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ILLINOIS AND CHICAGO VOTER PROFILE

# ILLINOIS AND CHICAGO



# ILLINOIS

**PRIMARY ELECTION DAY: TUESDAY, JUNE 28, 2022**

**GENERAL ELECTION DAY: TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2022**



The landscape for the 2022 midterm primary and general elections in Illinois and the City of Chicago includes several policy and political developments that could affect Latino participation and political progress in the state and the city. These elections will be the first to take place after the redistricting of Illinois' congressional and state legislative seats, which prompted litigation over whether the maps were fair to Latinos and other voters of color.

In addition, candidates in Illinois' gubernatorial contest on both sides of the aisle have raised [several million dollars](#) for their campaigns, with wealthy donors also supporting other Illinois candidates in Election 2022. Incumbent Governor JB Pritzker (D), [an heir](#) to the Hyatt Hotel fortune who also ran a private equity firm before his election, has contributed \$125 million of his own funds to his re-election campaign. The most competitive candidates in the Republican primary include Aurora Mayor Richard Irvin, whose campaign has received \$50 million from hedge fund founder Kenneth Griffin, and State Senator Darren Bailey, whose campaign has received \$9 million for Richard Uihlein, co-founder of shipping supply company Uline. The extent to which campaign spending will affect outreach efforts to the Latino electorate and the prospects of Latino candidates in Illinois races remains to be seen.

In February 2023, Chicago will hold its first round of municipal elections, with run-offs, if needed, in April 2023. In these elections, Chicagoans will vote for the offices of Mayor, City Aldermen, and other citywide executive offices. An issue that may affect Latino participation in the 2022 and 2023 elections is the change in the types of places where voters can cast ballots. In many areas of the city, there will be fewer local precinct polling sites available for the June primary, in part because many traditional locations have closed or do not have the capacity to serve as sites due to the COVID-19 pandemic. To help ensure that voters have expanded opportunities to cast ballots, the city has established Early Voting Sites in every ward, where voters can vote several days before the election and drop off vote-by-mail ballots. In addition, elections officials will need to engage in robust voter education efforts to educate Latinos and other Chicagoans about the options available to cast ballots.

# ILLINOIS

PROJECTED STATE LATINO VOTE FOR NOVEMBER 2022: 353,500

TOTAL POPULATION (2020):

12,812,508

LATINO POPULATION (2020):

2,337,410



## REDISTRICTING

In Illinois, the state legislature draws the lines for congressional and state legislative districts. Under Illinois' state Constitution, if the legislature does not finalize a plan by June 30 of the year following the decennial census, the leadership of both legislative chambers must appoint a Legislative Redistricting Commission to draw the lines. After the Census 2020 reapportionment, Illinois lost a congressional seat. For the 2021 redistricting, because of challenges resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, the Census Bureau changed the schedule for the release of Census 2020 redistricting data, which was not available until August 12. Wanting to retain control over the redistricting process, the legislature did not wait for the Census 2020 redistricting data for its maps. Instead, it used data from sources such as the Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS), which provides estimates from a rolling survey of a sample of the population. After the Governor approved the legislature's maps in June, the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF) brought suit against these maps, claiming that the state's use of population estimates rather than decennial census data resulted in unfairly drawn districts that violated the U.S. Constitution's guarantee of "one person, one vote."

In part, because of the litigation, the Illinois legislature drew new maps based on Census 2020 data, and the Governor approved the revised maps in September. In October, a federal court ruled that the June maps were unconstitutional, with the September maps becoming the basis of remedial maps, subject to court approval. MALDEF also challenged the state house districts

in the September maps partly because they reduced the number of Latino-majority voting-age population (VAP) districts from three to two in the State Senate and five to four in the State House of Representatives. MALDEF claimed that the September maps were drawn to protect white incumbents in the Chicago area. Other civil rights groups challenged the maps because they split up and diminished electoral opportunities for the Black community in the East St. Louis area of Illinois. In December, a federal court rejected the claims of the civil rights groups and upheld the September maps.

