



# 2008 General Election Profile

Latino Candidates in Federal and State Races

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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In Election 2008, Latinos are poised to play a key role in shaping the nation's political landscape. Latino candidates are demonstrating that they can successfully pursue seats in Congress and state houses across the country, where 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 4, 2008.

**Latinos are running for top offices in three-quarters of states:** Latinos are running for state legislative office in 37 states throughout the nation - a sign 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. House of Representatives:** The number of Latinos in Congress will increase by one, with the expected election of New Mexico Public Regulation Commissioner Ben R. Lujan in Congressional District 3. If victorious, Lujan would be New Mexico's first Latino U.S. Representative since Governor Bill Richardson, whose tenure in Congress ended a decade ago.

**Latinos in State Senates:** Latinos are likely to see a net gain of 7 seats, increasing the total from 61 to 68 nationwide. Wyoming will gain its first Latino State Senator, as State Representative Floyd Esquibel (D) is running unopposed in District 8. Kansas may also gain its first Latino in the State Senate if educator Shala Perez (D) prevails in her District 28 contest. In Massachusetts, community activist Sonia Chang-Diaz is running an extremely competitive race in the Second Suffolk District. If victorious, she would be the first Latina in the Massachusetts State Senate, and the second Latino to have ever served in that legislative body.

**Latinos in state lower houses:** In state lower houses, there could be a very modest decrease in the total number of Latinos from 190 to 187. This is due in part to the departure of Latino State Representatives who are seeking higher office, and at least four sitting State Representatives have excellent prospects of winning seats in their State Senates.

**States with emerging Latino communities:** Analysis of the potential lower State House gains also reveals the political progress of Latino candidates in states with emerging Latino communities. In the nine states with traditional Latino population concentrations (Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Illinois, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, and Texas), the *Profile* projects a net loss of five seats. However, in the other states, the *Profile's* data indicate a net gain of two seats. For example, Oklahoma's State House of Representatives could gain its first Latino member. Two Oklahoma Latinos are running competitive races for State Representative seats – Oklahoma City School Board member David Castillo (D) and small business owner Charles Ortega (R).

In addition, 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 19-22, 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.

## NALEO 2008 Election Profile: Latino Candidates in Federal and State Races

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The number of Latinos in Congress will increase by one, with the expected election of New Mexico Public Regulation Commissioner Ben R. Lujan in Congressional District 3. If victorious, Lujan would be New Mexico's first Latino U.S. Representative since Governor Bill Richardson, whose tenure in Congress ended a decade ago. Latinos are also running for federal or state legislative office in 37 states throughout the nation - a sign 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.

# ALASKA

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## STATE CONTESTS

### Alaska State Senate

Volunteer Program manager Erick Cordero (D) is in a tough race against Linda Menard (R) in District G's open seat contest.

# ARIZONA

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## FEDERAL CONTESTS

### U.S. House of Representatives

Incumbent Democrats Ed Pastor and Raul Grijalva face no major opposition and will emerge victorious in November.

## STATE CONTESTS

### Arizona State Senate

Four of Arizona's incumbent State Senators are running for re-election, and all have excellent prospects for victory in November: Democrats Amanda Aguirre, Jorge Garcia, Richard Miranda, and Rebecca Rios. State Rep. Linda Lopez (D) is running unopposed to fill the seat vacated by Senator Victor Soltero (D) in District 29. State Rep. Manny Alvarez (D) will likely join his colleagues in the Senate as he is expected to win his bid to fill Democratic Minority Leader Marsha Arzberger's open seat in District 25.

Jesse Hernandez (R), Chairman of the Arizona Latino Republican Association, is in a tough contest to unseat Democratic incumbent Meg Burton-Cahill in District 17.

### Arizona House of Representatives

Seven of Arizona's 11 Latino State Representatives are running for re-election - Democrats Olivia Cajero Bedford, Steve M. Gallardo, Martha Garcia, David M. Lujan, Robert Meza, Ben R. Miranda and Kristin Sinema - all have excellent prospects for their re-election bids.

Each Arizona 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.

In District 23, Ernest Bustamante (D) is running a competitive race for a seat left open by Democratic incumbent Pete Rios who is making a bid for the State Senate. In District 12, Steve Montenegro (R) is running a competitive race for an open seat vacated by Republican incumbent John B. Nelson. Eve Nuñez (D) faces a tougher competition in her bid for the open District 12 seat.

Republican Juan Ciscomani faces a tough contest to fill the open seats vacated by Democrats Linda Lopez and Tom Prezleski in District 29. His opponents include Matt Heinz (D), Pat Kilburn (R) and Daniel Patterson (D).

