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Contact: Martha Lozada
202-546-0008

The Latino Coalition Releases Results of 2007 Presidential Preference Straw Poll

*– Among Republicans, Giuliani Commands Strong Lead with Latino Business Leaders;
Clinton Leads among Democrats –*

Washington, D.C. – The Latino Coalition (TLC) announced the results of its 2007 Presidential Preference Straw Poll. The straw poll was conducted in connection with the organization's Small Business Economic Summit in Washington, DC. "It is clear from the results of the straw poll that Mayor Giuliani's hopeful message of empowering individuals and expanding economic opportunities for all Americans is resonating with Latino business leaders," said TLC President Robert G. Deposada.

Of the 415 ballots cast, 58% cast ballots for a Republican candidate. Among Republicans, Rudy Giuliani captured a commanding 64% of the votes. Giuliani addressed the group on Tuesday morning. "Giuliani's speech hit all the right notes among the Latino business leaders in attendance," continued Deposada. "The Mayor demonstrated that he understands the Latino community and is committed to reaching out to this critical demographic in his run for President."

Senator John McCain (R-AZ) finished a distant second to Giuliani, garnering 15% of the vote. McCain was followed by former U.S. Senator Fred Thompson at 8%.

On the Democratic side, where 42% of the ballots were cast, the results were much closer. Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton (D-NY) received 30% of the votes cast, followed by New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson at 24%, and Senator Barack Obama (D-IL) with 12%. "Democratic leaning Latino business leaders are divided about which Presidential candidate to support at this time," continued Deposada. "The Democratic candidates would be well-served to intensify their outreach efforts to this critical community."

Latino voters represent an influential voting bloc, which has been critical in determining close elections. "In an increasingly polarized political environment, there is a growing premium placed on swing voting blocs," said Deposada. "Latino voters represent one of the largest, if not the largest, group of swing voters in the country."

The Latino Coalition is a non-profit, non-partisan organization based in Washington, D.C. TLC was established to address policy issues that directly affect the well-being of Hispanics in the United States. TLC's agenda is to develop and promote policies that will foster economic equivalency and enhance overall business, economic, and social development of Hispanics. For more information, please visit our website at www.TheLatinoCoalition.com

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