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**Toplines**



**Pew Hispanic Center/Kaiser Family Foundation**

# **National Survey of Latinos: The Latino Electorate**

**October 2002**

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## Methodology

The Pew Hispanic Center/Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation *National Survey of Latinos: The Latino Electorate* is an excerpt from the *National Survey of Latinos*, which will be released in full in December 2002. The survey was conducted by telephone between April 4 and June 11, 2002 among a nationally representative sample of 4,213 adults, 18 years and older, who were selected at random. Representatives of The Pew Hispanic Center and The Kaiser Family Foundation worked together to develop the survey questionnaire and analyze the results. International Communications Research of Media, PA conducted the fieldwork in either English or Spanish, based on the respondent's preference.

Of those who were interviewed, 2,929 identified themselves as being of Hispanic or Latin origin or descent (based on the question "Are you, yourself of Hispanic or Latin origin or descent, such as Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Dominican, Central or South American, Caribbean or some other Latin background?") and throughout this report they will be referred to interchangeably as either "Latinos" or "Hispanics." In addition, interviews were conducted with 1008 non-Hispanic whites, and 171 non-Hispanic African Americans. The results are weighted to represent the actual distribution of adults throughout the United States.

This report is primarily based upon responses from those who said that they were registered to vote — 1329 Latinos, 838 non-Hispanic whites, and 136 non-Hispanic African Americans reported they were registered to vote at their current address. It should be noted that registration status is self-reported and a common finding in public opinion polling is that registration status is often over-reported when compared to actual registration records. The margin of sampling error is +/- 3.6 percentage points for Latinos who are registered to vote, +/- 3.7 percentage points for registered whites, and +/- 11.3 percentage points for registered African Americans. Note that sampling error may be larger for other subgroups and that sampling error is only one of many potential sources of error in this or any other public opinion poll.

Of the Latinos who said they were registered to vote, 655 were born in the United States (not including Puerto Rico) and 674 were born outside of the United States or on the island of Puerto Rico. Throughout this report, Latinos who were born in the United States will be referred to interchangeably as either "U.S.-born" or "native-born" and Latinos who were born outside of the United States will be referred to interchangeably as either "born outside of U.S." or "foreign-born." Furthermore, whenever the labels "registered whites" or "registered African Americans" are used, it refers to those non-Hispanic whites or non-Hispanic African Americans who reported being registered to vote.

Copies of the topline publication #3266 are available online at [www.kff.org](http://www.kff.org) and [www.pewhispanic.org](http://www.pewhispanic.org) or by calling the Foundation's publications request line at 1-800-656-4533.

*The Kaiser Family Foundation, based in Menlo Park, California, is a nonprofit, independent national health care philanthropy and is not associated with Kaiser Permanente or Kaiser Industries.*

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*Asked of Latinos*

3. Were you born in the United States, the island of Puerto Rico or in another country?

	United States	Puerto Rico	Another Country
Registered Latinos	59	9	32

8. How much of the time do you trust the government in Washington to do what is right—just about always, most of the time, or only some of the time?

	Just about always	Most of the time	Some of the time	Never	Don't know
Registered Latinos	11	33	49	4	2
Registered Native-born	9	36	48	6	1
Registered Foreign-born	14	28	51	2	4
Registered Whites	7	39	48	4	2
Registered Blacks	7	22	62	8	-

9. Which of the following statements do you agree with more...?

	I'd rather pay higher taxes to support a larger government that provides more services	I'd rather pay lower taxes and have a smaller government that provides fewer services	Don't know
Registered Latinos	55	38	6
Registered Native-born	54	41	5
Registered Foreign-born	57	35	8
Registered Whites	32	61	7
Registered Blacks	39	52	9

10. Some people believe that (INSERT FIRST ITEM). Others believe that (INSERT SECOND ITEM). Which is closer to your view?

	Religious, charitable and community organizations can do the best job of providing services to people in need	The government can do the best job of providing services to people in need	Don't know
Registered Latinos	47	46	7
Registered Native-born	53	41	6
Registered Foreign-born	39	52	9
Registered Whites	62	30	9
Registered Blacks	58	36	6

*Asked of Latinos*

13. Based on your experience, do you think political leaders are interested in the problems of particular concern to (HISPANICS/LATINOS) living here or not?