During the legislature's line-drawing for congressional districts, members of the Chicago City Council's Latino Caucus and some advocates urged the legislature to strengthen the Latino presence in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Congressional District. The state's 4<sup>th</sup> Congressional District has been a Latino district since the redistricting following the 1990 Census, and the Latino population in the neighboring 3<sup>rd</sup> Congressional District has seen significant Latino growth in the past decades. Ultimately, the September congressional map included a 63.3 percent Latino VAP in the 4<sup>th</sup> Congressional District and a 43.7 percent Latino VAP in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Congressional District.

## CONGRESSIONAL RACES

In Illinois' 4<sup>th</sup> Congressional District, the state's one Latino incumbent, U.S. Rep. Jesús "Chuy" García (D), faces no serious opposition in the primary or general elections. The 3<sup>rd</sup> Congressional District Democratic primary will see a competitive contest between Illinois State Rep. Delia Ramirez and Chicago Alderman Gilbert Villegas (after redistricting, the incumbent in this district, U.S. Rep. Marie Newman (D), chose to run in the 6<sup>th</sup> Congressional District). In the general election, the primary victor will face real estate broker Justin Burau, the sole Republican candidate. Given the district's partisan leanings, the Democratic nominee will likely prevail, resulting in two Latinos in the state's congressional delegation for the first time.

## STATEWIDE RACES

Incumbent Controller Susana Mendoza is running unopposed in the Democratic primary and has excellent prospects of winning her re-election contest in November.

In the Democratic primary for Secretary of State, Chicago City Clerk Ana Valencia will face a tough race where the other contenders include former State Treasurer Alexi Giannoulias and Chicago Alderman David Moore (incumbent Secretary of State Jesse White (D) is retiring at the end of his term). The victor of the Democratic primary will likely face either State Rep. Dan Brady or educator and former U.S. Attorney John Milhiser, the most competitive candidates in the Republican primary.

# ILLINOIS LATINO VOTER PROJECTION FOR ELECTION 2022

NALEO Educational Fund projects that nearly 354,000 Latinos will cast ballots in the 2022 midterm Illinois elections in November. Our projection is based on trends in voter turnout in the past five midterm congressional elections. Between 2002 and 2010, there was steady growth in Latino turnout, followed by a decline in 2014. Between 2014 and 2018, there was a dramatic increase of 62.4 percent. 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. Considering the trends in the past five midterm elections, we project the Illinois Latino vote in 2022 to mirror 2018 turnout and represent a 62.2 percent increase from 2014.

In addition, we project that slightly less than one of every 12 Illinois voters are expected to be Latino (7.9 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 environment leading into the November election. In light of this, 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 Illinois Latino vote in Election 2022 to match or exceed the vote of 2018 (for more information on Illinois Latino turnout, see “Voter Turnout” below).



