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*From the Office of Secretary of the State Susan Bysiewicz*

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **SECRETARY BYSIEWICZ ANNOUNCES APPOINTMENT OF VALERIANO RAMOS AS DIRECTOR OF CONSTITUENT SERVICES**

HARTFORD – Secretary of the State Susan Bysiewicz today announced her appointment of Valeriano Ramos of Hamden as Director of Constituent Services, a newly created Executive Assistant position charged with enhancing the office's outreach efforts to many constituent groups, with special focus on the state's Hispanic and Latino communities.

"We are delighted to have Val assume this important role in our office. The creation of this post is part of our ongoing effort to be more accessible to and in touch with our many constituent groups," Secretary Bysiewicz said. "Val's credentials are impressive and most suited for this position. Through Val's work, our office will reach out and be more accessible to many more of our constituents, including many who are not English-proficient. Val's extensive experience in minority business development and voter registration efforts in Hispanic and Latino communities make him a tremendous asset to our office, and we are proud to have him join us."

Valeriano Ramos is a 1981 graduate of Yale College with a degree in Political Science, and received his Masters Degree in Politics from New York University in 1990. His experience includes serving as Executive Director of the Connecticut Association for United Spanish Action from 1987-90, during which time he helped to register 10,000 new voters in such major Connecticut Hispanic (C.A.U.S.A.) enclaves as Hartford, New Haven, Bridgeport, Waterbury, New Britain, and New London. After leaving C.A.U.S.A. he became Assistant Dean of Yale College and Director of the Julia de Burgos (Puerto Rican) Cultural Center at Yale from 1990-96, and following that joined Guakia, Inc., one of the oldest Puerto Rican arts and cultural organizations in the state, serving as interim Executive Director of this organization from 1997 to 1998.

Most recently, he has held a number of key roles at Trinity College, first as Director of Community Service and Civic Engagement and most recently as Special Assistant to the Vice President for Administration, Strategic Planning, and Affirmative Action from 2002-

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2006. Much of his early work at Trinity involved spearheading Trinity's role in the innovative Learning Corridor initiative led by that institution under the leadership of then-President Evan Dobbelle, where he worked to foster student engagement in the Learning Corridor, especially in the Boys and Girls Club at Trinity and in the Hartford Magnet Middle School, Secretary Bysiewicz said.

"Besides having extensive experience in such areas as youth civic engagement, nonpartisan voter education and registration, public policy research and advocacy, and Hispanic/Latino affairs, Val has very strong connections in the Hispanic/Latino community in Connecticut," Secretary Bysiewicz said. "Val is bilingual and bicultural, and brings many other skills to the new position."

"It is a privilege to be working under the leadership of Secretary of the State Bysiewicz and Deputy Secretary of the State Lesley Mara," Valeriano Ramos said. "I am looking forward to working closely with our many constituents. I particularly look forward to working closely with the Hispanic community in Connecticut to make the office even more accessible."

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