The Latino Legal Voice for Civil Rights in America

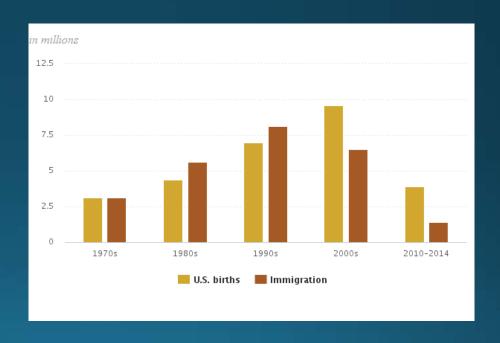
MALDEF

Andrea Senteno, Legislative Staff Attorney

Latinos in the U.S.

• There are close to 57 million Latinos living in the U.S. today. As of 2015, Latinos made up 17.6% of the national total population.

- U.S. births account for majority of Latino population growth.
- Latinos are the second fastest growing population in the U.S.



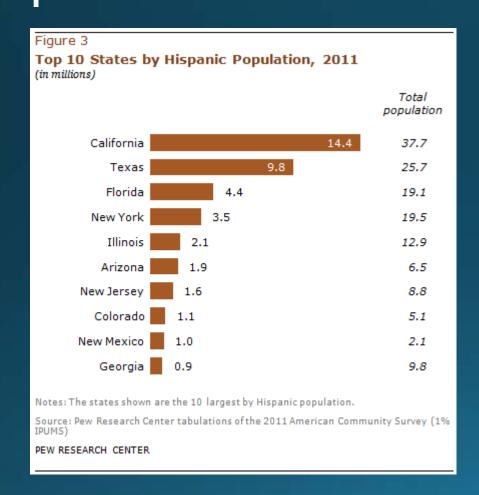
Source: Pew Research Center

The Growing Latino Electorate

- In the 2016, 31% of eligible voters were racial or ethnic minority voters.
- The Latino electorate was expected to reach 27.3 million (12%) last year.
- Latinos voted in record numbers in the 2016 presidential election.
- Growth in Latino vote mostly comes from U.S. citizens aging into the right to vote. From 2012 to 2016, 3.2 million Latinos
- Other sources of growth in the presidential election included naturalizations and migration from Puerto Rico to the mainland.

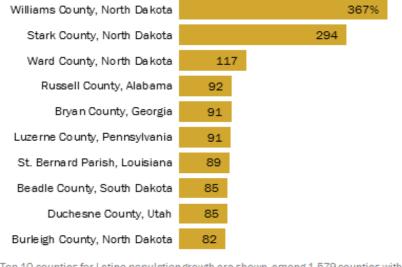


Geographic Diversity of the Latino Population



Three fastest-growing counties by Latino population since 2007 are in North Dakota

Latino population growth rate from 2007 to 2014



Note: Top 10 counties for Latino population growth are shown, among 1,579 counties with at least 1,000 Latinos in 2014.

Source: Pew Research Centertabulations of the U.S. Census Bureau population estimates. "U.S. Latino Population Growth and Dispersion Has Slowed Since Onset of the Great Recession"

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Geographic Diversity of Latino Voters

- Increasing geographic diversity of eligible Latino voters.
- More Latino eligible voters (55%) live outside of California and Texas.
- Overall growth of Latino voters across the country does not mean the proportion of the Latino electorate is rising in all states. Texas seeing large increases in Latino population, but not necessarily in larger share of the electorate.
- In Texas, 19% of eligible voters are Latino. In California, 27% of eligible voters are Latino.
- Four states with at least 15% of eligible voters that were Latino in 2016 elections: Florida, Arizona, New Mexico, and Nevada.

How the Latino Vote is Changing

- Increasing numbers of Latino voters are college educated.
- Close to one-third (32%) of Latino eligible voters are second-generation, up from 27% in 2008.
- Proportion of Latino eligible voters who are immigrants has remained constant, at approximately 25%.
- Even with the share of immigrant Latino voters remaining the same over time, the number of immigrant Latino voters continues to increase along with the Latino electorate.
 - Between 2008 and 2016, an estimated 2.2 million new immigrant Latinos were eligible to vote.



English Proficiency of Latinos

English Proficiency Among Hispanics

Year	U.S. born	Foreign born	All Hispanics
1980	71.9%	30.7%	59.0%
1990	78.2%	33.5%	60.7%
2000	81.1%	31.8%	59.3%
2010	87.9%	31.5%	64.8%
2013	89.1%	34.2%	67.8%
2014	89.4%	34.4%	68.4%

Note: Respondents are asked if they speak a language besides English at home. If they answer yes, they are asked how well they speak English.

Source: Pew Research Center tabulations of 1980, 1990 and 2000 censuses (5% IPUMS) and 2010, 2013 and 2014 American Community Surveys (1% IPUMS).

Language Access Issues Persist

- Spanish is the second most used language in the U.S. and 13% of the population speaks Spanish at home.
- NALEO reported that 5% of the calls they received during the presidential election were to report lack of language assistance.
- In 2014, 1.2 million (22%) Latino adult citizens in California were not fully English proficient.
- Despite the increasing share of native born Latino voters, the number of foreign born Latino voters continues to rise, furthering the need for language assistance.
- During the 2016 Nevada Democratic caucus a lack of Spanish interpreters created confusion.
- Failure to provide adequate Spanish translation of written or electronic resources, including websites, common across the country.

Language Accessibility in Voting

- Section 203 of the Voting Rights Act
 - 2016 determinations found 16,621,136 voting-age citizen Latinos in jurisdictions covered by Section 203.
 - New counties being added, such as Gwinnett County, GA.
- Section 4(e) of the Voting Rights Act

- Voting Rights of 1965 preclearance protections
 - Proposed "Known Practices" coverage

Other Challenges to Latino Turnout

- Latinos still experience low turnout, compared to black or white voters.
 - Latinos tend to lack familiarity with the process and experience voting.

- Low rates of naturalizations among Latinos.
 - There are approximately 8.8 million legal permanent residents eligible to naturalize, of which an estimated 4.4 are Latino, and 2.7 million are Mexican.
- Barriers to naturalization for the immigrant population

Contact MALDEF

Andrea Senteno, Legislative Staff Attorney asenteno@maldef.org
(202) 572-0467