



LATINOS, ASIAN /PACIFIC ISLANDERS, NATURALIZED CITIZENS:

The Pro-Immigrant Voting Block 30 MILLION STRONG

July 20, 2004

A Publication of



Coordinated by the Center for Community Change
1000 Wisconsin Ave. N.W.
Washington, DC 20007
202.342.0567
www.communitychange.org

www.fairimmigration.org



In 2000, the US Census Bureau estimated that there were 30 million voting-age citizens who were Latinos, Asians, Pacific Islanders, and immigrant-naturalized citizens. This segment of the population comprises over 15% of the electorate.

Using Census projections, the turnout of Latinos, Asian/Pacific Islanders, and other immigrant-naturalized citizens will approach 15 million for the 2004 November elections.

The margin of victory during the 2000 presidential election was less than 10% in 22 states (see Table 7 on page 18), and from 1998 to 2002 there were roughly a dozen close Senate races. The size and dynamism of the Latino, Asian/Pacific Islander, and naturalized citizen populations ensures that they will play a significant role in the upcoming elections.

Polls show that immigration reform is an issue that can sway Latino and Asian voters. To date, Congress has failed to take action on immigration issues, even as proposed legislation shows strong bi-partisan support. Yet, an overwhelming majority of Latino (64%) and Asian (52%) voters would be “more likely” to vote for a candidate supporting legislation that “creates a path to citizenship for those who work and pay taxes.” Even 85% of American likely voters agree if an immigrant has been in this country working and paying taxes for five years, and learning English, there should be a way for them to become a citizen.

Considering the large portion of the pro-immigrant voting community — 30 million strong — candidates for elected office need to address immigration reform.

30 Million and Growing: The Power Voters

The National Picture

Latinos, Asians, and Pacific Islanders are a growing segment of the electorate. Between 1990 and 2000, the voting-age Latino, Asian, and Pacific Islander citizen populations increased 45% to 17.9 million, comprising nearly 10% of the electorate.

1990: There were 12.3 million voting-age Latino, Asian, and Pacific Islander citizens, comprising 7% of the entire electorate.¹

1996: There were over 15 million, making up 8.4% of the voting-age citizenry.

2000: The 2000 Census counted 17.9 million voting-age citizens who were Latino, Asian, or Pacific Islander — fully 9.6% of the electorate.

- Between 1996 and 2000, the number of Latino voting-age citizens rose 17% to over 13 million, and the number of Asian/Pacific Islander voting-age citizens climbed 22% to 4.7 million.²
- The Latino, Asian, and Pacific Islander component of the voting-age citizen population grew 45% during the decade, while the rest of the electorate grew only 3.5%.

The population of immigrant-naturalized citizens is growing at an even greater rate. Between 1990 and 2000, the voting-age immigrant-naturalized citizen population increased 57% to 12 million, comprising 6.5% of the electorate.

1990: There were 7.7 million foreign-born, voting-age, naturalized citizens.³

2000: There were 12 million voting-age, naturalized citizens.⁴ While there is some overlap between the naturalized citizen population and the Latino and Asian/Pacific Islander population, in 2000 over 43% (4.6 million) were not Latinos or Asian/Pacific Islanders.⁵

2002: The Census Bureau estimates that there were 13.5 million naturalized citizens in 2002.⁶ FIRM estimates that 96%⁷ of these naturalized citizens (13 million) were voting-age in 2002, comprising 6%⁸ of the electorate.

Increased Voting Activity

Presidential Election Years

In 2000, 8 million Latinos and Asian/Pacific Islanders voted,⁹ a 20% increase over 1996¹⁰; and, another 2.6 million naturalized citizens (who were not Latino or Asian/Pacific Islander) voted — also a 20% increase.¹¹

1992: In the presidential election, 4.2 million Latinos voted.¹² (Census information regarding Asian or Pacific Islander voting for 1992 is not available.)

1996: 4.9 million Latinos voted (a 16% increase¹³); and, 1.7 million Asian/Pacific Islanders voted.

2000: 5.9 million Latinos voted¹⁴ (a 40% increase over 1992); and, over 2 million Asian/Pacific Islanders voted (18% more than in 1996).

Non-Presidential Election Years, 1994 and 1998

Even between 1994 and 1998, non-presidential election years when overall voting turnout is lower, the number of Latinos and Asian/Pacific Islanders going to the polls increased 35%¹⁵ to 5.7 million.¹⁶

- According to the Census Bureau, although the number of voters nationwide dropped by 2.6 million between 1994 and 1998, 500,000 more Latinos¹⁷ voted and 366,000 more Asian/Pacific Islanders¹⁸ voted. The Census Bureau noted that between 1994 and 1998 the number of voting-age citizens increased 19% for Latinos and 65% for Asian/Pacific Islanders.

November 2004 Estimates

The Census Bureau estimates that on July 1, 2003, the Latino voting-age population was 26.3 million and the Asian/Pacific Islander voting-age population was 10.7 million.¹⁹

FIRM projects that by November 2004, 17.4 million Latinos and 7.2 million Asian/Pacific Islanders will be voting-age citizens, 32% and 54% increases over 2000.²⁰ (See Appendix 1 for methodology.)

FIRM also forecasts that by November 2004, 7.7 to 8.1 million Latinos and 3.0 to 3.4 million Asian/Pacific Islanders will vote, roughly 34% and 52% increases over 2000. Over 3 million naturalized citizens (who are not Latino or Asian/Pacific Islander) will also vote in November 2004. (See Appendix 1 for methodology.)

Therefore, the turnout of Latinos, Asian/Pacific Islanders, and other immigrant-naturalized citizens will approach 15 million for the 2004 November election.

The State-by-State Picture

In a number of states, Latinos, Asian/Pacific Islanders, and naturalized citizens are a significant portion of the population.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, **Latinos comprise 12.5% or more** of the population in Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, and Texas.²¹

Asians make up over 4.2% of the population in: Alaska, California, Hawaii, Maryland, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, Virginia, and Washington.²² Census also identifies Arizona, Florida, Illinois, Massachusetts, Oregon, Texas, and Utah as states with large **Asian** or **Pacific Islander** populations.²³

The Census Bureau lists **six states in 2000 which had over 1 million foreign-born residents**: California, Florida, Illinois, New Jersey, New York, and Texas. Another eight states had foreign-born populations between 500,000 and 1,000,000: Arizona, Georgia, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Washington, Hawaii, and Nevada.²⁴

Idaho, Iowa, Kansas, Nebraska, Tennessee, and Wisconsin are included in this analysis because of FIRM's representation in these states.

Growth of Voting Potential in the States

Voting-Age Citizens

The 2000 Census shows increases in potential Latino voters across the board. The greatest increases in the percentage of voting-age Latino citizens were in: Iowa (142% increase), Virginia (140%), Wisconsin (86%), Alaska (57%), Arizona (55%), and Illinois (50%). See Table 1 on page 7 and 8.

Foreign-Born Citizens

The number of foreign-born, voting-age, naturalized citizens grew significantly in many states between 1990 and 2000, including in a number of non-border states: Nevada (168%), Georgia (147%), Tennessee (95%), Utah (81%), Maryland (82%), Virginia (83%), and Idaho (75%). See Table 2 on page 9.

The proportion of voting-age naturalized citizens to native-born voting-age citizens was substantial in California (20%), Hawaii (17%), New York (16%), New Jersey (13%), and Florida (12%). In another seven states the ratio of naturalized citizens to native-born was over 5% of the population: Nevada (9%), Massachusetts (8%), Illinois (7%), Texas (7%), Maryland (6%), Washington (6%), and Arizona (6%).

Registered Citizens

The number of registered Latino voters increased in most states between 1996 and 2000, growing dramatically in Virginia (212%), Nebraska (150%), Massachusetts

continues on page 14

TABLE 1
Change in Latino and Asian/Pacific Islander (API)
Voting-Age Citizens 1996-2004