	Yes	No	Don't know
Registered Latinos	40	53	7
Registered Native-born	37	56	8
Registered Foreign-born	44	50	6

19. Thinking about your own values and morals, I'd like you to tell me whether you think in general, it is acceptable or unacceptable.

a. How about divorce?

	Registered Latinos	Registered NB Latinos	Registered FB Latinos	Registered Whites	Registered Blacks
Acceptable	61	65	56	74	61
Unacceptable	35	31	41	24	38
Don't Know	3	4	3	2	--

b. How about sex between two adults of the same sex?

	Registered Latinos	Registered NB Latinos	Registered FB Latinos	Registered Whites	Registered Blacks
Acceptable	31	35	24	38	18
Unacceptable	66	62	73	58	81
Don't Know	3	3	3	4	2

c. How about having a child without being married?

	Registered Latinos	Registered NB Latinos	Registered FB Latinos	Registered Whites	Registered Blacks
Acceptable	59	64	52	53	56
Unacceptable	39	33	46	45	41
Don't Know	2	3	2	2	2

d. How about abortion?

	Registered Latinos	Registered NB Latinos	Registered FB Latinos	Registered Whites	Registered Blacks
Acceptable	26	31	19	43	33
Unacceptable	69	64	77	52	65
Don't Know	4	5	3	5	1

20. Do you think abortion should be legal in all cases, legal in most cases, illegal in most cases, or illegal in all cases?

	LEGAL			ILLEGAL			Don't know
	NET	Legal in all cases	Legal in most cases	NET	Illegal in most cases	Illegal in all cases	
Registered Latinos	42	12	30	55	31	24	3
Registered Native-born	47	15	32	50	31	20	3
Registered Foreign-born	37	8	29	61	32	29	3
Registered Whites	53	19	34	45	31	14	2
Registered Blacks	45	12	33	55	24	30	-

*We are now going to ask a few questions about immigrants -- people who come from other countries to live here in the United States. When we talk about immigrants we are NOT just speaking about immigrants from Latin American countries, but of immigrants from any country in the world.*

23. Do you think there are too many, too few, or about the right amount of immigrants living in the United States today?

	Too Many	Too Few	Right Amount	Don't know
Registered Latinos	48	7	40	6
Registered Native-born	48	6	40	6
Registered Foreign-born	47	8	39	6
Registered Whites	47	2	44	7
Registered Blacks	49	2	40	9

24. Some people think the United States should allow more Latin Americans to come and work in this country LEGALLY; some people think the US should allow the same number as it does now; and others think it should reduce the number who come and work in this country LEGALLY. Which is closer to your opinion?

	Allow more	Allow the same	Reduce the number	Don't know
Registered Latinos	36	40	21	3
Registered Native-born	32	42	23	3
Registered Foreign-born	41	37	17	4
Registered Whites	17	44	33	6
Registered Blacks	15	41	40	4

25. Some people say UNDOCUMENTED or ILLEGAL immigrants help the economy by providing low-cost labor. Others say they hurt the economy by driving wages down. Which is closer to your view?

	Illegal immigrants <i>help</i> the economy	Illegal immigrants <i>hurt</i> the economy	Don't know
Registered Latinos	62	31	7
Registered Native-born	54	39	7
Registered Foreign-born	74	20	6
Registered Whites	27	67	6
Registered Blacks	27	67	6

26. What would you think of a proposal that would give many of the undocumented or illegal (HISPANIC/LATINO) immigrants working in the U.S. a chance to obtain legal status? Is this something you would favor or oppose?

	Favor	Oppose	Don't know
Registered Latinos	85	12	3
Registered Native-born	79	18	3
Registered Foreign-born	94	5	2
Registered Whites	66	30	4
Registered Blacks	67	32	*

27. What do you think of a guest worker proposal that would allow (HISPANICS/LATINOS) to enter the country legally and work here for a limited period of time, but then they would have to go home, would you favor or oppose such a program?

