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LUCHAAZ.ORG



State: Arizona

Core Constituency/Target Audience: Immigrants and the Latinx Community

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Living United for Change in Arizona (LUCHA) is a membership-led, grassroots organization that builds power with Arizona’s working families to advance social, racial and economic justice for all. Through grassroots campaigns, leadership development, advocacy and civic engagement, they work to create an Arizona in which every person enjoys equal rights, opportunities and protections.

LUCHA engages in voter registration and education, and advocates for progressive policy at all levels of government. They also provide empowerment services to immigrant communities, including citizenship classes, English classes, and the tools needed to navigate the immigration system.

STATE LEGISLATIVE WORK

LUCHA is a member-led organization with offices in Arizona’s three largest counties: Maricopa, Pima and Coconino. State legislative elections are core to their goal of effecting statewide policy that lifts up all of Arizona’s residents. LUCHA endorses progressive champions at the state legislative level every year, and works to advocate for progressive policy within the state legislature.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In 2016, Proposition 206 was passed by Arizona voters by a near 20-point margin. Prop 206 provides up to five days of paid sick time for all workers, and it will raise the minimum wage to \$12 by 2020. LUCHA put Prop 206 on the ballot and was instrumental in its passing. Prop 206 has grown the state's economy by almost \$1 billion, lowered the unemployment rate, and even increased jobs in the food and hospitality industries.

During the 2018 legislative session, Gov. Ducey and the state legislature tried to dismantle Prop 206 despite voters' resounding approval. LUCHA and community members wouldn't let them take Arizona's victory. They showed up in droves at legislative hearings, knocked on thousands of doors, and made thousands of phone calls to legislators until they could no longer ignore the will of the people.

GOALS IN 2022 CYCLE

In 2022, LUCHA aims to recruit, train, and run people-focused state legislative candidates across the state of Arizona. They also aim to fight the over 100 anti-democracy bills being considered in the legislature through accountability campaigns and direct advocacy.

ISSUES OF IMPORTANCE TO LUCHA

Immigration

LUCHA's immigration services department provides members with the resources, guidance and tools they need to navigate the complicated and unjust immigration system. Their office works directly with members and their families to help them apply for citizenship or renew their DACA or residency status. They also offer free citizenship classes and English classes to members to ensure that when they apply to become U.S. Citizens, they succeed.

Education

Arizona's public education system has been broken for too long. LUCHA's sister organization, Arizona Center for Empowerment (ACE), has been partnering with educators, parents and community members to fight for students and teachers through advocacy and civic engagement. ACE hosts education town halls so political candidates can explain how they will support and protect public education to their potential constituents.

STATE BRIDGES SPEAKERS

Tomas Robles



Tomas E. Robles Jr. currently serves as co-Executive Director of Living United for Change in Arizona (LUCHA), a member-driven organization that has played a key role in bringing attention to wage inequality and worker rights through various campaigns in the past few years. Tomas became involved in grassroots organizing and activism after Senate Bill 1070, an anti-immigration bill that would have led to racial-profiling in Arizona, passed. Since then, Tomas has worked with several organizations working on various issues, such as immigrant and worker rights, Veterans' issues, and housing

discrimination. Tomas is the son of Mexican immigrants. He was born in Tucson, AZ, and raised in Phoenix, Arizona. He is a veteran of the United States Marine Corps and is a graduate of Arizona State University with a Bachelor of Arts in Transborder studies with an emphasis on immigration policy and economy.

Alejandra Gomez



Alejandra Gomez serves as a co-Executive Director at Living United for Change in Arizona (LUCHA). Alejandra was born in Pomona, California to immigrant parents. She became aware of the U.S.'s broken immigration system at a young age when Prop 187, an anti-immigrant law that targeted undocumented immigrants, passed in her home state. Her father was undocumented at the time, and Prop 187 forced Alejandra's family to move to Arizona in hopes of escaping the dangers of Prop 187 and other anti-immigrant sentiment. Alejandra began her career in community

organizing in 2007, during the beginning of Sheriff Joe Arpaio's racially-charged criminal suppression sweeps that targeted immigrant communities. Seeing the fear and harassment her community was experiencing that was reminiscent of her own childhood, she began working with Maricopa Citizens for Safety and Accountability to organize against Sheriff Arpaio and his unfair practices.

Since her start in organizing, Alejandra has focused her work on immigration rights through large-scale civic engagement efforts. Alejandra was the Field Manager for the Adios Arpaio campaign that registered over 30,000 Latinos to vote. As the Deputy Organizing Director at United We Dream National Network, Alejandra led the organizing efforts in the fight for DAPA and an expanded DACA. Alejandra has dedicated her life to social justice and community empowerment through grassroots mobilization. She lives in Phoenix, AZ and holds a B.A. in Political Science from Arizona State University.

IN THE NEWS

- [Look at what Latino organizers did in Arizona](#)
- [Arizona just showed the right way to harness the power of Latino voters](#)
- [Inside the machine to turn out Arizona Latinos](#)
- [LUCHA emerges as key PAC in Arizona progressive movement](#)
- [Groups knocked on 1 million doors, made 8 million calls to boost Latino turnout in Arizona](#)

ARIZONA FAST FACTS

- **Current Control:** Republican Trifecta (since 2009)
- **Gubernatorial Election:** 2022
- **Length of State Senate & House term:** 2 years
- **Redistricting:** Congressional and state legislative lines drawn by the Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission
- **Sister District Target:** Blue Flip