		1996 Number of Voting-Age Citizens	2000 Number of Voting-Age Citizens	Growth	% Change	2004 Estimated Number of Voting-Age Citizens ***
ALASKA	Latino	7,000	11,000	4,000	57.1%	15,642
	Asian Pacific Islander (API)	**	9,000			19,568
	Total (Latino & API)		20,000			35,210
ARIZONA	Latino	397,000	616,000	219,000	55.2%	666,317
	Asian Pacific Islander (API)	**	68,000			70,718
	Total (Latino & API)		684,000			737,035
CALIFORNIA	Latino	2,743,000	3,489,000	746,000	27.2%	4,625,963
	Asian Pacific Islander (API)	**	1,908,000			2,366,707
	Total (Latino & API)		5,397,000			6,992,670
COLORADO	Latino	282,000	349,000	67,000	23.8%	429,256
	Asian Pacific Islander (API)	**	24,000			72,006
	Total (Latino & API)		373,000			501,262
FLORIDA	Latino	1,033,000	1,265,000	232,000	22.5%	1,599,489
	Asian Pacific Islander (API)	**	111,000			198,200
	Total (Latino & API)		1,376,000			1,797,689
GEORGIA	Latino	69,000	69,000	0	0.0%	158,693
	Asian Pacific Islander (API)	**	45,000			100,756
	Total LAP		114,000			259,449
HAWAII	Latino	17,000	24,000	7,000	41.2%	54,206
	Asian Pacific Islander (API)	**	548,000			615,480
	Total (Latino & API)		572,000			669,686
IDAHO	Latino	33,000	35,000	2,000	6.1%	45,260
	Asian Pacific Islander (API)	**	7,000			11,982
	Total (Latino & API)		42,000			57,242
ILLINOIS	Latino	266,000	400,000	134,000	50.4%	655,949
	Asian Pacific Islander (API)	**	170,000			260,140
	Total (Latino & API)		570,000			916,089
IOWA	Latino	12,000	29,000	17,000	141.7%	34,190
	Asian Pacific Islander (API)	**	2,000			22,617
	Total (Latino & API)		31,000			56,807
KANSAS	Latino	21,000	28,000	7,000	33.3%	83,408
	Asian Pacific Islander (API)	**	11,000			29,127
	Total (Latino & API)		39,000			112,535
MARYLAND	Latino	93,000	38,000	-55,000	* -59.1%	102,411
	Asian Pacific Islander (API)	**	59,000			137,046
	Total (Latino & API)		97,000			239,457
MASSACHUSETTS	Latino	119,000	175,000	56,000	47.1%	224,814
	Asian Pacific Islander (API)	**	55,000			132,183
	Total (Latino & API)		230,000			356,997
MICHIGAN	Latino	141,000	103,000	-38,000	* -36.9%	176,545
	Asian Pacific Islander (API)	**	61,000			104,834
	Total (Latino & API)		164,000			281,379

TABLE 1, continued on page 8

TABLE 1, *continued*

		1996 Number of Voting-Age Citizens	2000 Number of Voting-Age Citizens	Growth	% Change	2004 Estimated Number of Voting-Age Citizens ***
NEBRASKA	Latino	23,000	32,000	9,000	39.1%	38,206
	Asian Pacific Islander (API)	**	13,000			14,275
	Total (Latino & API)		45,000			52,481
NEVADA	Latino	78,000	113,000	35,000	44.9%	180,185
	Asian Pacific Islander (API)	**	66,000			75,435
	Total (Latino & API)		179,000			255,620
NEW JERSEY	Latino	460,000	346,000	-114,000	* -24.8%	593,774
	Asian Pacific Islander (API)	**	126,000			255,807
	Total (Latino & API)		472,000			849,581
NEW MEXICO	Latino	408,000	426,000	18,000	4.4%	478,528
	Asian Pacific Islander (API)	**	5,000			14,745
	Total (Latino & API)		431,000			493,273
NEW YORK	Latino	1,165,000	1,077,000	-88,000	* -7.6%	1,508,215
	Asian Pacific Islander (API)	**	424,000			571,319
	Total (Latino & API)		1,501,000			2,079,534
OREGON	Latino	54,000	70,000	16,000	29.6%	103,090
	Asian Pacific Islander (API)	**	39,000			78,123
	Total (Latino & API)		109,000			181,213
PENNSYLVANIA	Latino	153,000	182,000	29,000	19.0%	227,609
	Asian Pacific Islander (API)	**	65,000			132,954
	Total (Latino & API)		247,000			360,563
TENNESSEE	Latino	29,000	26,000	-3,000	* -10.3%	52,029
	Asian Pacific Islander (API)	**	6,000			37,127
	Total (Latino & API)		32,000			89,156
TEXAS	Latino	2,711,000	3,173,000	462,000	17.0%	3,594,259
	Asian Pacific Islander (API)	**	235,000			330,118
	Total (Latino & API)		3,408,000			3,924,377
UTAH	Latino	55,000	43,000	-12,000	* -21.8%	83,80
	Asian Pacific Islander (API)	**	34,000			36,845
	Total (Latino & API)		77,000			120,652
VIRGINIA	Latino	60,000	144,000	84,000	140.0%	149,029
	Asian Pacific Islander (API)	**	126,000			173,306
	Total (Latino & API)		270,000			322,335
WASHINGTON	Latino	104,000	109,000	5,000	4.8%	195,283
	Asian Pacific Islander (API)	**	141,000			244,461
	Total (Latino & API)		250,000			439,744
WISCONSIN	Latino	42,000	78,000	36,000	85.7%	90,717
	Asian Pacific Islander (API)	**	39,000			40,251
	Total (Latino & API)		117,000			130,968

2000, Current Population Survey, P20 - 542, Table 4a. 1996, Current Population Survey, P20 - 504, Table 4a. 2004, Estimates made using: Table 5, State Population Estimates by Sex, Race, and Hispanic or Latino Origin: April 2000 to July 1, 2002; and, Census 2000, PHC-T-31, Tables 1-9, 1-14, and 1-15.

* There appear to be decreases in six states. The US Census Bureau, in phone conversations, attributes the apparent declines to the small sample-size (50,000) of the Current Population Survey (CPS). A much larger sample based on the actual 2000 Census shows substantially larger voting-age Latino citizen populations for the states in question. Specifically: 80,121 total voting-age citizens for Maryland; 151,151 for Michigan; 495,223 for New Jersey; 1,306,169 for New York; 40,553 for Tennessee; and, 67,194 for Utah.

** Census does not have 1996 numbers for Asians or Pacific Islanders.

*** Estimates are based on state-by-state figures for: FIRM's 2004 population extrapolations; Census 2000 ratios of voting-age populations to total populations; and, Census 2000 ratios of voting-age citizens to all voting-age people — all for Latinos, Asians, and Pacific Islanders. See Appendix 1.

TABLE 2
Number of Foreign-Born, Voting-Age, Naturalized Citizens

	1990	2000	Growth	% Change	% of Native (2000)
ALASKA	12,746	18,463	5,717	44.9%	4.6%
ARIZONA	103,579	184,527	80,948	78.2%	5.8%
CALIFORNIA	1,898,954	3,354,390	1,455,436	76.6%	20.1%
COLORADO	64,438	109,484	45,046	69.9%	3.8%
FLORIDA	694,870	1,175,066	480,196	69.1%	11.9%
GEORGIA	64,231	158,818	94,587	147.3%	2.9%
HAWAII	85,518	121,902	36,384	42.5%	16.9%
IDAHO	11,158	19,532	8,374	75.0%	2.2%
ILLINOIS	406,009	579,479	173,470	42.7%	7.4%
IOWA	19,468	26,531	7,063	36.3%	1.3%
KANSAS	25,644	41,626	15,982	62.3%	2.2%
MARYLAND	122,229	222,441	100,212	82.0%	6.4%
MASSACHUSETTS	255,324	324,345	69,021	27.0%	7.8%
MICHIGAN	193,986	224,682	30,696	15.8%	3.3%
NEBRASKA	14,821	21,481	6,660	44.9%	1.8%
NEVADA	41,550	111,163	69,613	167.5%	9.2%
NEW JERSEY	455,556	653,919	198,363	43.5%	13.1%
NEW MEXICO	30,198	49,517	19,319	64.0%	4.2%
NEW YORK	1,244,996	1,711,940	466,944	37.5%	15.9%
OREGON	57,203	91,274	34,071	59.6%	3.9%
PENNSYLVANIA	212,047	242,819	30,772	14.5%	2.7%
TENNESSEE	25,447	49,571	24,124	94.8%	1.2%
TEXAS	479,063	871,791	392,728	82.0%	7.0%
UTAH	24,778	44,761	19,983	80.6%	3.2%
VIRGINIA	120,674	221,253	100,579	83.3%	4.6%
WASHINGTON	144,007	242,101	98,094	68.1%	6.3%
WISCONSIN	62,217	70,490	8,273	13.3%	1.8%

2000, Table PCT 44, "Sex by Age by Citizenship Status," Census 2000 Summary File 4, U.S. Census. 1990, Table P037, "Age by Citizenship," 1990 Summary Tape File 3, U.S. Census Bureau.

