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The 2010 Congressional Reapportionment and Latinos

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Mark Hugo Lopez, Associate Director

Paul Taylor, Director

1615 L St, N.W., Suite 700

Washington, D.C. 20036

Tel (202) 419-3600

Fax (202) 419-3608

www.pewhispanic.org

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About the Pew Hispanic Center

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The staff of the Pew Hispanic Center is:

Paul Taylor, Director

Rakesh Kochhar, Associate Director for Research

Richard Fry, Senior Research Associate

Gretchen Livingston, Senior Researcher

Daniel Dockterman, Research Assistant

Mark Hugo Lopez, Associate Director

Jeffrey S. Passel, Senior Demographer

Gabriel Velasco, Research Analyst

Mary Seaborn, Administrative Manager

About this Report

This report analyses the 2010 Congressional reapportionment and Latino electoral strength. The primary focus is on Latinos in states that gained or lost Congressional seats in the 2010 reapportionment. The data for this report are derived from 2010 Census population counts for the nation and the states as published by the Census Bureau, the 2010 Congressional reapportionment, the 2009 American Community Survey, and the 2000 Census.

A Note on Terminology

The terms "Latino" and "Hispanic" are used interchangeably in this report.

The terms "whites" and "blacks" are used to refer to the non-Hispanic components of their populations.

"Foreign born" refers to persons born outside of the United States, Puerto Rico or other U.S. territories to parents neither of whom was a U.S. citizen.

“Native born” refers to persons who are U.S. citizens at birth, including those born in the United States, Puerto Rico or other U.S. territories and those born abroad to parents at least one of whom was a U.S. citizen.

About the Authors

Mark Hugo Lopez is the associate director of the Pew Hispanic Center. Prior to joining the Center, Lopez was research director of the Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement as well as an assistant professor at the University of Maryland’s School of Public Policy. His areas of expertise include Latino youth, crime, labor economics, civic engagement and voting behavior. He received his Ph.D. in economics from Princeton University.

Paul Taylor is executive vice president of the Pew Research Center, director of the Pew Hispanic Center and director of Pew’s Social & Demographic Trends project. From 1996 through 2003, he served as president and board chairman of the Alliance for Better Campaigns. Before that, he was a newspaper reporter for 25 years, the last 14 at The Washington Post, where he covered national politics and served as a foreign correspondent. From 1992 to 1995, he was the Post’s bureau chief in South Africa and reported on the historic transformation from apartheid to democracy. He also covered four U.S. presidential campaigns.

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Overview

Hispanic voters are nearly three times more prevalent in states that gained congressional seats and Electoral College votes in the 2010 reapportionment than they are in states that lost seats, according to an analysis of Census data by the Pew Hispanic Center, a project of the Pew Research Center. Based on averages reflecting congressional gains and losses, 15.2% of the eligible voter¹ population in states that gained seats is Hispanic, compared with just 5.4% of eligible voters in those states that lost seats.

With these reapportionment changes, Latinos likely will play a larger role in national politics in the coming decade. Two states that gained seats, Florida and Nevada, have been key swing battlegrounds in recent presidential elections (having voted for the Republican nominee in 2004 and the Democrat in 2008). In both states, Latinos are a growing share of eligible voters.

Table 1 – 2010 Census Reapportionment and Latinos

	Congressional Gain/Loss	Latino Share of...		
		Eligible Voters, 2009 %	Population, 2009 %	Population Growth, 2000-2009 %
States That Gained Congressional Seats				
Texas	4	25.5	36.9	63.1
Florida	2	15.0	21.5	51.1
South Carolina	1	1.6	4.5	19.8
Georgia	1	2.8	8.3	23.2
Arizona	1	19.7	30.8	50.2
Utah	1	6.5	12.3	25.7
Nevada	1	14.1	26.5	47.5
Washington	1	5.3	10.3	31.9
State weighted average		15.2	23.6	46.1
States That Lost Congressional Seats				
New York	-2	11.7	16.8	72.0
Ohio	-2	1.8	2.8	55.9
Massachusetts	-1	5.9	8.8	62.8
New Jersey	-1	11.0	16.7	114.4
Pennsylvania	-1	3.5	5.1	77.8
Illinois	-1	8.4	15.3	89.5
Michigan	-1	2.6	4.2	316.3
Iowa	-1	2.0	4.3	59.1
Missouri	-1	1.9	3.4	21.3
Louisiana	-1	2.3	3.6	234.4
State weighted average		5.4	8.4	102.6

