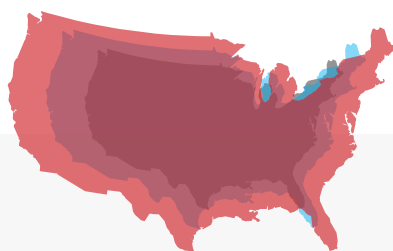




ELECTION 2020

RACES TO WATCH

THE POWER OF LATINO CANDIDATES



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In Election 2020, Latinos will continue their progress as leaders of their communities by seeking positions in Congress, statewide offices, and state legislatures across the nation. Latino candidates are demonstrating that they can successfully pursue seats in the executive and legislative branches of government throughout the country, where some of the most important decisions are made about the policies that affect the lives of all Americans. Additionally, Latinos are achieving new milestones in their efforts to attain full representation at the federal and state level. This *Election Profile* focuses on key federal and statewide races involving Latino candidates in the general election on November 3, 2020, and presents an analysis of potential Latino gains in Congress and state legislatures.

Latinos are running for top offices in 36 states. The geographic diversity of Latino candidates demonstrates that Latinos are mobilizing for political progress in both the traditional Latino population centers, and in regions with emerging Latino communities such as the Plains States, the Midwest, the Deep South, and New England.

Latinos in the U.S. Senate

In Election 2020, U.S. Senate races are considered particularly crucial to either retaining or gaining partisan in advantage in Congress' upper chamber. None of the Senate's four Latino incumbents are up for re-election in 2020: Catherine Cortez Masto (D-NV), Ted Cruz (R-TX), Robert Menendez (D-NJ) and Marco Rubio (R-FL). In New Mexico, U.S. Rep. Ben Ray Luján (D) has excellent prospects of winning his contest against meteorologist and television personality Mark Ronchetti (R) for the seat held by retiring Senator Tom Udall (D). If Luján prevails, the number of Latinos in the Senate will increase to five after Election 2020.

Latinos in the U.S. House of Representatives

The number of Latinos in the U.S. House could increase by as many as six from 39 to 45. Additionally, there are likely to be several new Latinos in the U.S. House of Representatives. In New York, New York City Councilmember Ritchie Torres (D) has excellent prospects for victory in his contest against Patrick Delices (R) in the 15th Congressional District battle for the seat being vacated by retiring U.S. Rep. Jose Serrano (D). In New Mexico, attorney Teresa Leger Fernandez (D) is likely to prevail in her 3rd Congressional District race against engineer Alexis Martinez Johnson (R) for the seat being vacated by U.S. Rep. Ben Ray Luján (D), who is pursuing a seat in the U.S. Senate.

Texas is seeing two of the most competitive U.S. House races in the nation. In the 23rd Congressional District, Navy veteran Tony Gonzales (R) is facing Filipina Air Force veteran Gina Ortiz Jones (D) for the seat held by retiring U.S. Rep. Will Hurd (R). In the 24th Congressional District, former Carrollton-Farmers Branch School Board Member Candace Valenzuela (D) is running in an open seat race against former Irving Mayor Beth Van Duyne (R) for the seat held by retiring U.S. Rep. Kenny Marchant (R).

Two candidates from the Midwest are poised to make history as the first Latinas to represent their states in the U.S. House: in Indiana, Latina former State Assemblymember Christina Hale (D), who has good prospects of prevailing in her 5th Congressional District open seat contest against former State Senator Victoria Spartz (R) for the seat held by retiring U.S. Rep. Susan Brooks (R); and in Kansas, Topeka Mayor Michelle De La Isla (D), who is in an extremely competitive race against Kansas State Treasurer Jake LaTurner (R) in the 2nd Congressional District, for the seat being vacated by U.S. Rep. Steve Watkins (R).

Three Latinos who are viable contenders in tougher races for the U.S. House include two Californians: In the 50th Congressional District, former Obama Administration official Ammar Campa-Najjar (D) is trying to unseat U.S. Rep. Darrell Issa (R), and in the 53rd Congressional District, San Diego City Council President Georgette Gomez (D) is running in an open seat race against children's advocate Sara Jacobs (D), pursuing the seat held by retiring U.S. Rep. Susan Davis (D). In New York's 11th Congressional District, Latina State Assemblymember Nicole Malliotakis (R) is challenging U.S. Rep. Max Rose (D).

