

# DOWNLOAD PDF VOTERS, PARTIES, AND LATINO POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT

## Chapter 1 : The Development of Political Parties

*Latinos and the political parties* By Mark Hugo Lopez, Ana Gonzalez-Barrera, Jens Manuel Krogstad and Gustavo LÃ³pez Latino registered voters have long said the Democratic Party has more concern for Latinos or Hispanics than the Republican Party, with Democrats losing some ground on this measure since

Each week a fresh sample of registered voters was added and combined with the previous interviews to create a rolling average of the electorate, consistent with most tracking polls methodology. Latino voters did not sit idly by as we were ignored in yet another election year, choosing instead to take our future in our own hands by encouraging those around us to register and vote in Election. Latinos are already making their voices heard in Election. Interest in Election is high. More than one in four 25 percent Latinos have already voted early this year, with several counties nationwide already reporting unprecedented early voting turnout numbers. Survey results show that Latino voters understand how important it is to participate in Election, with 67 percent stating that voting in Election is more important than it was in the presidential election. In the absence of significant outreach from campaigns and candidates, Latinos opted to self-mobilize this election. With only half of Latino voters contacted in the lead up to Election Day 50 percent, the Latino community has stepped up by self-mobilizing in Election. Latino voters have attended rallies and protests, in addition to donating to candidates and campaigns in Election. We are seeing Latino voters engaged in an array of political actions this year. One in five Latino voters 20 percent attended a rally or campaign event in support of a candidate, with another 15 percent reporting they had attended a protest or demonstration against a candidate or issue. Other activities include donating money to a campaign or candidate 17 percent or volunteering to help a candidate or voter outreach drive 16 percent. Immigration gained the most traction among Latino voters in the lead up to Election Day. In week one, immigration ranked as the third most important issue for Latino voters 17 percent, following stopping President Trump and the Republican Agenda 22 percent and lowering healthcare costs 20 percent. The issue surged to number one over the course of the ten-week tracking poll, with 28 percent of Latino voters stating that protecting immigrant rights is the most important issue to them this election. The migrant caravan crisis along the border is having an impact on Latino voters. More than 84 percent of Latino voters believe that Central American immigrants who are coming to the border are doing so to flee violence in their home countries. Comments made about this group by President Donald Trump have hit close to home for Latino voters, with 75 percent stating that the issue has made them more interested in participating in Election. As we near Election, NALEO Educational Fund will continue its efforts to ensure that Latino voters have the information necessary to make their voices heard at the ballot box. These efforts include operating our toll-free bilingual hotline VE-Y-VOTA that provides Latino voters with information on every aspect of the electoral process, from registering to vote, to voter ID requirements, to finding their polling place.

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## Chapter 2 : One in Four Latino Registered Voters Have Voted Early in Election

*This statistic shows the perception among Latino voters of the interest the political parties have in the Latino community as of Of Latino voters polled, 21 percent thought the Republican.*

