



2006 GENERAL ELECTION PROFILE:

LATINO CANDIDATES IN FEDERAL AND STATE RACES

Latino candidates continue to transform our political landscape by achieving new milestones in Congress and state legislatures throughout the nation. This *Election Profile* focuses on the key federal and state races involving Latino candidates in the general election on November 7, 2006. A summary of all statewide candidates appears on page 11. On pages 12-15, 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.

Latino U.S. Senator Bob Menendez is seeking to begin his first full-term as the first Latino to represent New Jersey. At the state level, 10 Latinos are running for statewide office in California, Idaho, New Mexico, and Texas (see page 11). Latinos are also running for federal or state legislative office in 38 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 in the South, Northeast, Pacific Northwest and Midwest.

ARIZONA

FEDERAL CONTESTS

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

STATE CONTESTS

State Senators: Four of Arizona's incumbent Latino State Senators are running for re-election, and all have excellent prospects for victory in November: Democrats Jorge Garcia, Richard Miranda, Rebecca Rios, and Victor Soltero.

State Representative Amanda Aguirre (D) is seeking to join these Latino incumbents in the State Senate, and will face a competitive race for the open seat in District 24.

Democratic challenger Charlene Pesquiera — a business owner from Southern Arizona — will face an uphill battle

in trying to unseat incumbent Republican Al Melvin (R). Business analyst Daniel Veres (R) faces a tough contest against State Representative Leah Landrum (D) for District 16, currently held by Democratic State Senator Linda Aguirre.

State Representatives: All 11 Latino incumbents — Democrats Manny Alvarez, Olivia Cajero Bedford, Steve M. Gallardo, Martha Garcia, Linda J. Lopez, David M. Lujan, Robert Meza, Ben R. Miranda, Tom Prezleski, Pete Rios, and Krysten Sinema — 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 16, trade shops supervisor Luis Lopez (D) is running a challenging campaign against Republican incumbents Nancy McLain and Trish Groe.

CALIFORNIA

FEDERAL CONTESTS

U.S. 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 insurance broker Louie Contreras, who will face U.S. Rep. Jerry Lewis (R); Democratic community organizer Jill Martinez who will try to unseat U.S. Rep. Elton Gallegly (R); Democratic political consultant Cynthia Rodriguez Matthews who will face U.S. Rep. David Drier (R); and Democratic teacher Roberto Rodriguez, who will try to unseat U.S. Rep. Howard "Buck" McKeon (R).

STATE CONTESTS

Statewide Officers: California's only Latino statewide elected official – Lt. Governor Cruz Bustamante (D) – is involved in a tough contest against businessman Steve Poizner (R) for Insurance Commissioner.

State Senators: Of the 10 current Latino State Senators, four will seek re-election with minimal or no competition: Democrats Dean Florez, Denise Moreno Ducheny, Gil Cedillo, and Gloria Romero.

Los Angeles City Councilmember Alex Padilla is unopposed in his race to be Senator in District 20, replacing termed-out State Senator Richard Alarcón.

Three Latinos currently serving in the California State Assembly are likely to win their races for the State Senate: Democrats Jenny Oropeza, Ron Calderon, and Gloria Negrete-McLeod.

Orange County Supervisor Lou Correa (D) faces a challenging race for the open seat in Senate District 34 against State Assemblymember Lynn Daucher (R).

State Assembly: Nine of California's 19 Latino incumbent State Assemblymembers are running in November, and all are likely to return to their seats: Juan Arambula, Joe Coto, Bonnie Garcia, Pedro Nava, Fabian Núñez, Nicole Parra, Lori Saldaña, Hector De La Torre, and Alberto Torrico. All are Democrats with the exception of Bonnie Garcia, who is the only Latina Republican in the State Legislature.

Several other Latinos are poised to join the California

Assembly. The current mayor of Salinas – Anna Marie Caballero (D) – is likely to become the new State Assemblymember for District 28, although small business owner Ignacio Velazquez will provide some competition. Current State Senator Richard Alarcón (D) is running unopposed in District 39, and National Education Association Senior Associate Kevin DeLeon (D) is favored to win the seat in District 45, which is currently held by State Assemblymember Jackie Goldberg (D).

In District 56 – currently held by termed-out State Assemblymember Rudy Bermúdez – Artesia Councilmember and school-teacher Tony Mendoza (D) will likely emerge victorious, after a somewhat competitive battle with Grace Hu (R), a former mayor of Cerritos. Optometrist Ed Hernandez is expected to win his race for District 57, replacing termed-out State Assemblymember Ed Chavez. In District 58, former California State Senator and its first Latino Majority Leader Charles Calderon (D) is expected to win. Another State Senator, Nell Soto (D) is poised to represent State Assembly District 61, currently held by termed-out Gloria Negrete-McLeod (D).

