



2008 PRIMARY ELECTION PROFILES

NEW MEXICO

NEW MEXICO DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENTIAL PREFERENCE CAUCUS: FEBRUARY 5
NEW MEXICO REPUBLICAN PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY: JUNE 3

ELECTORAL COLLEGE VOTES: 5

TOTAL POPULATION (2006): 1,954,599 LATINO POPULATION (2006): 860,687

In the last two Presidential races, New Mexico has been the site of some of the closest contests in the nation. In November 2000, Vice-President Al Gore won with a slim 365-vote margin. Four years later, President George W. Bush garnered 50% of the vote, compared to Senator John Kerry's 49%. In November 2004, one out of three (33%) New Mexico voters was Latino. With a strong legacy of participation and progress, New Mexico's Latinos will play a pivotal role in Election 2008.

New Mexico's primary season has two important events. On February 5, the state's Democratic Party will hold its Presidential Preference Caucus, which determines New Mexico's allocation of delegates among the candidates for the Democratic National Convention. On June 3, Republican voters will select the GOP nominee, and voters from both parties will cast ballots for nominees for Congressional and state legislative seats. The June primary will see competitive Congressional races, many involving Latino candidates, because of the retirement of veteran U.S. Senator Pete Domenici (R). All three of New Mexico's incumbent U.S. Representatives have entered the Senate race, which will leave open seat contests in each of their districts.

U.S. Senate: Former State Senator Tom Benavides has announced that he will seek the Republican nomination for the seat being vacated by Senator Domenici. The other Republican contenders include U.S. Reps. Heather Wilson and Steve Pearce. The Democrats seeking their party's nomination for this race include alternative newspaper editor Leland Lehrman and U.S. Rep. Tom Udall.

Congressional District 1: Former state Health Secretary Michelle Lujan Grisham is among the contenders for the Democratic nomination for the seat being vacated by U.S. Rep. Wilson. The other Democrats in the field include Albuquerque City Councilmember Martin Heinrich and attorney Robert Pidcock. Candidates seeking the Republican nomination include State Senator Joe Carraro and Bernalillo County Sheriff Darren White.

Congressional District 3: Several Latinos will be seeking the Democratic nomination for the seat being vacated by U.S. Rep. Tom Udall. As of this writing, Latinos who have announced their intention to run include Public Regulation Commission Chair Ben Ray Lujan, attorney Rudy Martín and Santa Fe County Commissioner Harry Montoya. The other Democrats in the field include former Assistant State Attorney General Jon Adams, former state Department of Indian Affairs secretary Benny Shendo and Santa Fe developer Don Wiviott. Marco Gonzales, a former aide to Sen. Domenici is running for the Republican nomination.

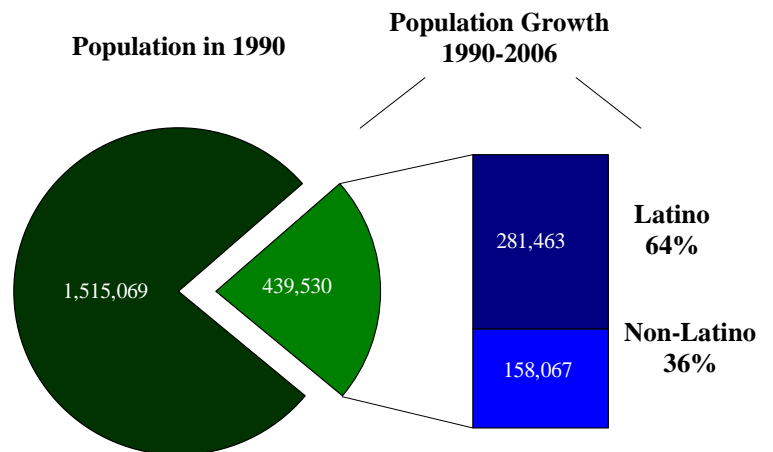
THE LATINO POPULATION IN NEW MEXICO

In 2006, Latinos accounted for 44% of all residents in New Mexico – a plurality of all New Mexicans. The total population growth in New Mexico between 1990 and 2006 was considerable (29%), with Latinos accounting for nearly two-thirds (64%) of the increase. New Mexico’s Latino population grew from from nearly 579,224 in 1990 to 860,687 by 2006, a 49% increase.