Print In the U. Kennedy to the presidency. Although Mexican Americans believed they helped Kennedy win the crucial state of Texas, most outside observers regarded their votes as unimportant. Johnson of Texas, the powerful U. In one presidential election after another, Latino elites continued to hype the importance of the Latino vote. Political realities suggested that much of their hype was simply thatâ€™hype. Then came the and elections, and the hype gave way to political realities. The Latino vote was widely seen as pivotal in the election and reelection of President Barack Obama. Today, pundits no longer refer to Latinos as a sleeping giant. The fact that more than a year before the general election in November the media and candidates themselves were highlighting the importance of Latino voters is a radical departure from the past. Latino voters are poised to play a pivotal role in the U. Its location made it convenient for a handful of Mexican American political elites to attend and outline a strategy for broader Mexican American participation. These leaders decided to support John F. Kennedy and, after a quick meeting with his brother Robert, they proposed a bold strategy for Mexican American political participation through the development of Viva Kennedy clubs. The clubs were autonomous entities with no ties to funding from the national or local Democratic Party. Viva Kennedy club leaders were anxious for recognition and they overplayed the importance of their initial meeting with Robert Kennedy and signals, however small, from the Kennedy campaign. They used this assumed connection to mobilize Mexican American voters by explaining to them that Kennedy was a friend and was counting on them to win the election. While there is no data showing the success of their mobilization campaigns, historians note that Mexican American voters responded enthusiastically. In the end, Kennedy prevailed over Republican Richard M. Nixon by a narrow margin. The fact that Kennedy won Texas, the epicenter of Viva Kennedy Club activities, signaled to Mexican American leaders that their efforts were successful. They eagerly awaited the fruits of their labor. The appointments and recognition never came, nor did the Kennedy administration preoccupy itself with Mexican American issues. While the leadership felt ignored and even insulted, the fact of the matter was that these individuals and their clubs were not officially associated with the Kennedy campaign. In all likelihood, Viva Kennedy leaders were unknown to anyone of importance working with or advising Kennedy. So it is not surprising that they did not receive the recognition they expected. Not only did the leadership fail to gain recognition for themselves, they also failed to gain recognition for the broader Mexican American electorate. Yet, Viva Kennedy leaders would remain politically active throughout their lives and many went on to hold elected offices. These men set into motion one of the most significant steps undertaken by Mexican Americansâ€™coordinated participation in electoral politics. Since the presidential election, there has been an ongoing quest for political recognition. One of the major obstacles confronting Hispanic leaders was the absence of reliable data and research on Latinos. Essentially this made them politically invisible. Although the Latino population and electorate experienced significant growth as a result of changes to U. The survey had a sample of 2, Latinos, of which 1, were Mexican, were Puerto Rican, and were Cuban. The fact that the survey was national and that respondents were randomly selected was significant because the results could be generalized to the broader Mexican American, Puerto Rican, and Cuban American community. The LNPS became an important tool for educating Americans about the political views and behaviors of the three largest Latino groups in the United States. Many of the results were eye opening and challenged conventional wisdom about Latinos. By including a number of social indicators, the survey revealed that Latino assimilationist patterns mirrored those of other immigrants. Large majorities displayed high levels of affection and patriotism toward the United States. Also, at the time, immigration issues did not factor prominently among their policy concerns. When asked if they agreed or disagreed that there are too many immigrants, Among Puerto Ricans the figure was At the time, the political

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context was one where anti-immigrant rhetoric was not pervasive, so their views were not seen as hostile toward undocumented immigrants. By the time the survey was carried out, the Latino population had become more diverse. Historically, Latino politics was synonymous with Mexican American politics. Yet, over time other Latino groups would experience significant increases. Given the growing diversity, it was imperative for scholars to examine whether this diverse population was seeing itself as a distinct ethnic group. The LNPS asked respondents to select their preferred ethnic identity. Scholars and advocates were dismayed to find that very few respondents selected the pan-ethnic identity of Hispanic or Latino. Among Mexican Americans, only 12 percent selected this identity. Among Puerto Ricans born in the mainland, 18 percent selected this identity. Among foreign-born respondents, the selection of a pan-ethnic label was significantly lower. For a majority of respondents, the preferred identity was tied to the ancestral homeland and the United States for example, Mexican American. The absence of a pan-ethnic identity was consequential because it suggested that Latino politics was fragmented. An additional challenge to national visibility was the fact that many Latinos remained politically unengaged. In the LNPS, respondents were asked if they had participated in a wide range of political activities including the presidential election. Cuban Americans had the highest rate of participation with 67 percent claiming to have voted in. However, turnout rates were dismal for Mexican Americans 49 percent voted in and Puerto Ricans 50 percent voted in. Although the LNPS identified some of the barriers limiting the rise of Latinos as national political players, it also helped advance their presence through the scholarship it spurred. Without the LNPS, the subfield of Latino politics would not have emerged as an important field in political science. The political scientists Harry P. Pachon and Rodolfo O. De la Garza would remain the only national survey on the Latino electorate for over a decade. The latter would initiate a series of studies on the policy needs of this growing population. In essence, the dreams of the Viva Kennedy generation were being realized in the 1980s as political scientists took the lead in developing rigorous studies on the Latino electorate. However, it was a series of strategic missteps on the part of Republicans that would alter the course of Latino history. In 1992, an anti-immigrant ballot initiative would appear on the California ballot that would fundamentally transform politics in the Golden State and beyond. The ballot initiative was Proposition 53. Specifically, it prohibited undocumented immigrants from receiving any type of public service, including schooling and non-emergency medical care. It also required public service employees to report persons suspected of being undocumented to the Immigration and Naturalization Service INS. At the time, 80 percent of undocumented immigrants were from Latin America and the campaign images and rhetoric were largely directed at Latin Americans generally and Mexicans in particular. In his bid to win reelection, Governor Pete Wilson made his support for Proposition 53 a central issue in his campaign. Although the initiative passed by a large margin 59 to 41 percent, Latinos overwhelmingly voted against it. More significantly, the initiative led Latino immigrants to naturalize and turn out in record numbers. Historically, naturalization rates for Latin Americans were lower than that of other immigrant groups. But now naturalization was pursued in an effort to secure the right to vote. An unintended consequence of Proposition 53 was its mobilizing effect on Latinos. Over time, the sustained increases in voter turnout led pundits to declare that the sleeping giant had awakened. The initiative not only increased the share of the Latino electorate in the state, it also created a backlash against the Republican Party. This was a strategic miscalculation. For example, between 1992 and 2000 the Latino population grew by 30 percent. During this same time period, the non-Hispanic white population grew by 1 percent. Taking a longer historical view of this growth provides us with a greater appreciation for how Latinos literally changed the face of California. By the 2000 Census, they were 38 percent of the population. The most significant change that occurred in California was not demographic, but political. The Latino electorate essentially transformed California into a solidly Democratic state. This is a significant accomplishment considering that throughout much of the Cold War, California was a Republican stronghold. Republicans had won every presidential contest in the state from 1952 to 2000, except Lyndon B. Johnson in 1964. Today, the Republican Party in California is in a free-fall; no Republican presidential candidate has won the state since 1964. Presently, Republicans do not hold any statewide office and they have seen their numbers fall below one-third in the state senate and assembly. The Democratic Party has a two-thirds

