

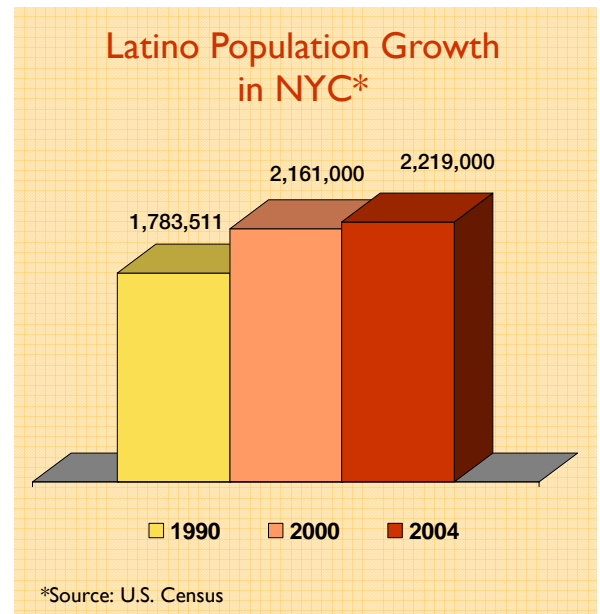
Latino Politics and Civic Participation

TURNING PERCENTAGES INTO POWER

As election 2006 approaches, understanding the growth and potential of the Latino vote is more important than ever. The 1990s were marked by tremendous increases in the Latino population both nationally and in New York City. In 1990, Hispanics made up 24.4% or 1.78 million of the City's population. In 2004, the Census' American Community Survey estimated that the City's Hispanic population had grown to 2.2 million, or 28% of New Yorkers.

Hispanics have not only grown in numbers; they have grown in cultural and social influence, in economic and political clout. In New York, Latino municipal officials in 1996 totaled only 11. Today, Latino municipal officials total 21, a 91% increase in ten years. Likewise, Latino state representatives increased from six in 1996 to twelve in 2006, a 100% increase over this time period.

This political change has been accompanied, and fueled by an increase in Latino civic participation. The Latino vote in New York State increased from 513,000 in the 1996 presidential election to 613,000 in the 2004 presidential election – an increase of nearly 20% in eight years. An upward trend in Latino voting and electoral participation has led candidates to reach out to understand the community's needs and aspirations.



However, despite these gains, Latinos have not yet fully arrived politically. Age, citizenship, and registration are the “gates” to electoral participation. Resident adult citizens must be registered and these potential voters must actually cast a ballot. While it is true that Latinos make up almost 30% of the total City population, they are a community that is on average much younger than non-Hispanic New Yorkers overall, and represent only 25% of the City's voting age population (VAP). Like young people from all ethnic and racial backgrounds, young adult Latinos are less likely to vote than their elders. And since one-third (33%) of adult Hispanic New Yorkers are not citizens according to the 2006 Hispanic Federation survey, the voting age population of Hispanic citizens is still lower.

As a result, the full political force of the continuing Latino demographic boom has yet to be realized locally and nationally. But it is clear that the importance of the Latino electorate will only continue to grow and play an increasingly crucial role in future elections.

POLITICAL ENGAGEMENT

Voter Registration

“Are you registered to vote?”

The number of New York City Hispanics registered to vote grew from 450,000 in 1990 to more than 657,000 ten years later -- a 46 percent increase. Latino registration accounts for about a third of the overall growth in registered voters in New York City during the decade. Today, 754,000 Latino New Yorkers are registered to vote. Hispanic voter registration increased in all boroughs, with the most growth in the Bronx and Queens. This increase in Latino civic participation is partly the result of aggressive and targeted registration drives by Latino advocacy groups. Over the past fifteen years, the Hispanic Federation has helped register more than 150,000 Latino voters in New York City alone.