	Favor	Oppose	Don't know
Registered Latinos	68	30	2
Registered Native-born	64	34	2
Registered Foreign-born	73	25	2
Registered Whites	57	37	6
Registered Blacks	49	42	9

*Asked of Latinos*

55. In what language are the news programs you usually watch on TV or listen to on the radio? Only Spanish, more Spanish than English, both equally, more English than Spanish, or only English?

	Registered Latinos	Registered NB Latinos	Registered FB Latinos
Predominately Spanish (NET)	19	9	34
Only Spanish	11	3	22
More Spanish than English	8	6	11
Both equally	27	20	38
Predominately English (NET)	53	71	28
More English than Spanish	17	22	11
Only English	36	49	16
Do not watch TV or Radio	-	-	1
Don't know	-	-	-

**Asked of Latinos born outside of the United States except Puerto Rico; n = 1838**

68. Now we would like to ask you about U.S. citizenship. Are you...?  
(READ LIST. ACCEPT ONE ONLY)

	A U.S. citizen	Currently applying for citizenship	Planning to apply for citizenship	Not planning on becoming a citizen	Don't know
Total Latinos born outside the U.S. (excluding Puerto Rico)	31	15	41	12	1

**3/68. Citizenship Combination Table**

**Total Latinos; n = 2929**

	-----Born outside of the United States-----					Born in the United States	Born in Puerto Rico	Don't know
	NET	A US citizen	Currently applying for citizenship	Planning to apply for citizenship	Not planning to become a citizen			
Total Latinos	58	18	9	24	7	37	5	--

*Asked of Latinos*

69. What year did you become a citizen?

	Registered Latinos
1995 or earlier	18
After 1995	13
Born in the U.S. or Puerto Rico	68

*Asked of Latinos*

76. Which party do you think has more concern for (HISPANICS/LATINOS) -- the Democratic party, the Republican party, or is there no difference?

	Democratic	Republican	No difference	Don't know
Registered Latinos	45	10	40	5
Registered Native-born	42	9	44	5
Registered Foreign-born	50	12	35	4

78. Have you ever voted in an election in the U.S.?

	Yes	No	Don't know
Registered Latinos	84	16	-
Registered Native-born	84	16	-
Registered Foreign-born	84	16	-
Registered Whites	96	4	-
Registered Blacks	89	11	-

*Asked of those who have voted in an election in the United States*

**79. Now I'm going to read you a list of issues that might be important in determining your vote for a political candidate. (READ LIST) In general, which of these issues is the MOST important in deciding your vote? Here are the choices again...(READ LIST) And which is the second most important in deciding your vote for a political candidate?**

**Most important**

	<b>Registered Latinos</b>	<b>Registered NB Latinos</b>	<b>Registered FB Latinos</b>	<b>Registered Whites</b>	<b>Registered Blacks</b>
	<b>N=1132</b>	<b>N=551</b>	<b>N=581</b>	<b>N=813</b>	<b>N=123</b>
Education	40	33	49	21	29
Economy	18	19	16	21	15
Social Security	7	8	7	8	13
Taxes	3	4	1	5	3
Crime	3	3	3	2	1
Moral values	6	8	4	13	12
Abortion	1	2	*	4	1
Health care and Medicare	6	7	6	9	12
National defense/defense readiness	6	6	5	10	1
Defending civil rights	4	4	3	4	11
HIV/AIDS	2	1	2	*	2
Don't know	3	3	3	2	1

**2<sup>nd</sup> most important**

	<b>Registered Latinos</b>	<b>Registered NB Latinos</b>	<b>Registered FB Latinos</b>	<b>Registered Whites</b>	<b>Registered Blacks</b>
Education	18	18	19	20	17
Economy	22	18	28	17	15
Social Security	13	12	13	11	17
Taxes	5	6	2	8	6
Crime	5	4	7	4	4
Moral values	4	6	3	7	2
Abortion	2	3	1	4	-
Health care and Medicare	17	18	15	13	19
National defense/defense readiness	6	6	5	12	7
Defending civil rights	4	4	4	3	6
HIV/AIDS	2	3	2	1	3
Don't know	2	2	1	1	3