Note: Eligible voters are U.S. citizens ages 18 and older. The state weighted average gives greater weight to states that gained more seats in Congress. For example, Texas (+4) receives a weight four times greater than the state of Washington (+1). Similarly, for states that lost seats, New York (-2) gets twice as much weight as Louisiana (-1).

Source: Pew Hispanic Center tabulations of the 2009 ACS (1% IPUMS sample) and 2010 December Census Release

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¹ An eligible voter is 18 years of age or older and a U.S. citizen.

According to the Census Bureau, there were 308 million people residing in the U.S. in 2010, up 9% from 2000 ([Census Bureau, 2010](#)). Overall, based on 2009 population estimates, Hispanics accounted for more than half (51%) of that growth.² However, because many Latinos are either too young to vote or are not U.S. citizens, not all of their population growth translates into immediate electoral strength. Among the nation's 48.4 million Hispanics in 2009, a record 20.1 million are eligible to vote. Yet an even greater number are not eligible to vote. Some 15.5 million³ Hispanics are U.S. citizens 17 years of age or younger and 12.8 million of all ages are not U.S. citizens.⁴

Even so, the number of the Latinos eligible to vote continues to grow. Since 2000, nearly 6 million more Latinos have become eligible to vote. The bulk of this growth was attributable to the 5 million U.S. born Latino youths nationwide who turned 18 during this past decade. That translates into an additional half-million U.S. born Latinos coming of age each year—a pattern that is certain to persist, and grow, in the coming decades.

No matter what happens with immigration patterns in the future, the aging of the U.S. born Latino youth bulge ensures that the electoral strength of the nation's largest minority group will continue to grow in the coming decades. And much of that growth will take place in states that have gained congressional seats and Electoral College votes.

² Final 2010 Census population counts for the Hispanic population, and all other groups of Americans, will be released by the Census Bureau later this year.

³ Among Hispanics who are U.S. citizens and 17 years of age or younger, some 15.3 million were born in the U.S.

⁴ Sum may not total due to rounding.

Reapportionment Gains and Hispanic Population Growth

Based on results of the 2010 Census, eight states—Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Nevada, South Carolina, Texas, Utah and Washington—will gain congressional seats and Electoral College votes. Texas will gain four, Florida two, and all others one. Ten states will lose seats—Illinois, Iowa, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, Ohio and Pennsylvania. New York and Ohio will lose two and all others one ([Census Bureau, 2010](#)).

Overall Latinos represent a greater share of eligible voter and resident populations in states that will gain seats than they do in states that will lose seats. Among eligible voters, in states that will gain seats 15.2% are Latino, while in states that will lose seats just 5.4% are Latino. Among resident populations, 23.6% is Latino in states that will gain seats compared with 8.4% in states that will lose seats.

In Texas, Latinos account for one-in-four (25.5%) of the state's eligible voters and 36.9% of the state's population. In Florida, Latinos account for one-in-seven (15%) of the state's eligible voters and 21.5% of the state's population. And in Arizona and Nevada, Hispanics represent 19.7% and 14.1% of eligible voters respectively.

Many of the states that gained congressional seats did so partly because of rapid population growth among Hispanics. Texas' population increased by nearly four million, or by 21%, between 2000 and 2010. Nearly two-thirds (63%) of that growth came from growth in the state's Hispanic population, which increased by almost 2.5 million.⁵ In Florida, Hispanic population growth accounted for more than half (51%) of the state's population growth through this decade. Even in states with smaller Hispanic populations, Hispanics accounted for a large share of population growth. In Georgia, Hispanics accounted for 23.2% of the state's growth. In South Carolina, Hispanics accounted for 19.8% of the state's growth.