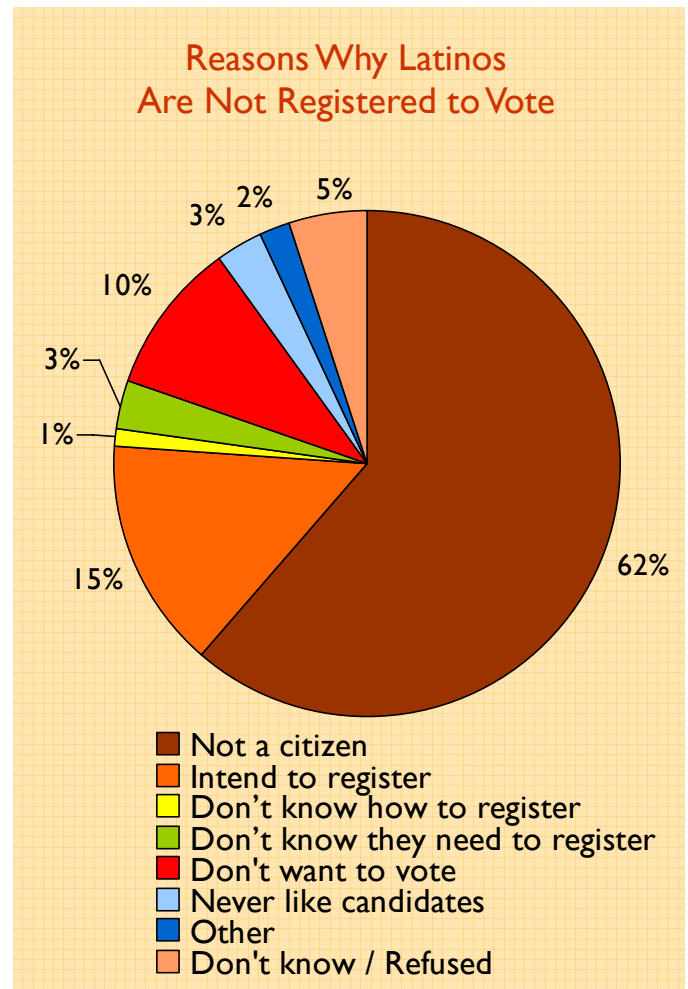
Nevertheless voting levels among Latinos lag well behind Whites, largely because many Hispanics are not citizens or are not yet old enough to vote. Hispanic Federation surveys since the 2000 Census up to this year have shown increasing percentages of New York City Hispanics registered to vote. This year 58% of adult Hispanic New Yorkers surveyed report being registered to vote, down from 77% in 2005. The decline in the percentage of registered Hispanics is largely accounted for by the significant increase in the number of the foreign-born respondents (those not born in the 50 states or Puerto Rico).

Although this year’s data shows that Latino registration declined on a percentage basis, the absolute number of Latinos registered to vote in the City has actually increased. The figures point to a larger Latino

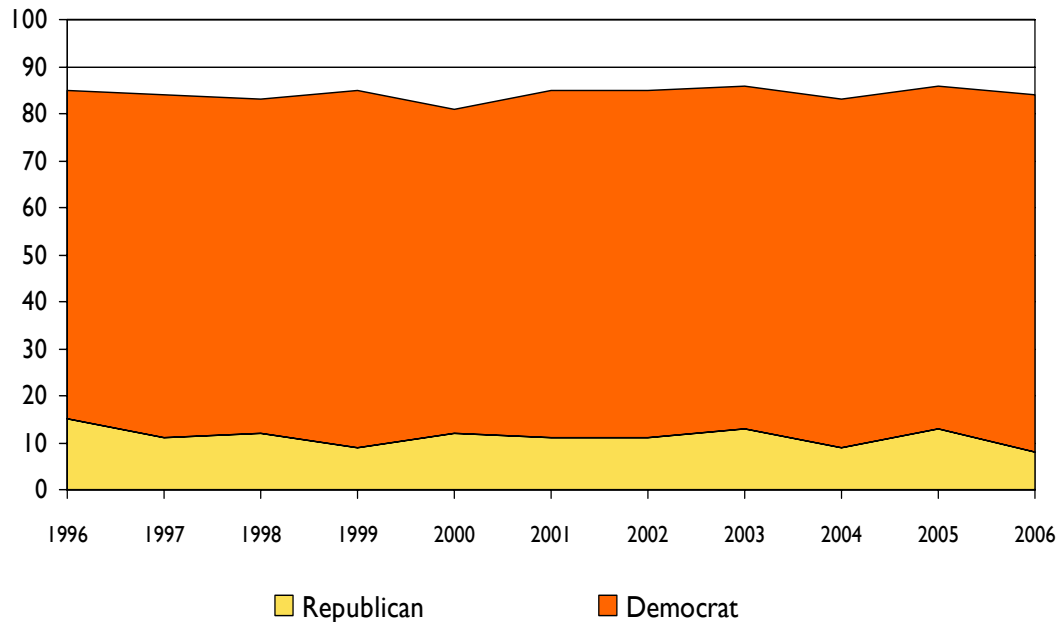
population with a greater percentage of non-voters.

