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1. Discuss what you have done or will do to work collaboratively with other elected officials on issues important to the Latino community.

I've been privileged to serve as the "Shadow" U.S. Representative for the District of Columbia since 2007.

Since that time I have worked with other elected officials in DC on issues related to the Latino community. My focus has been, and continues to be, working to give *all* District residents statehood and the representation they deserve on Capitol Hill.

Due to the financial burdens that our disenfranchisement imposes upon our local government, the lack of full statehood and equality adversely impacts every aspect of the District's ability to provide services to the people who need them the most. This is fundamentally unfair, as our residents who are most need are the ones bearing the greatest burden. I've been fighting to change this situation, and I have a proven track record of accomplishments, specifically I've:

- ❖ Generated over **20,000 constituent grassroots communications to congressional offices** in support of the District of Columbia Voting Rights Act
- ❖ Started the **Free and Equal DC Fund**, a PAC to elect congressional candidates who support statehood and expanded home rule for the District
- ❖ **Deployed radio campaigns in Montana and Mississippi** targeting the Congressmen and Senators attempting to revoke our locally enacted gun laws
- ❖ Launched **"Where's My Star?"** campaign to re-brand DC Statehood movement
- ❖ Organized **District of Columbia "Olympic" curling team** to raise awareness

- ❖ Led efforts to name the home turf of the Washington Nationals
“Taxation Without Representation Field at RFK”

I continue to lead efforts to make District the 51st state, and I ask for your continued support to ensure we all are given the same rights and privileges as our fellow Americans.

2. Describe what your policy agenda would be, including ways you would improve the economic and social condition of Latinos and their families, if elected.

My agenda is to move the DC congressional representation campaign from one that is seeking one vote in the House to one that is focused on Statehood. We’ve seen how Congress will run roughshod over our local laws and budgets, even with Democrats in charge.

Until we are no longer under the yoke of congressional control – until there is a 51st star on the American flag – we will never be completely free and equal.

This will not only help the Latino population, but all citizens of the District as we’ll be able to do things such as tax non-resident income and get the money that is due to our coffers from commuters from Maryland and Virginia who use our roads and services everyday without paying a dime for them!

3. What is your position on DC implementing the secure community program, and what is your position on comprehensive immigration reform.

The goals of the program are laudable, but I have grave concerns over its actual implementation and I urge the DC Police to refrain from implementing it until changes are made.

The way the law is written, fingerprints are run against the ICE database upon being processed at the local police station. If there is a “hit” that individual is detained regardless of the validity of the original charge. This lead to a situation where law enforcement can arrest “suspicious” people for a minor charge they know is likely bogus, just to be given the opportunity to run prints against a federal database and hope for reason to detain the person, regardless of the original charge.

As written, I feel this law will lead to racial profiling and insecure communities in the District. There needs to some sensible restrictions on when prints can be sent to ICE. Until that happens the law cast too wide a net and will lead to distrust and angst in the immigrant community.

I ASK FOR YOUR ENDORSEMENT VOTE! – MIKE PANETTA