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majority in the state legislature for the first time since the s. Finally, the share of Californians registered as Republican declined from 37 percent in to less than 30 percent in . The dramatic demise of the Republicans in California can be attributed to the rise of the Latino electorate and the anti-immigrant initiatives that were passed in the midsâ€™ besides Proposition , Propositions and cut affirmative action and bilingual education programs. Republicans were actually making significant inroads with Latino voters prior to Proposition . Polling data from a California Field Poll show that Ronald Reagan increased his share of the Latino vote from 35 percent in to 45 percent in . A Latino Decisions poll asked Latinos if they had ever voted for a Republican candidate in a local, state, or national election; a whopping 52 percent of respondents answered yes. Clearly, Latinos are willing to vote for Republican candidates. However, the anti-immigrant policies and rhetoric that many Republicans adopted caused Latinos to abandon the party in droves. Anti-immigrant policies and rhetoric could not have come at a worse time for Republicans as the share of Latino voters increased dramatically.

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## Chapter 3 : Latinos and the American political parties

*Since the 1980s, as an election day approaches, pundits, party leaders and candidates for office seem to discover "Latino voters" anew. The discussions that emerge are so predictable that one.*

Various news agencies and other political observers have explored the question of whether a Republican can win the White House without winning over voters of color, who generally, according to a Gallup poll, identify as Democrats or independents. Over the years, political scientists have studied the voting habits and behaviors of racial and ethnic minorities. One area of focus is voter turnout. It has long lagged behind that of white voters. In 2000, for example, the voting rate for non-Hispanic white adults was 65%. A decade previously, voting rates for those groups were 60%. So, as political parties work to attract diverse voters, what factors influence whether they will show up at the polls on Election Day? Are minority populations more likely to vote if a candidate on the ballot is of the same race or ethnicity? Fraga of Indiana University looked at these issues in a study published in the *American Journal of Political Science*. He analyzed congressional general and primary elections from 1980 to 2000 to gauge turnout among demographic groups. Key findings from his study include: Having a political candidate of the same race or ethnicity on the ballot does not, by itself, prompt a larger voter turnout among minority groups. Turnout is often greater for minority voters when they live in a congressional district where their racial or ethnic group represents the majority of the citizen voting-age population (CVAP). For black and Hispanic voters specifically, turnouts are higher when each group makes up a larger portion of the electorate "regardless of the race of the candidates listed on the ballot. When no black congressional candidate is on the ballot, the general-election turnout for black voters is, on average, 40 percent in a district where black people make up 10 percent of the citizen voting-age population. The turnout is considerably higher " an average of 65%. In the absence of a Hispanic candidate, the general-election turnout for Hispanic voters is 46%. This study builds upon previous research to show that the racial and ethnic makeup of an electorate is linked to minority-voter turnout. The author recommends further research to explore the cause of the trend. He suggests that these results be considered when evaluating plans to change voting districts. A study from the University of South Carolina suggests that the Democratic Party and civil-rights organizations can play an important role in mobilizing black voters if they strengthen their organizational features. A study by Harvard University offers insights about voter participation in presidential primaries and caucuses. November 6, We welcome feedback. Please contact us here.