TABLE 3
Change in the Number of Latinos and Asian/Pacific Islanders (APIs) Registered
Change in Percentage Registered
1996 - 2000

		1996 Number of Registered	2000 Number of Registered	Growth	% Change	1996 % Registered	2000 % Registered
ALASKA	Latino	4,000	6,000	2,000	50.0%	57.1%	54.6%
	Asian/Pacific Islander (API)	**	7,000				77.8%
	Total (Latino & API)		13,000				
ARIZONA	Latino	230,000	304,000	74,000	32.2%	57.9%	49.4%
	Asian/Pacific Islander (API)	**	21,000				30.9%
	Total (Latino & API)		325,000				
CALIFORNIA	Latino	1,641,000	1,919,000	278,000	16.9%	59.8%	55.0%
	Asian/Pacific Islander (API)	**	1,007,000				52.8%
	Total (Latino & API)		2,926,000				
COLORADO	Latino	163,000	199,000	36,000	22.1%	57.8%	57.0%
	Asian/Pacific Islander (API)	**	6,000				na
	Total (Latino & API)		205,000				
FLORIDA	Latino	646,000	802,000	156,000	24.1%	62.5%	63.4%
	Asian/Pacific Islander (API)	**	71,000			64.0%	
	Total (Latino & API)		873,000				
GEORGIA	Latino	22,000	26,000	4,000	18.2%	31.9%	37.7%
	Asian/Pacific Islander (API)	**	7,000				15.6%
	Total LAP						33,000
HAWAII	Latino	14,000	13,000	-1,000	* -7.1%	82.4%	54.2%
	Asian/Pacific Islander (API)	**	273,000				49.8%
	Total (Latino & API)		286,000				
IDAHO	Latino	9,000	10,000	1,000	11.1%	27.3%	28.6%
	Asian/Pacific Islander (API)	**	3,000				42.9%
	Total (Latino & API)		13,000				
ILLINOIS	Latino	152,000	262,000	110,000	72.4%	57.1%	65.5%
	Asian/Pacific Islander (API)	**	75,000				44.1%
	Total (Latino & API)		337,000				
IOWA	Latino	12,000	22,000	10,000	83.3%	100.0%	75.9%
	Asian/Pacific Islander (API)	**	na				na
	Total (Latino & API)		22,000				
KANSAS	Latino	9,000	8,000	-1,000	* -11.1%	42.9%	28.5%
	Asian/Pacific Islander (API)		5,000				45.5%
	Total (Latino & API)		13,000				
MARYLAND	Latino	61,000	30,000	-31,000	* -50.8%	65.6%	78.9%
	Asian/Pacific Islander (API)	**	27,000				45.8%
	Total (Latino & API)		57,000				
MASSACHUSETTS	Latino	48,000	103,000	55,000	114.6%	40.3%	58.9%
	Asian/Pacific Islander (API)	**	23,000				41.8%
	Total (Latino & API)		126,000				
MICHIGAN	Latino	87,000	51,000	-36,000	* -41.4%	61.7%	49.5%
	Asian/Pacific Islander (API)	**	33,000				54.1%
	Total (Latino & API)		84,000				

TABLE 3, continued on page 11

TABLE 3, <i>continued</i>		1996 Number of Registered	2000 Number of Registered	Growth	% Change	1996 % Registered	2000 % Registered
NEBRASKA	Latino	8,000	20,000	12,000	150.0%	34.8%	62.5%
	Asian/Pacific Islander (API)		8,000				61.5%
	Total (Latino & API)		28,000				
NEVADA	Latino	31,000	53,000	22,000	71.0%	39.7%	46.9%
	Asian/Pacific Islander (API)	**	25,000				37.9%
	Total (Latino & API)		78,000				
NEW JERSEY	Latino	284,000	212,000	-72,000	* 25.4%	61.7%	61.3%
	Asian/Pacific Islander (API)	**	87,000				69.0%
	Total (Latino & API)		299,000				
NEW MEXICO	Latino	252,000	239,000	-13,000	* -5.2%	61.8%	56.1%
	Asian/Pacific Islander (API)	**	2,000				40.0%
	Total (Latino & API)		241,000				
NEW YORK	Latino	679,000	603,000	-76,000	* 1.2%	58.3%	56.0%
	Asian/Pacific Islander (API)	**	209,000				49.3%
	Total (Latino & API)		812,000				
OREGON	Latino	31,000	48,000	17,000	54.8%	57.4%	68.6%
	Asian/Pacific Islander (API)	**	25,000				64.1%
	Total (Latino & API)		73,000				
PENNSYLVANIA	Latino	95,000	99,000	4,000	4.2%	62.1%	54.4%
	Asian/Pacific Islander (API)	**	42,000				64.6%
	Total (Latino & API)		141,000				
TENNESSEE	Latino	9,000	11,000	2,000	22.2%	31.0%	42.3%
	Asian/Pacific Islander (API)	**	3,000				50.0%
	Total (Latino & API)		14,000				
TEXAS	Latino	1,623,000	1,905,000	282,000	17.4%	59.9%	60.0%
	Asian/Pacific Islander (API)	**	135,000				57.5%
	Total (Latino & API)		2,040,000				
UTAH	Latino	33,000	24,000	-9,000	* -27.3%	60.0%	55.8%
	Asian/Pacific Islander (API)	**	9,000				26.5%
	Total (Latino & API)		33,000				
VIRGINIA	Latino	34,000	106,000	72,000	211.8%	56.7%	73.6%
	Asian/Pacific Islander (API)	**	59,000				46.8%
	Total (Latino & API)		165,000				
WASHINGTON	Latino	54,000	71,000	17,000	31.5%	51.9%	65.1%
	Asian/Pacific Islander (API)	**	90,000				63.8%
	Total (Latino & API)		161,000				
WISCONSIN	Latino	33,000	34,000	1,000	3.0%	78.6%	43.
	Asian/Pacific Islander (API)	**	30,000				76.9%
	Total (Latino & API)		64,000				

2000, Current Population Survey, P20 - 542, Table 4a. 1996, Current Population Survey, P20 - 504, Table 4a.

** Census does not have 1996 numbers for Asians or Pacific Islanders.

* There appear to be decreases in total voting-age populations in eight states (Table 1). The US Census Bureau, in phone conversations, attributes the apparent declines to the small sample-size (50,000) of the Current Population Survey (CPS). A much larger sample based on the actual 2000 Census shows substantially larger voting-age Latino citizen populations for the states in question. Specifically: 50,166 total voting-age citizens for Hawaii; 68,603 for Kansas; 80,121 for Maryland; 151,151 for Michigan; 495,223 for New Jersey; 441,359 for New Mexico; 1,306,169 for New York; 40,553 for Tennessee; and, 67,194 for Utah. Therefore, the negative registration estimates in some states might have been adversely affected by the sample size, too.

TABLE 4
Change in the Number of Latinos and Asian/Pacific Islanders (API) Voting,
and Change in Percentage Turnout 1996-2000, and 2004 Estimated Voter Turnout

		1996 Number Voting	2000 Number Voting	Growth	% Change	1996 % Turnout	2000 % Turnout	2004 Estimated Number Voting ***
ALASKA	Latino	4,000	5,000	1,000	25.0%	57.1%	45.5%	7,778
	Asian/Pacific Islander (API)	**	5,000				55.6%	8,914
	Total (Latino & API)		10,000					16,692
ARIZONA	Latino	163,000	247,000	84,000	51.5%	41.1%	40.1%	284,365
	Asian/Pacific Islander (API)	**	17,000				25.0%	14,188
	Total (Latino & API)		264,000					298,553
CALIFORNIA	Latino	1,291,000	1,597,000	306,000	23.7%	47.1%	45.8%	2,020,251
	Asian/Pacific Islander (API)	**	848,000				44.4%	980,969
	Total (Latino & API)		2,445,000					3,001,220
COLORADO	Latino	129,000	158,000	29,000	22.5%	45.7%	45.3%	196,742
	Asian/Pacific Islander (API)	**	2,000				8.3%	4,219
	Total (Latino & API)		160,000					200,961
FLORIDA	Latino	510,000	678,000	168,000	32.9%	49.4%	53.6%	797,206
	Asian/Pacific Islander (API)	**	50,000				45.0%	97,414
	Total (Latino & API)		728,000					894,620
GEORGIA	Latino	18,000	26,000	8,000	44.4%	26.1%	37.7%	66,193
	Asian/Pacific Islander (API)	**	4,000				8.9%	10,587
	Total (Latino & API)		30,000					76,780
HAWAII	Latino	10,000	10,000	0	* 0.0%	58.8%	41.7%	20,098
	Asian/Pacific Islander (API)	**	230,000				42.0%	253,214
	Total (Latino & API)		240,000					273,312
IDAHO	Latino	6,000	7,000	1,000	16.7%	18.2%	20.0%	9,029
	Asian/Pacific Islander (API)	**	2,000				28.6%	2,343
	Total (Latino & API)		9,000					11,372
ILLINOIS	Latino	127,000	218,000	91,000	71.7%	47.7%	54.5%	336,903
	Asian/Pacific Islander (API)	**	65,000				38.2%	91,734
	Total (Latino & API)		283,000					428,637
IOWA	Latino	6,000	19,000	13,000	216.7%	50.0%	65.5%	12,465
	Asian/Pacific Islander (API)	**	na				na	9,309
	Total (Latino & API)		19,000					21,774
KANSAS	Latino	9,000	7,000	-2,000	* -22.2%	42.9%	25.0%	19,333
	Asian/Pacific Islander (API)		5,000				45.5%	8,886
	Total (Latino & API)		12,000					28,219
MARYLAND	Latino	61,000	30,000	-31,000	* -50.8%	65.6%	78.9%	45,627
	Asian/Pacific Islander (API)	**	27,000				45.8%	71,596
	Total (Latino & API)		57,000					117,223
MASSACHUSETTS	Latino	36,000	51,000	15,000	41.7%	30.3%	29.1%	66,371
	Asian/Pacific Islander (API)	**	23,000				41.8%	53,130
	Total (Latino & API)		74,000					119,501
MICHIGAN	Latino	65,000	40,000	-25,000	* -38.5%	46.1%	38.8%	59,866
	Asian/Pacific Islander (API)	**	30,000				49.2%	37,167
	Total (Latino & API)		70,000					97,033