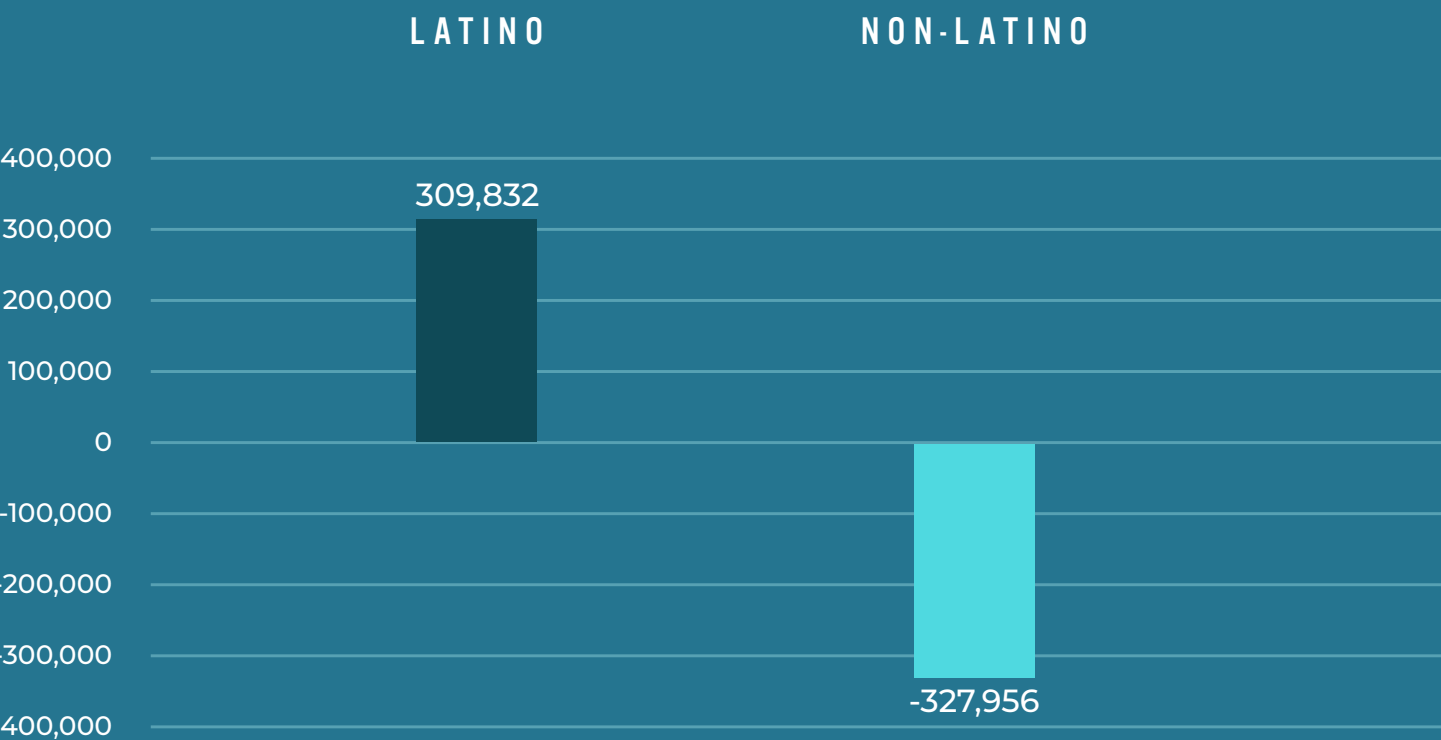
## ILLINOIS

PROJECTED LATINO VOTE 2022	LATINO VOTE 2018	% CHANGE BETWEEN 2018 AND 2022	LATINO VOTE 2014	% CHANGE BETWEEN 2014 AND 2022
353,500	354,000	-0.1%*	218,000	62.2%

