



CITY OF HOUSTON, TEXAS

AN ELECTORAL SUMMARY

On Saturday, May 9, a special election will be held to fill the vacancy in Houston's City Council District H, for the remainder of the current term. The seat was vacated by former City Councilmember Adrian Garcia, who was elected as Harris County Sherriff in November, 2008. The council seat will appear on the November 3, 2009 General Election ballot, in addition to the other eight council districts, five at-large council seats, and mayor. Following is a profile of the past and present electorate in the City of Houston, and in District H.

Current Electorate

Close to one million voters are registered to vote in the City of Houston, and 90,448 in District H. Latinos comprise 41 percent of the registered voters in District H – 37,272. In addition, one in five registered Latinos (22%) in the City of Houston is a registered voter in District H.

	City of Houston	Houston Council District H
Registered Voters	931,199	90,448
Latino Registered Voters	171,349	37,272
<i>Latino Share of Electorate</i>	<i>18%</i>	<i>41%</i>

Period of Registration

Since November 2004, the number of registered voters in District H has increased by 21,669 overall, or 32%. Of these new voters, 7,859 are Latino – an increase of 27% – while the number of registered non-Latinos increased by 13,810 (35%). Overall, 21% of registered Latinos in District H were registered after the November 2004 Presidential Election, compared to 26% of all non-Latinos in District H.

	City of Houston	Houston Council District H
Total registered <i>before</i> 2004 Presidential Election	684,713	68,779
Latinos registered <i>before</i> 2004 Presidential Election	123,285	29,413
Total registered <i>after</i> 2004 Presidential Election	246,486	21,669
Latinos registered <i>after</i> 2004 Presidential Election	48,064	7,859
<i>Percentage of Latinos registered after 2004 Presidential Election</i>	<i>28%</i>	<i>21%</i>

2005 Municipal General Election Turnout

In the November 2005 Municipal General Election, Latinos comprised 29% of total turnout in District H. Of registered non-Latino voters, 20% in District H voted, compared to 11% of Latino voters.

	City of Houston	Houston Council District H
Total Turnout	230,346	15,231
Latino Turnout	23,422	4,485
<i>Latino Share of Total Turnout</i>	<i>10%</i>	<i>29%</i>
Percentage turnout of registered Latino voters	10%	11%
Percentage turnout of registered Non-Latino voters	19%	20%

Voting Propensity* of Registered Voters in Houston City Council District H

Latinos comprise close to half (49%) of all low-propensity voters in District H. Furthermore, over half (59%) of registered Latinos in District H are low propensity voters, compared to 43% of non-Latinos.

One in six registered Latinos in District H (16%) are high propensity voters – those who have voted in three or all of the last four elections. More than one in four non-Latinos in District H is a high propensity voter.

	Latino	% Share of Latinos	Non-Latino	% Share of Non-Latinos
Low Propensity	21,916	59%	22,605	43%
Mid Propensity	9,467	25%	15,524	29%
High Propensity	5,889	16%	15,047	28%

Age of Latino Registered Voters

Overall, the Latino electorate in the City of Houston is slightly younger than the non-Latino electorate – close to half (49%) of registered Latinos are under the age of 40, compared to 37% of registered non-Latinos.

City of Houston

Age Group	Latino	% Latino	Non-Latino	% Non-Latino
18-24	24,855	15%	71,612	9%
25-39	58,683	34%	208,418	27%
40-60	61,209	36%	290,517	38%
Over 60	26,602	16%	189,303	25%

The age breakdown of Latino voters in District H is similar to that of the entire City of Houston. Over half (54%) of the Latino electorate in District H is over the age of 40, compared to 60% of the non-Latino electorate.

Houston Council District H

Age Group	Latino	% Latino	Non-Latino	% Non-Latino
18-24	4,824	13%	3,586	7%
25-39	12,188	33%	17,438	33%
40-60	12,823	34%	20,228	38%
Over 60	7,437	20%	11,924	22%

* Low Propensity voters are those who vote in one (or none) of the past four major elections. Mid Propensity voters are defined as those who voted in two of the past four major elections. High Propensity voters are defined as those who voted in three or four of the past four major elections.

All data obtained from Harris County Clerk's registered voter file, obtained March, 2009, with the exception of 2005 Municipal General Election Turnout, obtained via Catalist, Inc., April, 2009.