



2006 PRIMARY ELECTION PROFILES

NEW JERSEY

TUESDAY, JUNE 6

TOTAL POPULATION (2004): 8,503,294

LATINO POPULATION (2004): 1,274,500

New Jersey's 13 seats in the U.S. House of Representatives, one of New Jersey's U.S. Senate positions, and the vacant seat in the 28th State General Assembly District are all up for election in 2006. The remainder of New Jersey's statewide officials and state legislators are elected in odd-numbered years.

U.S. Senate: Governor Jon Corzine, who resigned from the U.S. Senate to serve as New Jersey's Governor in 2006, appointed then U.S. Representative Robert Menendez to serve as the 109th Congress' third Latino U.S. Senator and the first from New Jersey. Senator Menendez will face some competition in the June primary, and if successful, will likely face Republican State Senator Thomas Kean, Jr. in the November general election.

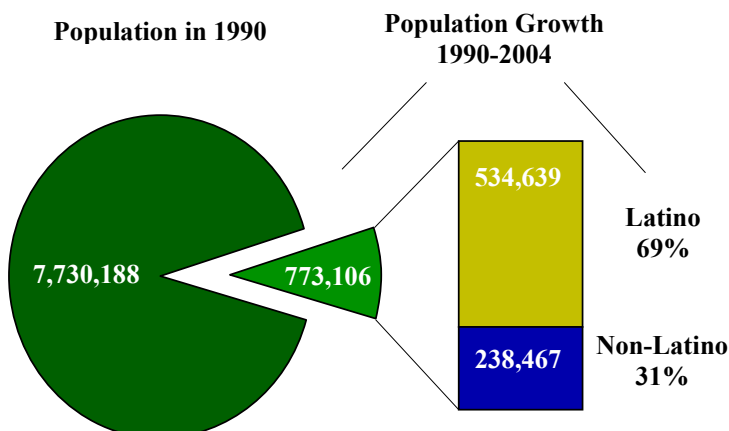
U.S House of Representatives: Since Senator Menendez resigned from the U.S. House of Representatives, his former seat has remained vacant (Congressional District 13). In a special race on June 6, two Latinos will vie to fulfill the remainder of Senator Menendez' term in the 109th Congress' House of Representatives – former Speaker and current State Assemblymember Albio Sires, and James Geron. In a separate but concurrent primary race, State Representative Sires will compete with first-term Assemblymember Joe Vas for the Democratic nomination to run to represent the district in the 110th Congress.

Another Latino – businessman Jose Sandoval – will run as the Republican candidate for the 8th Congressional District, although he will face no challengers in the June primary.

THE LATINO POPULATION IN NEW JERSEY

Latinos accounted for 15% of the total population of New Jersey in 2004. While the state experienced modest total population growth between 1990 and 2004 (10%), the Latino population increased by 72%, adding over half a million new residents to the total population of New Jersey, or 69% of the total growth.

New Jersey Population Growth: 1990-2004



New Jersey Latino Population: 2004

	Population	% of Total Population
Latinos	1,274,500	15%
Latino Adults	886,272	14%
Latino Adult Citizens	595,285	11%

THE NEW JERSEY LATINO ELECTORATE IN 2006

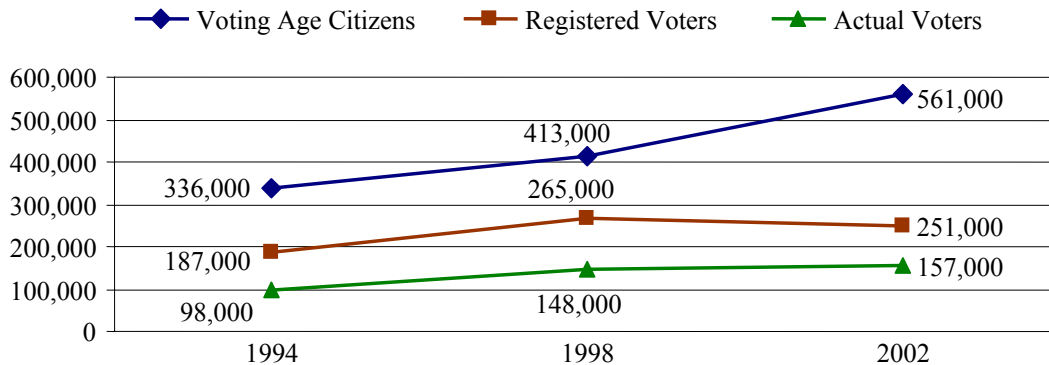
More than 400,000 Latinos in New Jersey are currently registered to vote, or 9% of all registered voters.

Latinos in New Jersey continue to assume an ever greater share of the state electorate. In 1994, Latinos comprised only 5% of all registered voters and 4% of those who actually voted. In 2002, 7% of all people registered in New Jersey were Latino, and they comprised 6 % of the total turnout.

New Jersey's Population and Electorate: January 2006

Total Adult U.S. Citizens	5,601,512
Latino Adult U.S. Citizens	516,792
Latino Share of Adult U.S. Citizens	11%
Total Registered Voters	4,639,760
Registered Latino Voters	415,313
Latino Share of All Registered Voters	9%

New Jersey Latino Voter Performance in Past Congressional Elections



LATINO ELECTED OFFICIALS

In 2005, 108 Latino elected officials served in New Jersey; an increase of over 330% from 1985, when only 25 Latinos held office in New Jersey.

Another sign of the growing influence of Latinos in New Jersey is the number of Latinos in the state legislature and their share of their political party's delegation. In 1985, only one Latino served New Jersey as a lawmaker.

- Latinos account for 10% of all Democrats in the New Jersey State Assembly.
- New Jersey is only the fourth state ever to have a Latino serve in the U.S. Senate.

New Jersey Latino Legislators: 2005

	Total Districts	Number Held by Latinos	Share of Total Delegation	Share of Party Legislators	
				GOP	DEM
U.S. Senate	2	1	50%	n/a	2%
New Jersey State Assembly	80	5	6%	3%	10%

For more information about the NALEO Educational Fund's 2006 Election publications, please contact Evan Bacalao at ebacalao@naleo.org or (213) 747-7606, ext. 116.

Sources

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