

**COMMISSION ON LATINO-AMERICANS
QUARTERLY MEETING**

May 2, 2026

9:00 AM

In-Person

Nebraska Extension, Hall County

3180 W Hwy 34

Grand Island, NE 68801, College Park

Minutes

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Maria Whitmore called the meeting to order at 9:28 AM

II. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chair Whitmore welcomed the Commissioners and office team.

III. ROLL CALL/RECORD ABSENTEES

Due to Commissioner Aida Evans' absence Commissioner Evelyn Haro was selected as the acting secretary for the quarterly meeting.

Present: Governor's Representative Evelyn Haro, Commissioner Sandra Lopez, Chair Maria Whitmore, Commissioner Roy Rivera

Absent: Commissioner Leticia Rodriguez, Commissioner Aida Evans, Commissioner Jaime Suarez, Vice-Chair Marilyn Schacht

Quorum was not met so no motions were held.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS 20-30 min

No members of the public were present.

V. PUBLIC NOTICE OF MEETING

NEBRASKA COMMISSION ON LATINO-AMERICANS QUARTERLY MEETING
The Commission on Latino-Americans will host its Quarterly Meeting on Saturday, May 2, 2026. The meeting will take place at *Nebraska Extension, Hall County*, 3180 W Hwy 34, Grand Island, NE 68801, College Park. We will begin at 9:00 a.m. and adjourn no later than 2 p.m.

The Quarterly Meeting is open to the public and all interested individuals are invited to attend. Time will be allocated for public comments within the first hour of the meeting. We encourage those wishing to speak to call our office ahead of time, in an effort to provide better accommodation.

The agenda for the Quarterly Meeting will be kept current and made available for public inspection at the Commission's office. For further information, please contact us at (402) 471-2791.

Public Notice of this meeting was placed in the Grand Island Independent, Kearney Hub, Lexington Clipper, The North Platte Telegraph, The Lincoln Journal Star, Scottsbluff Star-Herald, Omaha World-Herald, The Columbus Telegram and Hastings Tribune on April 18, 2026; and Mundo Latino Publications on April 21, 2026; and it was e-mailed to the NCLA mail list and posted on Social Media channels.

v. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Commissioners reviewed the agenda, no motion was held due to lack of quorum.

vi. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Commissioners reviewed the minutes, no motion was held due to lack of quorum.

viii. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1) New Commissioner Roy Rivera

Commissioner Roy Rivera introduced himself to the Commissioners and shared his personal background, including how he came to make Nebraska his home.

2) NELYS 2026 update

Executive Director Maria Arriaga provided the Commissioners with an update on the planning progress for this year's Nebraska Latino Youth Summit, noting that final adjustments are still being made to enhance the event.

3) Review and approval of updates to the bylaws

The Commissioners continued their review of the bylaws and determined that, given the scope of the proposed changes, revisions will continue at the next quarterly meeting.

IX. NEW BUSINESS 11:00 am

1) “Give to Lincoln Day” campaign

Executive Director Maria Arriaga provided an overview of Give to Lincoln Day and encouraged Commissioners to contribute in order to help launch this year’s donation campaign.

2) Nebraska joins DOJ effort to end in-state tuition for undocumented students

Executive Director Maria Arriaga informed the Commissioners that the DOJ is moving to end in-state tuition for undocumented students. She expressed concern about the impact on students who are Nebraska residents, graduates of Nebraska schools, and whose families contribute through state taxes. She asked whether the Commission should take a public stance on the issue.

Chair Maria Whitmore stated that the Commission should respond publicly.

Commissioner Roy Rivera agreed and provided additional context, noting other tax-related changes that have negatively impacted the Latino community.

X. FINANCIAL REPORTS

Due to no quorum, there was no motion held to approve the reports

- 1) Review of Budget Status Reports for March, April
- 2) Review of General Ledger Reports for March, April

XI. DIRECTOR REPORT

No Director’s report was provided due to lack of quorum.

XII. COMMISSIONERS REPORTS 12:00 pm

Commissioner Evelyn Haro: Participated in monthly Semi-Quincentennial Commission meetings and attended the Planting Seeds Conference in Kearney.

Commissioner Sandra Lopez: Attended the Mayors annual meeting in Omaha

Commissioner Roy Rivera: Through his work with the Lincoln Police Department, he reported that LPD currently has 8–9 bilingual Hispanic police officers and 5–6 bilingual professional staff members. He also shared that the department utilizes a language line, translation services, and other technologies to better serve and communicate with the community. Additionally, he reported on community outreach efforts conducted by officers to help strengthen relationships and build trust within the community.

Chair Maria Whitmore: Attended the Planting Seeds Conference and has been assisting individuals with navigating and accessing medical services.

xiii. EXECUTIVE SESSION

No executive session was held

xiv. NEXT MEETING

Annual meeting – TBD

Quarterly meetings:

Saturday, March 14, 2026, McCook

Saturday, May 2, 2026, Grand Island

Saturday, August 15, 2026, Tecumseh

Saturday, October 10, 2026, Seward

xv. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 12:51 PM

Acting Secretary: Commissioner Evelyn Haro
Transcribed by: Marketing and Communications Specialist Ricardo Alcala