New faces in the State Assembly may also include Santa Ana City Councilmember, Jose Solorio (D), who is likely to win his bid for District 79, and former Chula Vista City Councilmember Mary Salas (D), who is expected to win in District 79.

Two Latino candidates face uphill battles in their efforts to challenge State Assembly incumbents. Ramiro Maldonado (R) – a non-profit organization administrator – will face Mark Leno (D); and educator Mark Avila (D) will face Mike Villines (R).

Some Latino Assembly candidates in open seat contests will also face very tough races. Educator Maribel Vega (D) will face businesswoman Jean Fuller (R) in District 32; Latino business owner Tony Dolz (R) will face Julia Brownley in District 41; Colton Joint Unified School District board member Marjory Mendoza-Ware (R) will face former Rialto Board of Education member Wilmer Amina Carter in District 62; and college trustee Rita Ramirez-Dean (D) will face former mayor of Yucca Town, Paul Cook, in District 65.

COLORADO

FEDERAL CONTEST

U.S. Representatives: Colorado's Latino incumbent U.S. Representative John Salazar (D) is seeking a second

term, and will likely defeat his challenger, small business owner Scott Tipton (R).

STATE CONTESTS

State Senate: Both of Colorado's Latino incumbent State Senators will seek re-election in November without opposition: Abel Tapia (D) of District 3, and Paula Sandoval (D) of District 34.

Communications analyst Luis Alvarez (R) will face an uphill battle as he vies to unseat incumbent State Senator Lois Tochtrop (D).

State Representatives: Three of Colorado's Latino incumbents in the State House will seek re-election, and all expected to win their races: Michael Garcia (D), Dorothy Butcher (D), and Rafael Gallegos (D).

Educator Edward Casso (D) is likely to emerge victorious in his contest for the open seat in District 32, currently held by State Representative Valentin Vigil (D). Other Latinos who are running for open seats will face challenging races, including Ken Barela (D), former mayor of Fountain, who is battling realtor Marsha Looper (R) in District 19, currently held by Rep. Richard Decker (R); and Ruben Pacheco (R) who is running for District 35 against teacher Cheryl Peniston (D), for the open seat to be vacated by Ann Ragsdale (D).



CONNECTICUT

STATE CONTESTS

State Representatives: Four of Connecticut's six current Latino state representatives are running for re-election and have excellent prospects for winning: Democrats David Aldarondo, Juan Candelaria, Minnie Gonzalez, and Felipe Reinoso. They are likely to be joined in the State House by Bridgeport City Council President Andres Ayala, Jr. (D) who is running in an open seat contest in District 128 (Democrat Lydia Martinez, who currently holds the seat, is not seeking re-election). In addition, Kelvin Roldan (D), former aide to Hartford mayor Eddie Perez, is running unopposed for the District 4 seat currently held by State Representative Evelyn Mantilla, who is also not seeking re-election.



DELAWARE

STATE CONTESTS

State Representative: Delaware's only Latino serving in the state legislature, Joseph Miro (R), will run unopposed for an additional term in office.



FLORIDA

FEDERAL CONTESTS

U.S. Representatives: All three of Florida's Representatives will be running for re-election with excellent prospects of winning: Republicans Lincoln Diaz-Balart, Mario Diaz-Balart, and Ileana Ros-Lehtinen.

State Representative Joe Negron (R) will face an uphill run in District 16 to replace Mark Foley (R), who resigned amid controversy in October. Due to the timing of his resignation, the ballots will feature Foley's name, but with the votes received going to Negron.

STATE CONTESTS

State Senators: All three of Florida's Latino State Senators are running in November. Republicans Alex Diaz de la Portilla, Rodolfo Garcia, Jr., and J. Alex Villalobos all have excellent prospects of winning their seats.

In District 47, Daniel Suarez (D) faces a very challenging race against Republican incumbent Kevin Ambler.

State Representatives: Of Florida's 16 Latino State Representatives, 12 who are running for re-election have excellent prospects: Susan Bucher, Carlos Lopez-Cantera, Anitere Flores, Rene Garcia, Marco Llorente, Juan Carlos Planas, John Quinones, David Rivera, Julio Robaina, Marco Rubio, Trey Traviesa, and Juan Zapata. All are Republicans, with the exception of Democrat Susan Bucher. After the election, Marco Rubio will become the first Latino Speaker of the Florida State House.

State Representative Ralph Arza (R) also seeks re-election, and will be unopposed in his race. However, at the time of this writing, a controversy has arisen over statements allegedly made by State Representative Arza to another Latino state legislator. As such, the future of his tenure in the Florida State House is unclear.

