



2022

PRIMARY ELECTION PROFILE

NEW YORK



ELECTION DAY:
TUESDAY, AUGUST 23, 2022

PROJECTED LATINO VOTE FOR NOVEMBER 2022: 752,000

TOTAL POPULATION (2020):

20,201,249

LATINO POPULATION (2020):

3,948,032



The landscape for the 2022 midterm primary and general elections in New York includes several policy and political developments that could affect Latino participation and political progress in the state. These elections will be the first to take place after the Census 2020 apportionment of congressional seats, where the state lost one congressional district. The state’s congressional and legislative redistricting process was lengthy and contentious, resulting in litigation and two separate midterm primaries — a June 28 primary for statewide and State Assembly contests, and an August 23 primary for congressional and State Senate contests. Throughout the process, voting rights advocates raised concerns about district lines which divided Latino communities and diminished Latino electoral opportunities. Political observers believe that redistricting has helped make several New York congressional districts more competitive, and with Latinos comprising more than one of every eight of New York registered voters, they are poised to play a significant role in the state’s primary and general elections.

REDISTRICTING

In 2014, New York adopted a constitutional amendment that transferred some of the power for redistricting congressional and state legislative seats from the state legislature to a bipartisan 10-member advisory commission. The amendment also added a requirement to the New York State Constitution generally prohibiting partisan favoritism in redistricting. Under the amendment, the commission would draw maps for consideration by the state legislature. If the legislature rejected commission maps, it had the power to draw final maps of its own. In addition, legislative leaders had the authority to appoint the first eight commission members, and when they failed to appoint a Latino, advocates worked to ensure that the first eight members chose a Latina to serve in one of the remaining two seats.

After being unable to come to consensus on one set of maps, in January 2022, the commission sent two sets of maps for consideration by the state legislature. The legislature rejected both sets of maps, and the commission failed to reach consensus on a compromise plan, which then gave the legislature authority to draw the lines. In February, the governor approved new maps drawn by the legislature. During the commission and legislative line-drawing process, a diverse coalition including LatinoJustice PRLDEF, advocated for a “Unity Map” to comply with the federal Voting Rights Act, and provide New York’s underrepresented communities with opportunities to elect the candidates of their choice. This coalition [believed](#) the legislature’s maps unfairly divided and ignored the priorities of communities of color.

After the release of the legislature’s map, litigation by a group of New York voters followed, challenging the process by which the legislature created the maps, and contending that the maps violated the state constitutional prohibition against partisan favoritism. After extensive litigation at different levels of New York’s state appellate courts, in April 2022, New York’s highest appellate court found various violations of the state’s constitution, and ruled that a lower court-appointed special master — a redistricting expert — would draw the state’s congressional and State Senate district maps, instead of the legislature.

A lower appellate court also invalidated the legislature’s State Assembly district map, but determined it would remain in effect for the state’s 2022 elections because of lack of time for a new map to be drawn. As of this writing, the appellate court will determine the proper way for Assembly lines to be re-drawn for Election 2024. The various appellate court rulings set the stage for retaining the June date for New York’s statewide and State Assembly primary, and for moving the congressional and State Senate primaries from June to August.

The Unity Map Coalition [raised concerns](#) about the special master’s congressional map which was released in May, including district lines which cut through Latino neighborhoods with shared economic, social and cultural interests. For example, the Coalition proposed adding the Lower East Side to a congressional district that would include such communities as Williamsburg and Bushwick. The Coalition noted that the Lower East Side and Williamsburg both contain traditional Puerto Rican neighborhoods which are undergoing gentrification. Similarly, redistricting analysts have indicated that areas with a significant share of Latinos such as Sunset Park were moved from a congressional district with a fairly strong Latino presence to a district with a relatively weak Latino presence, essentially diluting Latino voting strength. In general, some analysts believe that overall, the special master’s maps failed to provide Latinos with enhanced electoral opportunities, although Latino population growth accounted for nearly two-thirds (65 percent) of the increase in the state’s population between 2010 and 2020.