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### Chapter 4 : Viva Latino Voters! “ The Cairo Review of Global Affairs

*The Development of Political Parties* The existence of only two dominant parties stems largely from election rules that provide for single-member districts and winner-take-all elections. Each "district" can have only one winner in any election, the person who receives the most votes.

The discussions that emerge are so predictable that one could easily confuse the date of the commentary or press releases by two or four years. These discussions revolve around two contradictory narratives: The second is that Latinos will be determinative in the result. Both are overly simplistic, and discussions of the expected role of the Latino vote in the November midterms are no different. The expectation is that sufficiently fired-up Latino voters will help Democrats in competitive elections in their effort to win a majority in the US House, US Senate, or both. Have Democrats found the key to turning out the elusive Latino vote? Something similar happened in , when the Democratic party and its defenders blamed black voters for low turnout and lack of support for Hillary Clinton. What these narratives fail to acknowledge are the limits of electoral participation based on reaction to threat, especially in a context of increasing barriers to voting. It is time that the Democratic party move beyond expectations that outrage at Trump will mobilize Latino voters and take responsibility for its failure to expand the electorate. Changes in immigration policy in the mids and mids spurred an increase in naturalization by Latino legal permanent residents and the registration of new Latino voters. Democrats have relied on such reactive mobilization not only to activate Latino voters, but to push more Latinos away from the Republican party. As of mid-October, six in 10 Latino voters had not been contacted to vote by any party. This was nearly identical to the reported rate in mid-October The failure of the Democratic party to actively recruit Latino voters is especially noteworthy in light of increasing structural barriers to voting. According to a recent report by political scientists at Northern Illinois University, ease of voting and registration varies significantly across states. Using their Cost Of Voting Index, along with registration and voting statistics from the Census, I have found that this variation leads to disadvantages for racial and ethnic minorities, including Latinos. Twenty per cent of all Latino registered voters live in the five states with the greatest costs of voting in The same is true for African Americans. Democrats hope Latino voters will help them win. For instance, in the majority-Latino Dodge City, where Latinos disproportionately rely on public transit, local officials moved the only polling location to outside city limits , more than a mile from the nearest bus stop. Moreover, newly registered voters in Dodge City received information from the county directing them to the old polling location. Democrats cannot continue to neglect Latino voters yet expect more Latino participation. They need to contact Latino voters during the election season preferably in their language , and they also need to engage in consistent voter registration drives long before any election cycle begins. The strategy must be to devote meaningful resources to Latino mobilization and to challenge at every turn barriers to their participation.

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## Chapter 5 : Hispanic and Latino American politics in the United States - Wikipedia

*In a well-functioning democracy, we should expect political parties to select candidates that best represent the interests of voters. Yet, as this column has previously demonstrated, Members of.*

