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Latino Voter Participation in the 2018 and 2022 Midterm Elections

Laird W. Bergad

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Latino Voter Participation in the 2018 and 2022 Midterm Elections

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The Center for Latin American, Caribbean and Latino Studies is a research institute that works for the advancement of the study of Latin America, the Caribbean, and Latinos in the United States in the doctoral programs at the CUNY Graduate Center. One of its major priorities is to provide funding and research opportunities to Latino students at the Ph.D. level.

The Latino Data Project was developed with the goal of making information available on the dynamically growing Latino population of the United States and especially New York City through the analysis of extant data available from a variety of sources such as the U.S. Census Bureau, the National Institute for Health, the Bureau of Labor Statistics, and state and local-level data sources.

All Latino Data Project reports are available at <http://clacls.gc.cuny.edu>.

For additional information you may contact the Center at 212-817-8438 or by e-mail at clacls@gc.cuny.edu.

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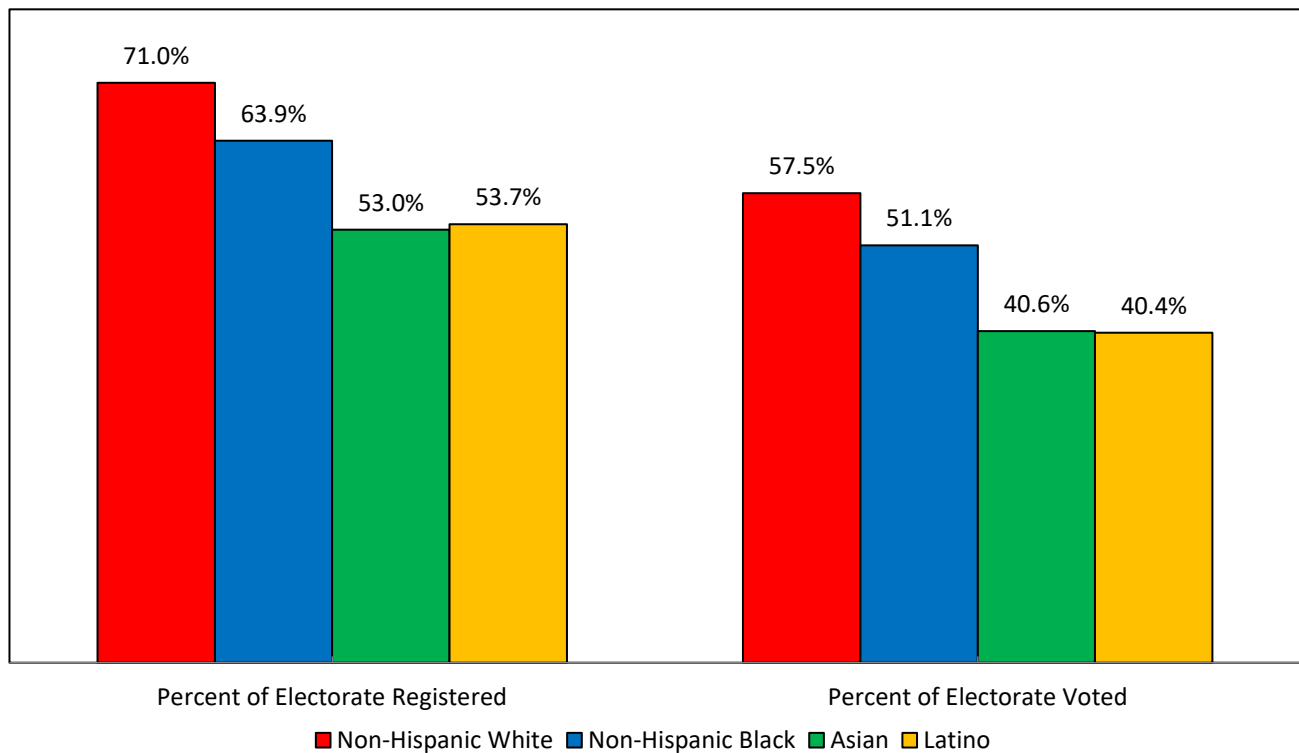




Data on voter registration and participation rates for the 2022 midterm elections indicate that Latinos in the United States continue to have the lowest voter participation rates among the major race/ethnic groups.¹ In 2022, 37.9% of all eligible Latino voters (the electorate, citizens 18 years of age and older) voted at the national level. This compares with 57.8% of non-Hispanic Whites; 45.1% of non-Hispanic Blacks; and 40.2% of Asians. Among Latinos this was a decrease from the 40.4% of the Latino electorate which voted in the 2018 midterms.