Two Latinos will be involved in a very close open seat race in District 107 (currently represented by Republican Gustavo Barriero). Frank Carollo (R) – brother to former mayor of Miami Joe Carollo – is battling Democrat Luis Garcia, Jr., a Miami Beach commissioner. Real estate broker Alfred Ruiz (R) faces a tough race against former Florida Assistant Attorney General Michael Scionti (D) in the contest to succeed State Representative Bob Henriquez (D) in District 58.

Two Republican Latino candidates face uphill battles to fill open Democratic seats in the State House. Juan Selaya (R) will challenge Elaine Schwartz (D) in District 99, while Prospero Herrera (R) will face Ronald Brise (D) in District 108.

Two Democratic Latino candidates also face very challenging races in their bids to unseat Republican incumbents. Karen Perez (D) will face Ed Homan (R) in District 60, and Bill Ramos (D) will face Gayle Harrell (R) in District 81.

GEORGIA

STATE CONTESTS

State Senator: Senator Sam Zamarripa, the first Latino elected to the Georgia State Senate, will not seek re-election.

State Representatives: Both of Georgia's current Latino State Representatives are running unopposed for re-election: David Casas (R) in District 103, and Pedro Marin (D) in District 96.

IDAHO

STATE CONTESTS

Statewide Officers: Former school board member Republican Tom Luna is involved in a tight race for Idaho Superintendent of Public Instruction against deputy director for the current Superintendent, Jana Jones (D).

State Representatives: Elmer Martinez (D) – the only Latino currently serving in the Idaho State House – will not seek re-election after five years in office.

Immigration lawyer Raul Labrador (R) is running a competitive race against small business owner

Daniel Weston (D) for District 14, Position B – this seat is currently held by a Republican.

ILLINOIS

FEDERAL CONTEST

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

STATE CONTESTS

State Senators: Two of Illinois' Latino State Senators will seek re-election, and both will likely succeed: Democrats Antonio Muñoz and Martin Sandoval.

Senator Miguel Del Valle (D) – Illinois' first Latino to serve in the State Senate – was appointed by Mayor Richard Daley to serve as Chicago's first Latino City Clerk, and will therefore not seek an additional term in the Senate.

State Representatives: Six of Illinois' seven Latino state representatives will seek re-election, and all have an excellent chance of retaining their seats: Edward Acevedo, Maria Antonia Berrios, Linda Chapa LaVia, William Delgado, Susana Mendoza and Cynthia Soto. All are Democrats.

Former Cicero school board member, Elizabeth Hernandez, is expected to defeat John Paul Ledvina (R) for Representative Michelle Chavez' current seat in District 24. Fred Crespo (D) faces an uphill battle to unseat incumbent Terry Parke (R) in District 44.

INDIANA

FEDERAL CONTEST

U.S. Representatives: Mark Leyva (R), a political activist, is facing an uphill battle in his challenge to unseat incumbent U.S. Representative Peter Visclosky (D), in Indiana's 1st Congressional District.

STATE CONTEST

State Representative: Newcomer Mara Candelaria Reardon – the executive director of a non-profit organization, is running unopposed in her bid to win the seat currently held Indiana State Rep. John Aguilera, who is not seeking re-election.

KANSAS

STATE CONTESTS

State 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).

Republican Domingo Soto (R) has a difficult battle in his bid for the open seat in District 31, against Stan Frownfelter (D).

KENTUCKY

STATE CONTESTS

State Representatives: Republican candidate Dr. Ralph Alvarado is attempting to become Kentucky's first Latino to serve as State Representative. Alvarado will face the difficult challenge of unseating the incumbent, Don Pasley (D) of Winchester.

LOUISIANA

FEDERAL CONTEST

U.S. Representative: Vinny Mendoza – a candidate in 2004 for Congressional District 1 – will face a tough battle against three Republicans and eight other Democrats for the seat currently held by eight-term incumbent U.S. Representative William Jefferson (D), who is seeking re-election. (In Louisiana, there are no earlier party primaries, and several candidates from each party can compete for one seat; if no candidate gets more than 50 percent of the vote in the general election, the top two go to a December runoff.)

MARYLAND

STATE CONTESTS

State Senators: Latino incumbent Senator Alex Mooney (R) will seek re-election to District 3 and is likely to emerge victorious. Senator Philip Jimeno (District 31) – who served in the Maryland Senate for 11 years – will not seek re-election.

State Representatives: Both incumbent Latinos in the Maryland House of Delegates, Democrats Ana Sol Gutierrez and Victor Ramirez, face excellent prospects in their re-election bids.

College Park Councilmember Joseline Peña-Melnyk (D) is likely to win election to a seat in District 21.