TABLE 4, continued on page 13

TABLE 4, *continued*

		1996 Number Voting	2000 Number Voting	Growth	% Change	1996 % Turnout	2000 % Turnout	2004 Estimated Number Voting ***
NEBRASKA	Latino	6,000	15,000	9,000	150.0%	26.1%	46.9%	18,553
	Asian/Pacific Islander (API)		7,000				53.9%	12,906
	Total (Latino & API)		22,000					31,459
NEVADA	Latino	22,000	45,000	23,000	104.5%	28.2%	39.8%	70,824
	Asian/Pacific Islander (API)	**	18,000				27.3%	20,783
	Total (Latino & API)		63,000					91,607
NEW JERSEY	Latino	248,000	179,000	-69,000	* -27.8%	53.9%	51.7%	287,522
	Asian/Pacific Islander (API)	**	77,000				61.1%	129,331
	Total (Latino & API)		256,000					416,853
NEW MEXICO	Latino	206,000	191,000	-15,000	* -7.3%	50.5%	44.8%	217,263
	Asian/Pacific Islander (API)	**	2,000				40.0%	5,797
	Total (Latino & API)		193,000					223,060
NEW YORK	Latino	513,000	502,000	-11,000	* -2.1%	44.0%	46.6%	671,841
	Asian/Pacific Islander (API)	**	157,000				37.0%	186,380
	Total (Latino & API)		659,000					858,221
OREGON	Latino	16,000	33,000	17,000	106.3%	29.6%	47.1%	37,191
	Asian/Pacific Islander (API)	**	21,000				53.9%	29,567
	Total (Latino & API)		54,000					66,758
PENNSYLVANIA	Latino	64,000	68,000	4,000	6.3%	41.8%	37.4%	73,797
	Asian/Pacific Islander (API)	**	37,000				56.9%	62,330
	Total (Latino & API)		105,000					136,127
TENNESSEE	Latino	3,000	11,000	8,000	266.7%	10.3%	42.3%	17,292
	Asian/Pacific Islander (API)		3,000				50.0%	8,519
	Total (Latino & API)		14,000					25,811
TEXAS	Latino	1,060,000	1,300,000	240,000	22.6%	39.1%	41.0%	1,530,024
	Asian/Pacific Islander (API)	**	120,000				51.1%	151,421
	Total (Latino & API)		1,420,000					1,681,445
UTAH	Latino	25,000	20,000	-5,000	* -20.0%	45.5%	46.5%	30,041
	Asian/Pacific Islander (API)	**	7,000				20.6%	8,501
	Total (Latino & API)		27,000					38,542
VIRGINIA	Latino	31,000	90,000	59,000	190.3%	51.7%	62.5%	115,677
	Asian/Pacific Islander (API)	**	42,000				33.3%	58,270
	Total (Latino & API)		132,000					173,947
WASHINGTON	Latino	50,000	59,000	9,000	18.0%	48.1%	54.1%	115,260
	Asian/Pacific Islander (API)	**	60,000				42.6%	99,145
	Total (Latino & API)		119,000					214,405
WISCONSIN	Latino	24,000	31,000	7,000	29.2%	57.1%	39.7%	27,117
	Asian/Pacific Islander (API)	**	30,000				76.9%	48,057
	Total (Latino & API)		61,000					75,174

2000, Current Population Survey, P20 - 542, Table 4a. 1996, Current Population Survey, P20 - 504, Table 4a. 2004, Estimates made using: Table 5, State Population Estimates by Sex, Race, and Hispanic or Latino Origin: April 2000 to July 1 2002; and, Census 2000, PHC-T-31, Tables 1-9, 1-14, and 1-15; and Table 2 from each 2000 Census Briefs: Hispanic, Asian, and Pacific Islander; and P20-542, Table 4a, Reported Voting and Registration of the Total Voting-Age Population, by Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin, for States: November 2000.

* There appear to be decreases in total voting-age populations in seven states (Table 1). The US Census Bureau, in phone conversations, attributes the apparent declines to the small sample-size (50,000) of the Current Population Survey (CPS). A much larger sample based on the actual 2000 Census shows substantially larger voting-age Latino citizen populations for the states in question. Specifically: 50,166 total voting-age citizens for Hawaii; 68,603 for Kansas; 80,121 for Maryland; 151,151 for Michigan; 495,223 for New Jersey; 441,359 for New Mexico; 1,306,169 for New York; 40,553 for Tennessee; and, 67,194 for Utah. Therefore, the negative voting rate estimates in some states might have been adversely affected by the sample size to 0.

** Census does not have 1996 numbers for Asians and Pacific Islanders.

*** Estimates are based on state-by-state figures for: FIRM's 2004 population extrapolations; Census 2000 ratios of voting-age populations to total population; and, Census 2000 voting rates — all for Latinos, Asians, and Pacific Islanders. See Appendix 1.

continued from page 6

(115%), Iowa (83%), Nevada (71%), and Illinois (72%). A comparison of Table 1 and Table 3 shows that in a number of states (e.g., Illinois, Nevada, Oregon, and Washington) the rate of registration far exceeds the rate of growth of the Latino population.

In 2000, over 60% of all voting-age Latino citizens were registered in ten states, including Maryland (79%), Iowa (76%), and Virginia (74%). In five of these states registered Latinos and Asian/Pacific Islanders made up a substantial portion of the total registered population: New Mexico (32%), Texas (23%), California (22%), Arizona (17%), and Florida (12%). See Table 3 on page 10 and 11.

Voting Citizens

The number of Latinos voting increased in most states between 1996 and 2000, rising considerably in: Tennessee (267%), Iowa (217%), Virginia (190%), Nebraska (150%), Oregon (106%), and Nevada (105%). See Table 4 on page 12 and 13.

In 2000, over 50% of voting-age Latino citizens turned out to vote in seven states: Maryland (79%), Iowa (66%), Virginia (63%), Illinois (55%), Washington (54%), Florida (54%), and New Jersey (52%). See Table 4 on page 12 and 13.

Proportion of the Voting Population

In eight states, Latinos and Asian/Pacific Islanders were about 10 percent or more of the population that turned out to vote in 2000: Hawaii (71%), New Mexico (30%)*, California (21%), Texas (20%), Arizona (16%)*, Florida (12%)*, Colorado (10%)*, and Nevada (10%)*. See Table 5. Five of these states (with an asterisk) are considered “battle ground” states in the 2004 presidential election. See Table 5 on page 15.

Untapped Voting Potential Among Latinos and Asian/Pacific Islanders

The gap between the voting-age citizen population and the number of people registered suggests that a great number of people in the Latino and Asian/Pacific Islander communities had not yet taken the first step toward engagement in the electoral process. Over 50% of eligible voters were not registered in eight states: Georgia (71%), Idaho (69%), Kansas (67%), Utah (57%), Nevada (56%), Tennessee (56%), Arizona (52%), and Hawaii (58%). See Table 6 on page 16 and 17.

Even among registered Latinos and Asian/Pacific Islanders, many did not go to the polls. Over 25% of those registered did not vote in six states: Massachusetts (41%), Idaho (31%), Texas (30%), Oregon (26%), Pennsylvania (26%), and Washington (26%).

Latinos and Asian/Pacific Islanders who are unregistered or infrequent voters form an important potential voting block. Any issue that stimulates these communities to vote could have a major impact on state and national elections; particularly races that echo the 2000 presidential election when the margin of victory was less than 1% in Florida, New Mexico, and Oregon, and less than 4% in Nevada.²⁷ See Table 7. (These states have substantial Latino or Pacific Islander populations according to the US Census Bureau.) See Table 7 on page 18.