\* Not statistically significant

# POPULATION GROWTH BETWEEN 2010 AND 2020

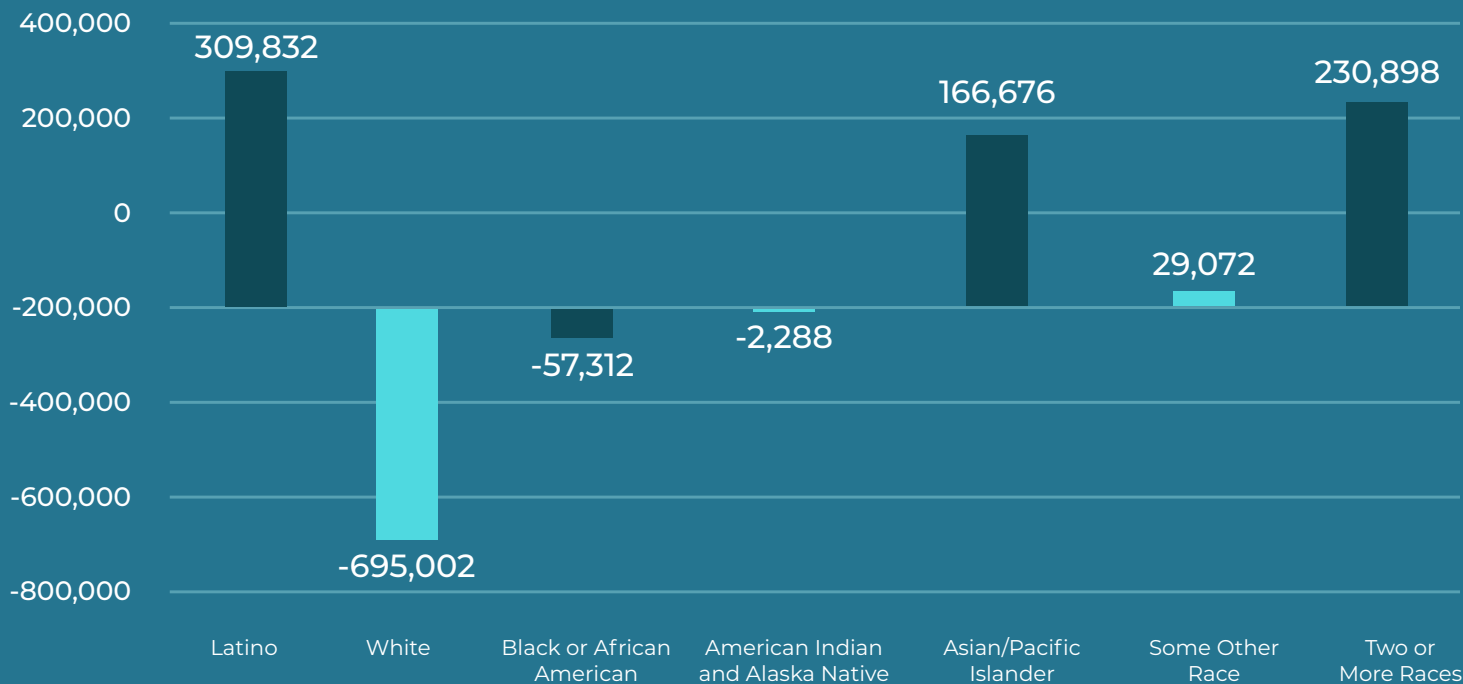
Between 2010 and 2020, Illinois’ population decreased from 12.83 million to 12.81 million, a drop of 0.1 percent. During the same period, the state’s Latino population grew from 2.0 million to 2.3 million, increasing 15.3 percent. By comparison, the state’s non-Latino population decreased by 3.0 percent.



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.

# CHANGE IN ILLINOIS POPULATION GROUPS: 2010-2020

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



## ILLINOIS LATINO POPULATION 2020

	POPULATION	SHARE OF TOTAL POPULATION
All Latinos	2,337,410	18%
Latino Adults	1,620,312	16%
Latino Voting-Age Citizens	1,058,473	12%

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

# ILLINOIS LATINO ELECTORATE

(as of March 2022, from VAN voter file)

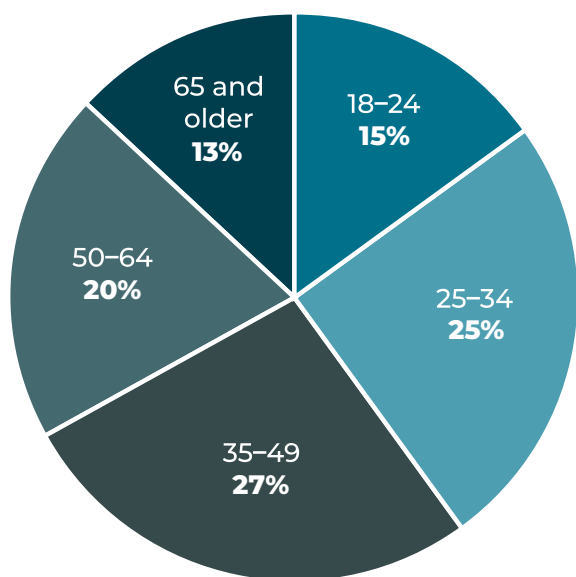
Total Registered Voters	8,040,558
Latino Registered Voters	815,646
Latino Share of Registered Voters	10%

One of every 10 Illinois registered voters is Latino.

