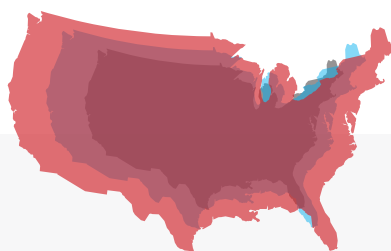




ELECTION 2016

RACES TO WATCH

THE POWER OF LATINO CANDIDATES



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In Election 2016, 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 state races involving Latino candidates in the general election on November 8, 2016.

Latinos are running for top offices in 38 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:

The number of Latinos in the U.S. Senate could increase from three to five, if all competitive contenders win their bids (incumbent U.S. Senators Ted Cruz (R-TX) and Robert Menendez (D-NJ) are not up for re-election in 2016). With the partisan balance of power in the U.S. Senate at stake, two of the races are considered particularly crucial for both political parties. In Florida, incumbent U.S. Senator Marco Rubio (R) faces a challenge from U.S. Rep. Patrick Murphy (D). In Nevada, former State Attorney General Catherine Cortez Masto (D) is battling U.S. Rep. Joe Heck (R) for the seat being vacated by retiring Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid (D). In California, U.S. Rep. Loretta Sanchez (D) faces a tougher contest with California Attorney General Kamala Harris (D). If elected, Cortez Masto and Sanchez would be the first Latinas in the U.S. Senate, and the first Latino to serve in Congress' upper chamber from their respective states.

Latinos in the U.S. House of Representatives:

The number of Latinos in the U.S. House could increase by as many as seven from 29 to 36. Additionally, there are likely to be several new Latinos in the U.S. House of Representatives. In California, Latino candidates for U.S. Representative who have good prospects of winning their contests include Santa Barbara County Supervisor Salud Carbajal (D), who faces business owner Justin Fareed (R) for the 24th Congressional district seat being vacated by incumbent U.S. Rep. Lois Capps (D); and former state legislator and Orange County Supervisor Lou Correa (D), who faces Garden Grove Mayor Bao Nguyen (D) for the 46th Congressional District seat being vacated by U.S. Rep. Loretta Sanchez (D).

State Senator Darren Soto (D) is poised to become the first Puerto Rican to represent Florida in the U.S. House of Representatives, as he is likely to prevail over business owner Wayne Liebnitzky (R) in Central Florida's 9th Congressional District. In New York, State Senator Adriano Espaillat (D), faces no serious opposition in his 13th Congressional District contest, for the seat being vacated by retiring U.S. Rep. Charles Rangel (D). If victorious, Espaillat would be the first Dominican American to serve in the U.S. House. In Texas, attorney Vicente Gonzalez (D) faces excellent prospects of victory in his 15th Congressional District contest against pastor Tim Westley (R), for the seat being vacated by retiring U.S. Rep. Ruben Hinojosa (D).

Latinos with more competitive races include two Californians: Attorney Emilio Huerta (D), who is trying to unseat incumbent David Valadao (R) in the 21st Congressional District; and former Hermosa Beach City Councilmember Nanette Barragan (D), who is running against State Senator Isadore Hall III (D) for the 44th Congressional district seat being vacated by incumbent Democrat Janice Hahn (Hahn is running for the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors). In Nevada's 4th Congressional District, State Senator Ruben Kihuen (D) is attempting to unseat incumbent U.S. Rep. Crescent Hardy (R). If elected, Kihuen would be the first Latino to represent Nevada in the U.S. House.

Election 2016 features two highly competitive "re-matches" of contests from Election 2014, with Democrats seeking to re-gain seats lost in the last Congressional race. In Florida's 26th Congressional District, U.S. Rep. Carlos Curbelo (R) is being challenged by former U.S. Rep. Joe Garcia (D), and in Texas's 23rd Congressional District, U.S. Rep. Will Hurd (R) is being challenged by former U.S. Rep. Pete Gallego (D).

Latinos in Statewide Office:

Five Latinos are running for statewide executive offices. In Indiana, Latina State Rep. Christina Hale (D) is running for Lt. Governor as the running mate of gubernatorial candidate John Gregg (D), the former Speaker of the Indiana House of Representatives. Gregg and Hale face the joint ticket of Lt. Governor Eric Holcomb (R) and State Auditor Suzanne Crouch (R). Indiana's gubernatorial race became an open seat contest when Governor Mike Pence (R) announced his intention not to seek re-election and to become the Vice Presidential running mate for Donald Trump (R). Indiana will also see a tough battle between retired Lake County Circuit Court Judge Lorenzo Arredondo (D) and prosecutor Curtis Hill (R) for the position of Attorney General. If State Rep. Hale and Judge Arredondo win their respective contests, they will become the first Latinos to hold statewide positions in Indiana.

In New Mexico, State Rep. Nora Espinoza (R) is in a competitive contest with Bernalillo County Clerk Maggie Toulouse Oliver (D) for the position of Secretary of State. In Delaware, New Castle County Sheriff Trinidad Navarro (D) is battling small business owner Jeffrey Cragg (R) to serve as the state's Insurance Commissioner. In Illinois, Chicago City Clerk Susana Mendoza (D) is attempting to unseat incumbent State Comptroller Leslie Geissler Munger (R).

Latinos in State Senates:

The number of Latinos in State Senates could increase from 73 to 80 after Election 2016, with potential net gains in Arizona (3), Florida (1), Illinois (1), West Virginia (1), and Wyoming (1).

Latinos in state lower houses:

In state lower houses, there could be a net increase in the total number of Latinos from 234 to 245. California may see the largest potential net gain (3), followed by Colorado and Florida (2 each). States with potential gains of one net seat include Arizona, Arkansas, Connecticut, Georgia, Massachusetts, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, Texas, Utah, and West Virginia. States which could see net losses include Illinois, Kansas, Michigan, New Hampshire, and New York.