TABLE 5
Comparison of Latino and Asian/Pacific Islander (API) Voting to Total Population Voting in 2000

	2000 Latino & API Voting	2000 Total Population Voting	% Latino & API to Total		2000 Latino & API Voting	2000 Total Population Voting	% Latino & API to Total
ALASKA		270,000		NEBRASKA		710,000	
Latino	5,000		3.7%	Latino	15,000		3.1%
Asian Pacific Islander (API)	5,000			Asian Pacific Islander (API)	7,000		
Total (Latino & API)	10,000			Total (Latino & API)	22,000		
ARIZONA		1,644,000		NEVADA		641,000	
Latino	247,000		16.1%	Latino	45,000		9.8%
Asian Pacific Islander (API)	17,000			Asian Pacific Islander (API)	18,000		
Total (Latino & API)	264,000			Total (Latino & API)	63,000		
CALIFORNIA		11,489,000		NEW JERSEY		3,374,000	
Latino	1,597,000		21.3%	Latino	179,000		7.6%
Asian Pacific Islander (API)	848,000			Asian Pacific Islander (API)	77,000		
Total (Latino & API)	2,445,000			Total (Latino & API)	256,000		
COLORADO		1,633,000		NEW MEXICO		647,000	
Latino	158,000		9.8%	Latino	191,000		29.8%
Asian Pacific Islander (API)	2,000			Asian Pacific Islander (API)	2,000		
Total (Latino & API)	160,000			Total (Latino & API)	193,000		
FLORIDA		6,006,000		NEW YORK		7,004,000	
Latino	678,000		12.1%	Latino	502,000		9.4%
Asian Pacific Islander (API)	50,000			Asian Pacific Islander (API)	157,000		
Total (Latino & API)	728,000			Total (Latino & API)	659,000		
GEORGIA		2,827,000		OREGON		1,529,000	
Latino	26,000		1.1%	Latino	33,000		3.5%
Asian Pacific Islander (API)	4,000			Asian Pacific Islander (API)	21,000		
Total (Latino & API)	30,000			Total (Latino & API)	54,000		
HAWAII		340,000		PENNSYLVANIA		4,988,000	
Latino	10,000		70.6%	Latino	68,000		2.1%
Asian Pacific Islander (API)	230,000			Asian Pacific Islander (API)	37,000		
Total (Latino & API)	240,000			Total (Latino & API)	105,000		
IDAHO		500,000		TENNESSEE		2,183,000	
Latino	7,000		1.8%	Latino	11,000		0.6%
Asian Pacific Islander (API)	2,000			Asian Pacific Islander (API)	3,000		
Total (Latino & API)	9,000			Total (Latino & API)	14,000		
ILLINOIS		5,030,000		TEXAS		7,005,000	
Latino	218,000		5.6%	Latino	1,300,000		20.3%
Asian Pacific Islander (API)	65,000			Asian Pacific Islander (API)	120,000		
Total (Latino & API)	283,000			Total (Latino & API)	1,420,000		
IOWA		1,353,000		UTAH		829,000	
Latino	19,000		1.4%	Latino	20,000		3.3%
Asian Pacific Islander (API)	na			Asian Pacific Islander (API)	7,000		
Total (Latino & API)	19,000			Total (Latino & API)	27,000		
KANSAS		1,148,000		VIRGINIA		2,962,000	
Latino	7,000		1.0%	Latino	90,000		4.5%
Asian Pacific Islander (API)	5,000			Asian Pacific Islander (API)	42,000		
Total (Latino & API)	12,000			Total (Latino & API)	132,000		
MARYLAND		2,178,000		WASHINGTON		2,527,000	
Latino	30,000		2.6%	Latino	59,000		4.7%
Asian Pacific Islander (API)	27,000			Asian Pacific Islander (API)	60,000		
Total (Latino & API)	57,000			Total (Latino & API)	119,000		
MASSACHUSETTS		2,772,000		WISCONSIN		2,632,000	
Latino	51,000		2.7%	Latino	31,000		2.3%
Asian Pacific Islander (API)	23,000			Asian Pacific Islander (API)	30,000		
Total (Latino & API)	74,000			Total (Latino & API)	61,000		
MICHIGAN		4,343,000		Source: Current Population Survey, P20-542, Table 4a.			
Latino	40,000		1.6%				
Asian Pacific Islander (API)	30,000						
Total (Latino & API)	70,000						

TABLE 6
Untapped Potential Voters

		2000 Number of Voting-Age Citizens	2000 Number Registered	Untapped Potential (Voting-Age Citizens vs. Registered)	% Not Registered	2000 Number Voting	Untapped Potential (Registered vs. Voting)	% of Registered Not Voting
ALASKA	Latino	11,000	6,000	5,000		5,000	1,000	
	Asian Pacific Islander (API)	9,000	7,000	2,000		5,000	2,000	
	Total (Latino & API)	20,000	13,000	7,000	35%	10,000	3,000	23%
ARIZONA	Latino	616,000	304,000	312,000		247,000	57,000	
	Asian Pacific Islander (API)	68,000	21,000	47,000		17,000	4,000	
	Total (Latino & API)	684,000	325,000	359,000	52%	264,000	61,000	19%
CALIFORNIA	Latino	3,489,000	1,919,000	1,570,000		1,597,000	322,000	
	Asian Pacific Islander (API)	1,908,000	1,007,000	901,000		848,000	159,000	
	Total (Latino & API)	5,397,000	2,926,000	2,471,000	46%	2,445,000	481,000	16%
COLORADO	Latino	349,000	199,000	150,000		158,000	41,000	
	Asian Pacific Islander (API)	24,000	6,000	18,000		2,000	4,000	
	Total (Latino & API)	373,000	205,000	168,000	45%	160,000	45,000	22%
FLORIDA	Latino	1,265,000	802,000	463,000		678,000	124,000	
	Asian Pacific Islander (API)	111,000	71,000	40,000		50,000	21,000	
	Total (Latino & API)	1,376,000	873,000	503,000	37%	728,000	145,000	17%
GEORGIA	Latino	69,000	26,000	43,000		26,000	0	
	Asian Pacific Islander (API)	45,000	7,000	38,000		4,000	3,000	
	Total (Latino & API)	114,000	33,000	81,000	71%	30,000	3,000	9%
HAWAII	Latino	24,000	13,000	11,000		10,000	3,000	
	API	548,000	273,000	275,000		230,000	43,000	
	Total (Latino & API)	572,000	286,000	286,000	50%	240,000	46,000	16%
IDAHO	Latino	35,000	10,000	25,000		7,000	3,000	
	Asian Pacific Islander (API)	7,000	3,000	4,000		2,000	1,000	
	Total (Latino & API)	42,000	13,000	29,000	69%	9,000	4,000	31%
ILLINOIS	Latino	400,000	262,000	138,000		218,000	44,000	
	Asian Pacific Islander (API)	170,000	75,000	95,000		65,000	10,000	
	Total (Latino & API)	570,000	337,000	233,000	41%	283,000	54,000	16%
IOWA	Latino	29,000	22,000	7,000		19,000	3,000	
	Asian Pacific Islander (API)	2,000	na	na		na	na	
	Total (Latino & API)	31,000	22,000	9,000	29%	19,000	3,000	14%
KANSAS	Latino	28,000	8,000	20,000		7,000	1,000	
	Asian Pacific Islander (API)	11,000	5,000	6,000		5,000	0	
	Total (Latino & API)	39,000	13,000	26,000	67%	12,000	1,000	8%
MARYLAND	Latino	38,000	30,000	8,000		30,000	0	
	Asian Pacific Islander (API)	59,000	27,000	32,000		27,000	0	
	Total (Latino & API)	97,000	57,000	40,000	41%	57,000	0	
MASSACHUSETTS	Latino	175,000	103,000	72,000		51,000	52,000	
	Asian Pacific Islander (API)	55,000	23,000	32,000		23,000	0	
	Total (Latino & API)	230,000	126,000	104,000	45%	74,000	52,000	41%
MICHIGAN	Latino	103,000	51,000	52,000		40,000	11,000	
	Asian Pacific Islander (API)	61,000	33,000	28,000		30,000	3,000	
	Total (Latino & API)	164,000	84,000	80,000	49%	70,000	14,000	17%

TABLE 6, continued on page 17

TABLE 6, continued

		2000 Number of Voting-Age Citizens	2000 Number Registered	Untapped Potential (Voting-Age Citizens vs. Registered)	% Not Registered	2000 Number Voting	Untapped Potential (Registered vs. Voting)	% of Registered Not Voting
NEBRASKA	Latino	32,000	20,000	12,000		15,000	5,000	
	Asian Pacific Islander (API)	13,000	8,000	5,000		7,000	1,000	
	Total (Latino & API)	45,000	28,000	17,000	38%	22,000	6,000	21%
NEVADA	Latino	113,000	53,000	60,000		45,000	8,000	
	Asian Pacific Islander (API)	66,000	25,000	41,000		18,000	7,000	
	Total (Latino & API)	179,000	78,000	101,000	56%	63,000	15,000	19%
NEW JERSEY	Latino	346,000	212,000	134,000		179,000	33,000	
	Asian Pacific Islander (API)	126,000	87,000	39,000		77,000	10,000	
	Total (Latino & API)	472,000	299,000	173,000	37%	256,000	43,000	14%
NEW MEXICO	Latino	426,000	239,000	187,000		191,000	48,000	
	Asian Pacific Islander (API)	5,000	2,000	3,000		2,000	0	
	Total (Latino & API)	431,000	241,000	190,000	44%	193,000	48,000	20%
NEW YORK	Latino	1,077,000	603,000	474,000		502,000	101,000	
	Asian Pacific Islander (API)	424,000	209,000	215,000		157,000	52,000	
	Total (Latino & API)	1,501,000	812,000	689,000	46%	659,000	153,000	19%
OREGON	Latino	70,000	48,000	22,000		33,000	15,000	
	Asian Pacific Islander (API)	39,000	25,000	14,000		21,000	4,000	
	Total (Latino & API)	109,000	73,000	36,000	33%	54,000	19,000	26%
PENNSYLVANIA	Latino	182,000	99,000	83,000		68,000	31,000	
	API	65,000	42,000	23,000		37,000	5,000	
	Total (Latino & API)	247,000	141,000	106,000	43%	105,000	36,000	26%
TENNESSEE	Latino	26,000	11,000	15,000		11,000	0	
	Asian Pacific Islander (API)	6,000	3,000	3,000		3,000	0	
	Total (Latino & API)	32,000	14,000	18,000	56%	14,000	0	
TEXAS	Latino	3,173,000	1,905,000	1,268,000		1,300,000	605,000	
	Asian Pacific Islander (API)	235,000	135,000	100,000		120,000	15,000	
	Total (Latino & API)	3,408,000	2,040,000	1,368,000	40%	1,420,000	620,000	30%
UTAH	Latino	43,000	24,000	19,000		20,000	4,000	
	Asian Pacific Islander (API)	34,000	9,000	25,000		7,000	2,000	
	Total (Latino & API)	77,000	33,000	44,000	57%	27,000	6,000	18%
VIRGINIA	Latino	144,000	106,000	38,000		90,000	16,000	
	Asian Pacific Islander (API)	126,000	59,000	67,000		42,000	17,000	
	Total (Latino & API)	270,000	165,000	105,000	39%	132,000	33,000	20%
WASHINGTON	Latino	109,000	71,000	38,000		59,000	12,000	
	Asian Pacific Islander (API)	141,000	90,000	51,000		60,000	30,000	
	Total (Latino & API)	250,000	161,000	89,000	36%	119,000	42,000	26%
WISCONSIN	Latino	78,000	34,000	44,000		31,000	3,000	
	Asian Pacific Islander (API)	39,000	30,000	9,000		30,000	0	
	Total (Latino & API)	117,000	64,000	53,000	45%	61,000	3,000	5%