“What is the main reason you are not registered to vote?”

Four in 10 (41%) Latino New Yorkers of voting age indicated that they were not registered to vote in 2006. By far the most widely noted reason, cited by 62% (up 6 points since 2005), is that they are not citizens, reflecting the larger proportion of the foreign-born in this year’s survey. Another 15% (16% last year) said they intended to register but had not, while 4% reported that they did not know how to register or that they even needed to do so to vote. One in 10 (10%) express disenchantment about voting and 3% say they never like the candidates on the ballot.



NYC Hispanics and Party Registration 1996 - 2006 *



* Sources: Annual Hispanic Federation Surveys

Remain Overwhelmingly Democrats

“With which party are you registered?”

Are you registered as a Democrat, a Republican, some other party or are you not registered with any party?”

Latinos in the 2006 Hispanic Federation survey remain solidly Democratic. Indeed, the percentage reporting Democratic registration is the highest in 11 years of surveys with 76% of Latinos stating that they are registered Democrats compared to only 8% who indicate that they are registered Republicans. In other words, for every one Latino Republican, there are nine Latino Democrats in the City. The partisan affiliation of Hispanic New Yorkers has remained remarkably consistent over a decade of our surveys. Previous Federation surveys of New York as well as those conducted by the Pew Hispanic Center nationally have shown that Hispanics have much greater issue affinity with the Democratic party. However, in recent elections Latinos have shown, namely in the 1998 and 2002 Governor’s race and the 2001 NYC Mayoral race, that they will vote in large numbers for Republican candidates they find appealing to them.

H ORSERACES:
LANDSLIDE VOTES
FOR CLINTON,
SPITZER & CUOMO

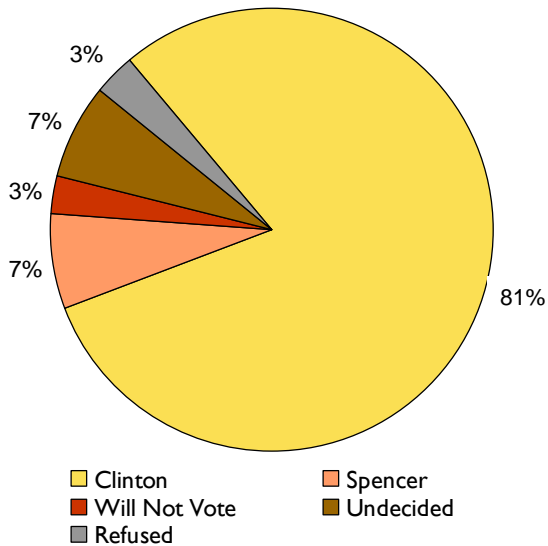
Although New York City Latinos occasionally cross party lines to vote, they are overwhelmingly voting for Democrats this November: Hillary Clinton for U.S. Senate, Eliot Spitzer for Governor, and Andrew Cuomo for Attorney General.

Clinton vs. Spencer

“If the November 2006 general election for U.S. Senate were held today, would you vote for Democrat Hillary Clinton or Republican John Spencer?”

