

## PRESS RELEASE

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## NFIA CONGRATULATES BOBBY JINDAL

The National Federation of Indian American Associations (NFIA), the largest umbrella organization comprising of more than 200 different groups representing more than 2.5 million Americans of Indian origin takes great pride in the victory of Bobby Jindal in the elections last night for the Governor of Louisiana. Jindal will be the first person of Indian descent to become the Governor of a US State and, at age 36, will be the youngest Governor in the nation. NFIA sent last night it's heartfelt Congratulations to Jindal for this splendid success in the electoral process. Jindal won the contest by more than 54% of the votes cast and thus avoiding any run off election.



The NFIA and Jindal have had close and cordial relations for the past many years. The NFIA held a reception at its Board meeting in New Orleans in 2003 under the presidency of Niraj Baxi. The organization has since then supported the candidacy of Jindal in every election. Four years ago, he ran for the office of Governor and lost by 2% votes. He then contested for the US Congress in 2004 and became only the second person of Indian origin to sit in the House of Representatives. In 1956, Dalip Singh Saund, an Indian born person, was elected to the House from California. Both Saund and Jindal have roots in the State of Punjab, India.

In 1996, two years after graduate school at Oxford University as a Rhodes Scholar, was appointed Secretary of the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals (DHH) at the tender age of 26. He was appointed Executive Director of the National Bipartisan Commission on the Future of Medicare, a 17-member panel under the chairmanship of former U.S. Senator John Breaux (D-LA) and Congressman Bill Thomas (R-CA). Jindal returned to Louisiana state government in 1999, when he accepted an appointment to

become President of the University of Louisiana System. After serving in that capacity for two years, Jindal was appointed Assistant Secretary of the United States Department of Health and Human Services.

Reflecting the views of all officers of the NFIA a spokesman of the organization summed up in this way, "it is a great moment in the history of America when some one who looks like us becomes the Governor of Louisiana. We should all be dancing in the streets to display our pride."

Rajen Anand, Chair, NFIA Foundation

Radha Krishnan, President NFIA