MASSACHUSETTS

STATE CONTESTS

State Senate: Senator Jarrett Barrios (D) will run unopposed in the November general election.

Law student and community activist Samiyah Diaz (R) faces a difficult challenge against incumbent State Senator Dianne Wilkerson (D). Small business owner Sandi Martinez (R) also faces a difficult race against incumbent State Senator Susan Fargo (D).

State Representative: All three of Massachusetts' incumbent Latino State Representatives will seek re-election, and all are expected to succeed: Cheryl Coakley-Rivera (D), William Lantigua (D), and Jeffrey Sanchez (D).

MICHIGAN

STATE CONTESTS

State Senators: Michigan's only Latino State Senator, Valdemar Garcia (R), faces no serious opposition, and is likely to be re-elected.

Jospeh Barrera (D) faces an uphill battle to unseat incumbent State Senator Mike Bishop (R).

State Representatives: Michigan's two incumbent Latino state representatives – John Espinoza and Lee Gonzales – will both seek re-election. The two Democrats are expected to defeat their challengers in November.

Armando Romero (R) faces an uphill battle against Robert Jones (D) for the open seat in District 60, currently held by Alexander Lipsey (D).

MINNESOTA

STATE CONTESTS

State Senator: Minnesota is likely to gain its first Latina State Senator in November, when State Program Administrator Patricia Torres-Ray (D) runs for an open seat in District 62.

State Representatives: The only Latino serving in Minnesota's lower house – Carlos Mariana Rosa (D) - is expected to win his bid for re-election in District 65B.

In the race for the open seat in District 58B, Augustine Dominguez (D) has an excellent chance against Alan Shilepsky (R), potentially doubling the number of Latinos serving in the Minnesota House of Representatives. In District 53A, business owner David Alvarado (R) will face an uphill battle in his race to unseat Democratic incumbent Paul Thissen.

MISSOURI

STATE CONTESTS

State Representatives: House Majority Whip Brian Nieves (R) is poised to win his re-election bid. Three Latino Democrats who are attempting to unseat Republican incumbent State Representatives will face uphill battles: Don Salcedo in District 20; David Mejia in District 28; and Chris Moreno in District 48.

MONTANA

STATE CONTESTS

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

Marge Zaveta (D) will face a challenging race against Republican businessman Bill Nooney for Montana House District 100.

NEBRASKA

STATE CONTESTS

State Senate: Investment advisor Tony Ojeda is involved in a very competitive race against Norman Wallman for Nebraska's open Senate District 30.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

STATE CONTESTS

State Representatives: Incumbents Hector Velez (D) and Carlos Gonzalez (R) are poised to win their re-election bid for State Representatives.

In Rockingham District 4, Marilinda Garcia (R) is likely to win a seat in the New Hampshire House. Challengers Pete Escalera (D) and Juan C. Muñoz (D) have much tougher races in their respective state house contests.

NEW JERSEY

FEDERAL CONTESTS

U.S. Senate: Senator Robert Menendez (D) is involved in one of the tightest races of the 2006 elections, battling to retain his seat against Republican hopeful Thomas Kean, Jr., son of the popular former New Jersey Governor, Thomas Kean (R).

In January 2006, New Jersey Governor Jon Corzine appointed Senator Menendez to the seat Corzine held before his election as Governor. If Senator Menendez is successful, he will become the first Latino elected by the state of New Jersey to serve in the U.S. Senate.

U.S. Representatives: New Jersey State Assemblymember Albio Sires (D) has excellent prospects of winning his race to fill the seat vacated by Senator Menendez (District 13). However, Republican Jose Sandoval faces an uphill battle in his challenge against incumbent Democrat Bill Pascrell for District 8.

NEW MEXICO

FEDERAL CONTEST

U.S. Representatives: Outgoing State Attorney General Patricia Madrid (D) is challenging four-term incumbent Heather Wilson (R). The race continues to garner more national attention as Election Day approaches, with both Republicans and Democrats alike paying close attention to this extremely competitive race. If victorious, Madrid would be New Mexico's first Latina U.S. Representative, and the state's first Latino since Governor Bill Richardson (D) who served in Congress from 1983 to 1997.

STATE CONTESTS

Statewide Offices: Incumbent Bill Richardson (D) faces excellent prospects of victory in his re-election bid for Governor.

Latino candidates are involved in three races for open seats for New Mexico statewide office. State Representative and Special Prosecutor Hector Balderas (D) is in a competitive contest against CPA Lorenzo Garcia (R) for State Auditor. In the Secretary of State contest, Bernalillo County Clerk Mary Herrera (D) faces former Albuquerque City Council President Vickie Perea (R). Republican CPA and small business owner Demesia Padilla faces an uphill battle in her contest against Democrat James Lewis for State Treasurer (Lewis served as State Treasurer for the state from 1985-1991).