Incumbent U.S. Senator Hillary Clinton (D) beats Republican former Yonkers mayor John Spencer by better than 11 to 1 (81% to 7%) among Hispanic New Yorkers registered to vote. Only 7% of Latino voters

Clinton vs. Spencer



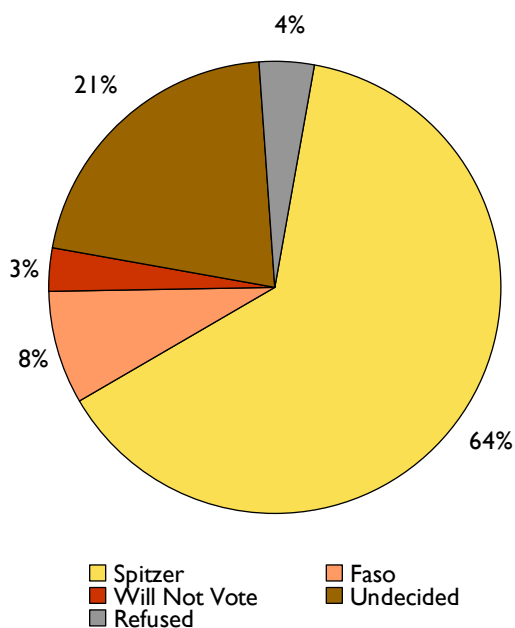
remain undecided in this contest, with a very small number (3%) indicating that they will not vote.

Spitzer vs. Faso

“If the November 2006 general election for Governor were held today, would you vote for Democrat Eliot Spitzer or Republican John Faso?”

Latino voters overwhelmingly favor Eliot Spitzer (D) for Governor over his opponent John Faso (R). Spitzer defeats Faso by better than 8 to 1 (64% vs. 8%) among Latino registered voters. Two in ten Latinos remain undecided (21%) and only 3% indicate that they will not vote in November.

Spitzer vs. Faso

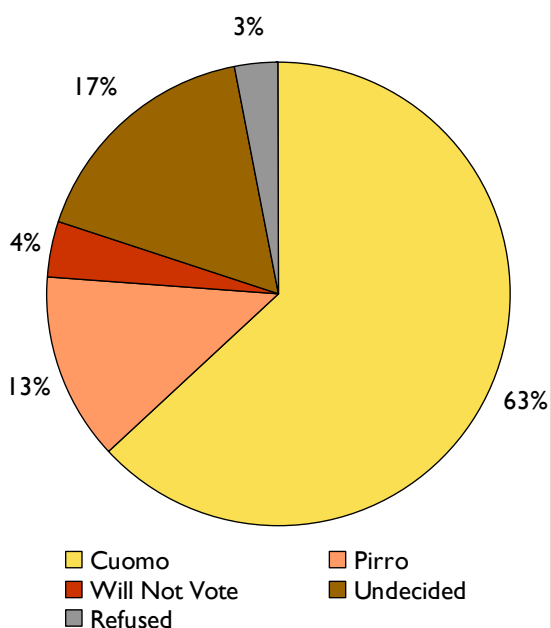


Cuomo vs. Pirro

“If the November 2006 election for Attorney General were held today, would you vote for Democrat Andrew Cuomo or Republican Jeanine Pirro?”

Former Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, Andrew Cuomo (D), also would decisively beat his opponent, former Westchester County D.A., Jeanine Pirro (R) – 63% to 13% or by nearly a 5 to 1 ratio.

Cuomo vs. Pirro



BLOOMBERG, BUSH: HOW ARE THEY DOING?

Bloomberg Overall Job Performance: Broadly Favorable

“How would you rate the job Mike Bloomberg is doing as Mayor of New York City?”

Mayor Michael Bloomberg’s performance as mayor is viewed favorably by fully six in 10 New Yorkers, with 48% calling his overall performance good and 12% excellent. One-third characterized his job performance as not so good (23%) or poor (11%).

These are the best grades the mayor has received from Hispanic New Yorkers in his five years as mayor. Last year New York City Latinos were divided over how Bloomberg was doing as mayor of New York City, with 51% rating his overall performance favorably and 45% unfavorably. But 2005 represented a substantial turnabout for the Mayor over 2004, when 62% rated him negatively and 33% positively.