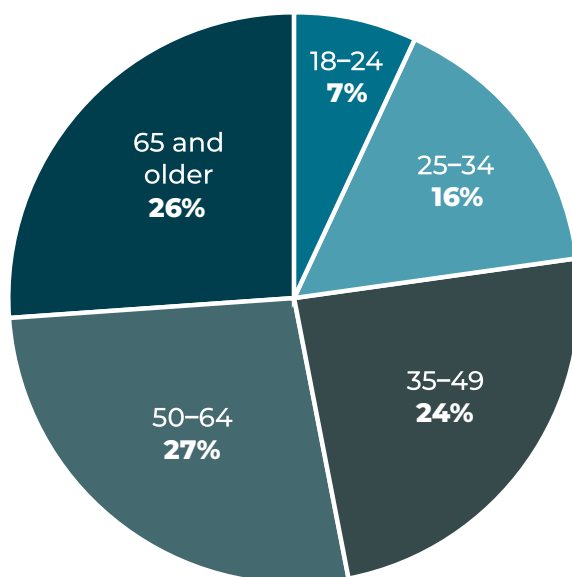
## AGE

Illinois Latino registered voters tend to be younger than non-Latinos, with 18–24-year-olds comprising 15 percent of registered Latinos, compared to 7 percent of non-Latinos. Similarly, 25 percent of Latino registered voters are 25–34-year-olds, compared to 16 percent of non-Latinos. In contrast, 53 percent of non-Latino registered voters are 50 and older, compared to 33 percent of Latinos.

LATINO



NON-LATINO



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



# VOTER TURNOUT

Latino voter turnout in Illinois midterm elections increased from 171,000 in 2002 to 218,000 in 2014, increasing nearly 28 percent over four midterm election cycles. Between 2014 and 2018, there was dramatic growth in the number of Latino voters from 218,000 to 354,000 — an increase of 62 percent.

● VOTING AGE CITIZENS ● REGISTERED VOTERS ● ACTUAL VOTERS



# LATINOS IN ILLINOIS ELECTED OFFICES 1996–2021

In 2021, 134 Latinos served in elected office in Illinois, with 87 percent serving at the local level, including county, municipal, school board, and judicial officials.

ILLINOIS	1996	2001	2007	2013	2021
U.S. Representatives	1	1	1	1	1
State Officials	0	0	0	0	1
State Legislators	6	6	11	13	16
Local Officials	34	38	85	103	116
<b>TOTAL</b>	41	45	97	117	134

# CITY OF CHICAGO

TOTAL CITY POPULATION (2020):

2,746,388

LATINO CITY POPULATION (2020):

819,518



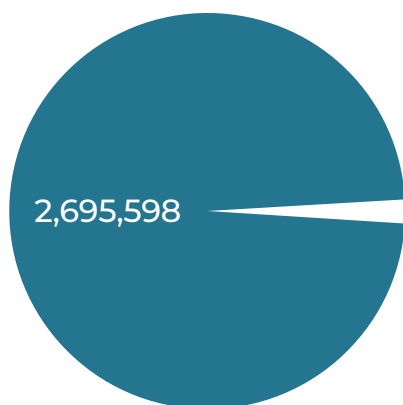
## REDISTRICTING

After a contentious redistricting process, the Chicago City Council approved a new map for the city's 50 wards in May. The Latino Caucus of the City Council had proposed a map that would have increased the number of Latino-majority wards from 13 to 15, but the final map only created 14, and several Caucus members opposed it.

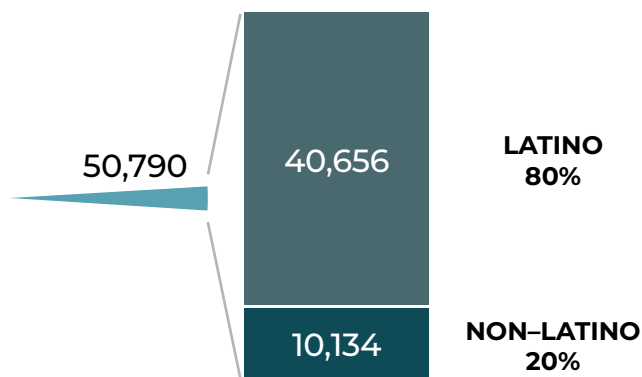
## POPULATION GROWTH BETWEEN 2010 AND 2020

Between 2010 and 2020, Chicago's population grew from 2.70 million to 2.75 million, increasing 1.9 percent. During the same period, the city's Latino population grew from 778,862 to 819,518, increasing 5.2 percent. By comparison, the city's non-Latino population increased by 0.5 percent. The increase in Chicago's Latino population accounted for over three-fourths (80 percent) of the city's population growth during the past decade.

