



2006 PRIMARY ELECTION PROFILES

ILLINOIS

TUESDAY, MARCH 21
TOTAL POPULATION (2004): 12,713,634
LATINO POPULATION (2004): 1,774,551

The 2006 election season in Illinois will involve races for all statewide offices, the state's 19 seats in the U.S. House of Representatives, 39 seats in the Illinois State Senate, all 118 seats in the Illinois House of Representatives, and various judicial, county, and municipal-level offices. Of the 11 Illinois Latino State legislators currently in office, nine face reelection in 2006. Five of these incumbents face challengers in the upcoming primary election. The only Latino representing Illinois in the U.S. Congress, Representative Luis Gutierrez, does not face a challenger in the March primary.

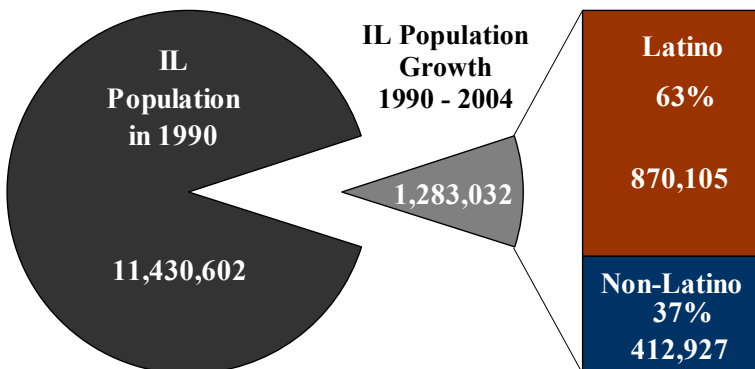
In the race for the 24th State Representative District, incumbent Michelle Chavez will face two opponents in the Democratic primary – Lisa Hernandez, staff member for Lieutenant Governor Pat Quinn, and Roberto Garcia, a police officer and board member of Morton High School District 201. After Representative Chavez' unexpected victory in the 2004 general elections, the race to represent the townships of Berwyn and Cicero in the Illinois House of Representatives will be closely watched.

The debut of early voting in Illinois could represent a significant change that provides Illinois voters with a greater number of options for casting their ballots during the election season. In 2005, the Illinois General Assembly enacted legislation which allows all registered voters to vote between 22 and five days prior to the actual election day without the need for an official reason or excuse; early voting for the primary election started on February 27. However, a lawsuit citing uneven and unfair access to early voting sites was filed against the Illinois State Board of Elections on the fifth day of voting (March 3). The lawsuit is likely to prompt assessment of the new program not only by Illinois election officials, but by political parties and candidates, academic researchers, and other political observers.

THE LATINO POPULATION IN ILLINOIS

In 2004, Latinos accounted for 14% of all Illinois residents. While the state experienced modest total population growth between 1990 and 2004, the Latino population has almost doubled in size during this time – an increase of almost 96%. With almost one million additional people, Latinos accounted for 63% of total population growth during these 14 years.

Illinois Population Growth: 1990-2004



Illinois Latino Population: 2004

	Population	% of Total Population
Total Latino	1,774,551	14%
Total Latino Adults	1,067,078	12%

Of the over one million Latino residents of Illinois over the age of 18, slightly more than half are U.S. citizens. The vast majority of the Latino U.S. citizens over the age of 18 were born in the United States, although a large number received U.S. citizenship through naturalization (approximately 170,000, or 30%).

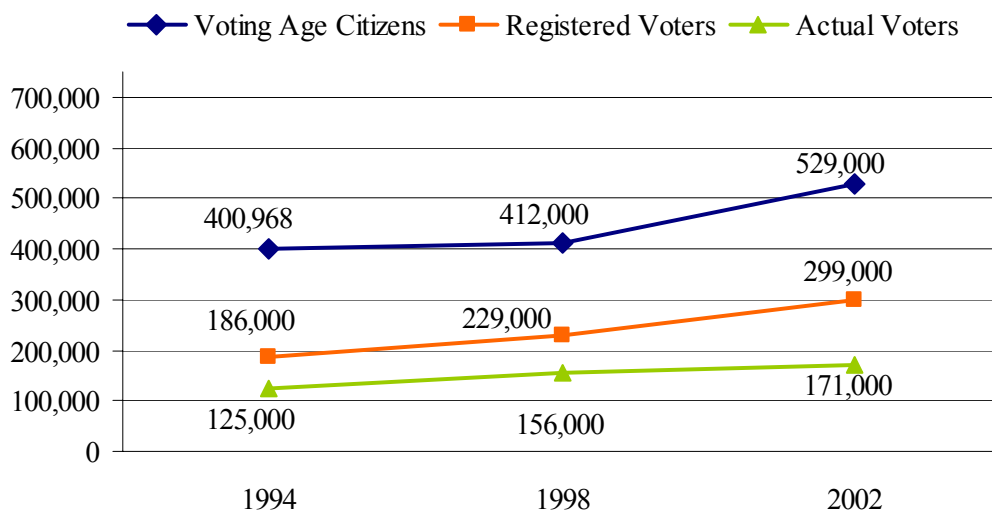
THE LATINO ELECTORATE

Latinos in Illinois are becoming an ever greater share of the actual voters in the state. In 1994, Latinos comprised only 3.4% of those who actually voted. In 2002, Latinos comprised 4.3% of the total turnout. Almost 500,000 Latinos are currently registered to vote in Illinois.

Illinois Latino Electorate: 2006

Registered Voters	479,657
Latino Share of All Registered Voters	6.8%

Illinois Latino Voter Performance in Past Off-Year Elections



LATINO ELECTED OFFICIALS

Latino political progress is not solely evidenced by registration and turnout rates among Latino voters – the rise of Latino elected officials in all levels of office is another measure of the increasing political impact of the Latino community as a whole.

Political Presence of Latino Legislators: 2005

- Although a relatively small number of Latinos serve as state legislators in Illinois, they do comprise 12% of all Democrats in the Illinois State Senate, and 10% of Democrats in the Illinois State House of Representatives.

	Total Districts	Number Held by Latinos	Share of Total State Delegation	Share of All Party Legislators	
				GOP	DEM
U.S. House	19	1	5%	-	< 1%
Illinois State Senate	59	4	6%	-	12%
Illinois State House of Representatives	118	7	5%	-	10%

In the last 20 years, the number of Latino elected officials in Illinois has increased substantially. In 1985, only 26 Latinos served in a public office of any level in Illinois. Only two Latinos served in the Illinois State House of Representatives, and none served in the Illinois State Senate or U.S. House of Representatives. Today, 92 Latinos hold public office in Illinois, 11 of whom represent their districts in the state legislature in Springfield.

SOURCES AND METHODOLOGY

Illinois General Assembly, Senate and House Members, 94th General Assembly. Available at www.ilga.gov

Illinois State Board of Elections, Current Candidate Filing, General Primary 3/21/2006.

Illinois State Board of Elections, Early Voting Informational Pamphlet, 2005. Available at www.elections.il.gov

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U.S. Census Bureau, 2004 American Community Survey, Illinois General Demographic Characteristics.

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

U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, January 2006.

U.S. Census Bureau, "Population Estimates by State, Age, and Sex for States and Puerto Rico: April 1, 2000 to July 1, 2004."

U.S. Census Bureau, Report on Voting and Registration in the Elections of November 1994, 1998, and 2002.

Current voter registration figures were obtained from the Illinois State Voter File via Labels and Lists, Inc. (www.lalnet.com) and represent the number of Latino registered voters as of February 24, 2006.