Doing a Better Job serving Latinos

“How would you rate the job Mike Bloomberg is doing serving the Hispanic community in New York City?”

Similar to the assessments of his overall performance, there was an increase in the positive rating the Mayor received for his service to the Latino community. Forty-eight percent (39% good, 9% excellent) gave him good grades this year, with 43% holding an opposing view (27% not so good, 16% poor). Last year, more than half of Latinos (56%) felt that the Mayor was not doing a good job in serving Latinos in the City, while 36% gave him a favorable rating.

Bush Doing a Very Poor Job Overall...

“How would you rate the job George Bush is doing as President?”

Seventy percent of New York City Hispanics feel George Bush is doing a bad job overall as president, with 39% rating the president’s performance as “poor” and 31% “not so good.” Only 24% view Bush’s handling of the presidency favorably, with 4% characterizing his job performance as “excellent” and 19% as “good.” An analysis of past Federation surveys reveals that there has been a dramatic drop in support for President Bush among Latino New Yorkers over the past three years. In 2003, for instance, 46% of Latinos approved of the way the President was handling job – nearly double the number of Latino New Yorkers who support the President today.

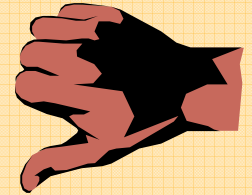
...Even Worse Job for Hispanics

“How would you rate the job George Bush is doing serving the Hispanic community?”

President Bush does even worse among Latino New Yorkers on his service to the Hispanic community with three-quarters rating his ser-

Mayor Bloomberg Overall Job Performance Rating

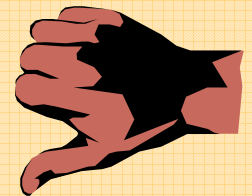
60%



34%

“How would you rate the job Mike Bloomberg is doing serving the Hispanic community in NYC?”

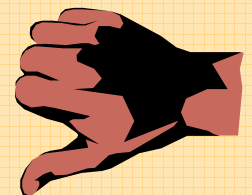
48%



43%

“How would you rate the job George W. Bush is doing serving the Hispanic community?”

19%



75%

vice as either poor (38%, same as 2004) or “not so good” (37%, 32% in 2004). Only two in ten rate Bush’s service to Latinos positively -- 3% excellent (same as 2004) and 16% good (20% in 2004).

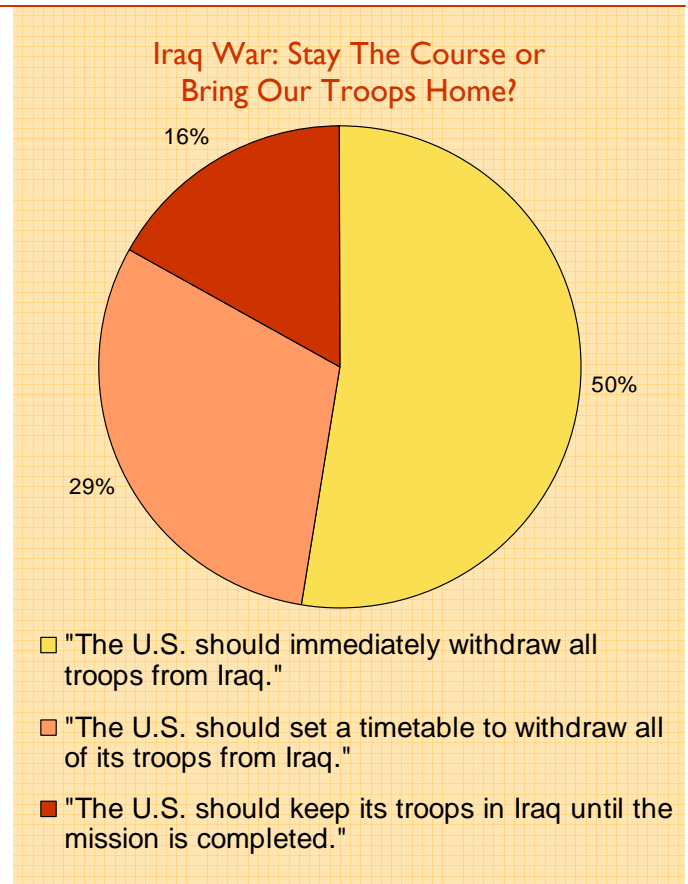
Iraq War: Change Course

“What is your point of view when it comes to the war in Iraq?”