# CALIFORNIA

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## FEDERAL CONTESTS

### U.S. House of Representatives

All seven of California's incumbent Latino U.S. Representatives are likely to return to Congress: Democrats Joe Baca, Xavier Becerra, Grace Flores Napolitano, Lucille Roybal-Allard, Linda Sánchez, Loretta Sánchez, and Hilda Solis.

The Latino candidates challenging incumbents will face uphill battles in their races, including Democratic mental health counselor Christina Avalos who will face U.S. Representative Ed Royce (R); and Republican businessman Jim Lopez who will try to unseat U.S. Representative Jim Costa (D).

## STATE CONTESTS

### California State Senate

Of the 10 current Latino State Senators, only Republican Abel Maldonado is up for re-election and he faces no competition.

Accountant Anselmo Chavez (D) faces a tough contest against State Senator Dave Cox (R) as does Democrat Arthur Bravo Guerrero who will try to unseat State Senator John Benoit (R). Claudia Bermudez (R) is in a tough race against current State Rep. Loni Hancock (D) to fill the seat vacated by Senate President pro tem Don Perata (D) in District 9. In District 25, Lydia Gutierrez (R) faces an uphill battle against Rod Wright (D) for the seat currently held by termed-out State Senator Edward Vincent (D).

### California State Assembly

Of the 18 current Latino State Assemblymembers, 14 will seek re-election in November, and all are likely to return to their seats: Juan Arambula, Anna Caballero, Charles Calderon, Joe Coto, Hector De La Torre, Kevin DeLeon, Felipe Fuentes, Edward Hernandez, Tony Mendoza, Pedro Nava, Mary Salas, Lori Saldaña, Jose Solorio and Alberto Torrico. All are Democrats.

Two other Latinos are poised to join the California Assembly. Union organizer John Perez (D) is likely to win the seat currently held by former Speaker of the House Fabian Núñez in District 45. Pomona mayor Norma Torres (D) is expected to win her race in District 61 against business owner Wendy Maier (R), for the seat currently held by State Assemblymember Nell Soto (D) who is not seeking re-election.

In District 30 - currently held by termed-out State Assemblymember Nicole Parra (D) - Shafter Mayor pro tem Fran Florez (D) is facing retired California Highway Patrol assistant chief Danny Gilmore (R) in one of the most competitive Assembly contests in the state. Another race to watch is in District 80 where Coachella school board trustee Manuel Perez (D) is facing former Palm Springs police chief Gary Jeandron (R) in a heated contest for the seat currently held by State Assemblymember Bonnie Garcia (R).

Other Latino Assembly candidates will also face very tough races. Business owner and accountant Manuel Cosme (R) will face Yolo County board supervisor Mariko Yamada (D) in the open seat race for District 8. Educator Humberto Ávila (D) will face State Assemblymember Mike Villines (R); social worker and educator Virginia Martinez (D) will face incumbent Jean Fuller (R) in District 32; and educator Esthela Torres-Siegrist (R) will face incumbent Mike Eng (D) in District 49.

# COLORADO

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## FEDERAL CONTESTS

### U.S. House of Representatives

Colorado's Latino incumbent U.S. Representative John Salazar (D) is seeking a third term, and is likely to be re-elected to Congress.

## STATE CONTESTS

### Colorado House of Representatives

Only one of Colorado's Latino incumbents in the State House will seek re-election, Edward Casso (D), who is running unopposed in District 32.

Las Animas County Commissioner Ken Torres (R) is challenging incumbent State Rep. Wes McKinley (D) in District 64 in an extremely competitive contest. Small business owner Rich Flores (D) will face an uphill battle in his attempt to unseat incumbent Larry Liston (R).

# CONNECTICUT

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## STATE CONTESTS

### Connecticut House of Representatives

Five of Connecticut's six current Latino state representatives are running for re-election and have excellent prospects for winning: Democrats David Aldarondo, Andres Ayala, Jr, Juan Candelaria, Kelvin Roldan, and Minnie Gonzalez.

Police officer Hector Luis Robles (D) will join them in the Connecticut General Assembly as he is running unopposed for the seat in District 6. Bridgeport City Councilmember Ezequiel Santiago (D) is running against former City Councilmember Joel Gonzalez (R) for the District 130 seat currently held by retiring State Rep. Felipe Reinoso (D). Trinity College's community relations director, Jason Rojas (D), is likely to emerge victorious in his contest for the open seat in District 9, currently held by State Rep. Chris Stone (D) who is not seeking re-election. Police detective Paul Ortiz (R) faces an uphill battle in his race against incumbent Patricia Dillon (D).