Two Latino incumbents are also involved in hotly-contested races, with both political parties targeting the seats. In California, U.S. Rep. Mike Garcia (R), who defeated State Assemblymember Christy Smith (D) in a 25th Congressional District special election, is involved in a rematch against Smith. In Florida's 26th Congressional District, U.S. Rep. Debbie Mucarsel Powell (D) is being challenged by Miami-Dade County Mayor Carlos Gimenez (R).

Latinos in Statewide Office

Five Latinos are running for statewide executive offices, including three incumbents with good prospects in their re-election bids: Arizona Corporation Commissioner Lea Marquez Peterson (R), Delaware Insurance Commissioner Trinidad Navarro (D), and Utah Attorney General Sean Reyes (R). Tolleson Mayor Anna Tovar (D), who previously served in both chambers of the Arizona state legislature, is also pursuing a seat on the Corporation Commission, in an election for three at-large positions. In Washington, non-profit executive Maia Espinoza (NPP) will have a tough contest in her battle to unseat incumbent Superintendent of Public Instruction Chris Reykdal (NPP).

Latinos in State Senates

There could be an increase in the number of Latinos in State Senates after Election 2020, from 86 to 98, a net gain of 12. States with the largest potential increases include Arizona and California, which could each see a net gain of three Latinos in their State Senates. States with a potential net increase of one Latino include Colorado, Connecticut, Georgia, Illinois, Massachusetts, Ohio and Wyoming. Tennessee will lose its sole Latino State Senator, retiring veteran legislator Dolores Gresham (R).

Latinos in state lower houses

In state lower houses, there could be an increase in the total number of Latinos from 243 to 254, a net gain of 11. States with the largest potential increases include Texas, which could see a net gain of seven Latinos, and Iowa, New Hampshire, New York, and Rhode Island, which could see net gains of two Latinos each. States with a potential net increase of one Latino include many with emerging Latino communities: Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Indiana, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Oregon, and Pennsylvania. Arizona may see a potential net decrease of three in the number of Latinos serving in its State House of Representatives, due in part to the loss of two incumbents who are pursuing seats in the State Senate. Other states with potential net decreases of either one or two Latinos include Colorado, Illinois, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, New Mexico, Ohio, and Vermont.

The *Profile* includes a state-by-state description of the key federal and statewide races involving Latino candidates (an analysis of the growing number of local offices, such as county, municipal and school board seats is beyond the scope of the *Profile*). On pages 4-7, the *Profile* sets forth tables which include the number of Latino candidates for federal and state legislative offices, and potential Latino electoral gains for each state.

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The following table sets forth for each state: the number of Latinos currently serving in the U.S. House of Representatives, the number of Latinos running for the U.S. House, the potential net gain or loss of Latino seats, and the potential composition of the U.S. House after the November 2020 election. In determining the potential gain of Latino seats, the table projects that strongly competitive Latino candidates will win their elections.

State	Number of Latinos Currently in U.S. House		Latinos Running in November 2020		Potential Net Gain or Loss	Potential Number of Latinos After Election
	DEM	GOP	DEM	GOP		
AZ	2	0	2	0	0	2
CA	14	1	19	6	2	17
FL	2	1	2	4	0	3
ID	0	0	1	0	0	0
IL	1	0	1	2	0	1
IN	0	0	1	1	1	1
KS	0	0	1	0	1	1
NJ	1	0	1	0	0	1
NM	2	0	2	2	0	2
NY	5	0	5	1	1	6
OH	0	1	0	1	0	1
PA	0	0	0	1	0	0
TN	0	0	1	0	0	0
TX	6	1	10	8	1	8
WA	0	1	0	1	0	1
WV	0	1	0	1	0	1
Total	33	6	46	28	6	45

See "Methodology" on page 15 for more information.

STATE SENATES

The following table sets forth for each state: the number of Latinos currently serving in State Senates; the number of Latinos running for State Senates, the potential net gain or loss of Latino seats, and the potential composition of State Senates after the November 2020 election.