Trends in party affiliation among demographic groups The balance of partisan affiliation and the combined measure of partisan identification and leaning has not changed substantially over the past two decades. However, Democrats hold a slightly larger edge in leaned party identification over Republicans now than in or The analysis in this report draws on more than 10, interviews with registered voters in and tens of thousands of interviews conducted in previous years see Methodology for additional detail. There continue to be fundamental differences in the partisan orientation of different demographic groups, and in many cases these gaps have grown wider in recent years. For instance, gender, generational, geographic and educational divides are now as wide, or wider, than in Pew Research Center surveys going back more than two decades. Wide gender gap in partisanship As has been the case for more than two decades of Pew Research Center surveys, women are significantly more likely than men to associate with the Democratic Party. While the gender gap has changed little in recent years, it is as wide as it has been at any point during this period: The partisan breakdown of men is relatively unchanged over this period. The Democratic gains among women have not come from increased affiliation with the party. Black, Hispanic and Asian voters remain overwhelmingly Democratic There are sizable and long-standing racial and ethnic differences in partisan affiliation, and they have shifted only modestly in recent years. Since , white voters have been more likely to align with the GOP than with the Democrats. This growth is attributable to a slight increase in Democratic-leaning independents, rather than a rise in Democratic affiliation. By contrast, African American voters remain overwhelmingly Democratic: While black voters remain solidly Democratic, identification with the Democratic Party has declined modestly in recent years: The overall balance of partisan orientation among Hispanics is little changed over the last decade. There is a similar balance of partisanship among Asian American registered voters: Only English-speaking Asian American voters are included in the data. While this is little changed in the last few years, it represents the continuation of a longer trend in declining Republican affiliation among Asian voters. Among Asians, identification with the Democratic Party has remained relatively stable over this period. The share of Asian voters who say they are political independents has risen steadily since , reflecting a more general trend among all voters. A gender gap in partisan affiliation and leaning is seen across racial and ethnic groups. For instance, there is a 9-percentage-point gender gap among white voters: Educational gap in partisan orientation continues to grow Higher educational attainment is increasingly associated with Democratic Party affiliation and leaning. At the same time, those without college experience once a group that tilted more Democratic than Republican are roughly divided in their partisan orientation. These twin shifts have resulted in the widest educational gap in partisan identification and leaning seen at any point in more than two decades of Pew Research Center surveys. In , those figures were exactly reversed. Democratic gains have been even more pronounced among those who pursue postgraduate education. In , those with at least some postgraduate experience were evenly split between the Democratic and Republican parties. Today, the Democratic Party enjoys a roughly two-to-one advantage in leaned partisan identification. These overall patterns in education and partisanship are particularly pronounced among white voters. While the GOP has held significant advantages over the Democratic Party among white college graduates without postgraduate experience over much of the past two decades, these voters are divided in their partisanship today. And among voters with postgraduate experience, the Democratic advantage has grown. By contrast, white voters with no more than a high school education have moved more to the GOP over the last 10 years, though there has been little change since As recently as , these voters were divided in leaned partisanship. A wide and growing generational divide in partisanship The generational gap in partisanship is now more pronounced than in the past, and this echoes the widening generational gaps seen in

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many political values and preferences. Millennial voters born to have had a Democratic tilt since they first entered adulthood; this advantage has only grown as they have aged. The balance of leaned partisan identification among Gen X voters has been relatively consistent over the past several years. The Silent Generation born to is the only generational group that has more GOP leaners and identifying voters than Democratic-oriented voters. While there is a gender gap in partisan affiliation within every generational cohort, it is particularly pronounced among Millennial voters. This wide gender gap among Millennial voters is largely attributable to a marked shift among Millennial women. As recently as , the Democratic advantage among Millennial women was a narrower “ but still substantial “ 21 percentage points, compared with 47 points today. Gender gaps in other generations are more modest. Across all generations, nonwhite voters are overwhelmingly Democratic in their leanings, while whites are more divided. Among older generations of whites “ but particularly among white Silents “ more voters align with the GOP than the Democratic Party. White Gen Xer and Boomer voters have remained relatively stable in their partisan makeup in recent years. In both generations, the GOP enjoys a similar modest advantage 11 percentage points among white Gen Xers, 12 points among white Boomers ; these are similar to the balances in White mainline Protestant voters are more divided in their political identities. Black Protestant voters remain solidly Democratic in their partisan loyalties. But white Catholics and Hispanic Catholics diverge politically. While the partisan balance among white Catholic voters is little changed in recent years, this group was more evenly divided in their partisan loyalties about a decade ago. Hispanic Catholics, who represent a growing share of the Catholic population in the U. For most of the past two decades, majorities of Mormons called themselves Republicans. This balance is little changed over the last decade. The religiously unaffiliated, a growing share of the population , have shown steady movement in orientation toward the Democratic Party. Urban voters grow more Democratic, rural voters more Republican Voters in urban counties have long aligned more with the Democratic Party than the Republican Party, and this Democratic advantage has grown over time. Voters in rural areas have moved in a more Republican direction over the last several years. From to , rural voters were about equally divided in their partisan leanings. Today, there is a percentage-point advantage for the GOP among rural voters. While there are racial and ethnic differences in the makeup of rural, suburban and urban areas, this overall pattern of geographic divergence is also seen among whites. At the same time, while urban white voters were roughly evenly divided in their political preferences for much of the last two decades, in recent years the Democratic Party has enjoyed a double-digit partisan advantage:

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### Chapter 6 :  Latino voter perception of political party interest in Latino community | Statistic

*Latino Decisions is the nation's leading polling and research firm on Latino Americans, being called the "gold-standard in Latino American polling" by Time Magazine, and has implemented its weekly political tracking poll of Latino voters every cycle since*

The poll was conducted by Latino Decisions from August 28  September 3, , with more than Latino registered voters interviewed for this first wave of results with a margin of error of 4. The time for change is now. When that happens, you will see a record Latino vote. Election is viewed as pivotal. Compared to the congressional elections, more than two in three Latino registered voters believe that it is more important to vote this year than in the previous midterm elections. Latino voters are still being ignored. With Election Day less than two months away, nearly 60 percent of Latino registered voters reported that they have not been contacted by a campaign, political party or organization asking them to register or vote. Both political parties have a lot of work to do. Results show that 45 percent of Latino registered voters polled believe the Democratic Party either does not care about or is hostile towards the Latino community. This is in comparison to 79 percent of polled Latino registered voters who felt the same about the Republican Party, including 38 percent who believe that the Party is being hostile towards Latinos. Neither party has done a good job explaining what they stand for. Large percentages of Latino voters do not feel that the two parties have done a good enough job explaining what they stand for and what they would do if they won a majority in Congress 42 percent for Democrats; 61 percent for Republicans. Stopping attacks on Latinos ranks as a top priority. More than 31 percent of Latino voters view stopping President Trump and the Republican agenda, and putting an end to racist comments about Latinos, as the most important issues facing the Latino community. Other top issues include lowering the costs of healthcare 20 percent , protecting immigrant rights 17 percent and creating more jobs 13 percent. Latino voters consume news programming in both English and Spanish. Polling shows that 92 percent of Latino voters watch at least some news and current affairs shows in English, compared to 75 percent of Latino voters who view a portion of their news programming in Spanish. Nearly one-third of Latino voters reported viewing shows in both languages equally. The Latino electorate is ready to play a decisive role in Election . More than 67 percent of polled Latino voters stated that they are certain to cast ballots in the congressional and statewide office contests this year. As we near Election , NALEO Educational Fund will continue its efforts to ensure that Latino voters have the information necessary to make their voices heard at the ballot box. These efforts include operating our toll-free bilingual hotline VE-Y-VOTA that provides Latino voters with information on every aspect of the electoral process, from registering to vote, to voter ID requirements, to finding their polling place. On Election Day, the hotline will be connected to the Election Protection efforts and OUR-VOTE, offering Latino voters nationwide a bilingual resource to get assistance and report any problems they may experience at the polls. To view the methodology and full toplines for week one of the ten-week tracking poll, visit <http://>

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## Chapter 7 : Political Parties [blog.quintoapp.com]

*One of the recurring questions in the run-up to Tuesday's elections was whether Hispanic voters would finally emerge as a factor to be reckoned with in American political life, given their.*