The *Profile* includes a state-by-state description of the key federal and state legislative races involving Latino candidates (an analysis of the growing number of Latinos running for local offices, such as county, municipal and school board seats is beyond the scope of the *Profile*). On pages 3-6, 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 2016 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 2016		Potential Net Gain or Loss	Potential Number of Latinos After Election
	DEM	GOP	DEM	GOP		
AZ	2	0	3	1	0	2
CA	10	0	16	7	3	13
CT	0	0	0	1	0	0
FL	0	3	3	3	1	4
GA	0	0	0	1	0	0
ID	0	1	1	1	0	1
IL	1	0	1	0	0	1
NV	0	0	1	0	1	1
NJ	1	0	1	1	0	1
NM	2	0	2	1	0	2
NY	2	0	3	0	1	3
NC	0	0	1	0	0	0
TX	4	1	6	4	1	6
WA	0	1	1	1	0	1
WV	0	1	0	1	0	1
Total	22	7	39	22	7	36

See "Methodology" on page 23 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 2016 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 2016		Potential Net Gain or Loss	Potential Number of Latinos After Election
	DEM	GOP	DEM	GOP		
AZ	5	0	9	1	3	8
CA	5	0	2	0	0	5
CO	4	1	2	0	0	5
CT	0	1	1	1	0	1
DE	0	1	0	0	0	1
FL	1	3	5	5	1	5
HI	4	0	2	0	0	4
ID	0	0	1	0	0	0
IL	4	0	5	0	1	5
KS	0	0	3	0	0	0
KY	0	1	0	0	0	1
MD	1	0	0	0	0	1
MA	1	0	1	0	0	1
MN	2	0	2	0	0	2
MO	1	0	0	0	0	1
NV	2	0	0	1	0	2
NJ	3	0	0	0	0	3
NM	15	1	16	3	0	16
NY	6	0	6	2	0	6
NC	0	0	0	2	0	0
OR	0	0	1	0	0	0
RI	1	0	1	0	0	1
TN	0	1	0	1	0	1
TX	7	0	7	1	0	7
UT	1	0	1	0	0	1
WV	0	0	0	1	1	1
WY	1	0	3	0	1	2
Total	64	9	68	18	7	80

See "Methodology" on page 23 for more information.

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 2016 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 2016		Potential Net Gain or Loss	Potential Number of Latinos After Election
	DEM	GOP	DEM	GOP		
AK	0	1	0	1	0	1
AZ	12	3	18	4	1	16
AR	0	0	1	0	1	1
CA	16	2	30	5	3	21
CO	5	1	6	4	2	8
CT	11	1	12	1	1	13
DE	0	1	0	1	0	1
FL	4	13	14	16	2	19
GA	1	1	3	1	1	3
ID	0	0	1	0	0	0
IL	8	1	7	1	-1	8
IN	1	0	2	0	0	1
IA	0	0	2	0	0	0
KS	4	2	4	0	-2	4
LA	1	0	0	0	0	1
MD	5	0	0	0	0	5
MA	5	0	6	0	1	6
MI	4	2	5	2	-1	5
MN	1	2	1	2	0	3
MO	0	1	0	1	0	1
NV	6	1	8	1	0	7
NH	0	2	0	1	-1	1
NJ	6	1	0	0	0	7

CONTINUED BELOW ON PAGE 6

STATE HOUSES OF REPRESENTATIVES (CONT.)

State	Number of Latinos Currently in State House		Latinos Running in November 2016		Potential Net Gain or Loss	Potential Number of Latinos After Election
	DEM	GOP	DEM	GOP		
NM	22	10	29	10	0	32
NY	15	2	16	6	-1	16
OH	1	1	1	1	0	2
OK	0	1	0	2	1	2
OR	2	1	2	2	0	3
PA	2	0	3	0	0	2
RI	4	0	5	0	1	5
TX	29	6	39	9	1	36
UT	3	0	5	0	1	4
VT	1	0	1	0	0	1
VA	1	1	0	0	0	2
WA	3	0	3	2	0	3
WV	0	1	0	2	1	2
WI	1	1	1	1	0	2
WY	1	0	2	1	0	1
Total	175	59	227	77	11	245

See "Methodology" on page 23 for more information.

LATINO CANDIDATES FOR STATEWIDE OFFICE

State	Candidate	Office	Party
DE	Trinidad Navarro	Insurance Commissioner	DEM
IL	Susana Mendoza	State Comptroller	DEM
IN	Christina Hale	Lt. Governor*	DEM
IN	Lorenzo Arredondo	Attorney General	DEM
NM	Nora Espinoza	Secretary of State	GOP

*Candidate is running on ticket with gubernatorial candidate.

ALASKA

State House of Representatives

Incumbent State Rep. Liz Vazquez (R) is running unopposed in her re-election bid.

ARIZONA

U.S. House of Representatives

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

Biologist Talia Fuentes (D) faces an a tough contest in her race against State Senate President Andy Biggs (R) in the 5th Congressional District for the seat being vacated by retiring U.S. Rep. Matt Salmon (R).

State Senate

Arizona's five incumbent State Senators are running for re-election, and none face serious opposition: Democrats Olivia Cajero Bedford, Lupe Chavira Contreras, Robert Meza, Catherine Miranda, and Martin Quezada. They will be joined in the State Senate by three State Representatives who are running unopposed for seats in the legislature's upper chamber: Juan Jose Mendez (D), Lisa Otondo (D) and Steve Montenegro (R).

Latinos who will encounter uphill battles in their races to unseat incumbents include retired auditor Jaime Alvarez (D), who is facing State Senator Gail Griffin (R) in Legislative District 14, and child advocate Larry Herrera (D), who is facing State Senator Kimberly Yee (R) in Legislative District 20.

State House of Representatives

In Arizona, each lower state house district is represented by two State Representatives, and both major political parties can field as many as two candidates for those two seats. The two candidates who win the most votes are elected to serve as State Representatives from each district. Thus, candidates in these contests may face as many as three other opponents.

Ten of Arizona's incumbent Latino State Representatives are running for re-election, and all face good prospects of victory: Democrats Richard Andrade, Mark Cardenas, Diego Espinoza, Charlene Fernandez, Rosanna Gabaldón, Sally Ann Gonzales, Rebecca Rios, Macario Saldate; and Republicans Tony Rivero and Thomas "T.J." Shope.