2000, Current Population Survey, P20 - 542, Table 4a.

TABLE 7
Close States in the 2000 Presidential Election
Numbers of Latino, Asian/Pacific Islander, and Foreign-Born Voting-Age Citizens

	% Margin	Margin of Votes	Number of Voting-Age Latino Citizens	Number of Voting-Age API Citizens	Number of Voting-Age Latino & API Citizens	Number of Foreign-Born Voting-Age Citizens
Margin Less than 5%						
FLORIDA	0.01%	537	1,265,000	111,000	1,376,000	1,175,066
NEW MEXICO	0.06%	366	426,000	5,000	431,000	49,517
WISCONSIN	0.22%	5,708	78,000	39,000	117,000	70,490
IOWA	0.31%	4,144	29,000	2,000	31,000	26,531
OREGON	0.44%	6,765	70,000	39,000	109,000	91,274
NEW HAMPSHIRE	1.27%	7,211	6,000	10,000	16,000	24,403
MINNESOTA	2.40%	58,607	19,000	34,000	53,000	84,682
MISSOURI	3.34%	78,786	27,000	55,000	82,000	57,706
OHIO	3.51%	165,019	87,000	53,000	140,000	161,422
NEVADA	3.55%	21,597	113,000	66,000	179,000	111,163
TENNESSEE	3.86%	80,229	26,000	6,000	32,000	49,571
PENNSYLVANIA	4.14%	204,840	182,000	65,000	247,000	242,819
Margin Between 5% and 10%						
MAINE	5.11%	33,335	4,000	5,000	9,000	18,924
MICHIGAN	5.15%	217,279	103,000	61,000	164,000	224,682
ARKANSAS	5.44%	50,172	16,000	11,000	27,000	20,535
WASHINGTON	5.58%	138,788	109,000	141,000	250,000	242,101
WEST VIRGINIA	6.32%	40,978	5,000	2,000	7,000	9,825
ARIZONA	6.28%	96,311	616,000	68,000	684,000	184,527
LOUISIANA	7.68%	135,527	50,000	11,000	61,000	54,305
VIRGINIA	8.04%	220,200	144,000	126,000	270,000	221,253
COLORADO	8.36%	145,518	349,000	24,000	373,000	109,484
VERMONT	9.94%	29,247	2,000	na	2,000	11,423

Margins are from Dave Leip's Atlas of U.S. Presidential Elections, www.uselectionatlas.org.

Fair Immigration Reform: A Key Issue for Latinos and Asians

Polls show that Latinos and Asians rank immigration reform and immigrant rights as key concerns.²⁵ In a poll of likely voters conducted by Lake Snell Perry and Associates, a solid majority of Americans (85%), and particularly Latinos (87%) and Asians (90%), agreed that if an immigrant has been in this country working and paying taxes for 5 years, and learning English, there should be a way for them to become a citizen.²⁶

In addition, the poll found that a candidate supporting a fair immigration system would gain strong support from Latinos and Asians.

- 64% of Latinos and 52% of Asians would be “*more likely*” to vote for a candidate supporting legislation that creates a path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants who work and pay taxes, and who have no criminal records. Forty-three percent of Latinos and 35% of Asians would be “*much more likely*” to vote for a candidate supporting fair immigration reform.
- Overall, the poll found that 43% of all Americans would be “more likely” to vote for a candidate who supports a fair immigration system.

This poll also shows that there would be little harm to candidates supporting legislation creating a fair immigration system. Overall, only 10% said they would be “much less likely” to vote for such a candidate. Therefore, it is not politically dangerous to endorse fair immigration reform.

Power of Fair Immigration Reform Voters

The overwhelming majority of Latino and Asian voters support a candidate who favors a fair immigration system; therefore, where Latinos and Asians comprise a meaningful portion of a state’s population they will have an impact on elections in 2004 and on into the future.

Presidential Contests

The outcome in 2000 was decided by less than 5% in 12 states. See Table 7. Many of those same states will be closely contested again in 2004. Table 7 also shows the margin of victory, along with the number of voting-age Latino, Asian/Pacific Islander, and immigrant citizens in 2000. These figures further illustrate the potential impact of Latino and Asian/Pacific Islander voters in hotly contested races if appropriately mobilized and motivated to vote.

It is possible to conceive of a meaningful shift in voting patterns by Latinos, Asian/Pacific Islanders, and naturalized citizens who value fair immigration reform — the “fair immigration vote shift.” In close races, this shift could make the difference.

Oregon was won in 2000 with a 6,765-vote margin. The Latino and Asian/Pacific Islander voting-age citizen populations are large enough in Oregon to imagine a different electoral outcome if their voting patterns shift in response to a candidate’s stance regarding fair immigration reform. In **Wisconsin**, where 5,708 votes decided the 2000 outcome, a similar scene can be imagined. The **Nevada** outcome was determined by 21,597 votes; a shift in Latino and Asian voting due to a candidate’s pro-fair immigration reform platform could conceivably alter future elections there. See Appendix 2 for an explanation of the “fair immigration vote shift” hypothetical calculations.

Among the other “close” states in 2000 that have significant numbers of Latinos, Asian/Pacific Islanders, or foreign-born citizens, Table 8 shows that the untapped potential of these citizens — if engaged — could have altered the outcomes in **Arizona, Colorado, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Washington.**

For instance, in Arizona which had a vote margin of 96,000, there were 359,000 voting-age Latino and Asian/Pacific Islander citizens who were not registered to vote, plus an additional 61,000 who were registered but did not vote. That is a latent base of 420,000 potential voters — over four times the margin of votes deciding the election. Add a hypothetical shift in voting preference due to a candidate’s stance on fair immigration reform (narrowing the vote margin to 48,500), and a different electoral outcome is imaginable.

Senate Races

The Senate will be key to securing a fair immigration system. Pundits speculate that 8 to 12 Senate races in 2004 will be very close.²⁸ Therefore, candidates in close Senate races must consider the potential voting power of naturalized citizens and Latinos and Asian/Pacific Islanders.

From 1998 to 2002 there were about a dozen close Senate races. The 1998 **Nevada** Senate race was decided by only 459 votes, and in 2002 a mere 527 votes determined the outcome of a Senate race in **South Dakota**. Other Senate races illustrate how a candidate in 2004 could be affected by a stance favoring fair immigration reform. See Table 9.

Applying the hypothetical “fair immigration vote shift” to the 2000 Senate race in **New Jersey**, which had a 90,970-vote margin, the election could have turned out differently. It is possible to imagine a candidate in 2004 who promotes fair immigration reform easily overcoming an opponent who did not.

The “fair immigration vote shift” analysis does not directly lead to alternative Senate race outcomes in other states because their margins were somewhat bigger. However, when the untapped potential of Latino, Asian/Pacific Islander, and foreign-born naturalized citizens is added to the mix, then six additional states demonstrate the latent power of this growing component of the electorate. The sample Senate races were in **Colorado, Florida, Illinois, Nebraska, Virginia, and Wisconsin**.

For example, as indicated on Table 9, the margin in a 1998 Illinois Senate race was 121,000. Using the “fair immigration vote shift” calculations, it is conceivable that 65,000 Latinos and Asian/Pacific Islanders concerned about fair immigration reform could have shifted their votes. This would reduce the margin but not eliminate it. However, in 1998 there were 298,000 unregistered voting-age Latino and Asian/Pacific Islander citizens. In addition, 102,000 registered Latino and Asian/Pacific Islanders did not vote. So, there was a potential base of 400,000 Latino and Asian/Pacific Islander citizens who could have affected the outcome of that election.