Bush’s abysmal approval ratings appear rooted in highly unfavorable assessments of the President’s handling of the Iraq war. Latino New Yorkers overwhelmingly want U.S. troops to come back home from Iraq, with half (50%) believing that “the U.S. should immediately withdraw all of its troops from Iraq,” while another three in 10 (29%) want the U.S. to “set a timetable to withdraw all of its troops from Iraq.” Only one in six (16%) approve of the president’s policy that “the U.S. should keep its troops in Iraq until the mission is completed.” Hispanic New Yorkers assessment of President Bush’s handling of the Iraq war has slightly worsened since 2004 when fully three-quarters of Latino New Yorkers disapproved Bush’s handling of the war (56% strongly).

Bush Mishandling Immigration Reform

Another reason for President Bush’s abysmal ratings among New York City Hispanics is that they are broadly dissatisfied with President Bush’s handling of the issue of immigration reform: three-quarters say that he is doing either a poor (42%, a plurality) or not so good (35%) job. Only about one in six call his performance good (11%) or excellent (4%).



Split on City’s Direction/Country on Wrong Track

“In general, would you say that things in New York City are headed in the right direction or are things off on the wrong track?”

“In general, would you say that as a nation we are headed in the right direction or are things off on the wrong track?”

Hispanic New Yorkers are evenly divided over whether the city is headed in the right direction or off on the wrong track, 41% vs. 40%, while 9% say neither. They are less optimistic than they were in 2005 when 47% saw the city headed in the right direction vs. 37% who saw the city going in reverse.

There is far more agreement among New York City Hispanics over the country's path: by better than 2 to 1, a majority (56% vs. 24%) believe the country is headed in the wrong direction. Another about one in 10 (8%) volunteered that the nation was neither moving in the right or wrong direction.

Term Limits: Extend Them

“By law New York City Council members can only serve two consecutive four year terms in office. Do you support or oppose extending term limits to allow New York City Council members to serve more than two consecutive terms?”

About half of Latino New Yorkers (49%, with 29% strongly) support extending term limits for New York City Council members beyond the two consecutive terms now established by referendum, while one-third (35%, 24% strongly) are opposed.

Methodology

Miram Global conducted this study among 800 Hispanic adults in New York City metro area between September 18 and October 16, 2006.

The margin of error for the sample is +/- 3.5%

Douglas Muzzio, Ph.D. of the Baruch College Survey Research Unit, assisted in the analysis of the data.

Note: Percentages in some data tables may not add up to 100% exactly due to multiple responses and rounding.

Demographics

Of the 800 Hispanic New Yorkers surveyed, 36% were Puerto Ricans, 24% were Dominicans, 12% Mexicans, 6% Ecuadorians, 5% Columbian, and 13% from elsewhere in Latin America. Latinos born in the U.S. accounted for 30%, Puerto Rico born 17%; 51% were foreign born. About two-thirds (65%) reported they were citizens, 21% were permanent residents and 9% replied that they were undocumented. Of the respondents 52% were women; 48% men. Young Hispanic adults (18-24) comprised 18%, 25-34 year olds 21%, those 35-49 28%, the 50-64 22%, and the 65+ 10%. Educationally, 30% did not complete high school, 30% high school graduates, 18% some college, 15% college grads and 5% post grads. Latinos earning \$20,000 or less comprised 41% of those surveyed, between \$20-30,000 16%, between \$30-40,000 8% and over \$40,000 17% (18% did not report their income).

Hispanic Federation

The Hispanic Federation is a non-profit membership organization comprised of 94 Latino health and human service providers in New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, and Pennsylvania. The Federation polls Hispanic Americans in the states of New York and New Jersey on an annual basis to gauge opinions on critical public policy issues and performance by elected representatives at all levels of government.



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