



## NEWS RELEASE

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### **\*\*\*ELECTION 2020 PRIMARY PROFILE\*\*\***

#### **Arizona: More than 595,000 Latino Voters Expected to Cast Ballots in 2020 Election**

*Latino voters expected to play a critical role in the Arizona Primary Races*

**WASHINGTON, D.C.** – Days before Latinos will make a decisive impact on the outcome of the Arizona primary elections on August 4, the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) Educational Fund released its profile of the Arizona Latino electorate. The full [Arizona primary profile](#) is available for download [here](#).

**According to NALEO Educational Fund analysis, more than 595,000 Latino Arizonans will make their voices heard at the ballot box in 2020, an increase of nearly 10 percent from Election 2016.** Since the turn of the century, Latino turnout in Arizona Presidential elections has increased dramatically by 120 percent, from 247,000 in 2000 to 543,00 in 2016.

“With more than 595,000 Arizona Latino voters expected to cast ballots this year, there is little doubt that the Latino electorate in the Grand Canyon State will play a decisive role in Election 2020,” stated Arturo Vargas, Chief Executive Officer at NALEO Educational Fund. “Given the devastating impact COVID-19 has had on the state of Arizona, specifically within the Latino community, we expect Latinos to make their voices heard in 2020.”

#### Key Characteristics of the Latino Electorate and Population in Arizona:

- **Population and Electorate Size**
  - Arizona is home to nearly 2.3 million Latinos, who comprise over 32 percent of the state’s total population (7.1 million).
  - The 717,000 Latino registered voters (as of June 2020) in Arizona account for 19 percent of all registered voters in the state (3.9 million).
- **Age**
  - Latino registered voters tend to be younger than non-Latinos, with 18- to 24-year-olds comprising 19 percent of all registered Latinos in Arizona, compared to only 10 percent of the same age group for non-Latino voters.
  - Similarly, 24 percent of Latino registered voters are 25- to 34-year-olds, compared to 16 percent for non-Latinos, respectively.
  - In contrast, more than half (52 percent) of non-Latino registered voters are 50 and older, compared to 32 percent of Latinos.

- **Party Affiliation**
  - Among Latino registered voters in Arizona, 48 percent identify as Democrats, with the remaining identifying as either Republicans (14 percent) or not affiliated with either major political party (38 percent).
- **Political Representation**
  - In 2019, 381 Latinos served in elected office in Arizona, with 93 percent serving at the local level, including county, municipal, school board, judicial, law enforcement, and special district officials.
  - Between 1996 and 2019, the number of Latinos serving in elected office in Arizona increased from 298 to 381.

In Presidential contests since 2000, Arizona has seen three solid Republican victories bookended by two competitive races, both going to the Republican candidate. The last time a Democratic Presidential candidate carried the state was during the 1996 re-election of President Bill Clinton.

Some political observers point to developments indicating that Arizona has become a “battleground state” in Election 2020. First, as noted above, the Republican margin of victory in 2016 was far smaller than the Republican margins of victory in the three previous Presidential contests. In addition, in the 2018 midterm election, Arizona elected three Democrats to statewide offices and one to the United States Senate, with three of those offices having been previously held by Republicans.

Arizona’s Democratic Presidential Primary took place on March 18, a week after Governor Doug Ducey declared a state of emergency because of the COVID-19 pandemic (the state’s Republican Presidential primary was canceled). On August 4, voters in Arizona will decide non-presidential primaries, including Congressional, state, and local races.

In Maricopa County, where voters experienced waits as long as five hours in the Election 2016 primary, the Maricopa County Elections Department has announced several measures it will implement for the August primary to address voting issues during the pandemic. The County is establishing 90-100 vote centers, instituting heightened safety and cleaning protocols for in-person sites, phasing in early in-person voting sites, and providing an on-site portal for requesting a vote-by-mail ballot. The County has also launched a comprehensive outreach campaign about the safety and security of both in-person and vote-by-mail options.

As is the case throughout the nation, the COVID-19 pandemic is having a disproportionate impact on the health and well-being of Arizona’s Latino community. Latino turnout in the primary will provide an opportunity to gauge the impact of the County’s efforts on Latino voting and will help inform planning for the general election.

Ahead of the Arizona primary and in the lead up to Election 2020, NALEO Educational Fund will continue its efforts to ensure that Latino voters in Arizona and nationwide have the necessary information to make their voices heard at the ballot box. These efforts include operating the NALEO Educational Fund toll-free bilingual election protection hotline *1-888-VE-Y-VOTA* (1-888-839-8682), providing vital information on every aspect of the electoral process, from registering to vote, to voter ID requirements, to finding polling places on Election Day.

*NALEO Educational Fund’s 2020 Arizona Primary Profile is available for download [here](#).*

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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.*