New Mexico’s Latino Population: 2006

	Population	% of Total Population
Latinos	860,687	44%
Latino Adults	591,260	41%
Latino Adult U.S. Citizens	491,654	37%

New Mexico Population Growth: 1990-2006



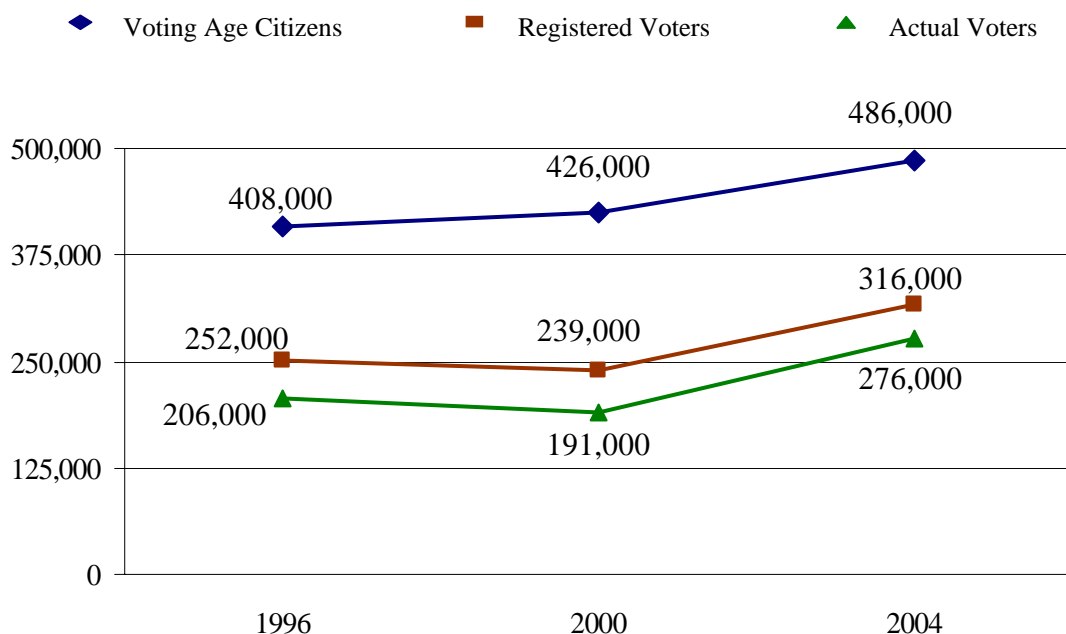
THE LATINO ELECTORATE

In the Presidential elections since 1996, New Mexico’s Latinos have generally comprised about one-third of the state’s registered voters (between 32% and 34%), as well as about one-third of those who actually voted (between 30% and 33%).

New Mexico’s Electorate (2007)

Total Registered Voters	891,559
Latino Registered Voters	288,124
Latino Share of All Registered Voters	32%

New Mexico Latino Registration and Voting in Past Presidential Elections



See “Sources” for information regarding the limitations of the foregoing data.

LATINO ELECTED OFFICIALS IN NEW MEXICO

As of January 2007, 657 Latinos served in elected office in New Mexico. New Mexico has a significant number of Latino statewide officials, including Governor Bill Richardson (D), Secretary of State Mary Herrera (D) and State Auditor Hector Balderas (D).

One sign of the growing influence of Latinos in New Mexico is the number of Latinos in the state legislature and the share of Latinos in each chamber. The share of Latinos in state legislative offices can determine the extent to which they have a significant impact on the priorities of state government. Latinos comprise a significant share of state legislators in New Mexico – one in three (33%) of all State Senators are Latino, and nearly half (46%) of all State Representatives are Latino.

	Total Districts	Number Held by Latinos	Share of Total Delegation
New Mexico State Senate	42	14	33%
New Mexico House of Representatives	70	32	46%

Latinos also serve in prominent leadership positions in each chamber of New Mexico's legislature. In the House of Representatives, Ben Lujan serves as Speaker of the House, and W. Ken Martinez is the Majority Floor Leader. Additionally, Michael S. Sanchez is the State Senate's Majority Floor Leader.



For more information about the NALEO Educational Fund's 2008 Election publications, please contact Rosalind Gold at rgold@naleo.org or (213) 747-7606, ext. 120.

Sources

NALEO Educational Fund, 2007 *National Directory of Latino Elected Officials*.

U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey (2007), General Information and Custom Tables.

U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey (CPS), *Voting and Registration in the Elections of November: 1996-2004*. The CPS data used in these reports and the survey from which they are derived are subject to certain limitations. First, actual voter turnout and registration may be overestimated by the CPS, because individuals may tend to over-report electoral participation. Additionally, the CPS is a national survey, and estimates derived for smaller sub-groups within the national population may be based on relatively small sample sizes. Consequently, the margin of error associated with estimates of voting and registration for these sub-groups is greater than the margin associated with the national population or larger population sub-groups.

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

Voter Contact Service, *National Political DataBase*.



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