Jim Baca (D) is involved in a tough challenge against incumbent Patrick Lyons (R) for State Public Lands Commissioner. Both men are ranchers and long-time residents of New Mexico.

State Representatives: Twenty-six of New Mexico's 30 Latino incumbent representatives are running for re-election this year. Twenty-four of the incumbents are unopposed or face excellent prospects on November 7: Democrats Jose Campos, Joseph Cervantes, Ernest Chavez, Mary Helen Garcia, Roberto Gonzales, Joni-Marie Gutierrez, Manuel Herrera, Antonio Lujan, Ben Lujan, Patricia Lundstrom, W. Ken Martinez, Rick Miera, Alfred Park, Debbie Rodella, Henry Saavedra, Nick Salazar, Edward Sandoval, Daniel Silva, Sheryl Stapleton-Williams, Jim Trujillo, Luciano Varela, and Richard Vigil; and Republicans Lorenzo A. Larranaga and Gloria Vaughn.

Incumbents with somewhat more competitive races include Miguel Garcia (D), who has very strong chances of holding his seat against Clara Peña (R). Although in a

tight race, Andrew Nuñez (D) is poised to defeat the challenge by fellow rancher Isaac Chavez (R).

Latino candidates are also vying for seats currently held by Latino incumbents not seeking re-election. Andrew Barreras (D) is in a challenging race against David Young (R) for State Rep. Kandy Cordova's (D) seat. Elias Barela (D) has strong chances of winning Democratic State Rep. Fred Luna's (D) seat in his contest against Jackie Farnsworth (R), and Antonio Maestas (D) is expected to win his bid against Republican Storm Field, for the seat currently held by State Representative Harriet Ruiz (D).

Republican Nora Espinoza has a very strong chance of winning the open seat in Republican-leaning District 59 over Democrat Ellen Wedrum.

Two Latinos challenging Republican incumbents for their seats in the State House face very difficult races. In District 29, Antonio Sandoval (D) will challenge Thomas Anderson (R), and in District 58, Pablo Martinez will challenge Candy Spence-Ezzel (R).

NEVADA

STATE CONTESTS

State Senators: Incumbent Latino Bob Coffin (D) is running unopposed in State Senate District 10. Augustino Mendoza (R) faces a very daunting race against incumbent State Senator Maggie Carlton (D) for District 2.

State Assembly: In District 11, Ruben Kihuen (D), former Regional Representative for U.S. Senator Harry Reid (D), faces no opposition in the general election for District 11. In District 22, a strongly Republican district, Ruben Urias (D) will face an uphill battle against Lynn D. Stewart (R). Democrat Latino James Ohrenschall – son of retiring State Assemblymember Genie Ohrenschall – is running for his mother's seat in District 12 and faces a challenging race against Republican Lee Haynes.

NEW YORK

FEDERAL CONTESTS

U.S. 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.

Republican challenger Italo Zanzi (R) faces a difficult race in his contest to unseat incumbent U.S. Representative Tim Bishop (D). Nassau County Legislator Dave Mejias (D) also will face an uphill battle against incumbent U.S. Representative Pete King (R).

STATE CONTESTS

State Senators: All four Latino incumbents are well-positioned to win their races: Democrats Ruben Diaz, Sr.; Martin M. Dilan; Efrain Gonzalez, Jr.; and Jose M. Serrano. Republican challenger Viviana Vazquez-Hernandez will have a difficult time in trying to unseat Democratic incumbent Velmanette Montgomery.

State Assembly: All 12 Latino incumbents are have excellent prospects in their re-election bids: Democrats Carmen Arroyo, Adam Clayton Powell IV, Luis M. Diaz, Ruben Diaz, Jr., Adriano Espaillat, Vito J. Lopez, Felix Ortiz, Jose R. Peralta, Phillip R. Ramos, Jose Rivera, Naomi Rivera and Peter M. Rivera will all likely win their races.

Schoharie County Clerk and former state legislative staff member Peter D. Lopez (R) has good prospects of winning the Republican seat against W. Scott Trees (D) in District 127. If he emerges victorious, he would be the first Latino Republican in the New York State Assembly.

Steve Gonzalez (D) faces a tough race against Republican incumbent State Assemblymember Charles D. Lavine in District 13. Challenger Daniel Torres (D) is in an uphill battle against Republican incumbent Robert Barra in District 14. In District 44, Yvette Velazquez Bennett (R) is facing a difficult race in unseating the incumbent, James F. Brennan (D).

NORTH CAROLINA

STATE CONTESTS

State Senate: State Rep. Tom Apodaca (R) is running unopposed and will return to represent District 48. Juanita Gonzalez (R) will face an uphill battle to unseat incumbent State Senator Larry Shaw (D) in District 21.