STATE ELECTION LAW CHANGES

In June 2022, New York enacted the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Act of New York (NYVRA), which includes sweeping changes that will enhance Latino access to the electoral process. The NYVRA requires several New York jurisdictions to provide language assistance to Latino U.S. citizens who are not yet fully proficient in English, beyond the requirements of the federal Voting Rights Act (VRA). The NYVRA also requires certain New York jurisdictions to submit proposed changes in specific election and voting laws, policies, or practices to the state for review or “preclearance” before the changes can be implemented. The U.S. Supreme Court’s 2013 Shelby v. Holder decision virtually eliminated the preclearance process set forth in the federal VRA, and the NYVRA will provide state preclearance protection against practices which would diminish the voting rights of Latinos and other underrepresented groups. The NYVRA would also make it easier for advocates to bring legal challenges against local election systems (such as at-large elections) when those systems impair the ability of voters of color to choose accountable and responsive elected representatives.

Although most of the provisions of the NYVRA will not take effect until 2025, the dialogue over the legislation helped focus attention on the role of the Latino electorate in New York. Policymakers, advocates, community groups and other stakeholders will also be watching to see what impact the NYVRA has on Latino participation and representation in the future.

CONGRESSIONAL RACES

All five of New York’s Latino incumbent U.S. Representatives are running for re-election, and all have good prospects of winning in the primary and general elections: Democrats Adriano Espaillat, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, Ritchie Torres, and Nydia Velazquez; and Republican Nicole Malliotakis.

In the 6th Congressional District, human resources manager Jesus Gonzalez is unopposed in the Republican primary, but will have an uphill battle to unseat U.S. Rep. Grace Meng (D) in the general election (Meng is also unopposed in the Democratic primary).

In the 10th Congressional District, New York City Councilmember Carlina Rivera is running among a crowded field of competitive contenders, where other candidates include incumbent U.S. Rep. Mondaire Jones, and former federal prosecutor Dan Goldman. Given the partisan leanings of the district, the victor of the Democratic primary is very likely to win the general election.

STATEWIDE RACES

Governor Kathy Hochul (D) took office in August 2021, after the resignation of Andrew Cuomo (D), and in May 2022, she appointed former U.S. Rep. Antonio Delgado (D) to serve as Lt. Governor. In New York's June primary, Hochul and Delgado won their bids to be the Democratic nominee for their respective positions, and to run for their first full terms of office. Hochul and Delgado will face the Republican ticket of U.S. Rep. Lee Zeldin and former New York City Police deputy inspector Alison Esposito in the general election, and election analysts believe that Hochul and Delgado are very likely to win that contest. With a general election victory, Delgado would be the first person who identifies as Latino to be elected Lt. Governor.

In the State Comptroller race, finance professional Paul Rodriguez (R) and incumbent Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli (D) faced no opposition in their respective June primaries. Rodriguez will have a tough contest in his bid to unseat DiNapoli in the general election.

NEW YORK LATINO VOTER PROJECTION FOR ELECTION 2022

NALEO Educational Fund projects that more than 750,000 New York Latinos will cast ballots in the 2022 midterm elections in November. Our projection is based on trends in voter turnout in the past five midterm congressional elections. Between 2014 and 2018, there was a dramatic increase of 45.6 percent in turnout. As described in more detail in NALEO Educational Fund's [2022 Latino Vote Projections](#), several factors may have contributed to this increase, including the political dialogue around such issues as the migrant caravan crisis along the border, a rise in anti-Latino measures, and comments about immigrants from then-President Trump. Therefore, considering the trends in the past five midterm elections, we project the New York Latino vote in November 2022 to mirror 2018 turnout and represent a 49.8 percent increase from 2014.



