



Latino Voters Hold Control of Congress in Their Hands

Latino voters are the swing bloc that will decide control of Congress in 2026. In this memo, the American Business Immigration Coalition Action and Comité de 100 present data showing that a 10 to 15-point Latino crossover, consistent with what recent elections have produced, reshapes the competitive landscape in more than two dozen districts across Texas, California, Colorado, Florida, Arizona, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, New Mexico, and Pennsylvania, flipping Republican-held seats, fortifying vulnerable Democratic incumbents, and erasing the gains the GOP sought through redistricting.

This shift is underway. After President Trump received the highest Latino vote share of any Republican in U.S. history in 2024, aggressive mass deportation policies and economic dissatisfaction have turned that support into a liability. Recent elections in New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Virginia, Florida, and Tarrant County, Texas confirm the trend: Latino voters are moving, and moving fast. Neither party can take this electorate for granted, but the Republican exposure is acute: their House majority runs directly through districts where Latino voters have the numbers and the motivation to decide the outcome.

Texas

The new Texas Congressional District map is designed to yield a net Republican gain of up to five U.S. House seats. That outcome requires Latino support levels similar to 2024. Public polling and post-2024 election results indicate Latino sentiment is already moving away from that high-water mark. Because most of the new or reconfigured Texas congressional districts are heavily Latino, small changes among Latino voters will produce large district-wide effects.

Here is how that could play out in Texas: n Latino CVAP (Citizen Voting-Age Population), with the assumption that Latino voters traditionally lag the general electorate in turnout by 10%, found that each district's partisan score dramatically shifts toward Democrats.

Hispanic CVAP and Projected Partisans Score of New TX Congressional Districts

CD	Current Incumbent	Party	Hispanic CVAP	New Map Partisan Score
28	Henry Cuellar	D	87%	R+6
34	Vicente Gonzalez	D	72%	R+6
35	Greg Casar	D	52%	R+10
9	Al Green	D	51%	R+16
15	Monica De La Cruz	R	75%	R+22
23	Tony Gonzales	R	54%	R+18
32	Julie Johnson	D	16%	R+18
22	Troy Nehls	R	23%	R+20

Impact of 10% and 15% Shifts in Hispanic Support

CD	Current Incumbent	Swing resulting from 10% Hispanic crossover	Impact	Swing resulting from 15% Hispanic crossover	Impact
28	Cuellar	17.1%	From R+6 to D+11.1	25.6%	From R+6 to D+19.6
34	Gonzalez	13.9%	From R+6 to D+7.9	20.9%	From R+6 to D+14.9
35	Casar	9.8%	From R+10 to R+0.2	14.7%	From R+10 to D+4.7
9	Green	9.6%	From R+16 to R+6.4	14.4%	From R+16 to D+1.6
15	De La Cruz	14.5%	From R+22 to R+7.5	21.7%	From R+22 to R+0.3
23	Gonzales	10.3%	From R+18 to R+7.7	15.5%	From R+18 to R+2.5
32	Johnson	2.9%	From R+18 to R+15.1	4.4%	From R+18 to R+13.6
22	Nehls	4.3%	From R+20 to R+15.7	6.4%	From R+20. to R+13.6

This materializes because the new districts are engineered around Latino concentration. Most of the newly created Republican-leaning districts exceed 50% Hispanic CVAP. In such districts, the Latino vote share is not marginal but determinative.

Pennsylvania

Of Pennsylvania's 17 districts, the largest Latino CVAP, 21%, is in PA-2 (Brendan Boyle), an already strong Democratic district. However, even smaller Latino CVAPs in three districts could have a significant impact on the election outcomes for three Republican incumbents:

- PA-7 (Ryan Mackenzie), whose district has 15% Latino CVAP, is rated a Toss-Up by Cook Political Report, which rates it as R+1. A 10% shift in Latino CVAP turns this district into D+1.7, and a 15% shift leads to a D+3 outcome.

- PA-10 (Scott Perry), though it only has a 7% Latino CVAP, is another hotly contested toss-up where every vote counts. A 10% shift in Latino CVAP makes moves the district from Cook Political Report's projected R+3 to R+1.7, and a 15% shift makes it R+1.

- PA-8 (Rob Bresnahan), with a 10% Latino CVAP, is similar to Perry's dynamics. A 10% shift in Latino CVAP makes moves the district from Cook Political Report's projected R+4 to R+2.3, and a 15% shift makes it R+1.4.

Florida

A methodological note: for most races, we're using Cook Political Report's Partisan Voting Index as our proxy for vote share. This creates a critical gap that deserves attention, particularly in South Florida, where three heavily Latino districts reveal just how fast the ground could shift beneath Republican incumbents.

All three districts have Latino citizen voting-age populations between 66% and 70%. All three incumbents have won comfortably. And all three may be far more fragile than they appear:

- FL-27 (Maria Elvira Salazar): Rated R+6, yet the incumbent won her last two races by R+18.
- FL-26 (Mario Diaz-Balart): Rated R+16, yet the incumbent won by R+40.
- FL-28 (Carlos Gimenez): Rated R+10, yet the incumbent won by R+28.

