



The Delano Grape Strike

National Hispanic Heritage Month recognizes the contributions of Hispanic and Latino Americans to the history, culture, and achievements of the United States. This spotlight focuses on their civil rights journey, as well as their continued advocacy through civic and political participation. Let's learn more about the largest Hispanic/Latino Civil Rights Movement, three influential civil rights leaders, and advocacy organizations that are still advancing causes today.



### El Movimiento: The Chicano Civil Rights Movement (1940s-1970s)

- Influenced by and connected with the Black Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s; used many of the same tactics
- Caused by overall discrimination and the Zoot Suit Riots
- Primarily located in the Southwest, Midwest, and Western United States
- The term "chicano" was a derogatory term that those involved in the movement wanted to reclaim and instead be used to express their cultural identity and pride
- Focused on issues like education, healthcare, housing, voting rights, and immigration
- Inspired many groups to come together, like artists, teachers, students, and journalists
- Wanted better wages and working conditions for Latino and Hispanic Americans
- Accomplishments: Bilingual/bicultural programs in the southwest, improved conditions and pay for migrant workers, hired Chicano teachers, increased number serving as elected officials

# National Hispanic Heritage Month

A Civics in Real Life Series Honoring Hispanic American Representation Across America

## Spotlight 2: Civic Participation & The Journey for Civil Rights

### Notable Civil Rights Leaders



- César Chávez: Farm laborer; migrant worker; labor leader; awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom for his nonviolent activism
- Dolores Huerta: Teacher turned labor activist for farm workers; coined the phrase "Si se puede!" (Yes, we can!)
- Reies López Tijerina: Texas worker known as the "Malcom X of the Chicano Movement"; pushed a controversial idea to reclaim land taken by white settlers in 1848
- All three helped lead boycotts, strikes, and marches for justice
- Chávez and Huerata founded the National Farm Workers Association (later United Farm Workers-UFW) in California
- In 1965, Chávez and Huerata helped a Filipino American labor organization win victories in the Delano Grape Strike



### Advocacy Organizations

- League of United Latin American Citizens [LULAC] (founded in 1929)
- National Council of La Raza, now known as UnidosUS (founded in 1968)
- Mexican American Legal Defense Education Fund (founded in 1968)
- Puerto Rican Legal Defense and Education Fund, now known as LatinoJustice PRLDEF (founded in 1972)



Dolores Huerta

### Civics Challenge: Search & Learn:

Pick one of the advocacy groups listed above. What does that group specialize in? Who are some key members involved today? What impact have they had on current legislation?