# DELAWARE

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## STATE CONTESTS

### Delaware House of Representatives

Delaware's only Latino serving in the state legislature, Joseph Miro (R), has excellent prospects for victory in November.

# FLORIDA

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## FEDERAL CONTESTS

### U.S. House of Representatives

All three of Florida's incumbent U.S. Representatives are running for re-election in competitive races. Incumbent Lincoln Diaz-Balart (R) is being challenged by former Hialeah Mayor Raul Martinez (D). Another race to watch is the contest between incumbent Mario Diaz-Balart (R) and Joe Garcia (D), former chair of the state Public Service Commission and the Miami-Dade Democratic Party. Incumbent Ileana Ros-Lehtinen is being challenged by business owner Annette Taddeo (D).

## STATE CONTESTS

### Florida State Senate

None of the incumbent Latino State Senators in Florida are up for re-election. In District 19, business owner Belinda Ortiz (R) faces a tough contest in her attempt to unseat incumbent Gary Siplin (D).

### Florida House of Representatives

Five of the 14 Latino State Representatives are running unopposed for re-election: Republicans Anitere Flores, Marcelo Llorente, J.C. Planas, and Julio Robaina as well as Democrat Eduardo Gonzalez. The other five Latino incumbents running all have good prospects of being re-elected: Democrats Luis Garcia and Darren Soto, and Republicans Carlos Lopez-Cantera, David Rivera, and Juan Zapata.

Two new Latinos will likely gain seats in the State House: public policy advisor Erik Fresen (R) is running against Frank Morra (D) for the District 11 seat currently held by Speaker of the House Marco Rubio, and Hialeah City Council President Esteban Bovo (R) is running against educator Nancy Stander (D) for the District 110 seat currently held by Republican incumbent Rene Garcia (R).

Four Latino candidates face uphill battles in their bids to unseat incumbents. Real estate agent George Gonzalez (D) is challenging James C. Frishe (R) in District 54. School administrator Maria Jimenez (D) is trying to unseat Matt Hudson (R) in District 101. Real estate agent Robert Acosta (D) is challenging Sandy Adams (R) in District 33. Non-profit director Bernie DeCastro (R) is challenging Charles Chestnut, IV (D) in District 23.

# GEORGIA

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## STATE CONTESTS

### Georgia State Senate

Chief financial officer Carlos Lopez (D) is facing a tough battle in his attempt to unseat incumbent Chip Rogers (R) in District 21.

### Georgia House of Representatives

All three of Georgia's current Latino State Representatives are running for re-election with excellent prospects of winning - Republicans David Casas and Tony Sellier, and Democrat Pedro Marin.

## IDAHO

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### STATE CONTESTS

#### **Idaho House of Representatives**

Idaho's only Latino State Representative, Republican Raul Labrador, is expected to be re-elected for his second term this November.

## ILLINOIS

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### FEDERAL CONTESTS

#### **U.S. House of Representatives**

Incumbent Luis Gutierrez (D) is likely to win his re-election bid.

### STATE CONTESTS

#### **Illinois State Senate**

Three of Illinois' four Latino State Senators are running unopposed for re-election: Democrats William Delgado, Iris Martinez and Martin Sandoval. State Senator Antonio Muñoz (D) is not up for re-election this year.

#### **Illinois House of Representatives**

All eight Latino State Representatives are up for re-election and all have an excellent chance of retaining their seats: Edward Acevedo, Luis Arroyo, Mario Antonio Berrios, Linda Chapa LaVia, Fred Crespo, Elizabeth Hernandez, Susana Mendoza, and Cynthia Soto. All are Democrats.

## INDIANA

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### STATE CONTESTS

#### **Indiana House of Representatives**

Indiana's only Latino state legislator, Maria Candelaria-Reardon (D), is likely to win her bid for re-election in District 12.

Fernando Urzua (R) faces an uphill battle in his fight to unseat incumbent Linda Lawson (D) in District 1.

# KANSAS

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## STATE CONTESTS

### **Kansas State Senate**

Educator Shala Perez (D) is in a competitive race to unseat Senator Mike Petersen (R) in District 28. If Perez wins, she will be the first Latina to serve in the Kansas State Senate.

### **Kansas House of Representatives**

All of Kansas' four incumbent Latino State Representatives are likely to win their re-election bids: Delia Garcia (D), Mario Goico (R), Louis Ruiz (D) and Tom Sawyer (D).

