

The results of last night's election have left Latino Memphis both shocked and worried. As a non-profit, non-partisan organization, we do not endorse candidates, but we do hold people in office to the highest standard. We respect the constitution and will work to make sure that rights are upheld and have faith in our country's democratic process.

The concerns that many in the Hispanic community have about the outcome of the election are real and based in fact. Attacks against Latinos, and particularly Mexican immigrants, were a central piece of Mr. Trump's campaign: building the wall, calling us rapists and bad people, questioning the integrity of a federal judge because of his Mexican descent and threatening to deport 11 million undocumented people, most of whom came here escaping misery and looking to build a new and better life for themselves and their families. Many of those individuals live, work, study and pray in Memphis. Latinos are, and will remain, an important part of our local economy. In many ways, we are literally and figuratively helping to build our amazing city, the place that we all now call home.

We believe Mr. Trump may not be able to implement many of his campaign promises, either because they don't make sense, are too complex, too expensive or simply outside of the rule of law. Therefore, our worry is that he may turn to immigrants as a scapegoat for the economic challenges our country faces. Although he will not be able to deport 11 million people, he could do significant social, political and economic damage by displacing workers and separating families. Instead, we hope the Trump administration will join the bipartisan efforts of a strategic comprehensive immigration reform that addresses the security and economic needs of our country while upholding our moral values.

We are very aware that a former silent majority has spoken during this process. It is unfortunate that we have collectively failed to address the needs of some of our neighbors, and we understand many have not recovered from the recession and many more are frustrated with D.C. However, Mr. Trump ran a campaign fueled by fear, hate and divisiveness. At Latino Memphis, we believe these values are unproductive and unacceptable.

Latinos share the same values and have the same aspirations as other Americans. We firmly believe that the only way we can make our city, our state and our country stronger, is by working together rather than against each other. We stand strong and will remain positive as we advocate for Latino families and continue to build a vibrant Memphis.

Mauricio Calvo
Executive Director
Latino Memphis

