Azteca, LLC	La Reyna de los Jugos	Panaderia El Mexicano	Zapateria Aracely
Donald F. Noack Jr. Law Office	La Pinata Dulceria, LLC	Queblo Construct, LLC	
	Maria’s Restaurante, Inc.		

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