



2006 PRIMARY ELECTION PROFILES

COLORADO

TUESDAY, AUGUST 8

TOTAL POPULATION (2004): 4,498,611

LATINO POPULATION (2004): 862,631

Political observers expect many races – including several involving Latino candidates – to be highly competitive in Colorado’s upcoming primary election, at both the state and federal levels.

U.S House of Representatives: Colorado’s only Latino serving in the U.S. House of Representatives, Congressman John Salazar, will seek a second term this November, but will be unopposed in the upcoming primary election.

Colorado Springs mayor Lionel Rivera will face five other Republican candidates as he seeks his party’s official nomination on August 8 to run for Colorado’s 5th Congressional District, which will be vacated by Republican Congressman Joel Hefley, who is retiring after 10 terms in office.

Colorado State Senate: Latina Senator Paula Sandoval, and Latino Senator Abel Tapia, will both seek reelection for their respective districts in 2006, although neither will face challengers in the upcoming primary election. Termed-out State Representative Valentin “Val” Vigil (District 32) will challenge fellow Democrat and incumbent State Senator Lois Tochtrop in the upcoming primary, in a bid to run for State Senate District 24. Current State Representative Fran Coleman will challenge incumbent and fellow Democrat Representative Chris Romer for Senate District 32.

Colorado House of Representatives: Three of Colorado’s current Latino State Representatives will seek reelection in 2006 – Representatives Michael Garcia, Dorothy Butcher and Rafael Gallegos – without opposition in the upcoming primary election. Denver Deputy District Attorney, Alfredo Hernandez, will face former Assistant Attorney General Jeanne Labuda in the Democratic primary to run for Colorado House District 1, which current Latina State Representative Fran Coleman will vacate at the end of the year.

For District 35, Ruben Pacheco will run unopposed in the Republican primary, while Jeff Vigil will run against Cherylin Peniston in the Democratic primary to replace Democrat Representative Ann Ragsdale. Former Mayor of Fountain, Kenneth Barela will be unchallenged in the Democratic Primary to run for District 19.

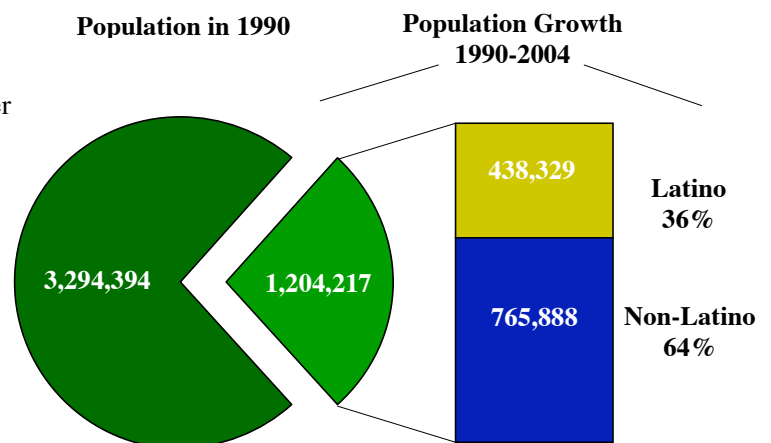
THE LATINO POPULATION IN COLORADO

Although Latinos only account for 36% of all new Colorado residents between 1990 and 2004 (438,329 of 1.2 million), growth of the Latino community far exceeded that of non-Latinos; the Latino population increased by over 103%, while the non-Latino population increased by 27%.

Colorado Latino Population: 2004

	Population	% of Total Population
Latinos	862,631	19%
Latino Adults	553,841	17%
Latino Adult U.S. Citizens	379,048	12%

Colorado Population Growth: 1990-2004



THE COLORADO LATINO ELECTORATE IN 2006

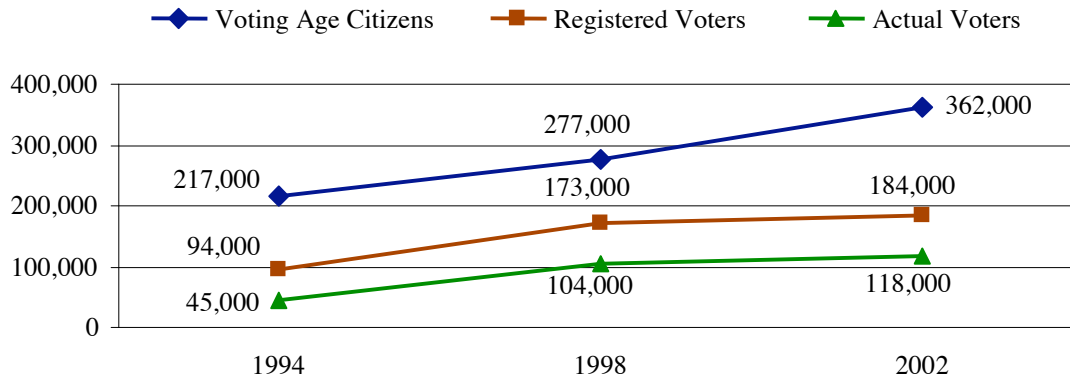
More than 277,000 Latinos in Colorado are currently registered to vote, or 10% of all registered voters.

Latinos in Colorado are gradually comprising a larger share of the state electorate. In 1994, Latinos comprised only 5% of all registered voters and 4% of those who actually voted. In 2002, 9% of all people registered in Colorado were Latino, and they comprised 8% of the total turnout.

Colorado's Electorate: January 2006

Total Registered Voters	2,882,438
Registered Latino Voters	277,241
Latino Share of All Registered Voters	10%

Colorado Eligible Population, Registration, and Voting in Past Congressional Elections



LATINO ELECTED OFFICIALS

- In 2006, 163 Latino elected officials serve in Colorado, two of whom serve in the United States Congress.
- Latinos account for 14% of all Democrats in the Colorado State House of Representatives.
- Colorado is one of only four states ever to have a Latino serve in the U.S. Senate.

Colorado Latino Legislators: 2006

	Total Districts	Number Held by Latinos	Share of Total Delegation	Share of Party Legislators	
				GOP	DEM
U.S. Senate	2	1	50%	n/a	2%
U.S. House of Representatives	7	1	14%	n/a	0.5%
Colorado State Senate	35	2	6%	n/a	11%
Colorado State House of Representatives	65	5	8%	n/a	14%

For more information about this profile and other NALEO Educational Fund Election publications, please contact Evan Bacalao at ebacalao@naleo.org or (213) 747-7606, ext. 116.

Sources

Colorado Secretary of State, Elections Division; Official Primary Election Democratic Candidate List (2006).

Colorado Secretary of State, Elections Division; Official Primary Election Republican Candidate List (2006).

NALEO Educational Fund, *2006 National Directory of Latino Elected Officials*.

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U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census, 1990 and 2000.