Democrat Rebecca Escalante is facing a tough contest in her bid to unseat Pat George (R) in District 119.

# LOUISIANA

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## FEDERAL CONTESTS

### **U.S. House of Representatives**

Former newscaster Helena Moreno (D) is in a tight primary runoff against incumbent William Jefferson (D). The primary election was delayed because of hurricane activity. Because this Congressional district is heavily democratic, the winner of the runoff is likely to win the general election which will be held in December.

# MASSACHUSETTS

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## STATE CONTESTS

### **Massachusetts State Senate**

Democrat Sonia Chang-Diaz is in an election bid to win the State Senate seat in the Second Suffolk District. She faces some competition from a write-in campaign for the incumbent State Senator she defeated in the primary. If she wins, Chang-Diaz will become the first Latina State Senator in Massachusetts.

Psychologist Sara Orozoco (D) is in a competitive contest to unseat incumbent Scott Brown (R) in Norfolk.

### **Massachusetts House of Representatives**

All four of Massachusetts' incumbent Latino state representatives will seek re-election and all are expected to succeed: Geraldo Alicea, Cheryl Coakley-Rivera, William Lantigua and Jeffrey Sanchez. All are Democrats.

## MICHIGAN

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### FEDERAL CONTESTS

#### U.S. House of Representatives

Democrat Henry Sanchez faces an uphill battle to unseat incumbent Vernon Ehlers (R) in District 3.

### STATE CONTESTS

#### Michigan State Senate

Michigan's only Latino State Senator Valdemar Garcia (R) is not up for re-election this year.

#### Michigan House of Representatives

Michigan's two incumbent Latino state representatives - John Espinoza (D) and Lee Gonzales (D) - are both likely to be successful in their re-election bids.

## MISSOURI

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### STATE CONTESTS

#### Missouri House of Representatives

House Majority Whip Brian Nieves (R) is expected to win his re-election bid in District 98.

## MONTANA

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### STATE CONTESTS

#### Montana State Senate

Republican Nick Landeros will face a challenging race against incumbent Bob Hawks (D) in District 33.

#### Montana House of Representatives

In District 82, Latino incumbent Dan Villa (D) is running unopposed in his November re-election bid.

Non-profit director Mary Hernandez (D) faces an uphill battle in her attempt to unseat incumbent Tom McGillvray (R) in District 50.

## NEBRASKA

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### STATE CONTESTS

#### Nebraska State Senate

Local neighborhood association president Rebecca Barrientos-Patlan (R) is in a tough race against Heath Mello (D) in the District 5 open seat contest.

# NEVADA

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## STATE CONTESTS

### **Nevada State Senate**

Nevada's only Latino State Senator Bob Coffin (D) is not up for re-election this year.

### **Nevada State Assembly**

All four of Nevada's Latino Assemblymembers have excellent chances at re-election this November: Moises Denis, Ruben Kihuen, John Ocegüera, and James Ohrenschall. All are Democrats.

# NEW HAMPSHIRE

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## STATE CONTESTS

### **New Hampshire House of Representatives**

Incumbents Marilinda Garcia (R) and Jim Aguiar (D) are expected to win their re-election bids.

In Hillsborough District 17, former State Representative Carlos Gonzalez (R) is likely to regain a seat in the New Hampshire state house, the General Court. Businessman Peter Silva (R) has good chances at winning a seat in Hillsborough District 26. Other Latino candidates who are trying to win new General Court seats face more challenging races including Democrat Roberto Fuentes, who is running in Hillsborough District 21; business owner Alejandro Urrutia (D) in his bid for Hillsborough District 27; and Town of Candia Selectman Joe Duarte (R) in his bid for a seat in Rockingham District 1.

# NEW JERSEY

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## FEDERAL CONTESTS

### **U.S. House of Representatives**

New Jersey's only Latino U.S. Representative, Albio Sires (D), has excellent prospects of winning re-election.

## STATE CONTESTS

### **New Jersey State Senate**

State Senator M. Teresa Ruiz (D) is not up for re-election this year.

### **New Jersey General Assembly**

None of New Jersey's seven Latino incumbents are up for re-election this year.

# NEW MEXICO

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## FEDERAL CONTESTS

### U.S. House of Representatives

New Mexico Public Regulation Commissioner Ben R. Lujan (D) is expected to win his race against Daniel K. East (R) for the open seat in District 3 vacated by Representative Tom Udall. If victorious, Lujan would be New Mexico's first Latino U.S. Representative since Governor Bill Richardson (D), who served in Congress from 1983 to 1997.