In determining the potential gain of Latino seats, the table projects that strongly competitive Latino candidates will win their elections.

State	Number of Latinos Currently in State Senate		Latinos Running in November 2020		Potential Net Gain or Loss	Potential Number of Latinos After Election
	DEM	GOP	DEM	GOP		
AZ	7	0	10	1	3	10
CA	7	0	5	2	3	10
CO	4	0	3	1	1	5
CT	2	1	3	3	1	4
DE	1	1	0	0	0	2
FL	4	2	3	2	0	6
GA	0	0	0	1	1	1
HI	4	0	2	0	0	4
IL	5	0	4	0	1	6
KY	0	1	0	0	0	1
MA	1	0	2	0	1	2
MI	1	0	0	0	0	1
MN	2	0	3	1	0	2
NE	1	0	1	1	0	1
NV	2	0	1	0	0	2
NJ	3	0	0	0	0	3
NM	15	1	16	5	0	16
NY	7	0	7	1	0	7
NC	0	0	1	1	0	0
OH	0	0	0	1	1	1
OK	1	0	0	0	0	1
PA	0	0	1	0	0	0
RI	2	0	2	0	0	2
TN	0	1	0	0	-1	0
TX	6	1	7	2	0	7
UT	1	0	1	0	0	1
WA	1	0	0	0	0	1
WV	0	1	0	1	0	1
WY	0	0	0	1	1	1
Total	77	9	72	24	12	98

STATE HOUSES OF REPRESENTATIVES

The following table sets forth for each state: the number of Latinos currently serving in the State lower house, the number of Latino candidates running for the State lower house, the potential net gain or loss of Latino seats, and the potential composition of the State lower houses after the November 2020 election.

In determining the potential gain of Latino seats, the table projects that strongly competitive Latino candidates will win their elections.

State	Number of Latinos Currently in State House		Latinos Running in November 2020		Potential Net Gain or Loss	Potential Number of Latinos After Election
	DEM	GOP	DEM	GOP		
AZ	14	2	16	2	-3	13
CA	22	0	25	7	0	22
CO	9	1	9	3	-1	9
CT	11	0	13	2	1	12
FL	7	10	11	15	1	18
GA	2	0	3	0	1	3
HI	0	0	0	1	1	1
IL	9	1	8	1	-1	9
IN	2	0	5	0	1	3
IA	0	0	1	1	2	2
KS	5	0	5	0	0	5
KY	0	0	1	0	0	0
MD	3	0	0	0	0	3
MA	7	0	6	0	-1	6
MI	3	1	3	0	-2	2
MN	2	2	3	3	0	4
MO	1	0	0	0	-1	0
NV	7	0	7	0	0	7
NH	2	0	6	1	2	4
NJ	7	0	0	0	0	7
NM	23	5	23	12	-1	27
NY	15	1	18	3	2	18

CONTINUED BELOW ON PAGE 7

STATE HOUSES OF REPRESENTATIVES (CONT.)

State	Number of Latinos Currently in State House		Latinos Running in November 2020		Potential Net Gain or Loss	Potential Number of Latinos After Election
	DEM	GOP	DEM	GOP		
NC	0	0	1	0	1	1
OH	0	2	0	0	-2	0
OK	0	2	1	0	1	3
OR	3	0	7	0	1	4
PA	2	0	3	0	1	3
RI	5	0	7	0	2	7
TX	36	1	45	10	7	44
UT	2	0	2	0	0	2
VT	1	0	0	0	-1	0
VA	4	1	0	0	0	5
WA	4	1	5	2	0	5
WV	0	1	1	1	0	1
WI	2	1	2	2	0	3
WY	0	1	0	2	0	1
Total	210	33	237	68	11	254

See "Methodology" on page 15 for more information.

LATINO CANDIDATES FOR STATEWIDE OFFICE

State	Candidate	Office	Party
AZ	Lea Marquez Peterson (I)	Corporation Commissioner	GOP
AZ	Anna Tovar	Corporation Commissioner	DEM
DE	Trinidad Navarro (I)	Insurance Commissioner	DEM
UT	Sean Reyes (I)	Attorney General	GOP
WA	Maia Espinoza	Superintendent of Public Instruction	N-P

“(I)” denotes incumbent.