That gap between the district's partisan lean and the incumbent's actual margin means these members are riding personal overperformance with Latino voters, not underlying partisan loyalty. Cook rates all three as Solid R. Maybe. But the recent Miami mayor's race shattered the assumption that South Florida's Latino communities are a reliable Republican stronghold. When that assumption breaks at the congressional level, these seats could become a serious concern for the GOP.

California

- Latino swing votes takes two Republican incumbents, CA-48 (Darrell Issa) and CA-22 (David Valadao), from D+1 and R+5, respectively in the new map, to D+4.5 and D+6, respectively, with a 10% Latino crossover. This puts both of their seats in significantly more serious jeopardy.

- Latino swing votes takes CA-13 (Adam Gray), who won in 2024 by the thinnest of margins, from R+2 in the new map to D+7.5 with a 10% Latino crossover.

- Latino swing vote takes 2 Dem seats, CA-6 (Ami Bera) and CA-35 (Norma Torres) from "lean/likely Dem" into "strong Dem" territory. Each are D+6 in the new map but move to D+9 and D+16, respectively, with a 10% Latino crossover.

- Latino swing vote takes two "lean Dem" seats, CA-21 (Jim Costa) and CA-25 (Raul Ruiz) into "strong Dem" territory. Each are D+4 in the new map but become D+14 with a 10% Latino crossover.

- Latino swing vote takes "up for grabs" seat, CA-45 (Derek Tran) to "lean Dem" territory. It moves from D+1 in the new map to D+5.7 with a 10% Latino crossover.

Other Districts

The Latino crossover effect ripples across some of the most contested battleground districts in the country.

NM-2: Gabriel Vasquez holds a district with a 54% Latino CVAP. The district is currently scored as even. A 10% Latino crossover toward Democrats swings it to D+10. Vasquez, narrowly elected in a district that went for Trump, would go from vulnerable to pretty safe.

NJ-9: Nellie Pou's district already leans D+2, but its 35% Latino CVAP means a crossover effect pushes that to D+8.5 at the 10% level and nearly D+12 at 15%. A seat that might have attracted Republican investment becomes a waste of resources.

AZ-6: Juan Ciscomani holds a Toss Up seat with a 21% Latino CVAP. In a district scored at exactly even, a 10% crossover creates a nearly 4-point Democratic lean. At 15%, it's almost 6 points. Ciscomani is already one of the most endangered House Republicans.

NV-3 and NY-4: Lean D seats where the Latino crossover effect doesn't flip the outcome but walls off any Republican path to recapture them. Susie Lee's district moves from D+1 to D+4 or D+6. Laura Gillen's moves from D+2 to D+5 or D+6.5. A Latino shift takes them off the board.

NY-17: Mike Lawler, a high-profile vulnerable Republican, is in a Toss Up district with a 15% Latino CVAP. Even that relatively modest share generates a 2.7-point swing at 10% crossover, pushing the district to D+3.7. At 15%, it's D+5.

AZ-1: An open seat following David Schweikert's departure. A 10% crossover flips it from R+1 to D+1.2. At 15%, it's D+2.3.

NY-3: Tom Suozzi's district moves from even to D+2 or D+3, enough to make a Lean D seat more comfortably Democratic.

NJ-7: Thomas Kean Jr.'s Toss Up seat shifts from dead even to D+1.8 or D+2.7 in a district where every vote matters.

CO-8: Gabe Evans holds a Toss Up seat with a 30% Latino CVAP. In a district scored at dead even, a 10% crossover creates a nearly 6-point Democratic lean. At 15%, it's D+8.4. Evans won this seat narrowly in 2024; a Latino shift of this size will turn a Toss Up into a likely Democratic seat.

Key Takeaways

- Latino voters are poised to play a pivotal role in determining control of Congress in 2026.
- Redistricting strategies built on static Latino support are now highly vulnerable. Small shifts in Latino voter behavior can upend partisan control.
- Public polling and post-2024 election results indicate Latino sentiment is already moving away from that high-water mark.
- Common-sense immigration reform such as work permits and legal status for long term law abiding workers is the key to winning the Latino swing vote.
- Polling and recent elections confirm the volatility and power of the Latino electorate.

A Call for Bipartisan Leadership

The current state of immigration politics is fueling division, causing real harm to families, communities, and the economy. However, public opinion is ahead of political leadership: Americans widely support a balanced approach that blends compromise with practical solutions, such as the [DIGNITY Act](#), the [American Dream and Promise \(DREAM\) Act](#), the [Farm Workforce Modernization Act](#), and the [American Families United Act](#).

Now is the moment for bipartisan courage. The party and leaders willing to solve this challenge stand to win the support of Latino voters and secure the decisive swing votes needed for Congressional control in 2026.

Bottomline is this: in November 2026, the Latino vote will determine control of Congress.