## STATE CONTESTS

### New Mexico State Senate

Fourteen of New Mexico's 15 Latino incumbent representatives are running for re-election this year. Eleven are running unopposed on November 4: Democrats Pete Campos, Carlos Cisneros, Phil Griego, Linda Lopez, Richard Martinez, Howie Morales, Cynthia Nava, George Ortiz y Pino, Nancy Rodriguez, Michael Sanchez, and Republican Dianna Duran.

Incumbent Democrats Mary Jane Garcia, and Bernadette Sanchez face opposition, but they have excellent prospects of emerging victorious. Senator David Ulibarri (D) is in a tight race against civil engineer Jose Silva (R) in District 30, but is expected to retain his seat.

Up to three new Latinos may join the incumbents in New Mexico's State Senate. Eric Griego (D) is running unopposed for the District 14 seat currently held by Democrat incumbent James Taylor. Democrat George Muñoz has strong chances of winning against Beatrice Woodward (R) for the seat currently held by Democrat incumbent Lidio Rainaldi. Victor Raigoza (D) is in a competitive race to unseat incumbent John Ryan (R) in District 10.

### New Mexico House of Representatives

Thirty of New Mexico's 31 representatives are running for re-election this year. Twenty-nine of the incumbents are unopposed or face excellent prospects at retaining their seats: Democrats Elias Barela, Jose Campos II, Joseph Cervantes, Ernest Chavez, Mary Helen Garcia, Miguel Garcia, Thomas Garcia, Robert Gonzales, Joni-Marie Gutierrez, Manuel Herrera, Antonio Lujan, Ben Lujan, Patricia Lundstrom, Antonio Maestas, W. Ken Martinez, Rick Miera, Andrew Nuñez, Alfred Park, Debbie Rodella, Henry Saavedra, Nick Salazar, Edward Sandoval, Sheryl Stapleton-Williams, Jim Trujillo, Luciano Varela, and Richard Vigil; and Republicans Nora Espinoza, Lorenzo A. Larranga and Gloria Vaughn. Incumbent Andrew Barreras (D) has a somewhat more competitive race against Timothy Lardner (R) in District 7, but is expected to hold on to his seat.

Democrat Eleanor Chavez will be joining the State House next year as she runs unopposed to fill the District 13 seat currently held by incumbent Daniel Silva. Eliseo Lee Alcon (D) also has a very strong chance of defeating R. Grant Clawson (R) to win the District 6 seat currently held by incumbent George Hanosh. Latino candidate Mario Trujillo (D) has an uphill battle in his attempt to unseat incumbent Anna Crook (R) in District 64.

## NEW YORK

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### FEDERAL CONTESTS

#### U.S. House of Representatives

Both incumbent Latino Members of Congress - U.S. Representatives Nydia Velasquez (D) and Jose E. Serrano (D) - are likely to win their re-election bids.

### STATE CONTESTS

#### New York State Senate

Three of the four Latino incumbents are running for re-election and are well-positioned to win their races: Democrats Ruben Diaz, Sr., Martin M. Dilan, and Jose M. Serrano. Two new faces will join them this fall: New York City Councilmember Hiram Monserrate (D) is running unopposed in District 13's open seat contest and former State Senator Pedro Espada, Jr. (D) is expected to emerge victorious over Richard Soto (R) in District 33. Republican Martin Chicon has an uphill battle in his attempt to unseat incumbent Eric Schneiderman (D) in District 31. Republican Sandra Palacios-Serrano is facing a tough race in her attempt to unseat incumbent Velmanette Montgomery (D) in District 18.

#### New York State Assembly

All twelve Latino incumbents running for re-election are unopposed or have excellent prospects in their re-election bids: Democrats Carmen Arroyo, Adam Clayton Powell IV, Ruben Diaz, Jr., Adriano Espaillat, Vito Lopez, Felix Ortiz, Jose R. Peralta, Phillip R. Ramos, Jose Rivera, Naomi Rivera, and Peter M. Rivera, and Republican Peter Lopez.

Democrat Nelson Castro is expected to emerge victorious over Lisa Marie Campbell (R) to fill the District 86 seat vacated by incumbent Luis Diaz (D).

Challenger Pedro Monge (R) is in an uphill battle against Democratic incumbent Joan Millman in District 52. In District 44, Yvette Velasquez Bennett (R) is facing a difficult race in her attempt to unseat incumbent, James F. Brennan (D).

