



JOSÉ HUIZAR  
COUNCILMEMBER OF THE FOURTEENTH DISTRICT

## PRESS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### **COUNCILMEMBER JOSE HUIZAR LEADS ALLIANCE OF COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDERS TO OPPOSE FEE HIKE FOR NATURALIZATION** *69% Increase Would Put the American Dream Out of Reach For Many*

**LOS ANGELES**—Councilmember José Huizar led fellow elected officials and community partners in opposition to a 69% hike in the federal fee to become a naturalized citizen. Yesterday the US Citizenship and Naturalization Services (USCIS) announced the increase to \$675 (from \$400) by summer 2007, potentially barring many immigrants from the dream of becoming US Citizens.

Councilmember Huizar, who was the first Latino immigrant to become a member of the LA City Council, said, "For the average hardworking Angelino pursuing citizenship, that extra expense could make the American dream unattainable." Councilmember Huizar became a citizen at the age of 21.

"We will not stand by and allow the door to citizenship shut in the faces of thousands of future citizens. This fee hike must be repealed," he said.

Councilmember Ed P. Reyes said, "While I agree that becoming a citizen shouldn't be easy, I also believe that it should not be made impossible either, and these fees are dangerously close to doing just that."

The naturalization fee has radically increased since 1991, when legal permanent residents paid \$90 to file their applications. This amounts to a cumulative fee increase of 650% in the past 16 years.

Joining the Councilmembers to oppose the fee increase were the NALEO Educational Fund; the Asian Pacific Legal Center; the English Literacy Program at Los Angeles City College; Consejo de Federaciones Mexicanas en Norte America (COFEM); Hermandad Mexicana Nacional; Service Employees International Union (SEIU); and Central American Resource Center (CARECEN).