



2006 PRIMARY ELECTION PROFILES

TEXAS

TUESDAY, MARCH 7
TOTAL POPULATION (2004): 22,490,000
LATINO POPULATION (2004): 7,781,000

In addition to Texas' 32 seats in the U.S. House of Representatives and one of its seats in the U.S. Senate, the state's 2006 general election will involve races for several statewide, state legislative and judicial positions. These contests include Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, 16 State Senators, and all 150 Texas State Representatives, in addition to key judicial seats on the Texas State Supreme Court. While many of the incumbents serving in partisan seats will be unchallenged in the upcoming March primary election, several key electoral battles for partisan offices will occur.

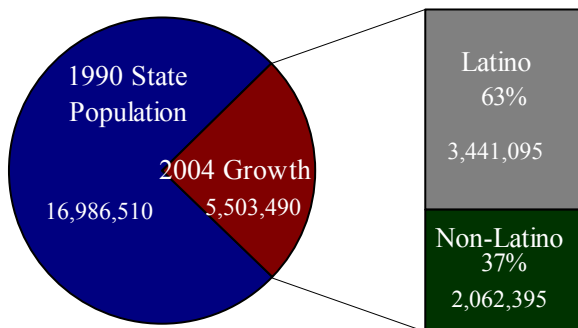
In a very closely watched race for Congressional District 28, incumbent Representative Henry Cuellar faces three opponents in the Democratic Primary, including former Congressman Ciro Rodriguez, who seeks to reclaim the seat he lost to Representative Cuellar in the 2004 primary election.

Current Lieutenant Governor David Dewhurst faces only one challenger in the Republican primary, but Democrats have three candidates to choose from, including a Latina research analyst – Maria Luisa Alvarado of San Antonio. Political observers are also watching the primary contests for the open seat representing Texas House of Representatives District 38, currently held by Rep. Jim Solis, who decided not to seek reelection. All four candidates in the Democratic primary are Latino, as is the unchallenged contender in the Republican primary.

THE LATINO POPULATION IN TEXAS

As of 2004, Latinos accounted for more than one in every three residents of Texas (35%). Between 1990 and 2000, the state's Latino population added more than two million residents, and an additional million in the subsequent four years—an almost 80% increase in 14 years.

Texas Population Growth: 1990-2004



Texas Latino Population: 2004

	Population	% of Total Population
Total Latino	7,781,000	35%
Total Latino Adults	5,232,000	33%

- Among the more than seven million Latinos currently living in Texas, 67% are over the age of 18. Latino adults also account for two-thirds of the state's voting age population.
- Over the past 14 years, the total population of Texas grew by 32%. Of the state's over five million new residents, almost two in three are Latino

THE LATINO ELECTORATE

More than 2.3 million Latinos are currently registered to vote in Texas, or nearly one in five of all registered Texans. In addition, approximately one million Latinos are eligible to register and vote in 2006.

In the last decade, Latinos have assumed a larger share of the state's electorate. In 2002, Latinos comprised 23% of total turnout, up from 18% in 1994.

Between 1994 and 2002, the number of Latino voters in Texas increased by 33%. The comparable increase among non-Latinos was only 2%.

Texas' Latino Population and Electorate: January 2006

Voting Age Citizens	3,456,698
Registered Voters	2,345,356
Latino Share of All Registered Voters	19%

Texas Latino Voter Performance in Past Off-Year Elections



LATINO ELECTED OFFICIALS

The presence of Latinos in elected office at all levels of government is one measure of improved Latino political progress and influence. In 2005, more than 2,000 Latino elected officials served in Texas; more than California and New Mexico combined. Texas Latino elected officials comprise almost half of all of the nation's Latino elected officials.

Although the number of Latino federal and state legislators has remained relatively constant since 1996, the total number of Latinos serving in elected office has increased by almost 500.

Another sign of the growing influence of Latinos in Texas 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 and local governments.

- Latinos account for one in five of the State Senators in Texas. As a share of Democrats in the Senate, they comprise a majority (58%).
- In the Texas House of Representatives, Latinos account for 45% of Democrats and 21% of all Representatives.

