



**For Immediate Release**

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## **2014 Arizona Profile of Latino Electorate and Candidates Released in Advance of State Primary Election**

*Latino turnout in mid-term Congressional elections in Arizona has tripled since 1998*

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) Educational Fund, the nation's leading organization that facilitates the full participation of Latinos in the American political process, today released its [2014 primary profile](#) for the Latino electorate and candidates in Arizona.

Arizona is home to nearly two million Latinos, who comprise nearly one of every three residents. Among all states in the United States, Arizona's population is comprised of the sixth highest share of Latinos (30 percent). Between 2000 and 2010, Arizona's total population grew from 5,130,632 to 6,392,017, an increase of 24.6 percent. The Latino community in Arizona experienced the greatest growth of any population group during that period, with the increase of 599,532 accounting for 47.5 percent of the state's total population growth and nearly equaling the combined growth of the state's other racial and ethnic population groups (661,853).

Latinos comprise nearly one-sixth of registered voters (16.2 percent) in Arizona. According to U.S. Census data, between 1998 and 2010, Latino voter turnout in mid-term Congressional elections more than tripled, growing from 120,000 to 407,000, an increase of 239 percent.

Compared to the non-Latino electorate in the state, Arizona's Latino registered voters are significantly more likely to be Democrats than Republicans. Forty-three percent of Latino registered voters in the state are Democrats (compared to 26 percent of non-Latinos), and 15 percent of Latinos are Republicans (compared to 39 percent of non-Latinos). A significant share of Latinos (42 percent) and non-Latinos (35 percent) are not registered with either major political party in the state.

"The fact that Latino turnout in mid-term Congressional elections has tripled in Arizona since 1998 is a testament to the increasing political clout of the Latino community," stated NALEO Educational Fund Executive Director Arturo Vargas. "In the coming days and months, it will be critical for campaigns and candidates to actively engage Arizona Latino voters on the issues that matter most if they want to gain the support of this increasingly influential electorate."

Latinos continue to play a pivotal role in Arizona as both voters and elected officials. As of January 2014, 342 Latinos serve in elected office in the state, with the majority (94 percent) serving in local positions, such as county, municipal, judicial and law enforcement, school board and special

district officials. Between 1996 and 2014, the number of Latinos serving in elected office in Arizona grew from 299 to 342, an increase of 14 percent.

In addition to Arizona's nine seats in the U.S. House of Representatives, the state's 2014 primary elections will determine the nominees for statewide and statehouse races, as well as several judicial, county, and other local positions. These contests include Governor, Secretary of State, Superintendent of Public Instruction and other state executive positions, as well as all 30 State Senators and all 60 State Representatives. Latino candidates are pursuing nominations for key positions at all levels of government, including the following positions:

#### Statewide Races

- In the Democratic primary contest for Superintendent of Public Instruction, Arizona State University education professor David Garcia is running a competitive race against educator Sharon Thomas.
  - Political observers believe that if Garcia wins the primary, he has a good chance of prevailing over the victor in the Republican primary, which is a contest between incumbent John Huppenthal and accounting professional Diane Douglas.

#### Congressional Races

- U.S. Representative Raul Grijalva (D) has excellent prospects of winning his primary and general re-election races in the 3rd Congressional District.
- In the 7th Congressional District, several Latino Democrats are competing for the seat currently held by U.S. Representative Ed Pastor (D) who is retiring.
  - The Latino Democratic contenders include educator and author Randy Camacho; former State Representative Ruben Gallego; and former Maricopa County Supervisor Mary Rose Wilcox.

In advance of the election, NALEO Educational Fund is actively working to ensure that Arizona's Latino voters have the information necessary to make their voices heard at the ballot box. These efforts include operating the NALEO Educational Fund toll-free bilingual hotline ***1-888-VE-Y-VOTA (1-888-839-8682)*** and the ***yaeshora.info*** website to provide the state's Latino voters with vital information on every aspect of the electoral process in 2014, from registering to vote, to voter ID requirements, to finding their polling place on Election Day.

#### **What:**

NALEO Educational Fund's 2014 Arizona Latino Electorate and Candidates Profile

#### **When:**

Available online now

#### **Where:**

<http://tinyurl.com/qaa73zx>

#### **Media:**

To arrange an interview or request additional data, please contact Amanda Bosquez at 202-546-2536 ext. 112 and [abosquez@naleo.org](mailto:abosquez@naleo.org).

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**About NALEO Educational Fund**

*NALEO Educational Fund is the nation's leading non-partisan, non-profit organization that facilitates the full participation of Latinos in the American political process, from citizenship to public service.*