ARIZONA

U.S. House of Representatives

Arizona's two incumbent Latino U.S. Representatives, Raul Grijalva (D) and Ruben Gallego (D) are both running for re-election, and face excellent prospects of victory.

Statewide Races

Two Latinas are running competitive races for seats on Arizona's Corporation Commission, where there are three positions up for election in this at-large contest. Incumbent Lea Marquez Peterson (R) was appointed by Governor Doug Ducey, and is seeking election to her first full term. Tolleson Mayor Anna Tovar (D), who previously served in both chambers of the state legislature, is also pursuing a seat on the Commission. Other candidates in the contest include former Commissioner Bill Mundell (D), who is seeking to return to the Commission; small business owner Eric Sloan (R); and educator Shea Stanfield (D).

CALIFORNIA

California Congressional contests are held under the "top two primary" system, where all candidates running in the primary election – regardless of their party preference – appear on a single primary election ballot, and people can vote for any candidate. The top two overall vote-getters (not the top vote-getter from each political party) move on to the November general election. On the ballot, candidates can list their affiliation with a political party or indicate "No Party Preference" (NPP). As a result, two candidates from the same political party may face each other in the general election.

U.S. House of Representatives

All fifteen of California's incumbent Latino U.S. Representatives are running for re-election and twelve face excellent prospects of re-election: Democrats Pete Aguilar, Tony Cardenas, J. Louis Correa, Nanette Diaz Barragan, Grace Flores Napolitano, Jimmy Gomez, Mike Levin, Lucille Roybal-Allard, Raul Ruiz, Linda Sanchez, Norma Torres and Juan Vargas. Incumbents with more competitive contests include U.S. Rep. Salud Carbajal (D) who is facing a challenge in the 24th Congressional District from Andy Caldwell (R), Executive Director of the Coalition of Labor, Agriculture, and Business. In the 39th Congressional District, U.S. Rep. Gil Cisneros (D) is involved in a rematch of his 2018 contest, facing former State Assemblymember Young Kim (R). U.S. Rep. Mike Garcia (R), who defeated State Assemblymember Christy Smith (D) in a 25th Congressional District special election, is also involved in a rematch against Smith. Both political parties have targeted this contest.

Some Latinos challenging incumbents are facing difficult contests, including retired U.S. Marshal Tony Amador (R), who is challenging U.S. Rep. Jerry McNerney (D) in the 9th Congressional District; businessperson Justin James Aguilera (R) who is trying to unseat U.S. Rep. Zoe Lofgren (D) in the 19th Congressional District; and small business owner Phil Arballo (D), who is facing U.S. Devin Nunes (R) in the 22nd Congressional District. In the 50th Congressional District, former Obama Administration official Ammar Campa-Najjar (D) is involved in a tough but competitive contest against U.S. Rep. Darrell Issa (R).

In the 53rd Congressional District, San Diego City Council President Georgette Gomez (D) is running in an open seat race against children's advocate Sara Jacobs (D), pursuing the seat held by retiring U.S. Rep. Susan Davis (D).

Statewide Officials

None of California's incumbent Latino statewide officials are up for re-election: Attorney General Xavier Becerra (D), Insurance Commissioner Ricardo Lara (D), Secretary of State Alex Padilla (D), and Superintendent of Public Instruction Tony Thurmond (NPP).

DELAWARE

Statewide Officials

Delaware Insurance Commissioner Trinidad Navarro (D) has excellent prospects of victory in his re-election race.

FLORIDA

U.S. Senate

U.S. Senator Marco Rubio (R) is not up for re-election in 2020.

U.S. Representatives

Florida's three Latino incumbent U.S. Representatives are running for re-election, and two do not face serious opposition: Democrat Darren Soto and Republican Mario Diaz-Balart. In the 26th Congressional District, U.S. Rep. Debbie Mucarsel Powell (D) is facing a competitive challenge from Miami-Dade County Mayor Carlos Gimenez (R).

