



**ALEX PADILLA**  
California Secretary of State

**FOR PLANNING PURPOSES**

**February 11, 2020**

**Contact:**

**SOS Press Office**

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**MEDIA ADVISORY**

**Secretary of State Alex Padilla to Welcome More Than  
1,250 New U.S. Citizens in Oakland**

**OAKLAND, CA** – California Secretary of State Alex Padilla will deliver the keynote speech at a U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) naturalization ceremony at the Paramount Theatre in Oakland on **Wednesday, February 12 at 2:00 p.m.** Secretary Padilla will be speaking about the importance of civic engagement and encouraging new citizens to register to vote.

More than 1,250 new citizens from 100 countries are expected to take the Oath of Allegiance at this ceremony.

Secretary Padilla is a son of immigrants who became naturalized U.S. citizens. His parents emigrated from Mexico and raised their family in the working-class community of Pacoima, California. His father worked as a short order cook and his mother cleaned houses. Padilla attended local public schools and went on to graduate from Massachusetts Institute of Technology with a bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering. Padilla served as a Los Angeles City Council member from 1999 to 2006, including four and a half years as a Council President. He served as a California State Senator from 2006 to 2014, before being elected as California Secretary of State in 2014. Padilla was sworn in for his second term as Secretary of State on January 7, 2019.

USCIS is asking new citizens and their families and friends to share the experience and photos at their ceremonies via Twitter using the hashtag #newUScitizen.

Media are welcome to cover this event, and to approach new citizens for interviews.

**WHO:** California Secretary of State Alex Padilla

**WHEN:** Wednesday, February 12, 2020  
2:00 p.m.

**WHERE:** Paramount Theatre  
2025 Broadway  
Oakland, CA 94612

**NOTE:** TV cameras should be set up by 1:40 p.m. Please send an email to [sos.press@sos.ca.gov](mailto:sos.press@sos.ca.gov) to set up an interview with Secretary Padilla.

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