However, there was an increase in the percentage of the Latino electorate registered to vote, increasing from 53.7% in 2018 to 57.6% in 2022. The precise reasons which may explain this increase in voter registration rates and a decrease in voter participation rates are not revealed by these data. (See Figures 1 and 2).

Figure 1
 Percentage of Electorate Registered and Voted by Race/Ethnicity
 Mid-Term Elections 2018

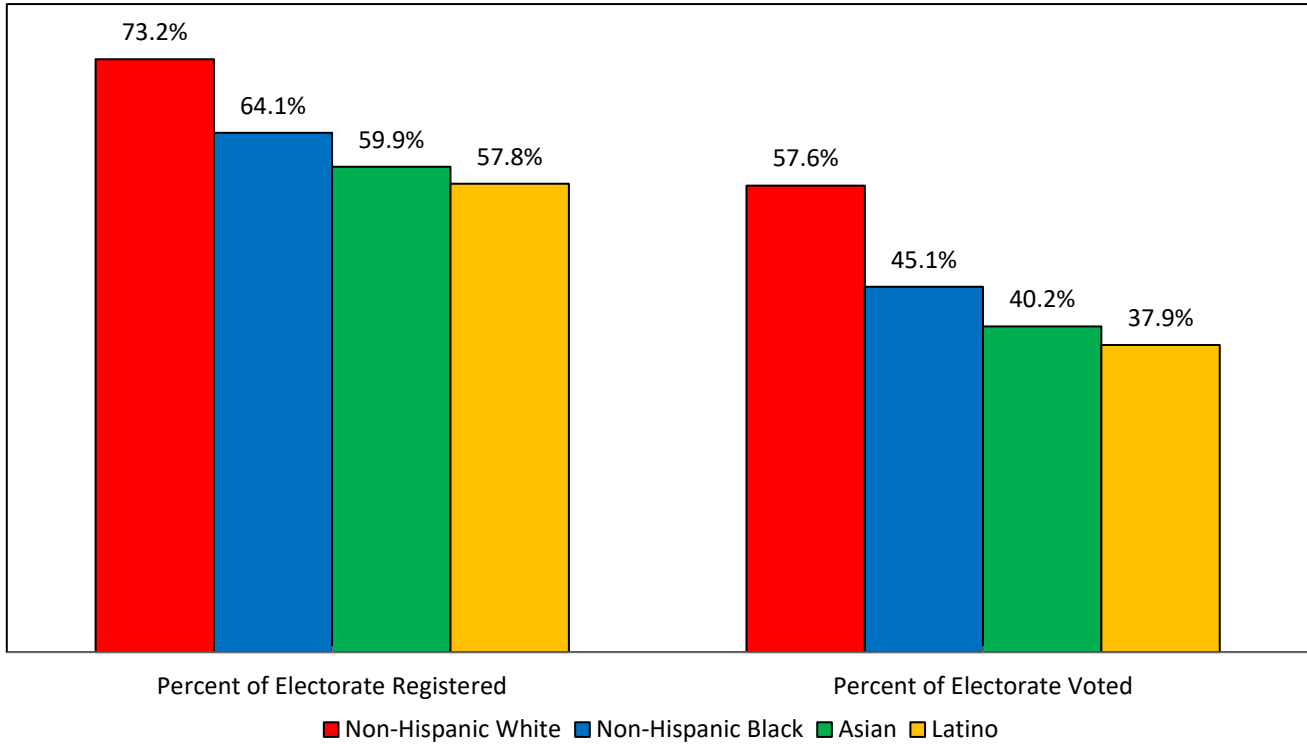


¹ See “Voting and Registration in the Election of November 2022” available at <https://www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/voting-and-registration/p20-586.html>