Even in states that lost congressional seats, Latinos contributed significantly to population gains, possibly limiting reapportionment losses. For instance, in New York, 72% of the population growth this decade came from the Latino population. In New Jersey, the state's population would likely have declined without Hispanic population growth. And in Michigan, Latino population growth kept the state's population from declining even more than it did.

⁵ The Census Bureau has not issued state population counts by race and ethnicity from the 2010 Census. However, the 2009 American Community Survey (ACS) provides the most recent state population estimates by race and ethnicity. Latino population estimates from the 2009 ACS are used throughout this report.

Latino Electoral Strength

Latino voting strength is limited by the fact that one-third of all Latinos is under the age of 18 and by the fact that many Latino adults are not U.S. citizens. Because of these factors, the share of the Hispanic population that is eligible to vote is lower than it is among either whites or blacks, even though the Hispanic population has grown rapidly in recent decades ([Suro, Fry and Passel, 2005](#)).

In Texas, for example, even though Hispanic population growth helped to fuel the expansion of the state’s congressional delegation, fewer than half (43.1%) of all Hispanics are eligible to vote, compared with nearly eight-in-ten (77.3%) whites and seven-in-ten blacks (70%). In Florida, fewer than half (48.3%) of the state’s Hispanics are eligible to vote, while eight-in-ten (79.8%) whites and 63.5% of blacks are eligible to vote.

In Georgia—a state where the vast majority of Hispanic adults are foreign born who arrived within the last decade or two—the gap is even wider. There, only 22.9% of the state’s Latinos are eligible to vote, compared with 76.2% of whites and 69.6% of blacks. Similar patterns are present in other “new settlement” states.

Table 2 – Share of the Population Eligible to Vote in States with Congressional Seat Changes, by Race and Ethnicity

	Congressional Gain/Loss	Share Eligible to Vote %		
		Latinos	Whites	Blacks
States That Gained Congressional Seats				
Texas	4	43.1	77.3	70.0
Florida	2	48.3	79.8	63.5
South Carolina	1	25.8	78.4	72.7
Georgia	1	22.9	76.2	69.6
Arizona	1	41.6	79.0	64.7
Utah	1	34.3	70.2	51.0
Nevada	1	33.9	78.3	67.8
Washington	1	36.0	77.9	63.9
States That Lost Congressional Seats				
New York	-2	47.6	77.4	64.0
Ohio	-2	47.4	77.6	70.1
Massachusetts	-1	47.8	77.6	57.0
New Jersey	-1	44.5	76.8	68.5
Pennsylvania	-1	51.6	79.3	69.8
Illinois	-1	37.7	77.3	71.1
Michigan	-1	45.9	77.2	71.1
Iowa	-1	33.9	77.7	64.7
Missouri	-1	41.5	77.3	70.3
Louisiana	-1	46.4	77.5	70.5

Note: Eligible voters are U.S. citizens ages 18 and older.

Source: Pew Hispanic Center tabulations of the 2009 ACS (1% IPUMS sample)

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Appendix:

Appendix Table A1 – Apportionment and Population Growth, 2000-2010

	Change in Seats	Share Latino, 2009	Total Population Growth		Latino Growth, 2000-2009		Latino Share of Population Growth, 2000-2009
		%	2000-2010 %	2000-2009 (thousands)	%	Total (thousands)	%
United States		15.8	9.7	25,585	37.0	13,051	51.0
Alabama		3.1	7.5	262	95.5	72	27.7
Alaska		6.2	13.3	72	67.8	18	24.5
Arizona	1	30.8	24.6	1,465	56.8	736	50.2
Arkansas		6.0	9.1	216	98.6	86	39.6
California		37.0	10.0	3,090	24.8	2,715	87.9
Colorado		20.3	16.9	723	38.4	283	39.1
Connecticut		12.3	4.9	113	35.6	114	101.3
Delaware		7.2	14.6	102	71.4	27	26.2
District of Columbia		8.8	5.2	28	18.0	8	29.2
Florida	2	21.5	17.6	2,556	48.7	1,306	51.1
Georgia	1	8.3	18.3	1,643	87.5	381	23.2
Hawaii		9.0	12.3	84	32.2	28	33.8
Idaho		10.7	21.1	252	62.5	64	25.3
Illinois	-1	15.3	3.3	491	28.7	440	89.5
Indiana		5.4	6.6	343	62.6	134	39.2
Iowa	-1	4.3	4.1	82	58.5	48	59.1
Kansas		9.3	6.1	130	39.2	74	56.7
Kentucky		2.6	7.4	272	88.6	53	19.5
Louisiana	-1	3.6	1.4	23	50.3	54	234.4
Maine		1.3	4.2	43	86.6	8	18.7
Maryland		7.2	9.0	403	81.0	185	45.8
Massachusetts	-1	8.8	3.1	244	35.8	154	62.8
Michigan	-1	4.2	-0.6	31	30.6	99	316.3
Minnesota		4.3	7.8	347	56.2	81	23.2
Mississippi		2.3	4.3	107	69.8	28	25.7
Missouri	-1	3.4	7.0	392	70.3	83	21.3

Note: States with Congressional gains **bolded**. States with Congressional losses **bolded and italicized**.

Source: Pew Hispanic Center tabulations of the 2009 ACS and 2010 December Census Release

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Appendix Table A1 (continued) – Apportionment and Population Growth, 2000-2010

	Change in Seats	Share Latino, 2009	Total Population Growth		Latino Growth, 2000-2009		Latino Share of Population Growth, 2000-2009
		%	2000-2010 %	2000-2009 (thousands)	%	Total (thousands)	%
Montana		2.9	9.7	73	54.1	10	13.4
Nebraska		8.3	6.7	85	58.7	55	64.9
Nevada	1	26.5	35.1	645	77.8	306	47.5
New Hampshire		2.8	6.5	89	78.6	16	18.1
<i>New Jersey</i>	<i>-1</i>	<i>16.7</i>	<i>4.5</i>	<i>293</i>	<i>30.0</i>	<i>336</i>	<i>114.4</i>
New Mexico		45.6	13.2	191	19.6	150	78.9
<i>New York</i>	<i>-2</i>	<i>16.8</i>	<i>2.1</i>	<i>565</i>	<i>14.2</i>	<i>407</i>	<i>72.0</i>
North Carolina		7.6	18.5	1,332	88.9	337	25.3
North Dakota		2.0	4.7	5	62.3	5	104.4
<i>Ohio</i>	<i>-2</i>	<i>2.8</i>	<i>1.6</i>	<i>190</i>	<i>48.8</i>	<i>106</i>	<i>55.9</i>
Oklahoma		8.2	8.7	236	67.8	122	51.5
Oregon		11.2	12.0	404	55.6	153	37.9
<i>Pennsylvania</i>	<i>-1</i>	<i>5.1</i>	<i>3.4</i>	<i>324</i>	<i>63.9</i>	<i>252</i>	<i>77.8</i>
Rhode Island		11.9	0.4	5	38.5	35	715.4
<i>South Carolina</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>4.5</i>	<i>15.3</i>	<i>549</i>	<i>114.4</i>	<i>109</i>	<i>19.8</i>
South Dakota		2.5	7.9	58	84.4	9	16.0
Tennessee		4.1	11.5	607	108.2	134	22.1
Texas	4	36.9	20.6	3,930	37.2	2,480	63.1
Utah	1	12.3	23.8	551	70.3	142	25.7
Vermont		1.5	2.8	13	63.8	4	27.2
Virginia		7.2	13.0	804	71.2	235	29.2
Washington	1	10.3	14.1	770	55.7	246	31.9
West Virginia		1.2	2.5	11	75.8	9	81.4
Wisconsin		5.3	6.0	291	55.0	106	36.5
Wyoming		8.1	14.1	50	38.9	12	24.4

Note: States with Congressional gains **bolded**. States with Congressional losses **bolded and italicized**.

Source: Pew Hispanic Center tabulations of the 2009 ACS and 2010 December Census Release

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