



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Faith Groups Vow to Turn Up the Heat in the Face of a Trump Presidency

PICO California issued the following statement in response to the final results of the Presidential Election

We are deeply disappointed that fear-mongering built upon racism, xenophobia, and misogyny resulted in the election of Donald J. Trump as the impending forty fifth President of the United States of America. The choice of the majority of American voters does not represent our faith or moral values.

While we are glad that California as a whole displayed far more tolerance and progress than the rest of the country. We are fighting for the very soul of the entire nation and our work has just begun. Our resounding victories in California on state and local issues affirm the possibility of what is just and fair. The people who will be most impacted by the election of Donald Trump – Latinos, Blacks, Indigenous folks, undocumented individuals, immigrants, and the formerly incarcerated are the same people who can bring forth a great awakening of hearts and minds. As people of faith immersed in organizing work, our goal has always been to not only shift the electorate towards an inclusive agenda but to also change hearts and minds so that the shift can become the permanent moral tenor of the nation.

The families, congregations, and communities that we have engaged over the years will be deeply impacted by the decision made by a significant majority of voters. While we must all take time to grieve and mourn this tremendous act of poor judgment, despair, and hate, we must never lose focus of our goal: liberation and full enfranchisement of all those who call the United States home. History has shown us that majority rule does not always align with what is morally and ethically right. We have been down this road before. As such, now more than ever we must regroup, strategize, and organize.

“While many of our families awake this morning in uncertainty and fear, we should take heart that the people of California chose a path of unity and love and justice,” states PICO California Director, Corey Timpson. “Our constituents have overwhelmingly voted to affirm that everyone’s humanity should be valued and protected. Remember that California is America. Only sooner. We are the future. While we are weary today, the stakes are too high for all those we love to turn away from what we have been called to do. We will continue to have faith in the goodwill, passion, and commitment of the people of California and of our Nation. Now more than ever, we must work strategically to demonstrate what people power can accomplish,” said Corey Timpson, Executive Director of PICO California.

This year, clergy and community leaders with PICO California launched our “Together We Vote | One People, One Fight” campaign. We also became a founding partner of the Million Voters Project (MVP), an unprecedented movement building the collective power of the growing electorate in California. Both our organizational campaign and our coalition campaign focused on mobilizing faith-based constituencies, Blacks, Latinos, Asian Pacific Islanders, immigrants, refugees, young voters, and formerly incarcerated individuals to take part in shaping our political landscape.

As a part of our voter engagement efforts, PICO California teams registered nearly 19,000 voters, volunteers donated 3,092 shifts for our canvassing and phone banking efforts, and we engaged more than 190,000 new and



infrequent voters in Tuesday's election. By 2018, PICO California and our MVP partners will engage 1,000,000 voters.

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PICO California is the state's largest community organizing network. We organize in 73 cities, 15 school districts, and in more than one-half of the state's Senate and Assembly districts. PICO California was established in 1994, bringing together local federations from throughout California to affect meaningful budget and policy change at the state level. Over the past 20 years, our organizing and policy advocacy has resulted in increased investments in education and healthcare, and in programs and services that are critical for working families. Together, we represent 480 congregations and 450,000 families of diverse economic, racial, ethnic, and religious backgrounds committed to advancing racial and economic justice in California through organizing, advocacy, and voter engagement. Visit www.PICOCalifornia.org to learn more.

PICO California and its federations are non-partisan and do not endorse or support candidates for office.

Million Voters Project is a collaboration of California's strongest community-based networks: Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment (ACCE), Asian Pacific Environmental Network (APEN), California Calls, the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles (CHIRLA), Mobilize the Immigrant Vote (MIV), and PICO California.