Figure 2
 Percentage of Electorate Registered and Voted by Race/Ethnicity
 Mid-Term Elections, 2022

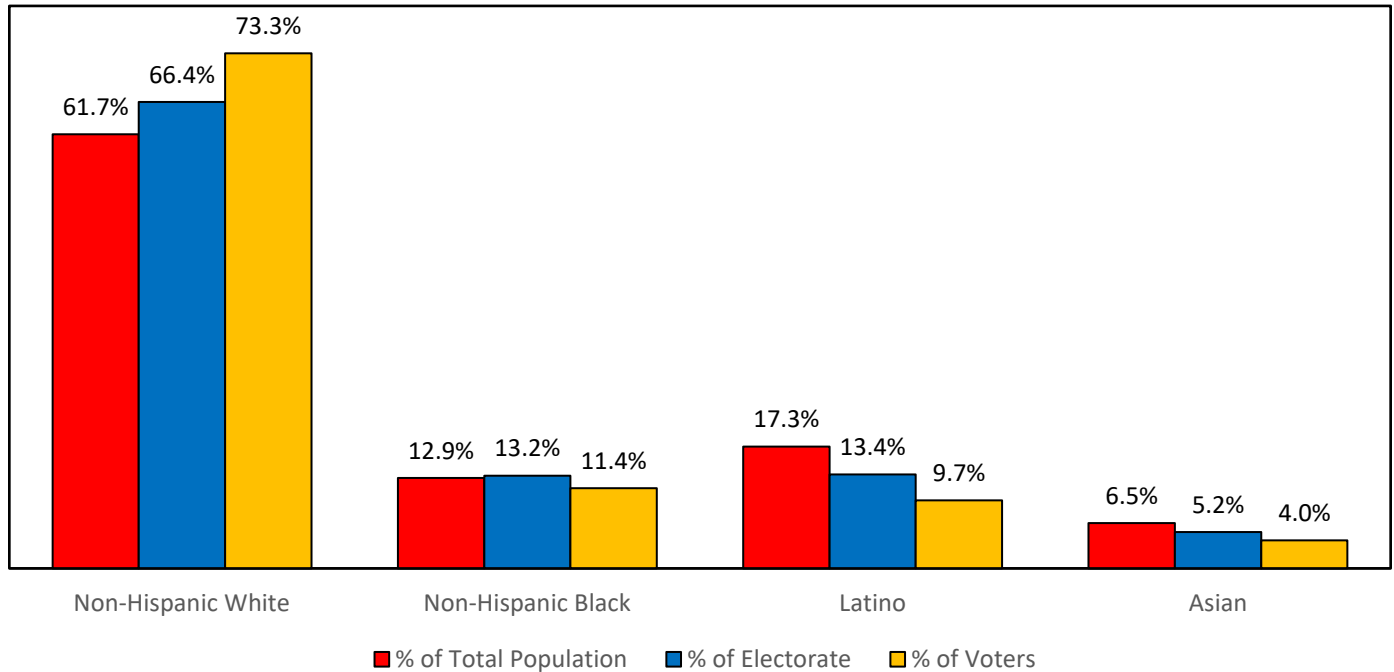


Because of lower voter turn-out rates Latinos did not exercise their latent political power and influence over political power structures in the U.S. In 2022 Latinos comprised about 17.3% of the total U.S. population; 13.4% of the electorate; but 9.7% of actual voters. (See Figure 3).





Figure 3
 Percentages of Total Populations, Electorates, and Voters, Midterm Elections 2022
 by Race/Ethnicity



The percentage of the Latino electorate which went to the polls declined between the 2018 and 2022 midterms in every single age category as indicated in Figure 4. This was true of both male and female Latino voters. (See Figures 5 and 6).