## NORTH CAROLINA

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### STATE CONTESTS

#### North Carolina State Senate

Incumbent Tom Apodaca (R) is running unopposed and will return to represent District 48.

#### North Carolina House of Representatives

Republican incumbent Danny McComas is running unopposed in District 19.

## OHIO

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### STATE CONTESTS

#### Ohio House of Representatives

In District 21, Democrat Jay Perez is in a tough contest against Republican incumbent Kevin Bacon. Mike Gutierrez (R) faces an uphill battle in his attempt to unseat incumbent State Rep. Lorraine Fende (D) in District 62.

## OKLAHOMA

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### STATE CONTESTS

#### Oklahoma House of Representatives

Oklahoma City School Board member David Castillo (D) is in a competitive race against Mike Christian (R) to fill the District 93 seat currently held by a Democratic incumbent. Republican Charles Ortega is in a tough race against Dan McMahan (D) for the District 52 seat currently held by Democratic incumbent David Braddock. Sebastian Lantos (D) faces an uphill battle in his race to unseat incumbent Pam Petersen (R) in District 67.

## OREGON

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### STATE CONTESTS

#### Oregon State House of Representatives

Oregon's only Latino State Rep. Sal Esquivel has good prospects of winning his re-election bid.

## PENNSYLVANIA

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### STATE CONTESTS

#### Pennsylvania State Senate

Lancaster City Council member Jose E. Urdaneta (D) is in a tough race against Lloyd Smucker (R) for the District 13 seat currently held by incumbent Gibson E. Armstrong (R).

#### Pennsylvania House of Representatives

Incumbent State Rep. Angel Cruz (D) is unopposed in his re-election bid. Patricia Garcia (D) is in a tough race to unseat Republican incumbent Susan Helm in District 104.

## RHODE ISLAND

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### STATE CONTESTS

#### **Rhode Island State Senate**

Incumbent State Senator Juan Pichardo (D) is unopposed in his re-election bid to represent District 2.

#### **Rhode Island House of Representatives**

Both Democrats Grace Diaz and Anastasia Williams are unopposed in their re-election bids and will retain their seats.

## SOUTH CAROLINA

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### STATE CONTESTS

#### **South Carolina State Senate**

Republican Roan Garcia-Quintana faces an uphill battle in his attempt to unseat Democratic incumbent Ralph Anderson in District 7. Democrat Leonardo Ortiz is in a tough race against Republican incumbent Billy O'Dell in District 4.

#### **South Carolina House of Representatives**

Democrat Edgar Gomez is in a tough race against incumbent Nikki Haley (R) in District 87.

## TENNESSEE

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### STATE CONTESTS

#### **Tennessee State Senate**

State Rep. Dolores Gresham (R) is in a competitive race against business owner Randy Camp (D) for the open seat in District 26 being vacated by Democratic incumbent John Shelton Wilder.

# TEXAS

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## FEDERAL CONTESTS

### U.S. Senate

State Rep. Rick Noriega (D) is in a tough but competitive contest against incumbent John Cornyn (R).

### U.S. House of Representatives

All six of Texas' Latino Democratic incumbents are likely to hold their seats: Henry Cuellar, Charles Gonzalez, Ruben Hinojosa, Solomon P. Ortiz, Silvestre Reyes and Ciro Rodriguez.

Democrat Brian Ruiz faces an uphill battle in his race against incumbent John Carter (R) in District 31.

## STATE CONTESTS

### Texas State Senate

All six of Texas' incumbent Latino State Senators are running for re-election, and all have excellent prospects for victory in November: Democrats Juan "Chuy" Hinojosa, Mario Gallegos, Jr., Eddie Lucio, Jr., Carlos Uresti, Leticia Van de Putte, and Judith Zaffirini.

### Texas House of Representatives

Of the state's 31 incumbent Latino State Representatives, 27 are seeking re-election. The majority have excellent prospects at emerging victorious in November including: Democrats Roberto Alonzo, Rafael Anchia, Joaquin Castro, Norma P. Chavez, Joe Farias, Jessica C. Farrar, Kino Flores, Pete P. Gallego, Yvonne Gonzalez Toureilles, Ryan Guillen, Roland Gutierrez, Ana E. Hernandez, Eddie Lucio, III, Armando Martinez, Trey Martinez Fischer, Jose Menendez, Rene O. Oliveira, Dora F. Olivo, Solomon Ortiz, Jr., Aaron Peña, Richard Peña Raymond, Chente Quintanilla, Eddie Rodriguez and Mike Villareal.

