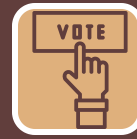




National Hispanic Heritage Month recognizes the contributions of Hispanic and Latino Americans to the history, culture, and achievements of the United States. This spotlight focuses on their story as voters in the United States. Let's learn more about the history of overcoming voter discrimination, their impact on the ballot, and the role their numbers play in shaping elections.

The History



- Hispanic and Latino American males' right to vote was secured with the passage of the 14th and 15th Amendments
- In 1920, Hispanic and Latino American women achieved the right to vote alongside all women with the passage of the 19th Amendment
- Literacy tests, poll taxes, voter intimidation, and other discrimination tactics still served as barriers to Hispanic and Latino Americans for many years
- The 24th Amendment and the 1965 Voting Rights Act made those barriers illegal; however, many Hispanic and Latino Americans were still unable to vote due to language barriers
- In 1975, Congress expanded the Voting Rights Act to enable citizens of language minorities to vote by offering ballots in different languages

National Hispanic Heritage Month

A Civics in Real Life Series Honoring Hispanic American Representation Across America

Spotlight 3: Voting & Elections

The Ballot



- Spanish is the second-most common language used in U.S. homes
- Because Article I, Section 4 grants states the power to run elections, the availability of bilingual ballots varies from state to state
- Many advocates believe a language barrier is a form of modern voter suppression
- Section 203 of the Voting Rights Act states that voting materials must be translated if more than 10,000 or 5% of the voting-age citizens of a political subdivision do not read/speak English well and are from a single language minority group
- Under the federal Voting Rights Act requirement, the 2024 election will see 331 voting areas in 30 states providing ballots in other languages, a 26% increase since the 2020 election
- 3 states and 102 voting areas fell just short of the federally required numbers to provide translated materials for the 2024 election

The Current Numbers



- 16.5 million Hispanic and Latino Americans voted in the 2020 election, which was a 30% increase from the 2016 election
- In the 2024 election, Hispanic and Latino American voters will be the second-largest voting bloc in the U.S. for the first time
- There are 36 million projected eligible Hispanic and Latino voters for the 2024 election
- They are projected to account for 14.7% of all eligible voters in 2024
- The state with the largest percentage (45%) of Hispanic and Latino eligible voters is New Mexico

Civics Challenge: Search & Learn:

Using your Supervisor of Elections website, research the demographics of the registered voters in your area:

- How many registered voters identify as Hispanic?
- What percentage of registered voters are Hispanic?
- What political party are the majority of Hispanic voters registered for in your area?

Look at [this guide](#) from the Florida Division of Elections pertaining to translated voting materials:

- What language(s) is your county required to offer?



Example of Spanish Ballot, FL