NEW YORK

PROJECTED LATINO VOTE 2022	LATINO VOTE 2018	% CHANGE BETWEEN 2018 AND 2022	LATINO VOTE 2014	% CHANGE BETWEEN 2014 AND 2022
752,000	731,000	2.9%*	502,000	49.8%

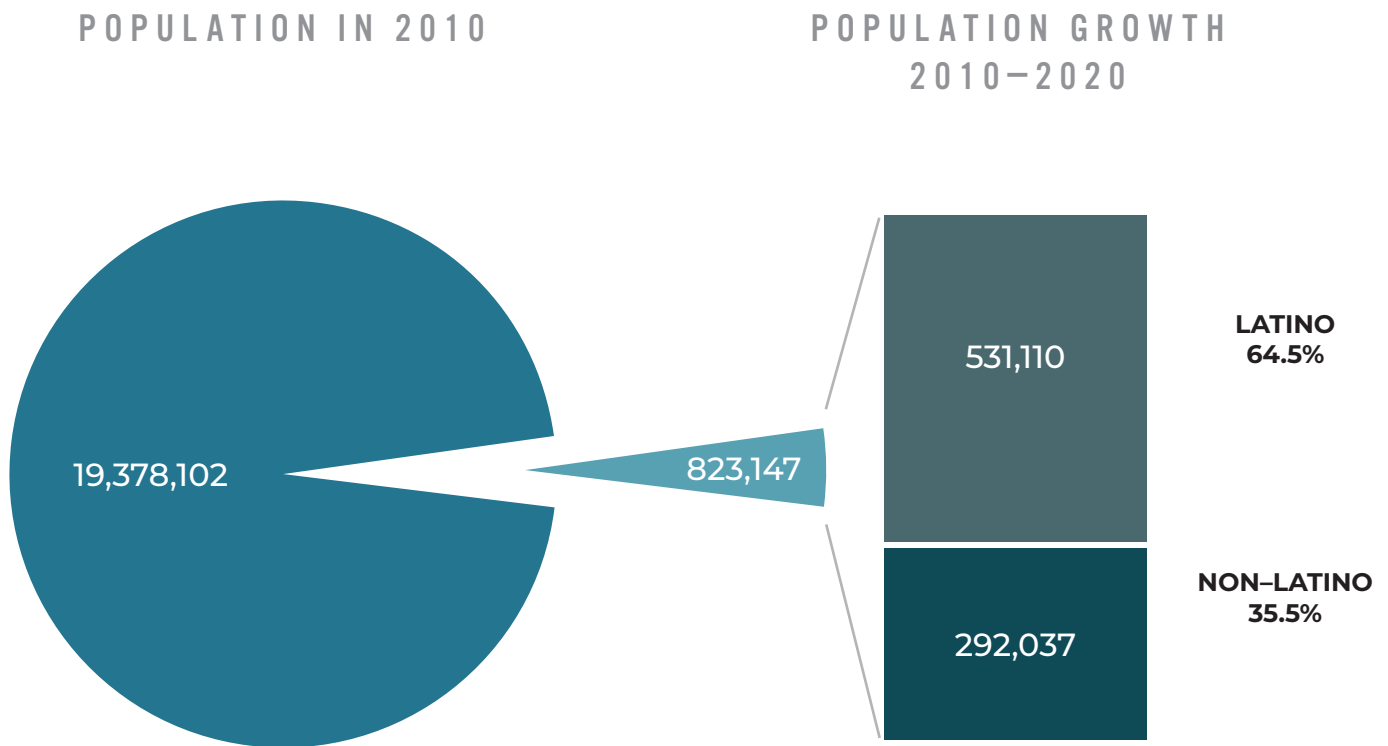
* Not statistically significant

In addition, the Latino share of all New York voters in 2022 is expected to be 12.1 percent, which mirrors the Latino share in 2018 and 2014.