Three Latino incumbents face somewhat more competitive races in their bid for re-election - Democrat Abel Herrero is being challenged by Connie Scott (R) in District 34; Juan M. Garcia (D) is running against Todd Hunter (R) in District 32; and Democrat Veronica Gonzales will face off against Javier Villalobos in District 41.

Several Latino candidates have good prospects of joining the Latino incumbents in the Texas State House. Community relations manager Marisa Marquez (D) is running unopposed to fill the seat vacated by State Rep. Paul Moreno (D) in District 77. Democrat Armando Lucio Walle will also join the State House next year as he is running unopposed to fill the seat currently held by Democratic incumbent Kevin Bailey. Former South Padre Island Town Councilmember Tara Rios Ybarra (D) is also running unopposed in District 43. In District 145, former Houston City Councilmember Carol Alvarado (D) is likely to win her race against Patricia Rodriguez (R) to fill the seat currently held by Democrat State Rep. Rick Noriega, who is making a bid for the U.S. Senate. In District 52, former school board president Diana Maldonado (D) is in a competitive race against Bryan Daniel (R) to fill the open seat vacated by Republican incumbent Mike Krusee.

Four Latino Democratic candidates face uphill battles to unseat Republican incumbents in the State House. Frances Carnot (D) is challenging incumbent Frank Corte, Jr. (R) in District 122. Joe Montemayor (D) is in a tough race to unseat incumbent Joe Crabb (R) in District 140. In District 4, educator Victor Morales (D) is challenging incumbent Betty Brown (R). Jesus Carillo (D) will attempt to unseat first-term State Rep. Tan Parker (R) in District 63. Two Latino Republican candidates are in tough competitions to unseat Democrat incumbents. Home builder John V. Garza (R) is challenging incumbent David McQuade Leibowitz (D) in District 117. In District 85, Isaac Castro (R) is attempting to unseat incumbent Joe Heflin (D).

# UTAH

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## STATE CONTESTS

### Statewide Office

Josie Valdez (D) was nominated by gubernatorial candidate Bob Springmeyer to run on the Democratic ticket for Utah Lieutenant Governor. Springmeyer and Valdez face an uphill battle in their attempt to unseat Republican incumbents Governor Jon Huntsman, Jr., and Lieutenant Governor Gary Herbert.

### Utah State Senate

Democrat Luz Robles is in a competitive race against Carlton Christensen (R) to fill the District 1 seat currently held by Democrat incumbent Fred Fife.

### Utah House of Representatives

Utah's two Latino incumbents - Mark Wheatley (D) and Rebecca Chavez-Houck (D) - both have excellent prospects for re-election. Two Latino Democrats - Pat Herrera in District 17 and Gilberto Urroz in District 4 - both face difficult races to unseat Republican incumbents.

# VERMONT

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## STATE CONTESTS

### Vermont House of Representatives

Retired educator Louise Barreda (D) faces an uphill battle in unseating Republican incumbent David Ainsworth.

# WASHINGTON

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## STATE CONTESTS

### Washington State Senate

Washington's only Latina Senator Margarita Prentice (D) is unopposed in her bid for re-election in District 11.

### Washington House of Representatives

Both incumbent State Representatives Phyllis Gutierrez-Kenney (D) and Jaime Herrera (R) have excellent prospects in retaining their respective seats.

Yakima School Board President Vickie Ybarra (D) is running a competitive race against Norm Johnson (R) to fill the seat vacated by State Rep. Mary Skinner (R) in District 14, Position 1. Christopher Ramirez (D) faces an uphill battle in his bid to unseat incumbent Charles Ross (R) in District 14, Position 2. Accountant Dante Lee Montoya (D) will face a challenging race against incumbent Maureen Walsh (R) in District 16, Position 1.

## WISCONSIN

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### STATE CONTESTS

#### **Wisconsin House of Representatives**

Incumbent State Rep. Pedro Colón (D) faces no opposition in his re-election bid. Health care advocate Susan Garcia Franz (D) will face a tough contest in her race to unseat incumbent Roger J. Roth, Jr. (R) in District 56.

## WYOMING

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### STATE CONTESTS

#### **Wyoming State Senate**

State Rep. Floyd Esquibel (D) is running unopposed for a State Senate seat in District 8. Esquibel will become Wyoming's first Latino State Senator.

#### **Wyoming House of Representatives**

Incumbent Ken Esquibel (D) will likely emerge victorious in his race to retain his seat in District 41. Deputy County Attorney Tony Reyes (D) faces a tough contest in his race against incumbent David Zwonitzer (R) in District 9.