Figure 4
Percentage of Latino Electorate Voting by Age Category, Midterm Elections of 2018 and 2022

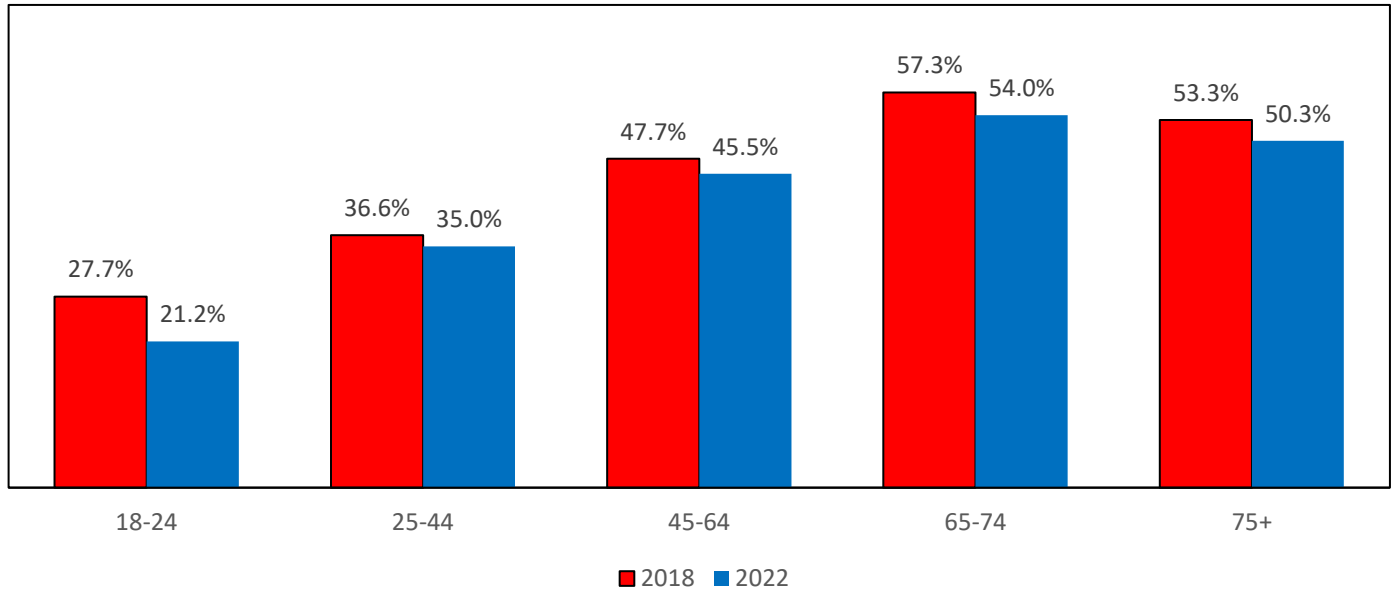


Figure 5
Percentage of Male Latino Electorate Voting by Age Category, Midterm Elections of 2018 and 2022

