



NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: Kay Stimson
Director of Communications
202.624.3528
nass@sso.org

National Association of Secretaries of State Inducts 2008-2009 Officers

Pennsylvania Secretary of State Pedro A. Cortés Sworn in as NASS President, Names New Executive Board

Grand Rapids, MI—The National Association of Secretaries of State (NASS), currently holding its annual summer meeting in Grand Rapids, Michigan, today inducted its new slate of national officers for the 2008-2009 cycle. Pennsylvania Secretary of State Pedro A. Cortés will serve as president, the first time in the association's 104-year history that a Pennsylvania official has done so.

"I am tremendously honored that my colleagues across the country have selected me to lead our association in a year when states are anticipating record turnout in the upcoming presidential election," said Cortés, a native of Puerto Rico who has headed the Pennsylvania Department of State since 2003. "I will work hard to represent the collective voice of state election officials in our dealings with the White House, Congress, federal agencies, the political parties, voter advocacy groups and other key stakeholders in election matters."

Cortés has served on the NASS Executive Board in various leadership positions since 2004, including two terms as NASS Eastern Region Vice-President. He has distinguished himself as a leading expert on electronic notarization issues, making the National Notary Association's (NNA's) list of the "50 Most Influential People in Notarization in the Last 50 Years," and winning NNA's March Fong Eu Achievement Award. He also was recognized as one of *Hispanic Business Magazine's* "100 Most Influential Hispanics in the United States."

Cortés leads a new slate of NASS executive officers who will oversee the association's activities for the coming year, including its direction on election administration, business services, securities, international relations and state archives.

The members of the NASS Executive Board, who will hold office through July 2009, are:

Hon. Pedro A. Cortés, Pennsylvania (President)
Hon. Todd Rokita, Indiana (Past President)
Hon. Trey Grayson, Kentucky (President-Elect)
Hon. Matt Dunlap, Maine (Treasurer)
Hon. Robin Carnahan, Missouri (Secretary)
Hon. Ralph Mollis, Rhode Island (Eastern Region Vice President)
Hon. Karen Handel, Georgia (Southern Region Vice President)
Hon. Jennifer Brunner, Ohio (Midwestern Region Vice President)
Hon. Brad Johnson, Montana (Western Regional Vice President)
Hon. Lorraine Cortés-Vázquez, New York (Member at Large)
Hon. John Gale, Nebraska (Member at Large)

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