## 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 Latino candidates running for U.S. House, the potential net gain or loss of Latino seats, and the potential composition of the U.S. House after the November election.

State	Number of Latinos Currently in U.S. House		Latinos running in November		Potential Net Gain/Loss		Potential Number of Latinos After Election	
	DEM	GOP	DEM	GOP	DEM	GOP	DEM	GOP
AZ	2	0	2	0	0	0	2	0
CA	7	0	8	2	0	0	7	0
CO	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
FL	0	3	3	3	0	0	0	3
IL	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
LA	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
MI	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
NJ	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
NM	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0
NY	2	0	2	0	0	0	2	0
TX	6	0	7	1	0	0	6	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>3</b>

See "Methodology" on page 23 for more information.

## STATE SENATORS

The following table sets forth for reach state: the number of Latinos currently serving in State Senates, the number of Latino candidates running for State Senate, the potential net gain or loss of Latino seats, and the potential composition of the State Senate after the November election.

State	Number of Latinos Currently in State House		Latinos running in November		Potential Net Gain/Loss		Potential Number of Latinos After Election	
	DEM	GOP	DEM	GOP	DEM	GOP	DEM	GOP
AK	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
AZ	6	0	6	2	0	0	6	0
CA	9	1	2	3	0	0	9	1
CO	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
FL	0	3	0	1	0	0	0	3
GA	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
HI	1	0	0	0	-1	0	0	0
IL	4	0	3	0	0	0	4	0
KS	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0
MD	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
MA	0	0	2	0	2	0	2	0
MI	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
MN	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
MT	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
NE	0	1	0	1	0	-1	0	0
NV	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
NM	14	1	16	2	2	0	16	1
NJ	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
NY	4	0	5	3	1	0	5	0
NC	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
PA	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
RI	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
SC	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
TN	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	1
TX	6	0	6	1	0	0	6	0
UT	1	0	1	0	1	0	2	0
WA	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
WY	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>9</b>

See "Methodology" on page 23 for more information.

## STATE ASSEMBLIES OR HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The following table sets forth for each state: the number of Latinos currently serving in State lower Houses, the number of Latino candidates running for State lower Houses, the potential net gain or loss of Latino seats, and the potential composition of the State lower Houses after the November election.

State	Number of Latinos Currently in State House		Latinos running in November		Potential Net Gain/Loss		Potential Number of Latinos After Election		
	DEM	GOP	DEM	GOP	DEM	GOP	DEM	GOP	
AZ	11	0	9	2	-3	1	8	1	
CA	17	1	20	6	1	-1	18	0	
CO	4	1	2	1	-3	0	1	1	
CT	6	0	8	4	2	0	8	0	
DE	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	
FL	3	11	6	13	-1	-1	2	10	
GA	1	2	1	2	0	0	1	2	
ID	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	
IL	8	0	8	0	0	0	8	0	
IN	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	0	
KS	3	1	4	1	0	0	3	1	
MD	3	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	
MA	4	0	4	1	0	0	4	0	
MI	2	0	2	0	0	0	2	0	
MN	2	0	0	0	-1	0	1	0	
MO	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	
MT	1	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	
NV	4	0	4	1	0	0	4	0	
NH	2	1	3	4	0	2	2	3	
NJ	6	1	0	0	0	0	6	1	
NM	28	3	30	5	1	0	29	3	
NY	12	1	12	8	0	0	12	1	
NC	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	
Continued on page 22									

See "Methodology" on page 23 for more information.

## STATE ASSEMBLIES OR HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES (CONTINUED)

State	Number of Latinos Currently in State House		Latinos running in November		Potential Net Gain/Loss		Potential Number of Latinos After Election	
	DEM	GOP	DEM	GOP	DEM	GOP	DEM	GOP
OH	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
OK	0	0	2	1	1	1	1	1
OR	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
PA	1	0	2	0	0	0	1	0
RI	2	0	2	0	0	0	2	0
SC	0	1	1	0	0	-1	0	0
TN	0	1	0	0	0	-1	0	0
TX	30	1	36	7	2	-1	32	0
UT	2	0	4	0	0	0	2	0
VA	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
VT	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
WA	2	1	5	0	1	-1	3	0
WI	1	0	2	0	0	0	1	0
WY	2	0	2	0	-1	0	1	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>174</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>-1</b>	<b>-2</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>30</b>

See "Methodology" on page 23 for more information.

## METHODOLOGY

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In the three tables presented on pages 19-22, 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 entrenched 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.

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.