Several Latino Democratic candidates for the state house face good prospects of victory in their races: Gila Bend School Board President Jesus Rubalcava (LD 4); community leaders Isela Blanc and Athena Salman (LD 26); community leader Cesar Chavez (LD 29); and Alhambra Elementary School Board Member Ray Martinez and immigrant advocate Tony Navarrete (LD 30).

Candidates with more competitive contests include Sunnyside Unified School Board Member Daniel Hernandez (D), who is running in LD 2. Retired U.S. Navy Reserve Captain Alex Martinez (D) faces a tough race in LD 6. Former Globe City Councilmember Carmen Casillas (D) faces a difficult contest in LD 8, but is running a competitive race. In Legislative District 22, Manuel Hernandez (D) faces an uphill battle in his effort to prevail. Manager Roberto Carlos Alfaro (R) will have a difficult race in LD 29.

ARKANSAS

State House of Representatives

Community leader Irvin Camacho (D) faces a tough but competitive open seat battle against former Washington County Assessor Jeff Williams (R) in House District 89.

CALIFORNIA

California Congressional, state legislative and statewide 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. Senate

U.S. Rep. Loretta Sanchez (D) is facing a tough but competitive contest against California Attorney General Kamala Harris (D), for the seat being vacated by retiring U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer (D).

U.S. House of Representatives

Nine of California’s incumbent Latino U.S. Representatives are running for re-election and all face good prospects of re-election: Democrats Pete Aguilar, Xavier Becerra, Tony Cardenas, Grace Flores Napolitano, Lucille Roybal-Allard, Raul Ruiz, Linda Sanchez, Norma Torres and Juan Vargas.

Other Latinos who are running in competitive contests for U.S. House seats include attorney Emilio Huerta (D), who is challenging incumbent U.S. Rep. David Valadao (R) in the 21st Congressional District; Santa Barbara County Supervisor Salud Carbajal (D) who faces business owner Justin Fareed (R) for the 24th Congressional District seat being vacated by incumbent U.S. Rep. Lois Capps (D); and former state legislator and Orange County Supervisor Lou Correa (D), who faces Garden Grove Mayor Bao Nguyen (D) for the 46th Congressional District seat being vacated by U.S. Rep. Loretta Sanchez (D).

Latinos with more difficult contests include former Hermosa Beach City Councilmember Nanette Barragan (D) who is running against State Senator Isadore Hall III (D) for the 44th Congressional District seat being vacated by incumbent Democrat Janice Hahn (Hahn is running for the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors).

Latinos who have uphill battles in their races include Carlos Santamaria (R), who is challenging incumbent U.S. Rep. Mike Thompson (D) in the 5th Congressional District; Dr. Rita Ramirez (D), who is challenging incumbent U.S. Rep. Paul Cook (R), in the 8th Congressional District; retired U.S. Marshal Tony Amador (R), who is challenging incumbent U.S. Rep. Jerry McNerney (D) in the 9th Congressional District; Louie Campos (D), who is challenging incumbent U.S. Rep. Devin Nunes (R) in the 22nd Congressional district; business owner Rafael Dagnesses (R), who is challenging incumbent U.S. Rep. Julia Brownley (D) in the 26th Congressional District; business owner Lenore Solis (R), who is challenging incumbent U.S. Rep. Adam Schiff (D) in the 28th Congressional District; and small business owner Omar Navarro (R), who is challenging incumbent U.S. Rep. Maxine Waters (D) in the 43rd Congressional District.

Statewide Officials

Incumbent Secretary of State Alex Padilla (D) is not up for re-election in 2016.

State Senate

Only one of California's incumbent Latino State Senators is up for re-election in 2016 - State Senator Ricardo Lara (D), who has excellent prospects of victory.

State Assemblymember Nora Campos (D) faces a tough contest in her bid to unseat incumbent State Senator Jim Beall (D) in Senate District 15.

State Assembly

Fifteen of California's incumbent Latino State Assemblymembers are running for re-election, and thirteen do not face serious opposition: Democrats Joaquin Arambula, Ian C. Calderon, Eduardo Garcia, Cristina Garcia, Jimmy Gomez, Lorena Gonzalez, Jose Medina, Anthony Rendon, Freddie Rodriguez, Rudy Salas, Jr., Miguel Santiago, and Susan Talamantes Eggman; and Republican Rocky Chavez. Incumbent Patty Lopez (D) is in a tough 39th Assembly District race with former Assemblymember Raul Bocanegra (D), whom Lopez defeated in 2014. Incumbent Eric Linder (R) faces a competitive challenge from state legislative District Director Sabrina Cervantes (D) in the 60th Assembly District.

Latinos in competitive open seat contests include former California Business, Consumer and Housing Agency Secretary Anna Caballero (D) who faces Watsonville Vice Mayor Karina Cervantez Alejo (D) in the 30th Assembly District; small business owner Dawn Ortiz-Legg (D), who is battling attorney Jordan Cunningham (R) in the 35th Assembly District; Santa Barbara Unified School Board Member Monique Limon (D), who faces real estate professional Edward Fuller (NPP) in the 37th Assembly District; small business advisor Dante Acosta (R) who faces Newhall School Board Member Christy Smith (D) in the 38th Assembly District; Baldwin Park School Board Member Blanca Rubio (D), who faces Glendora School Board Member Cory Ellenson (R) in the 48th Assembly District; and San Diego City Councilmember Todd Gloria (D), who faces former publisher Kevin Melton (R) in the 78th Assembly District.

Several Latinos are facing tough contests in their bids to unseat incumbents. These candidates include Ruben Macareno (D), who is challenging incumbent State Assemblymember Devon Mathis (R), in the 26th Assembly District; San Bernardino City School Board Member Abigail Medina (D), who is challenging incumbent State Assemblymember Marc Steinorth (R) in the 40th Assembly District; educator and community leader Eloise Reyes (D), who is challenging incumbent Cheryl Brown (D) in the 47th Assembly District; former State Assemblymember Sharon Quirk-Silva (D), who is challenging incumbent Young Kim (R), who defeated Quirk-Silva in the 2014 65th Assembly District race; Jorge Lopez (D) who is challenging incumbent Melissa Melendez (R) in the 67th Assembly District; Ofelia Velarde-Garcia (R), executive aide for the Orange County Clerk's office of the Board of Supervisors, who is facing incumbent Tom Daly (D) in the 69th Assembly District; Karina Onofre (D), who is challenging incumbent Matthew Harper (R) in the 74th Assembly District; and real estate attorney Melinda Vasquez (D), who is challenging incumbent Brian Maienschein (R) in the 77th Assembly District.

