

Executive Summary and Analysis: Arizona

The following executive analysis is a compilation of UnidosUS primary and secondary research. The analysis and data presented is focused on the most important issues for the next president to address, including health care, jobs and the economy, and immigration.

Latinos in Arizona

- Arizona is home to more than two million Latinos.¹ Currently, Latinos make up 32% of the state's population.² More than three-quarters (77%) of Hispanic adults in Arizona are U.S. citizens;³ among non-citizens, about 57% are legal permanent residents.⁴
- In Arizona, Latino households contributed more than \$8.2 million in federal, state, and local taxes in 2017. They also possessed a spending power exceeding \$26.9 million that year.⁵
- Ninety-seven percent of Hispanic children in Arizona (ages 0-17) are U.S. citizens;⁶ nearly half have at least one foreign-born parent.⁷
- In 2018, nearly half of Latinos in Arizona were burdened by the high cost of rent, meaning that they spent more than 30% of their income on it.⁸ Latinos in Arizona are more likely (49%) to be burdened by high rental costs than Arizonans (47%) overall.⁹
- Hispanic workers in Arizona continue to play outsized roles in major U.S. industries, most notably, in the construction and agricultural industries. In 2017, Latinos accounted for 48% of construction workers and 64% of agricultural workers in the state.¹⁰

Latinos and the 2020 Election

- In 2020, Latino voters will play a decisive role in at least 23 of the most competitive House races.
- In the 2016 presidential election, one in five Arizonans who cast a ballot was Latino.
- The number of potential voters is much greater—more than 35% of eligible Latino citizens of voting age in the state are still in need of registration. In the last presidential election, 83% of registered Latinos voted in Arizona.¹¹
- In Arizona, there are more than 1.2 million Latino U.S. citizens of voting age.¹²

- According to an UnidosUS poll, 88% of Arizona's Latino voters are motivated to vote in the November 2020 election for president, Congress, and other offices.
- Among these voters, 80% say that participating in voting and elections can make a real difference in their lives.
- In Arizona, registered Latino voters say that the most important issues that the next president should focus on are health care, jobs and the economy, and immigration.
- The most important candidate qualities for Arizona Latino voters are someone who values diversity and brings people together; who has realistic, achievable policy ideas and goals; and who fights for their priorities and is willing to compromise to get things done.¹³

Health Care. The Affordable Care Act (ACA) resulted with historic coverage gains and consumer protections that are vulnerable to being reversed. We must continue to strengthen the law so that it works for more Americans, including Latinos. More work is needed to increase access, affordability, and quality so that more families have the opportunity for health coverage and care.

- During the 2019 Open Enrollment Period, 160,456 individuals purchased Marketplace coverage, including 29,710 Arizona Latinos.¹⁴
- The uninsured rate for Arizona Latinos in 2018 was 18%, compared to 29% in 2013.¹⁵
- Latino children make up 60% of all children enrolled in KidsCare, Arizona's version of the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).¹⁶
- The uninsured rate for Latino children in Arizona is 10%.¹⁷
- According to an UnidosUS poll, 32% of Latino voters in the state said that reducing health care costs would most help them save money for an emergency expense or for the future.
- In addition, 30% of voters said that better health insurance to help lower their costs would make the most positive difference in their lives right now.
- According to the poll, 65% of Latinos in Arizona say they would be much more likely to support a candidate who favored policies to lower the cost of prescription drugs, and another 51% would be much more likely to support a candidate who favored policies that provide increases in financial help to lower the cost of buying health insurance.

Jobs and the Economy. The national economy may be growing, but Latinos continue to struggle to get ahead. After paying bills and essentials, the majority of Latinos have no extra money at the end of the month.

- According to an UnidosUS poll, 81% of Latino voters in Arizona say that in this economy, housing costs keep going up, and many hardworking Americans can't afford a place to live.
- Nearly half (49%) of Latino voters say that reducing housing costs would most help them save money for an emergency expense or for the future.
- More than half (54%) of Latinos said they would be much more likely to support a candidate for office who favored policies to build more affordable housing.
- Another 81% of Latino voters say wages are stagnant, and many people need to work two or three jobs to get by.
- According to the poll, 50% of Latinos in Arizona said they would be much more likely to support a candidate who favored raising the minimum wage to \$15 dollars an hour nationwide.

Immigration. Hispanic immigrants play a critical role in our nation's economy. Federal policies attacking the security of Latino immigrants and their families, especially U.S.-born children, is placing the health, education, and economic outlooks of an entire generation of American young people at risk. And, by extension, the current trajectory of our immigration policy and political landscapes are undermining the nation's long term economic, social, and political health and vitality as well. We must urgently correct course.