California New Map	Incumbent	Party	Hispanic CVAP	Swing resulting from 10% Hispanic crossover	Impact	Swing resulting from 15% Hispanic crossover	Impact
6	Ami Bera	D	17%	3.09%	From D+6 to D+9.1	4.64%	From D+6 to D+10.6
35	Norma Torres	D	52%	9.84%	From D+6 to D+15.8	14.75%	From D+6 to D+20.8
21	Jim Costa	D	53%	10.14%	From D+4 to D+14.1	15.21%	From D+4 to D+19.2
25	Raul Ruiz	D	53%	9.98%	From D+4 to D+14	14.97%	From D+4 to D+19
45	Derek Tran	D	25%	4.69%	From D+1 to D+5.7	7.04%	From D+1 to D+8
48	Darrell Issa	R	19%	3.53%	From D+1 to D+4.5	5.30%	From D+1 to D+6.3
13	Adam Gray	D	50%	9.52%	From R+2 to D+7.5	14.28%	From R+2 to D+12.3
22	David Valadao	R	59%	11.37%	From R+5 to D+6.4	17.06%	From R+5 to D+12.1
41	Ken Calvert	R	30%	5.49%	From D+12 to D+17.5	8.24%	From D+12 to D+20.2
1	Vacant (Late Rep. LaMalfa)	—	14%	2.56%	From D+10 to D+12.6	3.84%	From D+10 to D+13.8
3	Kevin Kiley	R	10%	1.85%	From D+8 to D+9.8	2.77%	From D+8 to D+10.8
Texas New Map	Incumbent	Party	Hispanic CVAP	Swing resulting from 10% Hispanic crossover	Impact	Swing resulting from 15% Hispanic crossover	Impact
28	Henry Cuellar	D	87%	17.10%	From R+6 to D+11.1	25.60%	From R+6 to D+19.6
34	Vicente Gonzalez	D	72%	13.90%	From R+6 to D+7.9	20.90%	From R+6 to D+14.9
35	Greg Casar	D	52%	9.80%	From R+10 to R+0.2	14.70%	From R+10 to D+4.7
9	Al Green	D	51%	9.60%	From R+16 to R+6.4	14.40%	From R+16 to D+1.6
23	Tony Gonzales	R	54%	10.30%	From R+18 to R+7.7	15.50%	From R+18 to R+2.5
32	Julie Johnson	D	16%	2.90%	From R+18 to R+15.1	4.40%	From R+18 to R+13.6
22	Troy Nehls	R	23%	4.30%	From R+20 to R+15.7	6.40%	From R+20. to R+13.6
15	De La Cruz	R	75%	14.50%	From R+22 to R+7.5	21.70%	From R+22 to R+0.3
Pennsylvania	Incumbent	Party	Hispanic CVAP	Swing resulting from 10% Hispanic crossover	Impact	Swing resulting from 15% Hispanic crossover	Impact
7	Ryan Mackenzie	R	15%	2.74%	From R+1 to D+1.7	4.12%	From R+1 to D+4.1
10	Scott Perry	R	7%	1.29%	From R+3 to R+1.7	1.93%	From R+3 to R+-1.9
8	Rob Bresnahan	R	10%	1.74%	From R+4 to R+2.3	2.61%	From R+4 to R+-2.6

Florida	Incumbent	Party	Hispanic CVAP	Swing resulting from 10% Hispanic crossover	Impact	Swing resulting from 15% Hispanic crossover	Impact
27	Maria Elvira Salazar	R	71%	13.67%	From R+6 to D+7.7	20.51%	From R+6 to D+14.5
26	Mario Díaz-Balart	R	67%	12.82%	From R+16 to R+3.2	19.23%	From R+16 to D+3.2
28	Carlos Gimenez	R	69%	13.24%	From R+10 to D+3.2	19.86%	From R+10 to D+9.9
Other States	Incumbent	Party	Hispanic CVAP	Swing resulting from 10% Hispanic crossover	Impact	Swing resulting from 15% Hispanic crossover	Impact
NM 2	Gabriel Vasquez	D	54%	10.23%	From D+0 to D+10.2	15.35%	From D+0 to D+15.4
NJ 9	Nellie Pou	D	35%	6.49%	From D+2 to D+8.5	9.73%	From D+2 to D+11.7
AZ 6	Juan Ciscomani	R	21%	3.80%	From D+0 to D+3.8	5.71%	From D+0 to D+5.7
NV 3	Susie Lee	D	17%	3.19%	From D+1 to D+4.2	4.78%	From D+1 to D+5.8
NY 4	Laura Gillen	D	17%	3.02%	From D+2 to D+5	4.53%	From D+2 to D+6.5
NY 17	Mike Lawler	R	15%	2.70%	From D+1 to D+3.7	4.06%	From D+1 to D+5.1
AZ 1	Open (Schweikert)	R	12%	2.19%	From R+1 to D+1.2	3.28%	From R+1 to D+2.3
NY 3	Tom Suozzi	D	12%	2.09%	From D+0 to D+2.1	3.14%	From D+0 to D+3.1
NJ 7	Thomas Kean Jr.	R	10%	1.80%	From R+0 to D+1.8	2.70%	From R+0 to D+2.7
CO 8	Gabe Evans	R	30%	5.61%	From R+0 to D+5.6	8.41%	From R+0 to D+8.4