Our Election 2022 projection is a floor, and the actual Latino vote could exceed the projection based on the political and policy environments leading into the November election. Furthermore, we note that one of the factors contributing to the groundbreaking turnout of Latinos in Election 2018 was the investment made by candidates and parties in Latino voter mobilization. This kind of investment will be crucial for the New York Latino vote in Election 2022 to match or exceed the vote of 2018. More information about New York Latino turnout can be found in "Voter Turnout" below and in NALEO Educational Fund's [analysis](#) of national and state projected turnout in Election 2022.

POPULATION GROWTH BETWEEN 2010 AND 2020

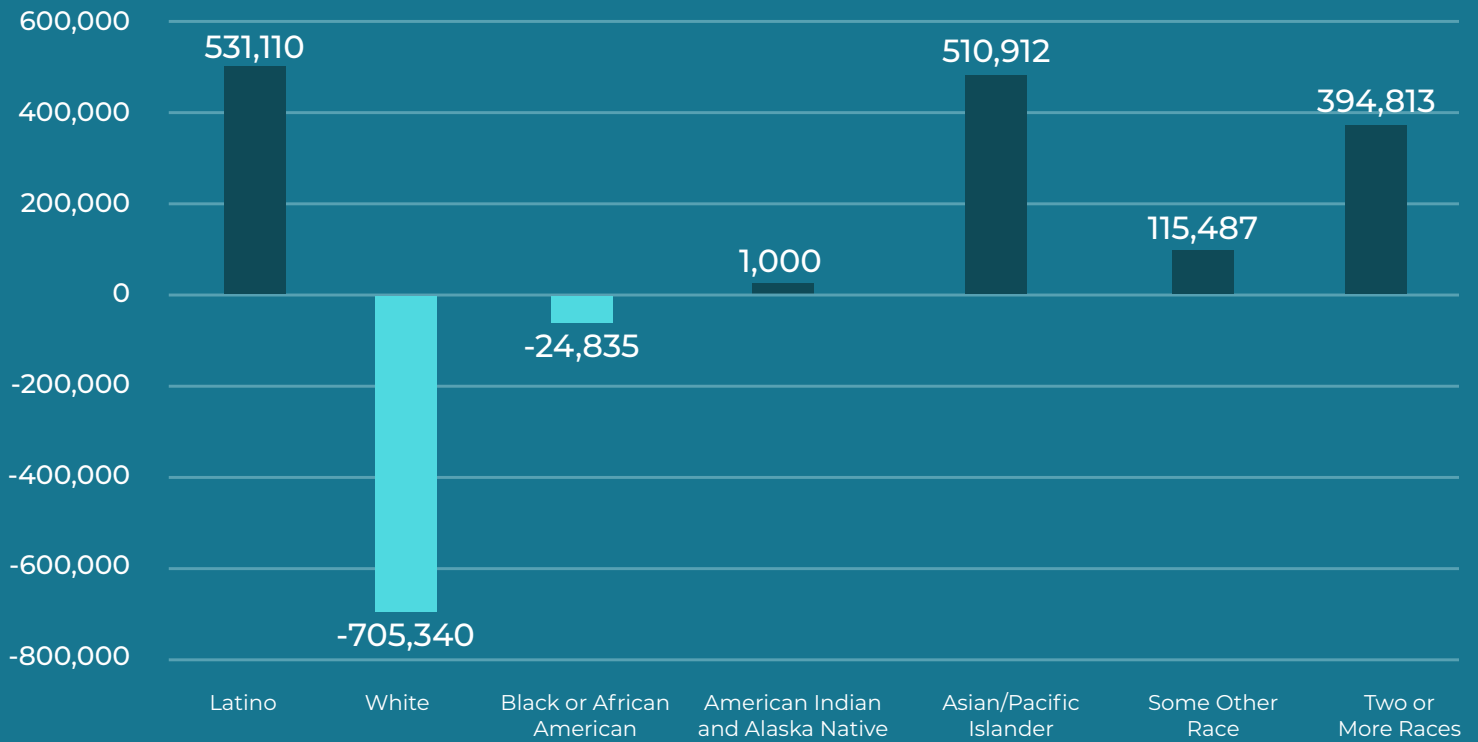
Between 2010 and 2020, New York’s population grew from 19.4 million to 20.2 million, increasing 4.2 percent. During the same period, the state’s Latino population grew from 3.4 million to 3.9 million, increasing 15.5 percent. By comparison, the state’s non-Latino population increased by 1.8 percent. The increase in New York’s Latino population accounted for nearly two-thirds (64.5 percent) of the state’s population growth during the past decade.