COLORADO

State Senate

Colorado's five incumbent Latino State Senators are either not up for re-election in 2016 or are not running for re-election. In Senate District 21, Colorado House Assistant Majority Leader Dominick Moreno (D) is unopposed in his race. Las Animas County Sheriff James Casias (D) faces a tough contest in his bid to unseat incumbent State Senator Larry Crowder (R) in Senate District 35.

State House of Representatives

Four of Colorado's incumbent Latino State Representatives are running for re-election, and Democrats Crisanta Duran and Dan Pabón have good prospects for victory. Incumbents in

somewhat more competitive contests include State Rep. Joe Salazar (D), who is being challenged by educator Jessica Sandgren (R) in House District 31, and State Rep. Clarice Navarro (R), who is being challenged by Jason Muñoz (D) in House District 47.

Latinos who are running in competitive open seat contests include small business executive Dave Williams (R), who faces Sharon Huff (D) in House District 15; attorney Adrienne Benavidez (D), who faces Al Jacobson (R) in House District 32; veteran Phil Covarrubias (R), who faces Matt Snider (D) in House District 56; and federal National Resource Conservation Services official Donald Valdez (D) who faces San Luis Valley farmer Bob Mattive (R) in House District 62. Veteran and community organizer Raymond Garcia (R) will have a tough race in his bid to unseat State Rep. Susan Lontine (D) in House District 1.

CONNECTICUT

U.S. House of Representatives

Marine Corps veteran Angel Cadena (R) faces an uphill battle in his 3rd Congressional District bid to unseat incumbent U.S. Rep. Rosa De Lauro (D).

State Senate

Incumbent State Senator Art Linares (R) faces good prospects in his re-election bid.

Avon Town Councilmember David Peña (D) faces a tough race in his Senate District 8 challenge to incumbent State Senator Kevin Witkos (R).

State Representatives

All twelve of Connecticut's incumbent Latino State Representatives are seeking re-election, and are likely to prevail in their contests: Democrats Angel Arce, Juan Candelaria, Minnie Gonzalez, Matthew Lesser, Geraldo Reyes, Jr., Jason Rojas, Christopher Rosario, Robert Sanchez, Ezequiel Santiago, Hilda Santiago, Edwin Vargas, and Republican Aundré Bumgardner.

Connecticut Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commissioner Chris Soto (D) has good prospects for victory in House District 39.

DELAWARE

State Officials

New Castle County Sheriff Trinidad Navarro (D) is battling small business owner Jeffrey Cragg (R) to serve as Delaware Insurance Commissioner.

State Senate

State Senator Ernesto Lopez (R) is not up for re-election in 2016.

State House of Representatives

Incumbent Latino State Rep. Joseph Miro (R) faces good prospects of prevailing in his re-election bid.

FLORIDA

Between 2012 and 2015, there was extensive redistricting litigation over Florida's Congressional and State Senate maps. In December 2015, the Supreme Court of Florida and the Second Judicial Circuit Court in Leon County ordered new maps for these jurisdictions. In the analysis below, we refer to districts by their new numbers, rather than the district numbers in which incumbents formerly served.

U.S. Senate

Incumbent U.S. Senator Marco Rubio (R) faces a competitive challenge from U.S. Rep. Patrick Murphy (D). Both parties see this seat as critical to retaining or winning the balance of power in the Senate.

U.S. Representatives

All three of Florida's incumbent U.S. Representatives are running for re-election, and two do not face serious opposition: Republicans Mario Diaz-Balart and Ileana Ros-Lehtinen. In the 26th Congressional District, U.S. Rep. Carlos Curbelo (R) is involved in a rematch of his 2014 race with former U.S. Rep. Joe Garcia (D), whom Curbelo defeated in the last Congressional election. Political observers also view this race as one of the most competitive in the nation.

State Senator Darren Soto (D) is poised to become the first Puerto Rican to represent Florida in the U.S. House of Representatives, as he is likely to prevail over business owner Wayne Liebnitzky (R) in Central Florida's 9th Congressional District.

Statewide Officials

Florida Lt. Gov. Carlos Lopez-Cantera (R) is not up for re-election in 2016.

State Senate

Three of Florida's incumbent State Senators are running for re-election, and two do not face serious opposition: Republicans Anitere Flores and Rene Garcia. State Senator Miguel Diaz de la Portilla (R) faces a more difficult challenge from State Rep. Jose Javier Rodriguez (D) in the Senate District 37 contest.

State Rep. Victor Torres, Jr. (D) has good prospects of winning his Senate District 15 open seat contest against business consultant Peter Vivaldi (R). State Rep. Frank Artiles (R) has mounted a competitive bid to unseat incumbent State Senator Dwight Bullard (D) in Senate District 40. Business owner Curtis Ceballos (D) faces a tough race against incumbent State Senator Travis Hutson (R) in State Senate District 7.

State House of Representatives

Thirteen of Florida's incumbent Latino State Representatives are running for re-election, and all face good prospects of victory: Democrats John Cortes and Janet Cruz, and Republicans Bryan Avila, Robert Cortes, Jose Felix Diaz, Manny Diaz, Jr., Julio Gonzalez, Mike La Rosa, Jeanette M. Nuñez, Jose R. Oliva, Rene 'Coach P' Plasencia, David Santiago, and Carlos Trujillo.

Several Latinos running in open seat races are likely to prevail in their contests, including business executive Amy Mercado (D), who is running in House District 48, and non-profit executive Carlos Guillermo Smith (D), who is running in House District 49. Other Latinos running in competitive open seat races include engineer Jackie Toledo (R), who faces attorney David Singer (D) in House District 60; health care executive Nicholas Duran (D), who faces educator Rosa Maria "Rosy" Palomino (R) in House District 112; attorney John Couriel (R), who faces health care executive Daisy Baez (D) in House District 114; and former State Rep. David Rivera (R), who faces retired police captain Robert Asencio (D) in House District 118.