- In 2017, more than half of three million Hispanic entrepreneurs in the United States were immigrants.¹⁸
- While Hispanic immigrants made up only 6% of the U.S. population in 2017, they comprised nearly 10% of the country's entrepreneurs.¹⁹
- A reported 24,390 Arizonans have Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) status.²⁰ Estimates show as many as 12,200 U.S.-born children in Arizona may have a DACA recipient parent.²¹
- As of 2017, 1,100 Hispanic Arizonans had Temporary Protected Status (TPS).²² They have lived in the United States for an average of 21 years and are estimated to have at least 1,300 U.S.-born children.²³

About

UnidosUS, previously known as NCLR (National Council of La Raza), is the nation's largest Hispanic civil rights and advocacy organization. Through its unique combination of expert research, advocacy, programs, and an Affiliate Network of nearly 300 community-based organizations across the United States and Puerto Rico, UnidosUS simultaneously challenges the social, economic, and political barriers that affect Latinos at the national and local levels.

For more than 50 years, UnidosUS has united communities and different groups seeking common ground through collaboration, and that share a desire to make our country stronger. For more information on UnidosUS, visit www.unidosus.org or follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Twitter](#).

Endnotes

- 1 UnidosUS calculations using U.S. Census Bureau, "2018 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates," *American Community Survey*, data.census.gov (accessed October 21, 2019).
- 2 UnidosUS calculations using U.S. Census Bureau, "2018 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates," *American Community Survey*, data.census.gov (accessed October 21, 2019).
- 3 UnidosUS calculations using "American Community Survey," 2018.
- 4 Migration Policy Institute analysis of U.S. Census Bureau data from the 2012–2016 pooled American Community Survey (ACS) and the 2008 Survey of Income and Program Participation, with legal status assignments using a unique MPI methodology developed in consultation with James Bachmeier of Temple University and Jennifer Van Hook of the Pennsylvania State University, Population Research Institute (unpublished tables, Migration Policy Institute, 2018).
- 5 <https://research.newamericaneconomy.org/report/hispanic-americans-2019/>
- 6 UnidosUS calculations using U.S. Census Bureau, "2018 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates," *American Community Survey*, data.census.gov (accessed February 26, 2020).
- 7 UnidosUS calculation using Sarah Flood, Miriam King, Renae Rodgers, Steven Ruggles, and J. Robert Warren, Integrated Public Use Microdata Series, Current Population Survey: Version 6.0 [ASEC]. Minneapolis, MN: IPUMS, 2019. <https://doi.org/10.18128/D030.V6.0> (accessed February 26, 2020).
- 8 U.S. Census Bureau, "2018 American Community Survey," Table S0201.

- 9 U.S. Census Bureau, "2018 American Community Survey," Table S0201.
- 10 <https://research.newamericaneconomy.org/report/hispanic-americans-2019/>
- 11 U.S. Census Bureau, "Reported Voting and Registration, by Sex, Race and Hispanic Origin, for States: November 2016," Table 4b, *Current Population Survey*, November 2016. UnidosUS calculation.
- 12 <https://research.newamericaneconomy.org/report/hispanic-americans-2019/>
- 13 UnidosUS June 2019 Latino Electorate poll, https://www.unidosus.org/Assets/uploads/files/voting/UnidosUS_2020latinoelectoratesurvey_june2019.pdf
- 14 https://www.cms.gov/Research-Statistics-Data-and-Systems/Statistics-Trends-and-Reports/Marketplace-Products/2019_Open_Enrollment
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- 16 http://publications.unidosus.org/bitstream/handle/123456789/1736/ACA-DEF_LatinoStateFactSheet_AZ.pdf
- 17 https://ccf.georgetown.edu/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/UninsuredKids2018_Final_asof1128743pm.pdf
- 18 <https://research.newamericaneconomy.org/report/hispanic-americans-2019/>
- 19 <https://research.newamericaneconomy.org/report/hispanic-americans-2019/>
- 20 U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, *Approximate Active DACA Recipients: As of September 30, 2019*, https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/USCIS/Resources/Reports%20and%20Studies/Immigration%20Forms%20Data/All%20Form%20Types/DACA/DACA_Population_Receipts_since_Injunction_Sep_30_2019.pdf (accessed February 25, 2020).
- 21 Nicole Prchal Svajlenka, "What We Know About DACA Recipients, by State," (Washington, DC: Center for American Progress, September 2019), <https://www.americanprogress.org/issues/immigration/news/2019/09/12/474422/know-daca-recipients-state/> (accessed February 26, 2020).
- 22 Temporary Protected Status is a designation that USCIS can grant eligible nationals who are present in the U.S. at the time that the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) deems their country of residence temporarily unsafe for return, e.g., due to ongoing conflict or natural disaster.
- 23 Robert Warren, *A Statistical and Demographic Profile of the US Temporary Protected Status Populations from El Salvador, Honduras, and Haiti*. Journal on Migration and Human Security (August 8, 2018), <https://doi.org/10.1177/233150241700500302> (accessed February 26, 2019).