See “Sources” at the end of this profile for information about the potential impact of the national net undercount of Latinos in Census 2020 on the data in this profile.

GROWTH OF NEW YORK POPULATION GROUPS 2010-2020

The New York Latino population increase between 2010 and 2020 exceeded the growth of other population groups.



NEW YORK LATINO POPULATION 2020

	POPULATION	SHARE OF TOTAL POPULATION
All Latinos	3,948,032	19.5%
Latino Adults	2,925,886	18.2%
Latino Voting-Age Citizens	2,051,080	14.9%

See “Sources” at the end of this profile for information about the comparability of data sources for this table.

NEW YORK LATINO ELECTORATE

(as of March 2022, from VAN voter file)

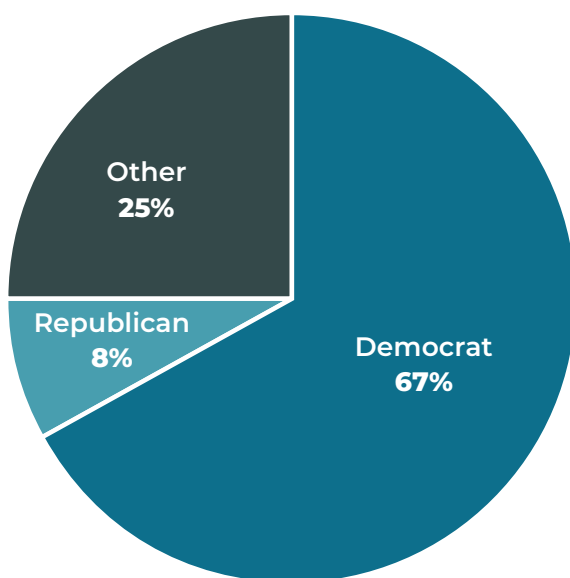
Total Registered Voters	11,794,604
Latino Registered Voters	1,490,265
Latino Share of Registered Voters	12.6%

Over 12 percent of New York registered voters are Latino.

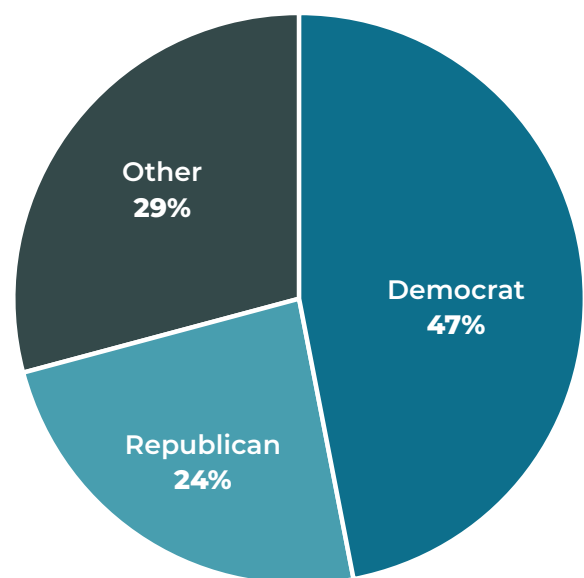
PARTY AFFILIATION

Latinos are more likely to be Democrats than non-Latinos, with 67 percent of Latinos affiliating with the Democratic Party, compared to 47 percent of non-Latinos. Furthermore, Latinos are less likely to be Republicans than the non-Latino electorate, and similar shares of both groups are not affiliated with either political party. Eight percent of Latino registered voters are Republican, compared to 24 percent of non-Latinos. Twenty-five percent of Latinos are not affiliated with either major party, compared to 29 percent of non-Latinos.