**Total responses**

	<b>Registered Latinos</b>	<b>Registered NB Latinos</b>	<b>Registered FB Latinos</b>	<b>Registered Whites</b>	<b>Registered Blacks</b>
Education	58	50	68	40	46
Economy	39	36	43	38	30
Social Security	20	20	20	19	29
Taxes	7	10	3	13	9
Crime	8	7	10	6	6
Moral values	11	13	7	20	14
Abortion	4	5	1	8	1
Health care and Medicare	23	24	21	22	30
National defense/defense readiness	11	12	9	22	8
Defending civil rights	7	8	6	6	17
HIV/AIDS	4	4	5	1	5
Don't know	3	3	3	2	1

*Asked of one-half sample*

**81. Overall, in whom do you have more confidence when it comes to dealing with the economy-- President Bush or the Democrats in Congress?**

	<b>Registered Latinos</b>	<b>Registered NB Latinos</b>	<b>Registered FB Latinos</b>	<b>Registered Whites</b>	<b>Registered Blacks</b>
	<b>N=674</b>	<b>N=320</b>	<b>N=354</b>	<b>N=413</b>	<b>N=72</b>
President Bush	42	42	42	59	26
Democrats in Congress	43	43	43	29	55
Neither	9	10	9	7	16
Don't know	6	5	7	5	3

*Asked of one-half sample*

**82. Overall, in whom do you have more confidence when it comes to dealing with the economy-- the Republicans or the Democrats?**

	<b>Registered Latinos</b>	<b>Registered NB Latinos</b>	<b>Registered FB Latinos</b>	<b>Registered Whites</b>	<b>Registered Blacks</b>
	<b>N=655</b>	<b>N=335</b>	<b>N=320</b>	<b>N=425</b>	<b>N=64</b>
The Republicans	27	28	25	46	7
The Democrats	53	52	54	36	77
Neither	13	13	12	13	10
Don't know	8	7	9	5	6

**90. In politics today, do you consider yourself a Republican, a Democrat, an Independent, or something else?**

	<b>Republican</b>	<b>Democrat</b>	<b>Independent</b>	<b>Something else</b>	<b>Don't Know</b>
Registered Latinos	20	49	19	7	5
Registered Native-born	19	45	21	9	5
Registered Foreign-born	21	54	16	4	5
Registered Whites	37	24	31	7	1
Registered Blacks	5	64	21	8	2

*Asked of Independents*

**91. Do you consider yourself closer to the Republican party or the Democratic party?**

	<b>Registered Latinos</b>	<b>Registered NB Latinos</b>	<b>Registered FB Latinos</b>	<b>Registered White</b>	<b>Registered Blacks</b>
	<b>N=268</b>	<b>N=158</b>	<b>N=110</b>	<b>N=250</b>	<b>N=27</b>
Republican	25	22	31	38	9
Democrat	39	41	35	42	62
Neither	32	34	27	15	22
Other	*	*	-	1	-
Don't know	3	2	6	3	7

**90/91. Combination Leaned Party Table**

	<b>Republican</b>	<b>Democrat</b>	<b>Independent</b>	<b>Other</b>	<b>Don't know</b>
Registered Latinos	25	56	7	7	5
Registered Native-born	24	54	8	9	5
Registered Foreign-born	26	60	5	4	5
Registered Whites	49	37	6	7	1
Registered Blacks	7	77	6	8	2

**105. What is your age?**

	<b>18-29</b>	<b>30-39</b>	<b>40-54</b>	<b>55+</b>
Registered Latinos	23	21	29	27
Registered Native-born	32	21	25	21
Registered Foreign-born	10	20	34	35
Registered Whites	15	19	32	33
Registered Blacks	23	19	30	28

**Primary Language**

	<b>English dominant</b>	<b>Bilingual</b>	<b>Spanish dominant</b>
Registered Latinos	40	38	23
Registered Native-born	61	36	4
Registered Foreign-born	10	40	50



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