



2006 PRIMARY ELECTION PROFILES

NEW MEXICO

TUESDAY, JUNE 6

TOTAL POPULATION (2004): 1,862,837

LATINO POPULATION (2004): 808,693

The 2006 election season in New Mexico will involve races for all statewide offices, the state's three seats in the U.S. House of Representatives, all 112 seats in New Mexico's state legislature, and various judicial, county, and municipal-level offices. Although many candidates are running unopposed in the primary election, several competitive primary races are well under way, with early and absentee voting starting on May 9. Latino candidates are also playing a prominent role in New Mexico's statewide races.

Governor: Former Member of Congress and the only Latino statewide incumbent, Governor Bill Richardson, seeks a second term in the state's executive office. Neither Governor Richardson or his Republican opposition – Dr. J.R. Damron – will face competition in the primary election.

Secretary of State: Current Secretary of State Rebecca Vigil-Giron reached her term-limit, leaving a three-way Democratic primary involving three contenders – former Secretary of State Stephanie Gonzales, Bernalillo County Clerk Mary Herrera, and businessperson Letitia Montoya.

Attorney General: Attorney General Patricia Madrid is running for Congressional District 1 (for which she is unopposed in the primary), leaving District Attorney Lem Martinez to face former Assistant Attorney General Geno Zamora in the Democratic primary for Attorney General.

State Auditor: Businessman Jeff Armjillo will run against Thomas Buckner to seek the Democratic nomination to replace current State Auditor Domingo Martinez, who will not seek reelection.

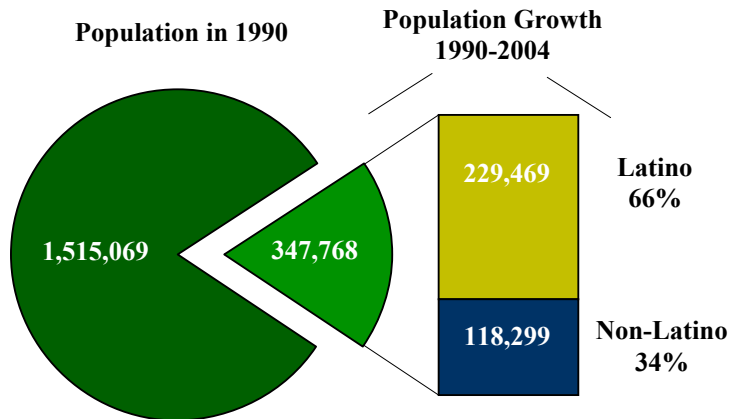
Land Commissioner: Former State Natural Resource Trustee Jim Baca will run against veterinarian Ray Powell to seek Democratic nomination for Land Commissioner. The winner will face current Land Commissioner Patrick Lyons.

State Legislature: Many Latino candidates will not face competition in the upcoming primary, and several incumbents are currently unopposed in the November General election. However, Representative Harriet Ruiz (District 16) will retire at the end of her current term, leaving four Latinos vying for the Democratic nomination to run in November (the Republican candidate will be unopposed in the primary). District 18 incumbent, Representative Gail Chasey, will face Peace Corps recruiter Joseph Garcia in the June primary.

THE LATINO POPULATION IN NEW MEXICO

In 2004, Latinos accounted for 43% of all residents in New Mexico – a plurality of all New Mexicans. The total population growth in New Mexico between 1990 and 2004 was considerable (26%), Latinos accounting for two-thirds of the increase. New Mexico’s Latino population nearly doubled in size (40%), from 580,000 in 1990 to almost 810,000 by 2004. Approximately 69% of Latinos in New Mexico in 2004 were over the age of 18, and 59% were adult U.S. citizens.

New Mexico Population Growth: 1990-2004



New Mexico’s Latino Population: 2004

	Population	% of Total Population
Latinos	808,693	43%
Latino Adults	555,782	40%
Latino Adult Citizens	475,935	37%

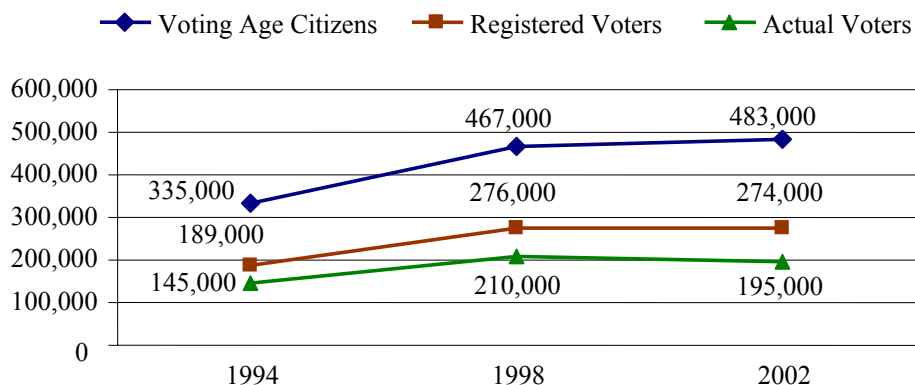
THE LATINO ELECTORATE

Since 1994, Latinos in New Mexico have comprised a larger share of actual voters with each election cycle. In 1994, Latinos were just over one in four of all voters. However, in the last Congressional election (2002), Latinos comprised well over one-third of all actual voters (36%).

New Mexico’s Population and Electorate: January 2006

Total Adult U.S. Citizens	1,323,237
Latino Adult U.S. Citizens	521,100
Latino Share of Adult U.S. Citizens	39%
Total Registered Voters	1,099,583
Registered Latino Voters	343,494
Latino Share of All Registered Voters	31%

New Mexico Latino Voter Performance in Past Congressional Elections



LATINO ELECTED OFFICIALS

In New Mexico, 668 Latinos served in all levels of elected office as of January 2005.

New Mexico has a long history of electing Latinos to office – in 1984, there were 21 Latino State Representatives, 11 Latino State Senators, four Latino statewide officials, a Latino Governor, and two of their three U.S. Representatives were Latino. There are currently no Latino legislators representing New Mexico at the Federal level.

One sign of the growing influence of Latinos in New Mexico is the number of Latinos in the state legislature and their share of their political party's delegation. The share of Latinos in selected offices can determine the extent to which they can have a significant impact on the priorities of state government.

Latinos comprise a significant share of state legislators in New Mexico – one in three (33%) of all State Senators are Latino, and 43% of all State Representatives are Latino.

Democrats hold the majority in both houses of the New Mexico State Legislature. In the Senate, more than half of all Democrats are Latino, and in the House of Representatives, more than two-thirds of all Democrats are Latino.

Latino Legislators in New Mexico: 2005

	Total Districts	Number Held by Latinos	Share of Total Delegation	Share of Party Legislators	
				GOP	DEM
New Mexico State Senate	42	14	33%	5%	57%
New Mexico House of Representatives	70	30	43%	7%	68%

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.

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