LATINO



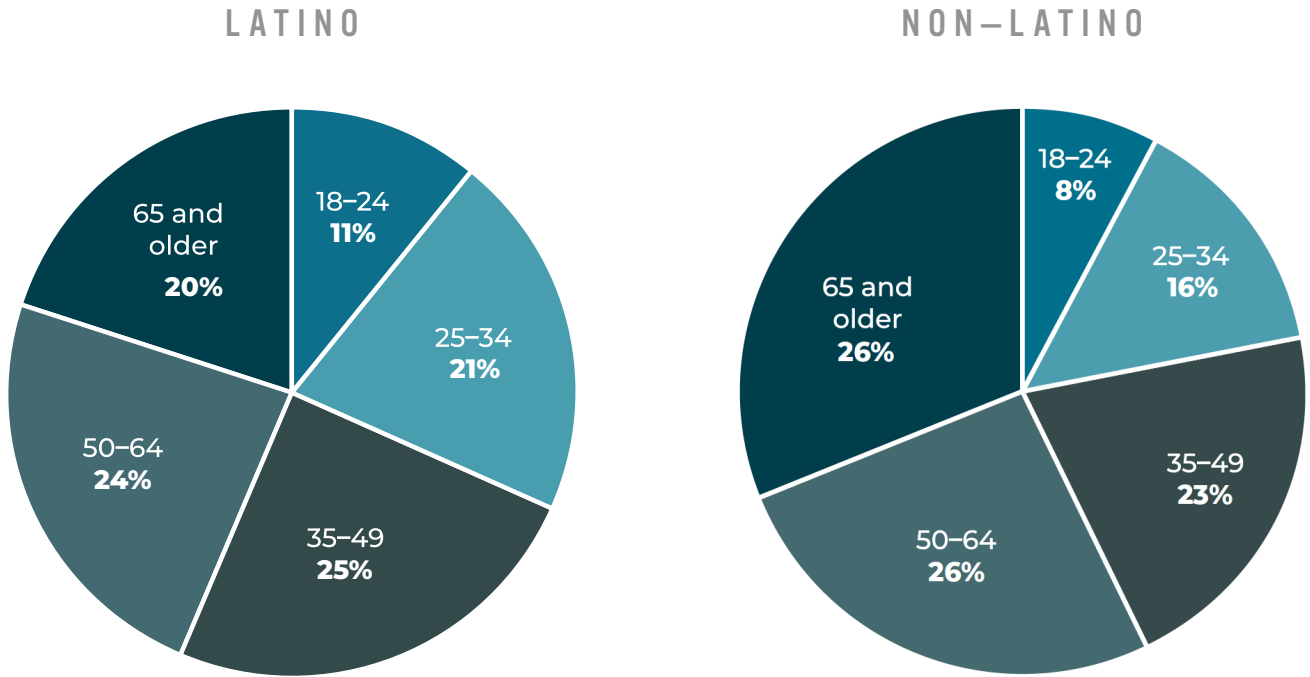
NON-LATINO



Totals may not add up to 100% because of rounding.

AGE

New York Latino registered voters tend to be slightly younger than non-Latinos, with 18–24-year-olds comprising 11 percent of registered Latinos, compared to 8 percent of non-Latinos. Similarly, 21 percent of Latino registered voters are 25–34-year-olds, compared to 16 percent of non-Latinos. In contrast, 52 percent of non-Latino registered voters are 50 and older, compared to 44 percent of Latinos.



Totals may not add up to 100% because of rounding.

LATINO VOTER TURNOUT

Latino voter turnout in New York midterm elections decreased 2.7 percent from 516,000 in 2010, to 502,000 in 2014. However, between 2014 and 2018, there was dramatic growth in the number of Latino voters from 502,000 to 731,000 — an increase of 45.6 percent.