Political Presence of Latino Legislators: 2005

	Total Districts	Number Held by Latinos	Share of Total Delegation	Share of Party Legislators	
				GOP	DEM
U.S. House	32	6	19%	7%	29%
Texas State Senate	31	7	23%	-	58%
Texas State House	150	29	19%	1%	44%

FOCUS ON THE COMMUNITY: LATINOS IN HARRIS COUNTY

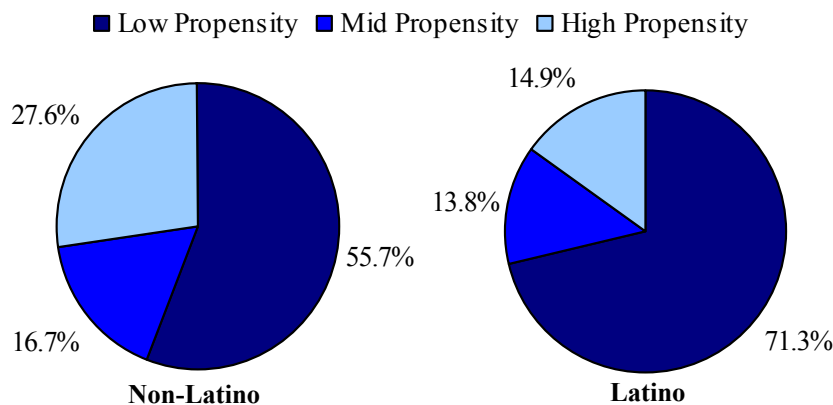
One out of three of Harris County’s four million residents is Latino; thus the County’s Latino electorate is of particular interest in 2006, both for the upcoming primary and the November general election. Its largest city – Houston – is also the most populous in Texas, with over two million inhabitants and a rapidly growing Latino population.

THE LATINO ELECTORATE

This year, more than 310,000 of all registered voters in Harris County are Latino, or 17%. This is an increase from 2004 of more than 18,000. In certain cities within Harris County, the percentage of registered voters who are Latino is far higher – over 25% of the registered voters in Galena Park, Channelview, and Pasadena are Latino, and in the city of South Houston, over 60% are Latino.

While Latinos comprise a significant share of registered voters in Harris County, the vast majority (71.3%) can be considered “low propensity” voters.

Harris County Voting Propensity



“Low Propensity” voters voted in one of the last four elections, or not at all. “Mid Propensity” voters voted twice in the last four elections and “High Propensity” voters voted three or four times in the last four elections. See “Sources and Methodology” for more information.

Of all “high propensity” voters in Harris County, only 9.7% are Latino. Generally, most Harris County voters are “low propensity,” both Latino and non-Latino. Nearly 60% of all Harris County voters voted in only one of the last four elections, or did not vote at all.

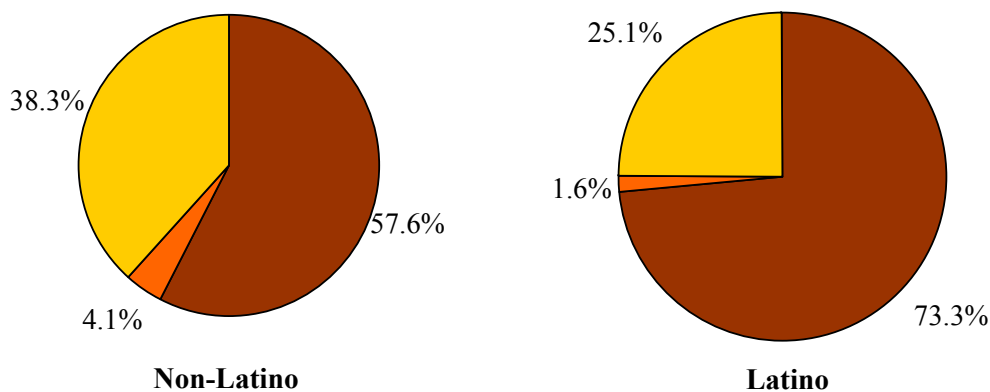
VOTE TYPE

Early voting has been a part of the Texas electoral process since 1987, and is already underway for the March primary election. Compared to traditional Election Day polling site voting, early voting and vote by mail options are used far less frequently by Latino voters than non-Latino voters.

Almost half of all non-Latino voters in the 2004 general election voted before Election Day in Harris County, either by mail or through early voting. Nearly three out of four Latinos voted at a polling place on Election Day, however, and only one in four voted early.

Harris County November 2004 Vote by Vote Type

■ Election Day ■ Mail ■ Early Voting



Sources and Methodology:

Harris County Clerk’s Office Election Department; Harris County, Texas, Voter History (2000 to 2004).

Harris County Tax Office, Voter Registration Records (through 2006).

NALEO Educational Fund, National Directory of Latino Elected Officials (1996-2005).

Texas Secretary of State, “Offices on the 2006 Primary Election Ballot.” February 21, 2006.

Texas State Historical Association, “Election Laws,” The Handbook of Texas Online.

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

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

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.”

Current voter registration figures were obtained from the Texas Secretary of State’s Division of Elections and represent the number of Latino registered voters as of February 8th, 2006.

Voting propensity was calculated by analyzing voting behavior in the past four elections in Houston. The four elections used are November 2000, March 2002, November 2002, and November 2004.