TABLE 8
Focus on Close Presidential Races and the
Potential Power of Latinos and Asian/Pacific Islanders

	2000 Vote Margin	Fair Immigration Vote Shift (See Appendix 2)	Remaining Vote Gap	Non-Registered (Latino & Asian)	Non-Voting (Latino & Asian)	Naturalized Citizens (Estimated Non-Latino or Asian)
ARIZONA	96,000	48,000	48,000	359,000	61,000	79,000
FLORIDA	537	171,839	-171,302	503,000	145,000	505,000
COLORADO	146,000	32,000	114,000	168,000	45,000	47,000
MICHIGAN	217,000	23,000	194,000	80,000	14,000	97,000
NEVADA	22,000	14,000	8,000	101,000	15,000	48,000
NEW MEXICO	366	53,534	-53,168	190,000	48,000	21,000
OREGON	7,000	17,000	-10,000	36,000	19,000	39,000
PENNSYLVANIA	205,000	33,000	172,000	106,000	36,000	104,000
VIRGINIA	220,000	28,000	192,000	105,000	33,000	95,000
WASHINGTON	139,000	52,000	87,000	89,000	42,000	104,000
WISCONSIN	6,000	32,000	-26,000	53,000	3,000	30,000

TABLE 9
Recent Close Senate Races and the Potential Power of
Latinos and Asian/Pacific Islanders

	Vote Margin	Fair Immigration Vote Shift (See Appendix 2)	Remaining Vote Gap	Non-Registered (Latino & Asian)	Non-Voting (Latino & Asian)	Naturalized Citizens (Estimated Non-Latino or Asian)
COLORADO (2002)	82,000	31,000	51,000	168,000	45,000	47,000
FLORIDA (2000)	284,000	222,000	62,000	503,000	145,000	505,000
ILLINOIS (1998)	121,000	65,000	56,000	298,000	102,000	249,000
NEBRASKA (2000)	15,000	7,800	7,200	17,000	6,000	9,200
NEW JERSEY (2000)	91,000	85,000	6,000	173,000	43,000	281,000
VIRGINIA (2000)	124,000	26,000	98,000	105,000	33,000	95,000
WISCONSIN (1998)	35,000	19,000	16,000	25,000	28,000	30,000

Conclusion

In 2000 approximately 11 million Latinos, Asian/Pacific Islanders, and other immigrant-naturalized citizens voted, a 20% increase over the past presidential election. Approximately 15 million from these communities will turnout this election, according to projections. With the margin of victory so close during the 2000 presidential contest, these voters could be the deciding factor.

FIRM (Fair Immigration Reform Movement), is a coalition of grassroots organizations working to mobilize immigrant and Latino and Asian/Pacific Islander communities around immigration reform and immigrant rights policies. FIRM's goal is to place immigration at the forefront of the political agenda; creating an immigration system that is safe, efficient, accountable, and that restores integrity and equality to the system. Part of this effort includes increasing voter turnout in these communities. FIRM is organized by the Center for Community Change, a non-profit national social justice organization.

Appendix 1

METHODOLOGIES

A. Estimates of November 2004 Voting-Age Latino and Asian/Pacific Islander Populations (National).

The Census Bureau estimates that on July 1, 2003, the Latino voting-age population was 26,310,000. For Asians it was 10,007,000, and for Pacific Islanders, it was 647,228.

To extrapolate to November 2004 for the Latino population:

$26,310,134$ minus $22,963,916$ (the Latino voting-age population on April 1, 2000) = $3,346,218$ increase.

$3,346,218$ divided by $22,963,916$ = 15% increase over the period of 3.25 years (April 1, 2000 to July 1, 2003).

To get an annual rate of increase: $0.15/3.25$ years = 0.045 .

To estimate July 1, 2004:

$0.045 \times 26,310,134 = 1,183,959$.

$26,310,134 + 1,183,959 = 27,494,090$.

To estimate November 1, 2004:

July 1 to November 1 is 0.333 year.

0.333×0.045 (annual rate) = 0.015 .

$0.015 \times 27,494,090 = 412,411$.

$412,411 + 27,494,090 = 27,906,501$ voting-age Latinos, Nov. 1, 2004.

Similar calculations were made for the Asian and Pacific Islander populations.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, unnumbered tables: Table 4, "Annual Estimates of the Population by Sex and Age of Hispanic or Latino Origin for the United States: April 2000 to July 1, 2003" (NC-EST2003-04-12); Table 4, "Annual Estimates of the Population by Sex and Age of Asian Alone or in Combination for the United States: April 1, 2000 to July 1, 2003" (NC-EST2003-04-08); and, Table 4, "Annual Estimates of the Population by Sex and Age of Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander Alone or in Combination for the United States: April 1, 2000 to July 1, 2003" (NC-EST2003-04-10).

B. Estimates of November 2004 Latino and Asian/Pacific Islander Voting-Age Citizens (National).

FIRM estimates that on November 2004, 17,357,843 Latinos will be voting-age citizens and 7,242,947 Asian/Pacific Islanders will be voting-age citizens.

To arrive at this estimate, it is assumed that the 2000 ratio of Latino voting-age citizens to all voting-age Latinos remained constant at 62.2% in 2004. Similar ratios were applied to Asians and Pacific Islanders. The 2000 ratios are found at Census 2000, PHC-T-31, Tables 1-9, 1-14, and 1-15.

C. Estimates of Latinos and Asian/Pacific Islanders Voting, and Naturalized Citizens Voting, November 2004 (National).

There are two ways to imagine how many Latino and Asian/Pacific Islanders might vote in November 2004:

One way, uses the estimated voting-age population, yielding a forecast of 7,730,100 Latinos and 2,945,686 Asian/Pacific Islanders voting in November 2004. This would represent a 30% increase in Latino voters over 2000, and a 44% increase in Asian/Pacific Islander voters.

This approach utilizes Census Bureau voting-rates for the voting-age population during each election found at "Historical Time Series Tables: Table A-1, Reported Voting and Registration by Race, Hispanic Origin, Sex, and Age Groups: November 1964 to 2000, U.S. Census Bureau". The average voting rate for Latinos over the 1992, 1996, and 2000 elections was 27.7%; for Asian/Pacific Islanders it was 26.1%. These average voting rates were then conservatively applied to the FIRM voting-age population estimates.

The other way results in an estimate of 8,140,828 Latinos and 3,433,157 Asian/Pacific Islanders voting in November 2004. These numbers would represent a 37% increase in Latino voters and a 68% increase in Asian/Pacific Islander voters.

This approach uses the Census Bureau voting rates for voting-age citizen populations for each election year, found at "Historical Time Series Tables: Table A-1, Reported Voting and Registration by Race, Hispanic Origin, Sex, and Age Groups: November 1964 to 2000, U.S. Census Bureau". The average voting rate for 1992, 1996, and 2000 was 46.9% for Latino voting-age citizens and 47.4% for Asian/Pacific Islander voting-age citizens. These average voting rates were then applied to the FIRM estimates for voting-age citizens.

Census does not have 2003 voting-age population estimates for immigrants. However, as shown above, Census did estimate a growing overall population of 13.5 million naturalized citizens in 2002. Conservatively using the same rate of increase in voter turnout between 1996 and 2000, over 3 million non-Latino or Asian/Pacific Island naturalized citizens will vote in November 2004.

D. State-by-State Estimates.

1. Estimated Number of Latinos and Asian/Pacific Islanders Voting in November 2004 (Last Column of Table 4)

- a. For each state the 2000 number of Latinos, Asians, and Pacific Islanders who were voting-age were found on three different Census tables (Census 2000 PHC-T-31, Tables 1-9, 1-14, and 1-15).
- b. The 2000 total number of Latinos, Asians, and Pacific Islanders in each state were found on three other Census tables (Table 2 from “The Hispanic Population, Census Brief 2000” C2KBR/01-3, Table 2 from “The Asian Population, Census Brief 2000” C2KBR/01-16, and Table 2 The Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander Population, Census Brief 2000” C2KBR/01-14).
- c. The figures for “a” were divided by those for “b” for each population to get ratios each for Latinos, Asians, and Pacific Islanders in 2000.
- d. These 2000 ratios were then multiplied by the total 2004 extrapolation for each, Latinos, Asians, and Pacific Islanders. [This is a crude assumption that the ratio is the same in 2004 as it was in 2000.] This yielded figures for an estimated number of voting-age Latinos, Asians, and Pacific Islanders.
- e. Yet another table (Table 4a “Reported Voting and Registration of the Total Voting Age Population, by Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin, for States: November 2000” P20 - 524) showed, on a state-by-state basis, the ratio of voting-age Latinos, Asians, and Pacific Islanders to the actual number of Latino voters, Asian voters, and Pacific Islander voters in 2000. Assuming the same voting ratios, these figures were multiplied by the numbers in “d” for each state.

