



Hi friend,

Over the past month, we have been preparing to launch our Triple the Vote, Triple the Power campaign that we announced Tuesday at a press conference at the State Capitol. We are proud to be working on our first partisan endorsement campaign for candidates who most represent and share the values of the Latino community and support our priorities in Minnesota. The Latino electorate continues to grow each year. Latinos comprise more than 5% of the total Minnesota population and 3.1% of the Minnesota electorate. With key issues on the table like immigration, health care, and education, it is imperative that all eligible Latinos vote this year.

We also continue to provide trainings, health resources, and more to our community to not only meet the immediate needs of our community but also to educate ourselves to build community power. Read more about our last month below.

We welcome Moriah and Mari to the team!



Moriah O'Malley has joined the team as our Development Director. Moriah grew up in southern Minnesota outside of Northfield. After moving out of state for almost a decade, she returned home to Minneapolis, where she now lives with her partner and two cats. Throughout her life and across the country, Moriah has seen the disproportionate effects white supremacy, patriarchy, and late-stage capitalism have had on immigrants and communities of color. Moriah has found a passion for disrupting these systems through fundraising for organizations led by the people most impacted by injustice. In 2022, Moriah joined COPAL to help achieve autonomy, wealth, and prosperity for immigrant communities across Minnesota. In her free time, Moriah likes to run, bike, spend time with friends, explore nature, and travel. We are excited to welcome her to the team!



Mari Hermeding has joined the team as our Environmental Justice Intern. Mari is a rising senior at the College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University in St. Joseph, Minnesota. She is pursuing a double major in environmental studies and peace studies with a concentration in environmental justice and the Latinx Experience. On campus, Mari participates in a variety of organizations. She is the Creative Director for Extending the Link, a social justice documentary group, and is currently producing their 15th film. She works as the Climate Justice Coordinator for the women's leadership center on campus, and advocates for a healthier planet through programming, educational materials, and expedition trips. She hopes her internship with COPAL pushes her outside of her comfort zone and tests her Spanish-speaking abilities. She is excited to connect with her fellow COPAL employees and nurture long-lasting relationships—we are thrilled to welcome her to the team!

Triple the Vote, Triple the Power



COPAL announced on Tuesday, at a press conference from the Capitol, the start of its first partisan support campaign for the candidates who best represent and share the values of the Latino community and support its priorities in Minnesota.

COPAL's goal is to build a sustainable, feasible, and measurable political program before the November 8 elections and subsequent elections for the purpose of increasing voter registration in Latino communities, increasing Latino voter turnout, and supporting candidates who share COPAL's mission of supporting Latino communities in Minnesota.

Stay tuned for updates on our endorsement process by following our social media, listening to Radio Jornalera MN, and visiting our website, mnlatinovote.org!

Health and Wellness



The month of May was a month of progress in vaccination against COVID-19. The Health and Wellness team hosted 11 free community vaccination clinics in community spaces, apartment buildings, schools, and other locations in Minneapolis, small towns, and rural areas.

The team was able to knock on hundreds of doors bringing information about vaccination clinics and resources to specific communities. The team was also present every week on social media through informative videos and on Radio Jornalera MN.

[Learn more about available health resources here](#)

Civic Participation and Leadership



Last month, COPAL participated in “Migrant Justice and Dignity in the 2023 Budget” in collaboration with Alianza Américas. Eduardo Peñasco, Organizer for Leadership and Civic Engagement, met with Quinton Johnson, a member of Representative Betty McCollum's office in Washington D.C.

COPAL together with Alianza Americas is demanding that the US Department of Justice (DOJ) include \$400 million for a legal representation program for non-citizens in deportation proceedings in the next annual budget. Although federal law guarantees the right to legal representation in immigration proceedings, the law still does not guarantee that the government will pay for legal defense for people who cannot afford it. Without representation, many immigrants find it almost impossible to navigate the complex immigration laws of the United States, especially in a language other than their own.