Latinos who are trying to unseat incumbents face tougher races, including Ramon Gutierrez (D), who is challenging State Rep. Blaise Ingoglia (R) in House District 35; business owner Jose Vasquez (D), who is challenging Majority Deputy Whip Daniel Raulerson (R) in House District 58; and community leader Oscar Ganem (R), who is challenging State Rep. Richard Stark (D) in House District 104.

GEORGIA

U.S. House of Representatives

Victor Armendariz (R) faces an uphill battle in his 4th Congressional District bid to unseat incumbent U.S. Rep. Hank Johnson (D).

State House of Representatives

Georgia's two Latino incumbent State Representatives have excellent chances of winning their re-election bids: Democrat Pedro Marin and Republican David Casas. They are likely to be joined in the State House by attorney Brenda Lopez (D), who would become the first Latina to serve in the Georgia General Assembly.

Latino community leader Michelle Jones (D) faces a tougher race in her bid to unseat incumbent State Rep. Emory Dunahoo (R) in House District 30.

HAWAII

State Senate

Two of Hawaii's incumbent State Senators are up for re-election, and both have excellent prospects of victory: Democrats Donovan Dela Cruz and Donna Mercado Kim.

IDAHO

U.S. House of Representatives

Incumbent U.S. Rep. Raul Labrador (R) is likely to prevail in his re-election bid. Community leader Jennifer Martinez (D) faces an uphill battle in her challenge to incumbent U.S. Rep. Mike Simpson (R) in Idaho's 2nd Congressional District.

State Senate

Educator Ydalia Yado (D) faces a tough contest in her Senate District 10 bid to unseat incumbent State Senator Jim Rice (R).

State House of Representatives

Boise State University career counselor Maria Gonzalez Mabbutt (D) faces a difficult race against incumbent State Rep. Robert Anderst (R) for House District 12, Position A.

ILLINOIS

U.S. House of Representatives

Incumbent U.S. Rep. Luis Gutierrez (D) faces no serious opposition in his re-election bid.

Statewide Officials

Lt. Governor Evelyn Sanguinetti (R) is not up for re-election in 2016.

Chicago City Clerk Susana Mendoza (D) is in a competitive battle to unseat incumbent State Comptroller Leslie Geissler Munger (R).

State Senate

Illinois' four Latino incumbent State Senators are running for re-election, and none face serious opposition: Democrats Omar Aquino, Iris Martinez, Antonio Muñoz, and Martin Sandoval.

Kane County Commissioner Cristina Castro (D) is likely to prevail in her Senate District 22 open seat contest against community leader Tracy Smodilla (R).

State House of Representatives

Eight of Illinois' Latino incumbent State Representatives are running for re-election, and all face good prospects of victory: Democrats Jaime Andrade, Jr., Luis Arroyo, Linda Chapa LaVia, Fred Crespo, Elizabeth Hernandez, Cynthia Soto, and Silvana Tabares; and Republican John Cabello.

INDIANA

Statewide Officials

Latina State Rep. Christina Hale (D) is running for Indiana Lt. Governor as the running mate of gubernatorial candidate John Gregg (D), the former Speaker of the Indiana House of Representatives. Gregg and Hale face the joint ticket of Lt. Governor Eric Holcomb (R) and State Auditor Suzanne Crouch (R). Indiana's gubernatorial race became an open seat contest when Governor Mike Pence (R) announced his intention not to seek re-election and to become the Vice Presidential running mate for Donald Trump (R).

Retired Lake County Circuit Court Judge Lorenzo Arredondo (D) faces a tough battle against prosecutor Curtis Hill (R) to become Indiana's Attorney General. If State Rep. Hale and Judge Arredondo win their respective contests, they will become the first Latinos to hold statewide positions in Indiana.

State House of Representatives

Former State Rep. Mara Candelaria Reardon (D) is seeking to return to the State House and is in a competitive battle against incumbent State Rep. Bill Fine (R) in House District 12. Jorge Fernandez (D) faces a tough contest against incumbent State Rep. Daniel Leonard (R) in House District 50.

IOWA

State Representatives

Former Storm Lake City Councilmember Sara Huddleston (D) is a Latina attempting to unseat incumbent State Rep. Gary Worthan (R) in House District 11. Sioux City School Board Member Perla Alarcon-Flory (D) faces a tough race in her House District 6 contest against attorney Jim Carlin (R).

KANSAS

State Senate

Community leader Anabel Larumbe (D) will face a challenging race in her effort to unseat Kansas Senate President Susan Wagle (R) in Senate District 30. Educator Gabriel Costilla (D) faces a difficult battle in his Senate District 16 bid to unseat incumbent Ty Masterson (R). Community leader Miguel Rodriguez (D) faces a tough open seat contest against Kansas State Rep. Bud Estes (R) in Senate District 38.

State House of Representatives

Four of Kansas's Latino incumbent State Representatives are running for re-election, and none face serious opposition: Democrats John Alcalá, Louis Ruiz, Tom Sawyer and Ponka-We Victors.

KENTUCKY

State Senate

Incumbent State Senator Ralph Alvarado (R) is not up for re-election in 2016.

LOUISIANA

State House of Representatives

Incumbent State Representative Helena Moreno (D) is not up for re-election in 2016.

MARYLAND

State Senate

Incumbent State Senator Victor Ramirez (D) is not up for re-election in 2016

State House of Delegates

None of Maryland's State Delegates are up for re-election in 2016, including Latino Democrats David Fraser-Hidalgo, Maricé Morales, Joseline Peña-Melnyk, Carlo Sanchez, and Ana Sol Gutierrez.

MASSACHUSETTS

State Senate

Incumbent State Senator Sonia Chang-Díaz (D) faces excellent prospects of victory in her re-election bid.

State House of Representatives

Four of Massachusetts' Latino incumbents are running for re-election, and are likely to prevail in their re-election contests: Democrats Carlos Gonzalez, Jeffrey Sanchez, Jose Tosado, and Aaron Vega.