2. 2004 Estimated Number of Voting-Age, Citizen Population (last column of Table 1):

- a. Three different Census tables (Census 2000, PHC-T-31, Tables 1-9, 1-14, and 1-15) the 2000 provide ratios (state-by-state) for the percentage of voting-age Latinos, Asians, and Pacific Islanders that were citizens compared to the overall number of voting-age Latino, Asian, and Pacific Islander. [This assumes that the ratio is the same in 2004 for each state.]
- b. These ratios were applied to the estimated number of voting-age Latinos, Asians, and Pacific Islanders for each state from step “d” above.

Appendix 2

FAIR IMMIGRATION VOTE SHIFT ANALYSIS

OREGON: By November 1, 2004 there might be 66,758 Latinos and Asian/Pacific Islanders casting votes in Oregon (See Table 4, based on an extrapolation of U.S. Census Bureau estimates from 2002). Nationally, experts assert that 62% of Latinosⁱ and 62% of Asian/Pacific Islandersⁱⁱ voted for Al Gore in 2000. Therefore 62% of the 66,758 projected voters (41,390) could be “Democratic voters” in 2004.

Recall that the NIF poll showed that 64% of Latinos and 52% of Asian/Pacific Islanders are more likely to vote for a candidate endorsing fair immigration reform. As a subset of those figures, 43% of Latinos and 35% of Asian/Pacific Islanders are “much more likely” to vote for such a candidate. Therefore, conservatively selecting a factor of 40%, a scenario can be posed in which a Republican candidate endorses fair immigration reform in 2004, leading 40% of the “Democratic voters” to shift to the Republican candidate, giving the Republican 16,556 more votes — and the State of Oregon.

WISCONSIN: The FIRM extrapolation of Census 2002 estimates yields 130,968 Latino and Asian/Pacific Islanders casting votes in November 2004. Following the pattern set in Wisconsin in 2000, FIRM assumes 62% of these voters will be “Democratic voters”; meaning 81,200 potential votes for the Democratic candidate in 2004. However, if the Republican candidate promotes fair immigration reform, 32,480 “Democratic voters” could shift to the Republican column and handily win Wisconsin.

NEVADA: Although the hypothetical “fair immigration vote shift” calculations used to conclude that Oregon and Wisconsin could have gone another way (adjusted for Nevada to reflect the assumption that 38% of the 2004 voters could be “Republican voters”) yield a shift of only 13,924 votes toward a Democratic candidate, the margin does narrow. Keep in mind that for the sake of this discussion, a conservative factor of 40% was selected; it is possible that voting shifts closer to the poll’s figures of 64% for Latinos and 52% for Asian/Pacific Islanders could actually obtain. Also, the gap could be further narrowed by whites and blacks who also indicated that they would be more likely to vote for a candidate espousing fair immigration reform. In addition, during the 2000 election (as shown in Table 6), 101,000 voting-age Latino and Asian/Pacific Islander citizens were not registered, and another 15,000 who were registered did not vote — 116,000 dormant voters that could be motivated by a candidate’s stance on fair immigration reform.

i Harry Pachon, citing analysis of exit polling by the Tomas Rivera Policy Institute in “The Battle for Latino Voters”, available at www.ndol.org.

ii The National Council of Asian Pacific Americans, citing exit polls in, “Call to Action: Platform for Asian Pacific Americans National Policy Priorities”, 2004.

Endnotes

- 1 Table 1, "Persons of Hispanic Origin in the United States," 1990 Census of Population, 1990 CP-3-3; Table 1, "Asians and Pacific Islanders in the United States," 1990 Census of Population, 1990 C-3-5; Table A, "Reported Voting and Registration by Citizenship, Race, and Hispanic Origin: November 1996 and 2000," Voting and Registration in the Election of November 2000, P20-542, U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Reports, February 2002.
- 2 "Voting and Registration in the Election of November 2000," Current Population Reports, P20-542, Table A, U.S. Census Bureau, February 2002.
- 3 Table P037, Age by Citizenship, 1990 Summary Tape File 3-Sample Data, American FactFinder, U.S. Census Bureau.
- 4 Table PCT44, Sex by Age by Citizenship Status, Census 2000 Summary File 4-Sample Data, American FactFinder, U.S. Census Bureau.
- 5 Table 13, "Reported Voting and Registration Among Native and Naturalized Citizens by Race, and Region of Origin: November 2000," Current Population Survey, Voting and Registration in the Election of November, 2000 (P20-542).
- 6 Table P037, Citizenship Status, 2002 American Community Survey Summary Tables, American FactFinder, U.S. Census Bureau.
- 7 Assuming similar ratios of voting-age naturalized citizens to all naturalized citizens found in 2000, Table PCT 44, "Sex by Age by Citizenship Status," Data Set: Census 2000 Summary File 4 and for 2002, Table 1.1, "Population by Sex, Age, and Citizenship Status: March 2002," PPL-162, Current Population Survey, U.S. Census Bureau.
- 8 Table P037, Citizenship Status, 2002 American Community Survey Summary Tables, American FactFinder, U.S. Census Bureau; and, Table 1.1, "Population by Sex, Age, and Citizenship Status: March 2002," PPL-162, Current Population Survey, U.S. Census Bureau.
- 9 Table A, "Voting and Registration in the Election of November 2000," Current Population Reports, P20-542, U.S. Census Bureau, February 2002.
- 10 "Voting and Registration in the Election of November 2000," Current Population Reports, P20-542, U.S. Census Bureau, February 2002.
- 11 Table 5, "Reported Voting and Registration Among Native-Born and Naturalized Citizens, by Race and Region of Origin: November 1996," in Voting and Registration in the Election of 1996, Current Population Reports, P20-504, U.S. Census Bureau, July 1998; and, Table 13, Reported Voting and Registration Among Native and Naturalized Citizens by Race, and Region of Origin: November 2000", Current Population Survey, Voting and Registration in the Election of November, 2000 (P20-542).
- 12 Table 4, "Reported Voting and Registration, by Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin, for States: November 1992" U.S. Census Bureau (photocopy from Census; title of document not included).
- 13 Table 4, "Reported Voting and Registration, by Sex, Race, and Hispanic Origin, for States," in Voting and Registration in the Election of November 1996, Current Population Survey, P20-504, U.S. Census Bureau.
- 14 Table 2, "Reported Voting and Registration by Race, Hispanic Origin, Sex, and Age, for the United States: November 2000": Current Population Reports, P20-542, U.S. Census Bureau.
- 15 Table 1, Persons of Hispanic Origin in the United States, 1990 CP-3-3, U.S. Census Bureau; Table 1, Asians and Pacific Islanders in the United States, 1990 CP-3-5, U.S. Census Bureau; and Table A-1, "Reported Voting and Registration by Race, Hispanic Origin, Sex, and Age Groups: November 1964 to 2000," Historical Time Series Tables, Current Population Reports, U.S. Census Bureau.
- 16 Table C, "Voting and Registration in the Election of November 1998," Current Population Reports, P20-523RV, U.S. Census Bureau, August 2000.
- 17 "Number of Hispanics Who Voted Up 'Sharply,'" Press Release CB00-139, U.S. Census Bureau, August 29, 2000.
- 18 "Number of Asian and Pacific Islanders Casting Ballots Up 'Significantly,'" Press Release CB00-138, U.S. Census Bureau, August 29, 2000.
- 19 Table 2, "Selected Age Groups for the Population by Race and Hispanic Origin for the United States: July 1, 2003," U.S. Census Bureau.
- 20 To arrive at this estimate, FIRM assumed that the 2000 ratio of Latino voting-age citizens to all voting-age Latinos remained constant at 62.2%. Similar ratios were applied to Asians and Pacific Islanders. The 2000 ratios are found at Census 2000, PHC-T-31, Tables 1-9, 1-14, and 1-15.
- 21 "The Hispanic Population 2000, Census 2000 Brief," C2KBR/01-3, U.S. Census Bureau, May 2001.
- 22 "The Asian Population: 2000, Census 2000 Brief," C2KBR/01-16, U.S. Census Bureau, February, 2002.
- 23 "The Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander Population: 2000, Census 2000 Brief," C2KBR/01-14, U.S. Census Bureau, December 2001.
- 24 "The Foreign-Born Population: 2000, Census 2000 Brief," C2KBR-34, U.S. Census Bureau, December 2003.
- 25 A National Council of La Raza/Zogby poll conducted in May 2004 places immigration as the number 3 issue of greatest importance to Latinos. In a survey conducted by Bendixen for the New Democrat Network in January of 2004, Latinos ranked number 4 as a concern. A Tomas Rivera Policy Institute survey states that immigrant rights "ranks high among Latino concerns, given the prevalence of immigrants among their ranks," (Harry Pachon, "The Battle for Latino Voters").
- 26 Lake Snell Perry & Associates. May 2004.
- 27 All margins are from Dave Leip's Atlas of U.S. Presidential Elections, www.uselectionatlas.org.
- 28 The Cook Political Report identifies 8 "toss-up" states, while the Washington Post adds 4 more.

A Publication of



Coordinated by the Center for Community Change
1000 Wisconsin Ave. N.W.
Washington, DC 20007
202.342.0567
www.communitychange.org

www.fairimmigration.org