The above cartoon "titled "Stranger Things Have Happened" dates from From the beginning, American political parties have had a tarnished reputation. In his Farewell Address to the nation, George Washington warned against "the baneful effects of the spirit of party" as inciting American citizens "with ill-founded jealousies. Since many Americans have become disenchanted by partisan politics, they avoid identification as a "loyal Democrat" or a "staunch Republican. Roles of Political Parties Running candidates for political office. Parties select candidates for many elected positions in American politics. With so many officials to choose, most voters would be overwhelmed by the decisions they would have to make if candidates did not wear party "labels. Some voters even choose a straight ticket, or candidates from the same party for all positions in that election. Checking the other party. A party that does not hold the majority in Congress often keeps the party in power from taking complete control. Party leaders can publicly criticize actions of a President who was elected by the opposite party. The criticism of "partisanship" comes from this party role because many Americans think that the "checking" becomes petty and self-serving. Parties take stands on issues and criticize the points of view of the other parties. Their well-publicized discussions help to inform citizens about important issues and present alternative ways of solving societal problems. Congress and the state legislatures are organized according to party affiliations. Virtually all candidates run for public office with party labels that define their behavior after they win. Why a Two-Party System? The Green Party encourages its members to work in grassroots efforts on issues of ecology and social equality. Most other democratic nations have multi-party systems. Even though third parties have popped up regularly throughout American history, they have either died, or their ideas have been absorbed by a major party. Three good reasons for the American two-party system include the following: Alexander Hamilton contributed to laying the framework of the modern Republican Party. His support for the ratification of the U. Constitution led to the formation of the Federalist Party, which fizzled out by It is easy to complain about petty bickering between Democrats and Republicans. What we sometimes forget is that Americans share a broad consensus, or agreement, of many basic political values. Both parties believe in liberty, equality, and individualism. Neither advocates that the Constitution be discarded. Both parties accept the election process and concede defeat to the winners. In many countries with multi-party systems, the range of beliefs is greater, and disagreements run deeper. The nation began with two political parties "the Federalists and the Democratic-Republicans. The tendency has persisted throughout American history. Third Parties Should third-party candidates be allowed to participate in presidential debates? The single most important reason for a two-party system is the winner-take-all electoral system. In contrast to systems with proportional representation, the winner in American elections is the one who receives the largest number of votes. The winner does not need to have more than 50 percent, but only one vote more than his or her opponents. Consequently, one of the two major parties almost always wins a plurality, and third parties are completely shut out of national offices. Even though political parties are often regarded as "necessary evils," they still play an important role in American government and politics today. The two broad-based major political parties offer alternatives to voters and help connect citizens to their government. Democratic National Committee Visit the official page of the Democratic National Committee for up to the minute information on Democratic candidates and other goings on. Republican National Committee Visit the official page of the Republican National Committee for up to the minute information on Republican candidates and other goings on. Visit the "Newsroom" for the latest press releases from the Republican Party and watch "GOP-TV" for "exclusive webcast updates on the events that shape the Republican message. With a platform that includes an emphasis on social justice and equal opportunity, this third party continues to gain support.

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### Chapter 8 : New coalition plans 7-figure campaign aimed at Puerto Rican voters - CBS News

*Hispanic Catholics, who represent a growing share of the Catholic population in the U.S., are substantially more Democratic in their orientation (64% of Hispanic Catholic voters affiliate with or lean to the Democratic Party, 27% to the GOP).*

Vargas explains the national imperative for making long-term investments in mobilizing and including the Latino community in all aspects of American political life. The eligible Latino electorate is expected to reach History has shown us that candidates who choose to ignore the political power of the Latino community do so at their own peril. The Latino electorate helped seal the fate of Presidents George W. Bush in and , and Barack Obama in and , both of whom won a larger share of Latino votes than their political opponents in several key battleground states. With so much to gain from attracting Latino voters, why do political parties and candidates continue to shy away from establishing real and meaningful relationships with them? Given the numbers, the Latino electorate is deserving of a long-term commitment rather than a last second appeal right before Election Day. Latinos are savvy and sophisticated voters, and they know the difference. In , a pre-election poll by NALEO Educational Fund and Latino Decisions found that more than half of the 5, Latino voters polled reported they had not been contacted by a candidate, party, or community organization asking for their vote. This is simply unacceptable. Parties, candidates, donors, and funders need to focus on making Latinos full participants in our democracy for the years to come, not just in the election. Parties and candidates who engage Latino voters on issues of importance on a consistent basis in both English and Spanish will reap the rewards in the future. Parties should be vying for the Latino vote, as it is definitely up for grabs. One of every four 23 percent Latino voters polled did not identify as Republican or Democrat. A large number of Latinos said that support for their community, not a candidate or party, drove them to cast ballots in Some Super PACs and funders have already started investing in Latinos this election season, concentrating efforts and funneling resources mostly in traditional battleground states like Colorado, Florida, and Nevada, and behind issue-driven messages like immigration reform. Latinos living in non-battleground states like California and Texas are frequently not on the receiving end of these outreach strategies, resulting in a lack of engagement for approximately 45 percent of all eligible Latino voters nationwide. This is the year for parties, candidates and funders to see the enormous promise and potential of a real and sustained long-term Latino voter engagement strategy. In our own efforts to mobilize and empower Latino voters in advance of the election, NALEO Educational Fund will continue to operate its toll-free bilingual hotline 1- VE-Y-VOTA year-round to provide assistance to individuals who may encounter problems casting ballots or have general questions about any aspect of the electoral process. To date, the hotline has assisted more than , voters. We will do our part in the coming months, but we also need parties and candidates to their part if we want Latino turnout to reach its full potential in and beyond. This post is part of a blog series produced by the Aspen Institute Latinos and Society program. The Aspen Institute Latinos and Society Program aims to create broad awareness of the growth and importance of the Latino community to the future success of the United States. We do this by bringing together Latino and non-Latino influencers and decision-makers to find areas of common ground that advance issues and policies of importance to Latinos and the country as a whole. We also work to develop the leadership capacity of Latinos to participate fully in all levels of society.