Construction services executive Juana Matias (D) faces no serious opposition in her 16th Essex District race. Veteran Oscar Camargo (D) is involved in a tough but competitive contest to unseat 18th Essex District incumbent State Rep. James Lyons, Jr. (R).

MICHIGAN

State House of Representatives

Four of Michigan's Latino incumbent State Representatives are running for re-election, and face good prospects of victory: Democrats, Erika Geiss, Vanessa Guerra and Henry Yañez; and Republican Daniela Garcia.

Architect Shane Hernandez (R) is involved in a competitive open seat contest against educator Jim Frank (D) in House District 83. Educator Darrin Camilleri (D) faces a tougher open seat contest against Trenton City Councilmember Robert J. Howey (R) in House District 23. Former Imlay City Mayor Margaret Guerrero DeLuca (D) will have an uphill battle in her race to unseat incumbent State Rep. Gary Howell (R) in House District 82.

MINNESOTA

State Senate

Minnesota's two incumbent Latina State Senators are running for re-election, and both are likely to prevail in their contests: Democrats Melisa Franzen and Patricia Torres Ray.

State House of Representatives

Minnesota's three incumbents Latino State Representatives are running for re-election, and none face serious opposition: Democrat Carlos Mariani, and Republicans Eric Lucero and Jon Koznick.

MISSOURI

State Senate

Missouri State Senator Maria Chappelle-Nadal (D) is not up for re-election in 2016.

State House of Representatives

Incumbent State Rep. Robert Cornejo (R) is likely to prevail in his re-election bid.

NEVADA

U.S. Senate

Former State Attorney General Catherine Cortez Masto (D) is battling U.S. Rep. Joe Heck (R) for the seat being vacated by retiring Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid (D). Both political parties see this seat as crucial to retaining or winning partisan control of the U.S. Senate. If elected, Cortez Masto would be the first Latina in U.S. history to serve in Congress's upper chamber.

U.S. House of Representatives

State Senator Ruben Kihuen (D) is fighting a competitive battle to unseat incumbent U.S. Rep. Crescent Hardy (R) in the 4th Congressional District. If elected, Kihuen would be the first Latino to represent Nevada in the U.S. House.

Statewide Officials

Governor Brian Sandoval (R) is not up for re-election in 2016.

State Senate

State Assemblymember Victoria Seaman (R) is in a competitive open seat contest against prosecutor Nicole Cannizzaro (D) in Senate District 6.

State Assembly

Six of Nevada's incumbent State Assemblymembers are running for re-election, and all face good prospects of victory: Democrats Nelson Araujo, Teresa Benitez-Thompson, Irene Bustamante Adams, Richard Carrillo, Olivia Diaz and Edgar Flores.

Real estate professional Sandra Jauregui (D) is involved in a competitive open seat contest with business owner Nick Phillips (R) in Assembly District 41. Civic leader Luis Aguirre-Insua (D) faces a more difficult race against attorney Keith Pickard (R) in Assembly District 22.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

State House of Representatives

Incumbent State Rep. Carlos Gonzales (R) is running for re-election, and he is likely to prevail in his contest.

NEW JERSEY

U.S. Senate

Incumbent Senator Robert Menendez (D) is not up for re-election in 2016.

U.S. House of Representatives

Incumbent U.S. Rep. Albio Sires (D) does not face serious opposition in his re-election bid. Physician Hector Castillo (R) faces an uphill battle in his 9th Congressional District bid to unseat incumbent U.S. Rep. Bill Pascrell (D).

New Jersey holds its state legislative races in odd-numbered years, and none of its Latino incumbents are up for re-election in 2016.

NEW MEXICO

U.S. House of Representatives

Both of New Mexico's incumbent Latino U.S. Representatives are up for re-election, and neither face serious opposition – Democrats Michelle Lujan Grisham and Ben R. Lujan.

Statewide Officials

New Mexico three incumbent Latino statewide officials – Governor Susana Martinez (R), Lt. Governor John Sanchez (R), and Attorney General Hector Balderas (D) are not up for re-election in 2016.

State Rep. Nora Espinoza (R) is in a competitive battle with Bernalillo County Clerk Maggie Toulouse Oliver (D) for the position of New Mexico Secretary of State.

State Senate

All of New Mexico's incumbent Latino State Senators are running for re-election and face good prospects of victory: Democrats Pete Campos, Jacob R. Candelaria, Joseph Cervantes, Carlos R. Cisneros, Daniel A. Ivey-Soto, Linda Lopez, Richard Martinez, Howie Morales, George K. Muñoz, Gerald P. Ortiz y Pino, Michael Padilla, Nancy Rodriguez, Clemente Sanchez, Michael Sanchez, and John Sapien; and Republican Ted Barela.

Linda Sanchez Allison (D) will face an uphill battle in her race to unseat incumbent State Senator Craig Brandt (R) in New Mexico's 40th Senate District.

State Representatives

Thirty of New Mexico's incumbent Latino State Representatives are running for re-election, and none face serious opposition: Democrats Eliseo Lee Alcon, George Dodge, Jr., Doreen Gallegos, Harry Garcia, Miguel Garcia, Stephanie Garcia Richard, Bealquin "Bill" Gomez, Roberto "Bobby" Gonzales, Patricia Lundstrom, Antonio Maestas, Javier Martinez, Debbie Rodella, G. Andres Romero, Patricia Roybal Caballero, Patricio Ruiloba, Nick Salazar, Tomas Salazar, Carl Trujillo, Christine Trujillo, Jim Trujillo, and Sheryl Williams Stapleton; and Republicans Alonzo Baldonado, Kelly Fajardo, David Gallegos, Larry Larrañaga, Sarah Maestas Barnes, Rodney Montoya, Andrew Nuñez, Paul Pacheco, and Monica Youngblood.

They are likely to be joined in the State House by educator Debra Marie Sariñana (D) who faces no serious opposition in House District 21. Community leader Angelica Rubio (D) is also likely to prevail in her House District 35 race against Joseph Bishop (R).