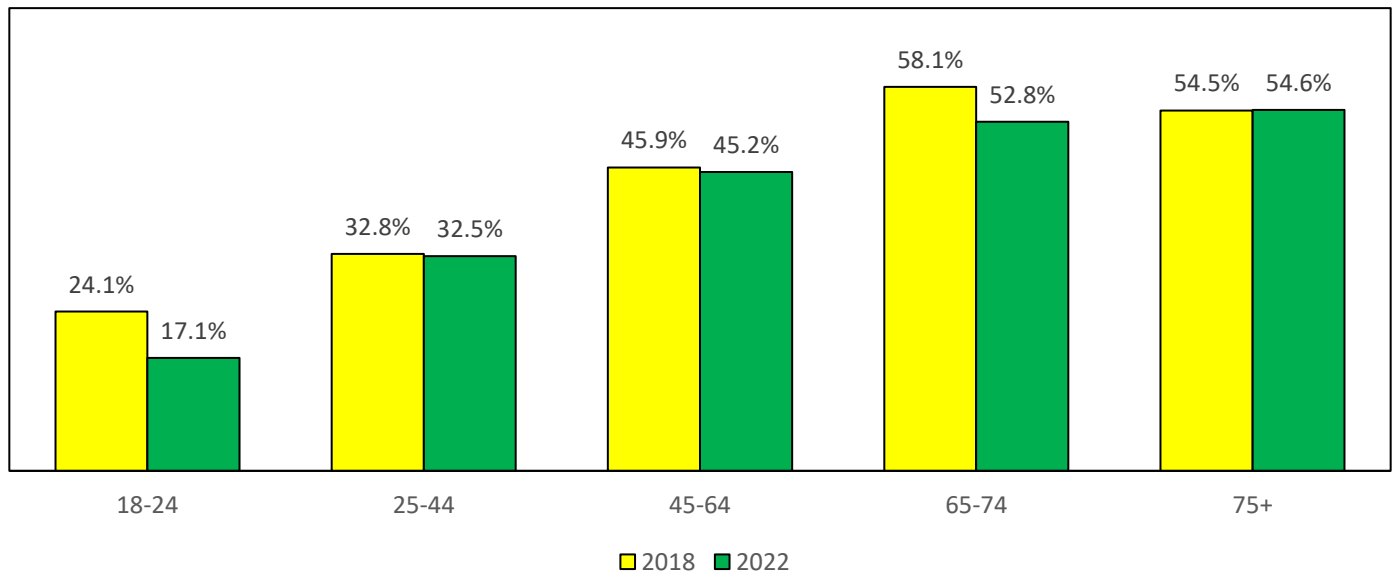
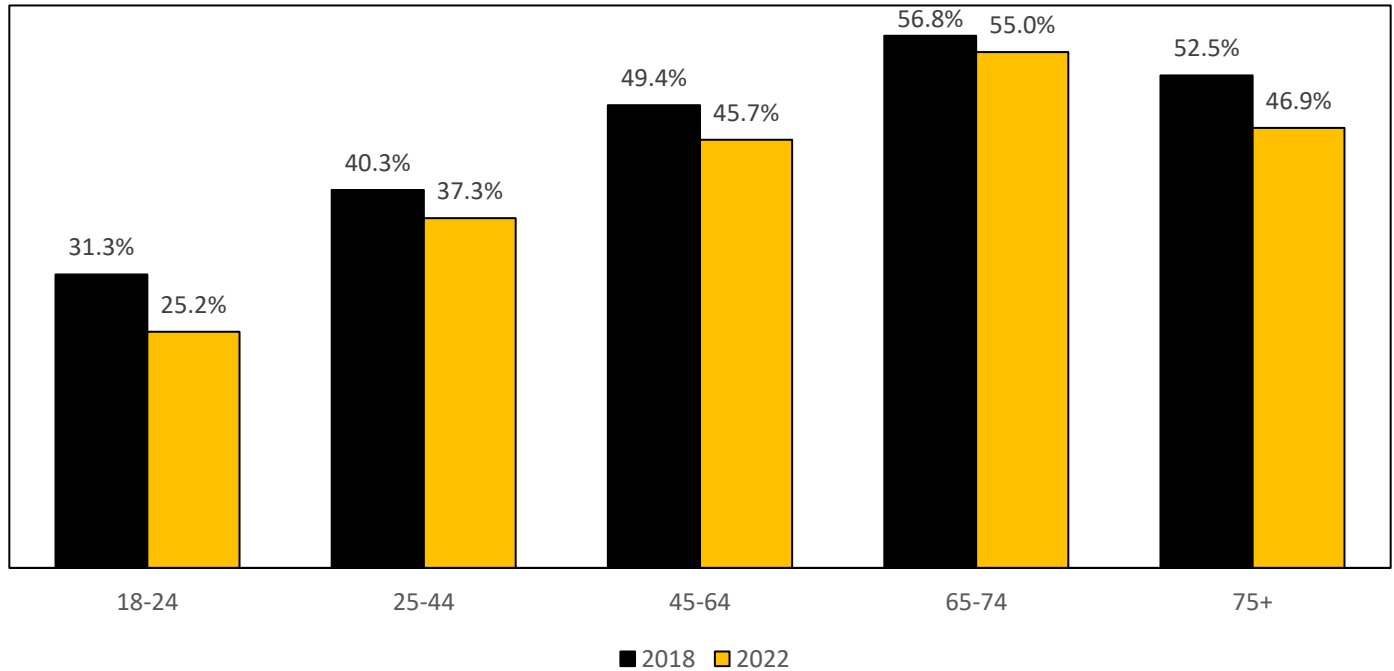




Figure 6
 Percentage of Female Latino Electorate Voting by Age Category, Midterm Elections of 2018 and 2022



This report examines Latino voter participation in key states as indicated in Tables 1 and 2.

