



NEWS RELEASE

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****NEW ANALYSIS ON RACES TO WATCH****

In 2020, Latinos Look to Make Gains in Congress, Statewide Offices, and State Legislatures

Latino candidates running for top posts in 36 states, looking to win in regions that go beyond traditional Latino population centers

Latest polling shows Vice President Joe Biden with sizable lead over President Trump among Latino voters

WASHINGTON, D.C. – With five days until Election Day, the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO) Educational Fund released new Election 2020 [analysis](#) on key races to watch throughout the nation, at the national and state level.

“Latino candidates are once again demonstrating an ability to compete all across the country,” stated Arturo Vargas, NALEO Educational Fund Chief Executive Officer. “As the second-largest population in the nation, Latinos are continuing to realize a growing political influence. In addition, the emergence of new presidential battleground states with large Latino populations is establishing the community as a critical component to an electoral victory, affecting races up and down the ballot.”

According to [new analysis](#) from NALEO Educational Fund, Latinos are poised to achieve new milestones at the federal and state levels following Election 2020. Running for top offices in 36 states nationwide this election season, Latino candidates are demonstrating a geographic diversity that goes beyond traditional Latino population centers to regions with emerging Latino communities in the Plains States, the Midwest, the Deep South, and New England. Key [findings](#) show:

- **The number of Latinos in the U.S. Senate could increase from four to five** if New Mexico Rep. Ben Ray Luján (D), who has excellent prospects of winning, emerges victorious in his contest against meteorologist and television personality Mark Ronchetti (R) for the seat held by retiring Senator Tom Udall (D).
 - None of the Senate’s four Latino incumbents are up for re-election in 2020: Catherine Cortez Masto (D-NV), Ted Cruz (R-TX), Robert Menendez (D-NJ), and Marco Rubio (R-FL).

- **Latinos in the U.S. House of Representatives could increase by as many as six, from 39 to 45**, with the likely addition of several new Latinos post-Election 2020. Races include:
 - **California:** Latino candidates in tough but competitive races are Obama Administration official Ammar Campa-Najjar (D) running against former U.S. Rep. Darrell Issa (R) in the 50th Congressional District, and in the 53rd Congressional District, San Diego City Council President Georgette Gomez (D) running to fill an open seat against children’s advocate Sara Jacobs (D).
 - **Indiana:** Latina former State Assemblymember Christina Hale (D) has good prospects of prevailing in her 5th Congressional District open-seat contest against former State Senator Victoria Spartz (R) for the seat held by retiring U.S. Rep. Susan Brooks (R). If she wins, Hale would be the first Latina to represent Indiana in the U.S. House of Representatives.
 - **Kansas:** Topeka Mayor Michelle De La Isla (D) is in an extremely competitive race against Kansas State Treasurer Jake LaTurner (R) in the 2nd Congressional District. If Mayor De La Isla wins, she would be the first Latina to represent Kansas in the U.S. House of Representatives.
 - **New Mexico:** In the 3rd Congressional District, attorney Teresa Leger Fernandez (D) has good prospects of prevailing in the open seat contest against engineer Alexis Martinez Johnson (R) for the seat being vacated by U.S. Rep. Ben Ray Luján (D), who is pursuing a seat in the U.S. Senate.
 - **New York:** New York City Councilmember Ritchie Torres (D) has good prospects of emerging victorious against Patrick Delices (R) in the 15th Congressional District contest for the seat being vacated by retiring U.S. Rep. Jose Serrano (D).
 - **Texas:** In the 23rd Congressional District, Navy veteran Tony Gonzales (R) is facing Filipina Air Force veteran Gina Ortiz Jones (D) in an extremely competitive race for the seat held by retiring U.S. Rep. Will Hurd (R). In the 24th Congressional District, another competitive race, former Carrollton-Farmers Branch School Board Member Candace Valenzuela (D) is running in an open seat race against former Irving Mayor Beth Van Duyne (R) for the seat held by retiring U.S. Rep. Kenny Marchant (R).
- **At the statewide executive level, five Latino candidates are running in four states**, including Arizona (two), Delaware, Utah, and Washington.
- **The number of Latinos in State Senates could increase from 86 to 98 after Election 2020**, with potential net gains in Arizona (three), California (three), Colorado (one), Connecticut (one), Georgia (one), Illinois (one), Massachusetts (one), Ohio (one), and Wyoming (one). Tennessee will lose its sole Latino State Senator, retiring veteran legislator Dolores Gresham (R).
- **In state lower houses, there could be a net increase in the total number of Latinos from 243 to 254.**
 - Texas may see the largest potential net gain (seven), followed by Iowa, New Hampshire, New York, and Rhode Island (two each).

- States with a potential net increase of one Latino, including many with emerging Latino communities: Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Hawaii, Indiana, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Oregon, and Pennsylvania.
- States which could see net losses include Arizona (three), alongside Colorado, Illinois, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, New Mexico, Ohio, and Vermont, all potentially seeing one or two net decreases.

In addition to this [analysis](#), NALEO Educational Fund, in partnership with Latino Decisions, has released the results from a Latino Weekly Tracking Poll, conducted by Latino Decisions, over the course of nine weeks, tracking 3,700 unique Latino voters on their attitudes toward the candidates for President and Vice President of the United States, how they plan to vote in November, and their feelings about major issues facing the country. Most recent [findings](#) from Week 8 of the tracking poll include:

- 68 percent of survey respondents plan on voting for Vice President Joe Biden, and 24 percent plan on voting for President Donald Trump.
- A third of respondents say they have already voted.
- 82 percent of survey respondents are either just as or more enthusiastic about voting in 2020 than they were in 2016, with 62 percent saying they are more enthusiastic about 2020.
- 49 percent of respondents say responding to COVID-19 is their most important issue.
- 61 percent of survey respondents have been contacted by a representative from a political party, campaign, or other organization in the lead up to Election 2020 (highest point in 2016 was 46 percent).
- 40 percent of respondents say they know someone who has died from COVID-19.

The Latino electorate is expected to play a decisive role in Election 2020, with NALEO Educational Fund projecting that more than [14.6 million](#) Latinos will cast ballots nationwide.

In the lead up to Election Day, NALEO Educational Fund will continue its efforts to ensure Latino voters are prepared to cast ballots this year, including operating our toll-free bilingual hotline 1-888-VE-Y-VOTA (1-888-839-8682), staffed by live, bilingual operators year-round, trained to assist callers with any voting-related questions and to report issues at the polls.

Use our poll locator tool and text VOTENOW for English or VOTAHOY for Spanish to 97779 to find your polling place.

You can also subscribe to our election updates by texting GOVOTE for English or VEYVOTA for Spanish to 97779.

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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.