In the 13th Congressional District, small business owner Ana Paulina Luna (R) faces an uphill battle in her bid to unseat U.S. Rep. Charlie Crist (D). In a 2018 rematch, former broadcast journalist Maria Elvira Salazar (R) is facing a tough 27th Congressional District contest against U.S. Rep. Donna Shalala (D).

Statewide Officials

Lt. Governor Jeannette Nuñez is not up for re-election in 2020.

IDAHO

U.S. House of Representatives

In the 1st Congressional District, U.S. Army National Guard veteran Rudy Soto (D) is in an uphill battle to unseat U.S. Rep. Russ Fulcher (R).

ILLINOIS

U.S. House of Representatives

U.S. Rep. Jesus 'Chuy' Garcia (D) faces no serious opposition in his 4th Congressional District re-election bid.

In Illinois' 10th Congressional District, investment and finance executive Valerie Ramirez Mukherjee (R) is facing a tough contest in her bid to unseat U.S. Rep. Brad Schneider (D).

Statewide Officials

State Comptroller Susana Mendoza (D) is not up for re-election in 2020.

INDIANA

U.S. House of Representatives

Latina former State Assemblymember Christina Hale (D) has good prospects of prevailing in her 5th District open seat contest against former State Senator Victoria Spartz (R), for the seat held by retiring U.S. Rep. Susan Brooks (R). If she wins, Hale would be the first Latina to represent Indiana in the House of Representatives.

Carpenter Mark Leyva (R) faces an uphill battle in his 1st Congressional District open seat race against State Senator Frank Mrvan (D).

KANSAS

U.S. House of Representatives

Topeka Mayor Michelle De La Isla (D) is in an extremely competitive race against Kansas State Treasurer Jake LaTurner (R) in the 2nd Congressional District. If Mayor De La Isla wins, she would be the first Latina to represent Kansas in the House of Representatives.

NEVADA

U.S. Senate

U.S. Senator Catherine Cortez Masto (D) is not up for re-election in 2020.

NEW JERSEY

U.S. Senate

Senator Robert Menendez (D) is not up for re-election in 2020.

U.S. House of Representatives

U.S. Rep. Albio Sires (D) does not face serious opposition in his re-election bid.

NEW MEXICO

U.S. Senate

U.S. Rep. Ben R. Luján (D) has excellent prospects of victory in his race against meteorologist and television personality Mark Ronchetti (R) for the seat held by retiring Senator Tom Udall (D).

U.S. House of Representatives

One of New Mexico's two Latino U.S. Representatives is running for re-election, Xochitl Torres Small (D), and she is likely to win her 2nd Congressional District contest. In the 3rd Congressional District, attorney Teresa Leger Fernandez (D) has good prospects of prevailing in the open seat contest against engineer Alexis Martinez Johnson (R) for the seat being vacated by U.S. Rep. Ben Ray Luján (D), who is pursuing a seat in the U.S. Senate.

In the 1st Congressional District, Michelle Garcia Holmes (R), former Chief of Staff for the New Mexico Attorney General's office, will have an uphill battle in her effort to unseat U.S. Rep. Deb Haaland (D).

Statewide Officials

None of New Mexico's five incumbent Latino statewide officials are up for re-election in 2020: Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham (D), Lt. Governor Howie Morales (D), Attorney General Hector Balderas (D), State Auditor Brian Colón (D) and Commissioner of Public Lands Stephanie Garcia Richard (D).

NEW YORK

U.S. House of Representatives

Four of New York's five Latino incumbents are running for re-election, and all have excellent prospects of victory in their re-election bids: Democrats Antonio Delgado, Adriano Espaillat, Nydia Velázquez and Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez. They are likely to be joined in Congress by New York City Councilmember Ritchie Torres (D), who is facing Patrick Delices (R) in the 15th Congressional District contest for the seat being vacated by retiring U.S. Rep. Jose Serrano (D).

In the 11th Congressional District, Latina State Assemblymember Nicole Malliotakis (R) is in a tough but competitive contest to unseat U.S. Rep. Max Rose (D).

OHIO

U.S. House of Representatives

U.S. Rep. Anthony Gonzalez (R) does not face any serious opposition in his 16th Congressional District re-election bid.