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## Chapter 9 : California Voter and Party Profiles - Public Policy Institute of California

*The Voters Both Parties Are Ignoring Democrats and Republicans share a blind spot for the diversity of the Latino electorate. Hosted by Michael Barbaro, produced by Michael Simon Johnson, Jessica.*

The existence of only two dominant parties stems largely from election rules that provide for single-member districts and winner-take-all elections. Each "district" can have only one winner in any election, the person who receives the most votes. So no matter how popular a third party, it will not win a single seat in any legislature until it becomes powerful enough in a single district to take an election. By contrast, many democracies have proportional representation, in which officials are elected based on the percentage of votes their parties receive, and more than two dominant parties. If a party wins 10 percent of the vote in an election where seats are at stake, it gets to have 10 of the seats. In a multiparty system, parties may form a coalition, an alliance between parties, to pool their votes if there is agreement on a major issue. Proportional representation encourages the formation of parties that are based on narrowly defined interests. The Electoral College is also a factor in sustaining the two-party system. This arrangement makes it extremely difficult for a third party to win. In the presidential election, Ross Perot captured almost 20 percent of the popular vote across the country but did not receive a single electoral vote. The Federalists and the Democratic Republicans Although the Constitution does not provide for political parties, two factions quickly emerged. One group, led by John Adams and Alexander Hamilton, favored business development, a strong national government, and a loose interpretation of the Constitution. The followers of Thomas Jefferson, known as Democratic Republicans, called for a society based on small farms, a relatively weak central government, and a strict interpretation of the Constitution. The election of had constitutional implications. The Twelfth Amendment , which required electors to vote separately for president and vice president, recognized that political parties would nominate one candidate for each office. Jacksonian Democrats and the Whigs During the s, with the country expanding and many states dropping their property qualifications for voting, the size of the electorate grew. Andrew Jackson took advantage of this change, and from his election in , the Democrats represented an alliance of small farmers, Westerners, and "mechanics," the term used for the working class. The Whig Party supported business, a national bank, and a strong central government. When the Whigs broke up in the s, they were replaced by the Republican Party. This period saw important changes in how political parties operate. Democrats and Republicans The Civil War split the political parties in several ways. The Democrats in the North divided into War Democrats, who supported the war effort but claimed the Republicans were doing a poor job of leading the Union, and the Peace Democrats, or Copperheads, who opposed the war and were suspected of disloyalty to the Union. To win the election of , the Republicans reorganized themselves as the Union party to attract votes from the War Democrats and nominated War Democrat Andrew Johnson for vice president. When Lincoln was assassinated, Democrat Johnson became president. Following the Civil War, Republicans moved quickly to consolidate their control of the United States government. They quickly added a series of Western states to the Union, states that they expected would remain firm in their support for Republicans. They also set up often corrupt governments in the South that would regulate state elections in a manner beneficial to the party. Their record was mixed. The Democrats and Republicans alternated control of Congress, but only two Democratic presidents — Grover Cleveland , and Woodrow Wilson — were elected up to The New Deal coalition and Republican resurgence The Great Depression brought about a major shift in political party allegiance. African-American voters, who had traditionally supported the Republicans since Reconstruction, now joined the unemployed, the immigrants and their descendants, the liberal intellectuals, and the South in backing Franklin Roosevelt. The Democrats dominated national politics for the next 20 years. Democratic dominance collapsed in the s. Young radicals turned away from liberalism in response to the Vietnam War, while moderate Democrats increasingly blamed their party for the rise of lawlessness that had accompanied liberal social change during the decade — especially the explosion of

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urban rioting that devastated American cities starting in Jimmy Carter, whose term spanned to Not until were Republicans able to consolidate their power by capturing control of Congress, the first time they had held both the House and the Senate in almost half a century.