Latinos with more difficult contests include those attempting to unseat incumbents: small business owner Giovanni Alexander Haqani (D), who faces State Rep. Jim Dines in House District 20; retired firefighter Ronnie Martinez (D), who faces State Rep. David Adkins (R) in House District

29; and former State Representative Rodolpho “Rudy” Martinez (D), who faces State Rep. John Zimmerman (R) in House District 39. New Mexico Adult Parole Board Member Richard Garcia (D) will also face a tough race against former Chaves County Commissioner Greg Nibert (R) in House District 59.

NEW YORK

U.S. House of Representatives

New York’s two Latino incumbents, José E. Serrano (D) and Nydia Velázquez (D), face excellent prospects of victory in their re-election bids. They are likely to be joined in Congress by State Senator Adriano Espaillat (D), who faces no serious opposition in his 13th Congressional District contest. If victorious, Espaillat would be the first Dominican American to serve in the U.S. House.

State Senate

Five of New York’s incumbent Latino State Senators are running for re-election, and all are likely to prevail in their contests: Democrats Ruben Diaz, Sr., Martin Malavé-Dilan, Jose Peralta, Gustavo Rivera, and Jose M. Serrano. They are likely to be joined in the State Senate by community organizer Marisol Alcantara (D), who has excellent prospects of winning her Senate District 31 race against Melinda Crump (R), for the seat being vacated by State Senator Espaillat (D).

Public relations and marketing consultant Carlos Giron (R) faces a tough contest in his battle to unseat State Senator Toby Ann Stavisky (D) in Senate District 16.

State Assembly

Fifteen of New York Latino incumbent State Assemblymembers are running for re-election and none face serious opposition: Democrats Carmen Arroyo, Marcos Crespo, Maritza Davila, Erik Dilan, Francisco Moya, Felix Ortiz, Victor Pichardo, Philip Ramos, Jose Rivera, Robert Rodriguez, Nily Rozic, Luis Sepúlveda, and David Weprin; and Republicans Peter Lopez and Nicole Malliotakis. They are likely to be joined in the State Assembly by community leader Carmen De La Rosa (D) who is likely to prevail in the Assembly District 72 contest.

Marketing consulting executive Edwin Perez (D) is involved in a tough but competitive bid to unseat incumbent Chad A. Lupinacci (R) in Assembly District 10. Joseph Torres (D), who is attempting to unseat incumbent Kieran Michael Lalor (R) in Assembly District 105, will have a more difficult contest.

NORTH CAROLINA

U.S. House of Representatives

Business owner Christian Cano (D) faces a tough contest in his 9th Congressional District bid to unseat incumbent U.S. Rep. Robert Pittenger (R).

State Senate

Two Latinos trying to unseat incumbent State Senators are involved in difficult battles, including military support program manager Dan Travieso (R), who is challenging State Senator Ben Clark (D) in Senate District 21, and small business owner Mary Lopez Carter (R), who is challenging State Senator Valerie Foushee (D) in Senate District 23.

OHIO

State House of Representatives

Ohio's Latino incumbents Rick Perales (R) and Dan Ramos (D) have good prospects of victory in their re-election bids.

OKLAHOMA

State House of Representatives

Oklahoma State House Majority Leader Charles Ortega (R) faces no serious opposition in his re-election bid.

OREGON

State Senate

In Senate District 27, community organizer Greg Delgado (D) faces a tough contest against incumbent State Senator Tim Knopp (R).

State House of Representatives

Incumbent State Rep. Sal Esquivel (R) has excellent prospects in his re-election bid. Non-profit executive Diego Hernandez (D) faces no serious opposition in his House District 47 race for the seat being vacated by State Rep. Jessica Vega Pederson (D), who is running for Multnomah County Commissioner. Latinas involved in more competitive contests include Woodburn City Councilmember Teresa Alonso Leon (D) who faces former Marion County Commissioner and Oregon State Rep. Patti Milne (R) in House District 22; and Happy Valley Mayor Lori Chavez-DeRemer (R), who faces small business owner Janelle Bynum (D) in House District 51.

PENNSYLVANIA

State House of Representatives

Pennsylvania's two Latino incumbents are running for re-election, and neither faces serious opposition in their contests: Democrats Leslie Acosta and Angel Cruz. Leadership development professional Dr. Damary Bonilla-Rodriguez (D) faces a tough race in her House District 189 bid to unseat incumbent State Rep. Rosemary M. Brown (R).

RHODE ISLAND

Statewide Officials

Incumbent Secretary of State Nellie Gorbea (D) is not up for re-election in 2016.

State Senate

Providence Code Enforcement Inspector Ana Quezada (D) faces no serious opposition in her Senate District 2 open seat race.

State House of Representatives

Rhode Island's four incumbent Latinos are running for re-election, and all face excellent prospects of victory: Democrats Grace Diaz, Shelby Maldonado, Carlos Tobón, and Anastasia P. Williams. Business owner Ramon Perez (D) is likely to prevail in his House District 13 open seat contest.

TENNESSEE

State Senate

Latina incumbent State Senator Dolores Gresham (R) faces no serious opposition in her re-election bid.

TEXAS

U.S. Senate

U.S. Senator Ted Cruz (R) is not up for re-election in 2016.

U.S. House of Representatives

Four of Texas' incumbent Latino U.S. Representatives are running for re-election, and none face serious opposition: Democrats Joaquin Castro, Henry Cuellar, Filemon Vela, and Republican Bill Flores. They are likely to be joined in Congress by attorney Vicente Gonzalez (D), who faces excellent prospects of victory in his 15th Congressional District contest against pastor Tim Westley (R), for the seat being vacated by retiring U.S. Rep. Ruben Hinojosa (D).

In a race considered to be one of the most competitive in the nation, former U.S. Rep. Pete Gallego (D) is involved in a 23rd Congressional District rematch against incumbent Will Hurd (R), who defeated Gallego in 2014. Latinos facing tougher challenges to incumbents include federal court security officer Raul "Roy" Barrera (D), who is attempting to unseat U.S. Rep. Blake Farenthold (R) in the 27th Congressional District; Julio Garza (R), who is battling U.S. Rep. Gene Green (D) in the 29th Congressional District; and former San Marcos Mayor Susan Narvaiz (R), who is challenging 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 2016.