POPULATION IN 2010



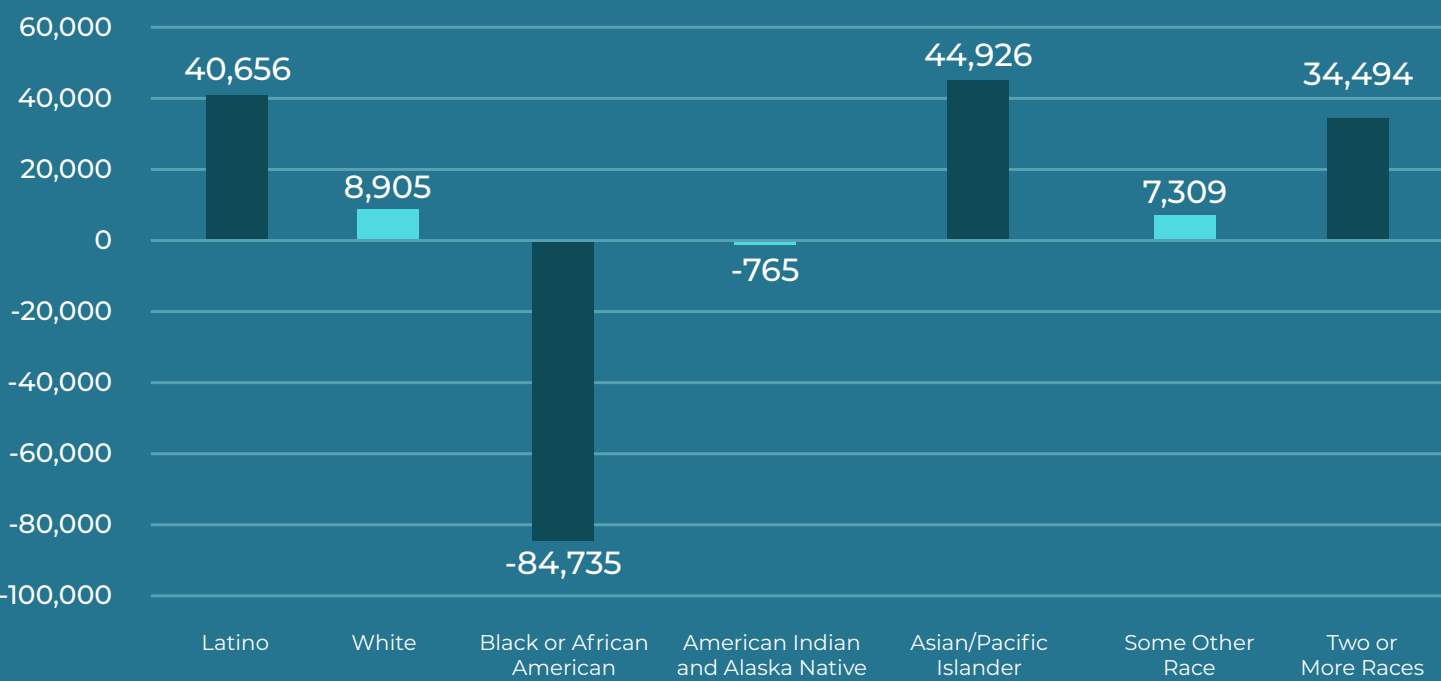
POPULATION GROWTH 2010–2020



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.

# CHANGES IN CHICAGO POPULATION GROUPS: 2010-2020

While the Chicago Latino population increased between 2010 and 2020, the increase in the growth of the Asian/Pacific Islander population group was slightly larger. During this decade, there was also a relatively large decline in the Black or African American population and a very small decline in the American Indian and Alaska Native population groups. Census 2020 was also the first decennial enumeration where the number of Latinos exceeded that of Black residents in the city.