[Join the Civic Participation and Leadership Committee](#)

South Central Initiative



The COPAL office in Mankato closed the month of May with the fifteenth vaccination event so far this year, with more than 227 vaccines delivered from children 5 years old to older adults.

Health and wellness are an essential part of the development and prosperity of the Latino community in rural Minnesota. In addition, the South Central Initiative continues to participate in working groups that seek to integrate efforts to create a community rich in diversity. COPAL, together with the Greater Mankato Diversity Council, and Minnesota University Extension, continues to educate communities about diversity and inclusion with the Welcome Communities Project in rural areas.

COPAL Mankato is also working to promote access to mental health and general health services with different organizations and institutions, as well as with the Mayor of Mankato, Najwa Massad.

[Join the regional committee](#)

Environmental Justice



This month, the Frontline Communities Protection Coalition has been gearing up to support the East Philips neighborhood in its fight against the city's "Hiawatha Campus Expansion Project." We are fighting together with the East Philips Neighborhood Institute to demand environmental protection for the people of East Philips. Historically, the cumulative impacts of pollution in East Phillips have been ignored, with Black, Native American, and other frontline communities disproportionately affected by the negative health impacts of pollution emitted by the City and the United States. corporate projects. We need to hold the city accountable and ensure the protection of this community. Join us in this fight! You can email lesleg@copalmn.org for more information.

In May, we also joined the Midwestern Farmers of Color Collective and other affiliates in a delegation to the Minnesota State Capitol for end-of-session talks with elected officials.

Here are some environmental justice highlights:

- Decision-makers accomplished very little in this legislative session in Minnesota, despite the House and Senate agreeing to a framework to spend much of the state's \$9 billion budget surplus back in mid-May. In most sessions, both sides can agree on a capital investment/bonding bill, but even that wasn't finished in time. That means that the environmental policy and finance omnibus bill –which contains agency funding, COPAL's bill addressing the cumulative impacts of pollution, and other important policy proposals—is dead, for now.
- In other news, the long-challenged and controversial proposed PolyMet copper-nickel mine is still facing legal trouble. The Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa and the EPA are both opposing Swiss company Glencore's plan to dump waste rock in 900 acres of wetlands -- Fond du Lac is downstream of this proposed project, which is why they have a legal right to challenge it.
- The state returned 28,000 acres of land to the Bois Forte Band of Chippewa, which may be the largest land back deal ever. Returning land is an important act of environmental justice, addressing the historic legacy of land stolen from Minnesota's indigenous people on behalf of fur traders and white settlers.

"We were put on this Earth to take care of Mother Earth and our creator gave us our rice, our water, our land, our trees, the air, the skies. Everything is living. And so, we're to be the caretakers of that."

-Tribal Chair Cathy Chavers

[Get involved with our environmental policy work here](#)

Mental Health Resources

If you or someone you know is experiencing a mental health crisis, please contact the **MN Mental Health Crisis Line: **CRISIS or **274747**. Dial from your cell phone and you will be connected to your county crisis team.

Check out the following summary of dental, general health and mental health services that the Minnesota Department of Health has compiled at the lowest cost or at scale. Look at the column that specifies if they have interpreters or people who speak Spanish.

[Click here for low-cost health resources](#)

Radio Jornalera MN

Radio Jornalera has grown to now have five weekly shows every weekday from 5 to 6 PM and our daily morning show, El Jornal de la Alegría with Mike Castillo every weekday from 7 to 10 AM. Tune in [here](#) or [download the app](#).



We're hiring!

Want to make a difference in the community? We are hiring! We are looking for committed employees for the following position:

- [Field Organizer](#)

In solidarity,

COPAL

Based in Minneapolis, COPAL is a grassroots organization established in 2018 with the mission of building racial, gender, social, and economic justice for the Latino community in Minnesota. Now in its fifth year of operation, COPAL has built a network of more than 38,000 supporters throughout Minnesota. Learn more about COPAL's work at <https://copalmn.org>.