State Representatives: Republican incumbent Danny McComas is running unopposed in District 19.

OHIO

STATE CONTESTS

State Representatives: Democrat Dean Hernandez will face an uphill battle against Republican Kevin Bacon for District 21, currently held by State Representative Linda Reidelbach (R). Jackson teacher Kody Gonzalez (D) has a tough road ahead in his battle to unseat incumbent State Rep. W. Scott Oelslanger (R) in District 51.

OKLAHOMA

STATE CONTESTS

State Representatives: Two Latinos are running in fairly competitive contests for the Oklahoma State House. Owasso City Councilor Wayne Guevara (D) faces a tight race against Republican David Derby for the open seat in District 74. Police officer Jesse Guardiola (R) is battling incumbent State Representative Jeannie McDaniel (D), who won her previous election by a narrow margin of 24 votes.

OREGON

STATE CONTESTS

Statewide Officials: State Superintendent of Public Instruction Susan Castillo (D) garnered enough votes in Oregon's primary to win re-election for another term.

State Senators: Mario Magaña (D) faces a tough race against Republican incumbent State Senator Frank Morse.

State Representatives: Republican State Representative Sal Esquivel is likely to hold his seat in District 6, while Latino State Representative Billy Dalto (R) is facing a strong challenge from Brian Clem (D) for District 21.

Challenger Connie Garcia (D) will face an uphill battle in her contest to unseat incumbent State Representative Vicki Berger (R).



PENNSYLVANIA

STATE CONTESTS

State Representatives: Incumbent State Representative Angel Cruz (D) has excellent prospects of winning his re-election bid. In District 159, Baltazar Rubio (R) will face a much tougher contest in his effort to unseat incumbent State Representative Thaddeus Kirkland (D).



RHODE ISLAND

STATE CONTESTS

State Senate: Incumbent State Senator Juan Pichardo (D) is likely to emerge victorious in his re-election bid.

State Representatives: Both Latino incumbents are well positioned to hold their seats. Democrats Grace Diaz and Anastasia Williams will likely win their races.

Ramiro Fernandez (R) will face an uphill battle in trying to unseat incumbent State Representative John Desimone (D) for District 5.



SOUTH CAROLINA

STATE CONTESTS

State Representatives: Incumbent State Representative Gloria Arias-Haskins is running unopposed in Greenville's District 22.



TENNESSEE

STATE CONTESTS

State Representatives: Incumbent Latina State Representative Dolores Gresham (R) does not face any serious opposition in the general election.

Jorge Borges (R) faces an uphill battle in his race to unseat incumbent State Representative Ben West, Jr. (D).



TEXAS

FEDERAL CONTESTS

U.S. Representatives: All five of Texas' Latino Democratic incumbents are likely to hold their seats: Henry Cuellar, Charles Gonzalez, Ruben Hinojosa, Solomon P. Ortiz, and Silvestre Reyes. In the aftermath of the June 2006 Supreme Court ruling on Texas' 2003 Congressional redistricting, a panel of federal judges changed the boundaries of some Texas Congressional districts, including District 23, currently held by Republican incumbent U.S. Representative Henry Bonilla. As a result, four Latino Democrats are now challenging Bonilla, including former U.S. Representative Ciro Rodriguez; retired San Antonio District Fire Chief Albert Uresti (who is also the brother of State Representative Carlos Uresti); social worker August Beltran; and former Tejano musician and truck stop owner Adrian DeLeon.

While Congressman Bonilla is the front-runner in the November election, it is unclear whether he will receive the majority of votes needed to win outright in this special election. If he receives less than that majority, he will face his next closest competitor in a December run-off.

STATE CONTESTS

Statewide Offices: Social and health researcher Maria Alvarado (D) will face a tough race against incumbent David Dewhurst (R) in the contest for Lieutenant Governor.

State Senators: State Representative Carlos Uresti (D) is likely to emerge victorious in his State Senate contest in District 19. Angel De La Rosa (R) will face an uphill battle in trying to unseat incumbent State Senator John Whitmore (D) in District 15.

State Representatives: Of the state's 29 incumbent Latino State Representatives, 26 are seeking re-election: Democrats Rafael Anchia, Roberto Alonzo, Joaquin Castro, Norma Chavez, Juan Escobar, Jessica Farrar, Ismael "Kino" Flores, Pete Gallego, Veronica Gonzalez, Yvonne Gonzalez Toureilles, Ryan Guillen, Ana Hernandez, Abel Herrero, Armando Martinez, Trey Martinez Fischer, Jose Menendez, Paul Moreno, Richard Noriega, Rene Oliveira, Dora Olivo, Aaron Peña, Jr., Robert Puente, Chente Quintanilla, Richard Raymond, Eddie Rodriguez, and Mike Villareal.