State Senate

All seven of Texas' incumbent Latino State Senators are running for re-election and face good prospects of victory: Democrats Sylvia Garcia, Juan "Chuy" Hinojosa, Eddie Lucio, Jr., Jose Menendez, Jose Rodriguez, Carlos Uresti and Judith Zaffirini.

State House of Representatives

Thirty-three of Texas' incumbent Latino State Representatives are running for re-election, and most face good prospects of victory: Democrats Roberto Alonzo, Carol Alvarado, Rafael Anchia, Diego Bernal, César Blanco, Terry Canales, Jessica Farrar, Mary González, Robert "Bobby" Guerra, Ryan Guillen, Roland Gutierrez, Ana Hernandez, Abel Herrero, Celia Israel, Oscar Longoria, Eddie Lucio III, Armando Martinez, Ina Minjarez, Joe Moody, Sergio Muñoz, Jr., Poncho Nevárez, René Oliveira, Richard Peña Raymond, Eddie Rodriguez, Justin Rodriguez, Ramon Romero, Jr., and Armando Walle; and Republicans Larry Gonzales, J.M. Lozano, and Jason Villalba. Incumbents who have more competitive contests include State Rep. Rick Galindo (R), who faces a challenge from former State Rep. Philip Cortez (D) in House District 117; State Rep. Gilbert Peña (R), who faces a challenge from former State Rep. Mary Ann Perez (D), in House District 144; and State Rep. John Lujan (R), who faces a challenge from small business owner Tomas Uresti (D) in House District 118.

Several Latino Democrats face no serious opposition in their open seat contests: Austin School Board Member Gina Hinojosa (HD 9); attorney Lina Ortega (HD 77); and non-profit executive Diane Arevalo (HD 116).

Latinos who face tougher contests include several who are challenging incumbents: educator Gabriel Nila (R), who faces State Rep. Dawnna Dukes (D) in House District 46; small business owner Alex Mendoza (D), who faces State Rep. Ron Simmons (R) in House District 65; Maricela Sanchez Chibli (D), who faces State Rep. Giovanni Capriglione (R) in House District 98; Carlos

“Charlie” Garza (R), who faces State Rep. Chris Turner (D) in House District 101; community leader Terry Meza (D) who faces State Rep. Rodney Anderson (R) in House District 105; attorney Victoria Neave (D), who faces State Rep. Kenneth Sheets (R) in House District 107; and retired Navy Chief Warrant Officer Jesse Ybanez (D), who faces State Rep. Gary Elkins (R) in House District 135.

UTAH

Statewide Officials

Incumbent Attorney General Sean Reyes (R) is not up for re-election in 2016.

State Senate

Incumbent State Senator Luz Escamilla (D) is likely to prevail in her re-election bid.

State House of Representatives

Utah’s three incumbent Latino State Representatives are running for re-election, and all face good prospects of victory: Democrats Rebecca Chavez-Houck, Angela Romero, and Mark Wheatley. Community leader Frank Bedolla (D) is in a competitive open seat contest in House District 30 against former West Valley Mayor Mike Winder (R). Retired Army veteran Angela Urrea (D) faces a tougher race in her House District 29 bid to unseat incumbent State Rep. Lee Perry (R).

VERMONT

State House of Representatives

Incumbent State Rep. Diana Gonzalez (D) is likely to prevail in her re-election bid.

VIRGINIA

Virginia holds its state legislative races in odd-numbered years, and neither of its Latino State House incumbents are up for re-election in 2016.

WASHINGTON

Washington Congressional and state legislative 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. As a result, two candidates from the same political party may face each other in the general election.

U.S. House of Representatives

Incumbent Latino U.S. Rep. Jaime Herrera Beutler (R) does not face any serious opposition in her re-election bid. Washington State Rep. Brady Piñero Walkinshaw (D) is in a tough but competitive open seat contest in the 7th Congressional District against State Senator Pramila Jayapal (D).

State House of Representatives

Latina incumbent State Rep. Lillian Ortiz-Self (D) faces good prospects of victory in her re-election bid. Latinos who face tough but competitive contests include former State Rep. Monica Jurado Stonier (D), who faces Vancouver City Councilmember Alishia Topper (D) in Legislative District 49; and Washington State Director of Economic Development for the Military and Defense Sector Kristine Reeves (D) who is involved in a Legislative District 30 challenge to incumbent State Rep. Teri Hickel (R).

Latinos involved in more difficult contests include community leader Jessica Garcia (R), who faces incumbent State Rep. Steve Kirby (D) in Legislative District 29; and Sammamish Deputy Mayor Ramiro Valderrama (R), who faces incumbent State Rep. Roger Goodman (D) in Legislative District 45.

WEST VIRGINIA

U.S. House of Representatives

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

State Senate

Latina community leader Patricia Rucker (R) faces a tough but competitive battle in her Senate District 16 open seat race against State Rep. Stephen Skinner (D).

State House of Delegates

Incumbent State Delegate Paul Espinosa (R) has good prospects of victory in his re-election bid. Latina business owner Nancy Reagan Foster (R) is likely to prevail in her House District 38 contest against retired educator Thomas Tull (D).

WISCONSIN

State House of Representatives

Wisconsin's two Latino incumbents face no serious opposition in their re-election bids: Republican Jessie Rodriguez and Democrat JoCasta Zamarripa.

WYOMING

State Senate

Incumbent State Senator Floyd Esquibel (D) is likely to prevail in his re-election contest. State Rep. Ken Esquibel (D) faces a tough but competitive Senate District 4 battle against attorney Tara Nethercott (R). Educator and business owner Narina Nunez (D) faces a difficult Senate District 10 battle against State Rep. Glenn Moniz (R).

State House of Representatives

Tim Salazar (R) faces no serious opposition in his House District 34 contest. Latinos with more difficult races include Matthew Porras (D), who faces incumbent State Rep. John Eklund (R) in House District 10, and DeBari Martinez (D), who faces incumbent State Rep. Donald Burkhart, Jr. (R) in House District 15.

METHODOLOGY

In the three tables presented on pages 3-6, 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.