● VOTING AGE CITIZENS ● REGISTERED VOTERS ● ACTUAL VOTERS



LATINOS IN NEW YORK ELECTED OFFICES 1996–2021

In 2021, 186 Latinos served in elected office in New York, with 84 percent serving at the local level, including county, municipal, school board, and judicial and law enforcement officials.

NEW YORK	1996	2001	2007	2013	2021
U.S. Representatives	2	2	2	2	6
State Legislators	10	12	17	20	23
Local Officials	65	62	45	137	157
TOTAL	77	76	64	159	186

SOURCES

NALEO Educational Fund, National Directory of Latino Elected Officials, 2016–2021.

Generally, data on the overall New York and Latino populations for 2020 are from the 2020 Census Redistricting Data Summary Files. However, because these data do not include information on residents' citizenship, data on the 2020 citizen voting age population of New York overall and Latinos are from the U.S. Census Bureau's 2016–2020 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-year data. Therefore, this should be taken into account when making comparisons between population data in this profile.

Additionally, in March 2022, the Census Bureau released its first official estimate of the accuracy of Census 2020, which revealed large national net undercounts of the Latino population (4.99 percent), the Black or African American population (3.30 percent), and the American Indian and Alaska Native population living on reservations (5.64 percent). The national net undercount of Latinos raises significant concerns about an undercount of Latinos in New York.

In May 2022, the Census Bureau released state estimates that did not include demographic characteristics such as race and Hispanic origin and are not available for geographies below the state level. The state estimates are net figures derived in part from both the 2020 Census omissions and persons overcounted in the enumeration. New York is the nation's fourth most populous state, and the national undercounts suggest that large numbers of persons from population groups that make New York their home were missed in Census 2020. However, the state estimates do not provide information to assess the accuracy of the 2020 Census count for different population groups or areas in New York. Thus, while the PES estimates for New York indicated a 3.44 percent net overcount, the persons overcounted in the state may mask the impact of the persons missed in enumeration and other significant problems with the overall accuracy of census data for New York. NALEO Educational Fund is advocating that the Census Bureau provide disaggregated data by levels of geography lower than at the state level and that it conducts additional evaluation and assessments to enhance our understanding of the accuracy of the Census 2020 counts of New York.

The source of the voting and registration data in the profile, unless indicated otherwise, is from the Census Bureau's Current Population Survey (CPS) and its Voting and Registration in the Elections of November: 2002–2020 report. The CPS data used in this profile and the survey from which they are derived are subject to certain limitations. First, actual voter turnout and registration may be overestimated by the CPS because individuals may tend to over-report electoral participation. Additionally, the CPS is a national survey, and estimates derived for smaller sub-groups within the national population may be based on relatively small sample sizes. Consequently, the margin of error associated with estimates of voting and registration for these sub-groups is greater than the margin associated with the national population or larger population sub-groups.

PROJECTION METHODOLOGY

For New York, NALEO Educational Fund derived its projection of the Latino vote in Election 2022 by using a statistical modeling approach that takes into account trends in Latino voter turnout over the past five midterm election cycles. We determined Latino voter turnout in those cycles from U.S. Census Bureau CPS data and *Voting and Registration in the Elections of November: 2002–2018*. Because the projections are based on past voting trends, they do not take into account the potential increase or decrease in Latino turnout that could result from current circumstances, including challenges created by the COVID-19 pandemic, more robust voter engagement efforts, naturalization trends, changes in voter registration and voting laws and practices, or other factors.

NGP Voter Activation Network (VAN) voter file data, March 2022: VAN data are subject to some limitations regarding collecting, entering, maintaining, and analyzing voter file records. All estimates are of Registered Active Voters.

For more information about NALEO Educational Fund’s publications about the Latino population or Election 2022, please contact Dorian Caal at dcaal@naleo.org or (213) 765-9450.