## CHICAGO CITY LATINO POPULATION 2020

	POPULATION	SHARE OF TOTAL POPULATION
All Latinos	819,518	30%
Latino Adults	598,201	27%
Latino Voting-Age Citizens	395,484	21%

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

# CHICAGO CITY LATINO ELECTORATE

(as of March 2022, from  
VAN voter file)

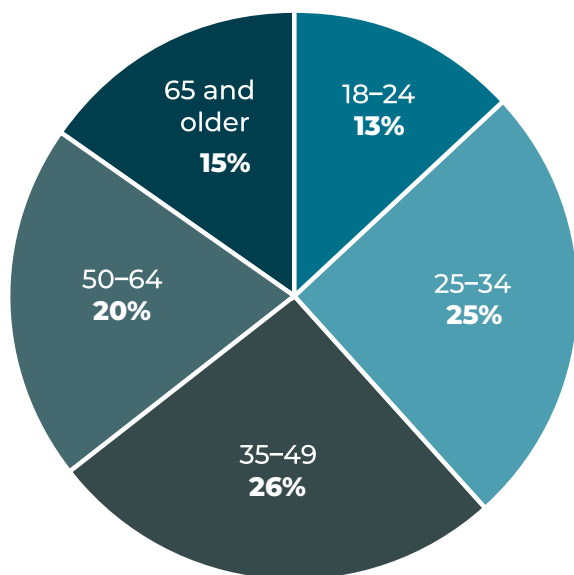
Total Registered Voters	1,551,793
Latino Registered Voters	311,423
Latino Share of Registered Voters	20%

One of every five Chicago registered voters (20 percent) is Latino.

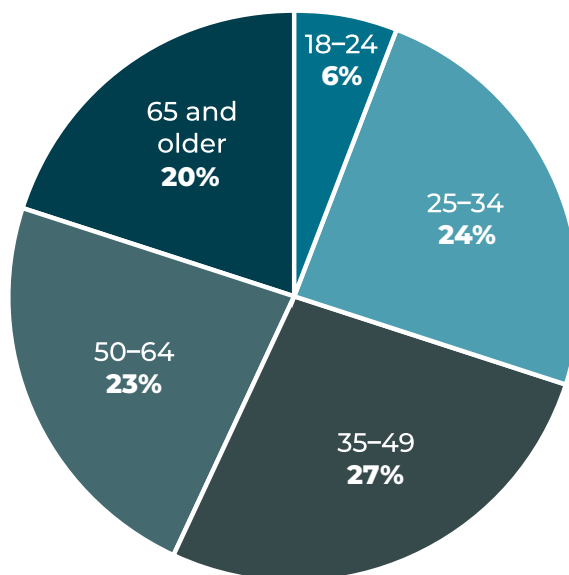
## AGE

Chicago Latino registered voters tend to be younger than non-Latinos, with 18–24-year-olds comprising 13 percent of registered Latinos, compared to 6 percent of non-Latinos. Similarly, 25 percent of Latino registered voters are 25–34-year-olds, compared to 24 percent of non-Latinos. In contrast, 43 percent of non-Latino registered voters are 50 and older, compared to 35 percent of Latinos.

LATINO



NON-LATINO



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

# LATINOS IN CHICAGO MUNICIPAL ELECTED OFFICES 1996–2021

The number of Chicago municipal officials increased from eight in 1996 to 13 in 2021, where 12 Latinos served as Aldermen and one as City Clerk.

CHICAGO	1996	2001	2007	2013	2021
Aldermen	7	7	8	8	12
Other Municipal Officials	1	0	0	0	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	8	7	8	8	13

# SOURCES

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

Generally, data on the overall Illinois and City of Chicago population and the comparable data for the Latino population 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 Latinos in Illinois and the City of Chicago 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 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). A subsequent release of Census 2020 data accuracy at the state level revealed that Illinois was one of six states to have experienced a statistically significant undercount (1.97 percent). The national net undercount of Latinos and the statewide undercount of Illinois raise substantial concerns about an undercount of Latinos in Illinois and Chicago. 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 evaluations and assessments to enhance our understanding of the accuracy of the Census 2020 counts of Illinois and Chicago.

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, the CPS may overestimate actual voter turnout and registration because individuals 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

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 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 2020, please contact Dorian Caal at [dcaal@naleo.org](mailto:dcaal@naleo.org) or (213) 765-9450.