PENNSYLVANIA

U.S. House of Representatives

David Torres (R) will have an uphill battle in his 2nd Congressional District bid to unseat incumbent U.S. Rep. Brendan Boyle (D).

RHODE ISLAND

Statewide Officials

Secretary of State Nellie Gorbea (D) is not up for re-election in 2020.

TENNESSEE

U.S. House of Representatives

Environmental advocate Renee Hoyos (D) faces a tough battle in her 2nd Congressional District bid to unseat U.S. Rep. Tim Burchett (R).

TEXAS

U.S. Senate

U.S. Senator Ted Cruz (R) is not up for re-election in 2020.

U.S. House of Representatives

Six of Texas' seven incumbent Latino U.S. Representatives are running for re-election, and none face serious opposition: Democrats Joaquin Castro, Henry Cuellar, Veronica Escobar, Vicente Gonzalez, Sylvia Garcia, and Filemon Vela. Incumbent Republican Bill Flores is retiring from Congress.

Two of Texas' House of Representatives contests involving Latino candidates are extremely competitive and have been targeted by both political parties. In the 23rd Congressional District, Navy veteran Tony Gonzales (R) is facing Filipina Air Force veteran Gina Ortiz Jones (D) for the seat held by retiring U.S. Rep. Will Hurd (R). In the 24th Congressional District, former Carrollton-Farmers Branch School Board Member Candace Valenzuela (D) is running in an open seat race against former Irving Mayor Beth Van Duyne (R) for the seat held by retiring U.S. Rep. Kenny Marchant (R).

Latinos involved in tougher races include: accountant Elizabeth Hernandez (D), who is trying to unseat U.S. Rep. Kevin Brady (R) in the 8th Congressional District; Gus Trujillo (D), who is facing former White House doctor Ronny Jackson (R) in the 13th Congressional District; businessperson Ricardo de la Fuente (D), who is trying to unseat U.S. Rep. Michael Cloud (R) in the 27th Congressional District; sales professional Fabian Cordova Vasquez (R), who is trying to unseat U.S. Rep. Marc Veasey (D) in the 33rd Congressional District; and community leader Jenny Garcia Sharon (R), who is trying to unseat U.S. Rep. Lloyd Doggett (D) in the 35th Congressional District.

Statewide Officials

Texas Land Commissioner George P. Bush (R) is not up for re-election in 2020.

UTAH

Statewide Officials

Incumbent Attorney General Sean Reyes (R) has good prospects in his re-election bid.

WASHINGTON

U.S. House of Representatives

Incumbent Latino U.S. Rep. Jaime Herrera Beutler (R) is likely to prevail in her re-election contest.

Statewide Officials

Non-profit executive Maia Espinoza (NPP) will have a tough contest in her battle to unseat incumbent Superintendent of Public Instruction Chris Reykdal (NPP).

WEST VIRGINIA

U.S. House of Representatives

Incumbent Latino U.S. Rep. Alex Mooney (R) faces no serious competition in his re-election bid.

METHODOLOGY

In the three tables presented on pages 4-7, potential Latino gains and losses were calculated with reference to the number of Latino incumbents running for re-election, and the number of Latino non-incumbent candidates in very competitive races. In determining which Latino candidates were running in competitive races, we considered a variety of factors including the extent to which candidates were challenging strong incumbents, the party registration of the district, campaign finance information, and information obtained from local political observers. The number of Latino candidates includes all those we could identify as running for legislative office, both incumbent and non-incumbent, and without reference to whether the candidates were running in competitive races. Although we have made every effort to verify that candidates identified as Latino are of Hispanic or Latino origin, it is possible that a small number of candidates have been misidentified and that we may have included or excluded a few candidates incorrectly.

In determining whether a candidate is of Hispanic or Latino origin, we categorize candidates based on their self-identification of ancestry from a predominantly Spanish-speaking country. For the U.S. House of Representatives, we only include candidates from states whose Representatives have voting rights. Thus, our figures for U.S. House candidates may differ from sources which use different criteria.

Generally, this *Profile* only discusses Latinos who are running either as Democrats or Republicans, unless the candidacy of an Independent or third-party Latino will have a major impact on the outcome of the race in which the candidate is involved.