All 26 incumbents seeking re-election are likely to succeed, although the race in District 125 (San Antonio) between incumbent Joaquin Castro (D) and Nelson Balido (R) is highly competitive.

Several Latino candidates have good prospects of joining the Latino incumbents in the Texas State House. Marketing executive Nathan Macias (R) is running unopposed for the seat in Central Texas' District 73. Solomon Ortiz, Jr. (D), the head of a consulting and legislative research firm, is expected to win handily in District 33 (the candidate is the son of U.S. Representative Solomon Ortiz). Attorney and son of State Senator Eddie Lucio, Jr. – Eddie Lucio, III (D) – is likely to win the open seat contest in District 38 over Luis Cavazos (R).

In District 32, attorney Juan Garcia (D) is involved in a competitive race with incumbent State Representative Gene Seaman (R), who has seen a declining lead in recent weeks.

One of the closest races for a Texas State House seat is taking place in District 118, currently held by Carlos Uresti (D), who is seeking a seat in the State Senate. Former Harlandale School Boardmember Joe Farias (D) is battling George Antuna (R), Regional Director for U.S. Senator Kay Bailey Hutchinson.

In District 144, technical writer and editor Janette Padilla-Sexton (D) faces an uphill challenge against incumbent Robert Dalton (R).

UTAH

STATE CONTESTS

State Senators: In Utah's State Senate District 7, State Representative Ross Romero (D) is facing a somewhat competitive challenge from Republican Bryce Jolley, but is expected to succeed in his bid for State Senator.

State Representatives: In District 35, incumbent Latino State Representative Mark Wheatley (D) is facing a challenge from Ogden City information technology worker Jay Brummett (R).

WASHINGTON

STATE CONTESTS

State Senators: Former United Farm Workers organizer Tomas Villanueva will face an uphill battle in his contest to unseat Republican incumbent State Senator Jim Honeyford in District 15.

State Representatives: Both incumbent State Representatives Phyllis Gutierrez-Kenney (D) and Mary Skinner (R) face excellent prospects in retaining their respective seats.

WISCONSIN

FEDERAL CONTESTS

U.S. Representatives: Republican businessman Perfecto Rivera faces an uphill battle in his contest to unseat Democratic incumbent U.S. Representative Gwen Moore in District 4.

STATE CONTESTS

State Representatives: Incumbent State Representative Pedro Colon (D) faces no opposition in his re-election bid. Health care advocate Susan Garcia Franz (D) will face a tough contest in her race against Roger J. Roth, Jr. (R) for a District 56 seat.

WYOMING

STATE CONTESTS

State Representatives: Democratic State Representative Floyd Esquibel faces no serious opposition in the general election and is likely to return to Cheyenne to represent District 44. Floyd's brother Ken Esquibel (D) is battling Republican David Bush in an open seat contest for District 41.

LATINO CANDIDATES FOR STATEWIDE OFFICE

STATE	OFFICE	CANDIDATE	PARTY
CA	Insurance Commissioner	Cruz Bustamante	Democrat
ID	Superintendent of Public Instruction	Tom Luna	Republican
NM	Governor	Bill Richardson (Incumbent)	Democrat
NM	Commissioner of Public Lands	Jim Baca	Democrat
NM	Secretary of State	Mary Herrera	Democrat
NM	Secretary of State	Vickie Perea	Republican
NM	State Auditor	Hector Balderas	Democrat
NM	State Auditor	Lorenzo Garcia	Republican
NM	State Treasurer	Demesia Padilla	Republican
TX	Lieutenant Governor	Maria Alvarado	Democrat

LATINO STATEWIDE OFFICIALS NOT FACING ELECTION CONTESTS IN NOVEMBER 2006

STATE	OFFICE	CANDIDATE	PARTY
OR	Superintendent of Public Instruction	Susan Castillo ¹	Democrat
TX	Railroad Commissioner	Victor Carrillo	Republican

¹ State Superintendent of Public Instruction Susan Castillo garnered enough votes in Oregon's May primary to win re-election.

METHODOLOGY

In the three tables that follow, 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 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 include 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.

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 Latinos 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	11	0	0	0	7	0
CO	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
FL	0	3	2	4	0	0	0	3
IL	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
IN	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
LA	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
NJ ¹	0	0	1	1	1	0	1	0
NM	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0
NY	2	0	3	1	0	0	2	0
TX	5	1	11	1	0	0	5	1
WI	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Total	18	4	34	9	2	0	20	4

See "Methodology" on page 11 for more information

¹ This reflects the vacancy in New Jersey's Congressional delegation resulting from the appointment of U.S. Representative Robert Menendez (D) to the U.S. Senate in January 2006. We project that his vacant seat will be filled by the election of another Latino Democrat, State Assemblymember Albio Sires.

STATE SENATORS

The following table sets forth for each state: the number of Latinos currently serving in State Senates, the number of Latinos 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 Senate		Latinos Running in November Election		Potential Net Gain/Loss		Potential Number of Latinos After Election	
	DEM	GOP	DEM	GOP	DEM	GOP	DEM	GOP
AZ	5	0	6	1	0	0	5	0
CA	9	1	9	0	0	0	9	1
CO	2	0	2	1	0	0	2	0
FL	0	3	1	3	0	0	0	3
GA	1	0	0	0	-1	0	0	0
HI	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
IL ¹	4	0	2	0	0	0	4	0
MA	1	0	1	2	0	0	1	0
MD	1	1	0	1	-1	0	0	1
MI	0	1	1	1	0	0	0	1
MN	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0
NE	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	2
NM	13	1	0	0	0	0	13	1
NY	4	0	4	1	0	0	4	0
NV	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	0
NC	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	1
OR	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
RI	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
TX ²	7	0	1	1	-1	0	6	0
UT	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0
WA	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0
Total	51	9	33	15	-1	1	50	10

See "Methodology" on page 11 for more information

¹ Latinos currently serving in the Illinois State Senate includes State Senator Miguel Del Valle (D), who has been appointed to serve as Chicago City Clerk. State Senator Del Valle will leave his State Senate seat after the election. It is likely that another Latino will be appointed to his seat after the election.

² In order to provide comparability with the data from other states, the number of Latinos currently in State Senates includes former Texas State Senator Frank Madla, who resigned from office in May 2006. Madla's seat is likely to be filled by the election of another Latino in November.

STATE ASSEMBLIES OR HOUSES OF REPRESENTATIVES

The following table sets forth for each state: the number of Latinos currently serving in State lower Houses, the number of Latinos 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 Lower Houses		Latinos Running in November Election		Potential Net Gain/Loss		Potential Number of Latinos After Election		
	DEM	GOP	DEM	GOP	DEM	GOP	DEM	GOP	
AZ	12	0	12	0	-1	0	11	0	
CA	18	1	20	7	-1	0	17	1	
CO	5	0	5	2	-1	0	4	0	
CT	6	0	6	2	0	0	6	0	
DE	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	
FL	2	14	4	16	-1	-1	1	13	
GA	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	
ID	1	0	0	1	-1	1	0	1	
IL	7	0	8	1	0	0	7	0	
IN	1	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	
KS	3	1	3	2	0	0	3	1	
KY	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	
MA	3	0	3	1	0	0	3	0	
MD	2	0	3	0	1	0	3	0	
MI	2	0	2	1	0	0	2	0	
MN	1	0	2	1	1	0	2	0	
MO	0	1	3	1	0	0	0	1	
<i>Continued on Page 15</i>									

See "Methodology" on page 11 for more information

STATE ASSEMBLIES OR HOUSES OF REPRESENTATIVES (continued)

State	Number of Latinos Currently in State Lower Houses		Latinos Running in November Election		Potential Net Gain/Loss		Potential Number of Latinos After Election	
	DEM	GOP	DEM	GOP	DEM	GOP	DEM	GOP
MT	1	0	2	0	0	0	1	0
NH	1	1	3	2	0	1	1	2
NJ	4	1	0	0	0	0	4	1
NM ¹	28	2	29	5	0	1	28	3
NY	12	0	13	9	0	1	12	1
NV	1	0	3	0	1	0	2	0
NC	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
OH	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
OK	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1
OR	0	2	1	2	0	0	0	2
PA	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	0
RI	2	0	2	3	0	0	2	0
SC	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
TN	0	1	0	2	0	0	0	1
TX ²	29	1	32	6	1	0	30	1
UT	2	0	1	0	-1	0	1	0
WA	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	1
WI	1	0	2	0	0	0	1	0
WY	1	0	2	0	1	0	2	0
Total	148	30	168	72	0	4	148	34

See "Methodology" on page 11 for more information

¹ The Latinos currently in office include Hector Balderas (D), who is running for State Auditor. Because of the timing of his candidacy, there is no one on the November ballot to fill his State Representative seat. Governor Bill Richardson (D) will appoint the new State Representative after the election and it is more than likely that the person appointed will be Latino.

² In order to provide comparability with the data from other states, the number of Latinos currently in State lower houses includes former Texas State Representative Vilma Luna, who resigned from office in July 2006. Luna's seat is likely to be filled by the election of another Latino in November.