In Table 1 it may be observed that in the two states with large Latino populations, Florida and Texas, the absolute number of Latino voters increased 1.1% and 9% respectively. The increase in Texas was impressive and while in 2018 21.6% of all votes cast were by Latinos, this rose to 23.4% in 2022. In Arizona both the absolute and relative numbers declined. The number of Latino voters fell by 6.5% between 2018 and 2022 while the percentage of total votes cast by Latinos dropped from 21% to 19.3%.

In states with smaller Latino populations, whose participation rates could be decisive in an inevitable tight presidential race in 2024, there were mixed results. Michigan, Georgia, and Pennsylvania experienced absolute and percentage increases which are significant. In New York and Wisconsin there were decreases in total numbers of Latino voters between 2018 and 2022, and in their percentages of total votes.

Table 2 indicates voter registration and participation rates in each state examined.





Table 1
Changes in Latino Voting in Selected States, 2018 - 2022

	2018	2022	% Increase/Decrease
United States			
Number of Latino Voters	11,695,000	11,807,000	1.0%
Latino voters as % of all votes cast	9.6%	9.7%	
Arizona			
Number of Latino Voters	588,000	550,000	-6.5%
Latino voters as % of all votes cast	21.0%	19.3%	
Florida			
Number of Latino Voters	1,393,000	1,408,000	1.1%
Latino voters as % of all votes cast	17.6%	18.6%	
Georgia			
Number of Latino Voters	101,000	186,000	84.2%
Latino voters as % of all votes cast	2.5%	4.3%	
Michigan			
Number of Latino Voters	81,000	177,000	118.5%
Latino voters as % of all votes cast	1.8%	3.7%	
New York			
Number of Latino Voters	731,000	639,000	-12.6%
Latino voters as % of all votes cast	10.8%	9.6%	
Pennsylvania			
Number of Latino Voters	154,000	194,000	26.0%
Latino voters as % of all votes cast	3.0%	3.3%	
Texas			
Number of Latino Voters	1,918,000	2,091,000	9.0%
Latino voters as % of all votes cast	21.6%	23.4%	
Wisconsin			
Number of Latino Voters	84,000	74,000	-11.9%
Latino voters as % of all votes cast	3.0%	2.7%	



Table 2
Changes in Latino Registration and Voting Rates in Selected States
2018 - 2022

	2018	2022	% Increase/ Decrease
United States			
Latino Voter Registration Rate	53.7%	57.8%	7.6%
Latino Voting Rate	40.4%	37.9%	-6.2%
Arizona			
Latino Voter Registration Rate	62.8%	62.1%	-1.1%
Latino Voting Rate	48.8%	40.0%	-18.0%
Florida			
Latino Voter Registration Rate	54.8%	57.7%	5.3%
Latino Voting Rate	44.3%	40.2%	-9.3%
Georgia			
Latino Voter Registration Rate	51.2%	54.6%	6.6%
Latino Voting Rate	38.2%	44.3%	16.0%
Michigan			
Latino Voter Registration Rate	48.9%	66.7%	36.4%
Latino Voting Rate	40.1%	47.9%	19.5%
New York			
Latino Voter Registration Rate	53.9%	59.0%	9.5%
Latino Voting Rate	40.9%	38.0%	-7.1%
Pennsylvania			
Latino Voter Registration Rate	41.2%	50.8%	23.3%
Latino Voting Rate	29.1%	35.9%	23.4%
Texas			
Latino Voter Registration Rate	50.8%	58.2%	14.6%
Latino Voting Rate	34.3%	36.9%	7.6%
Wisconsin			
Latino Voter Registration Rate	64.2%	52.8%	-17.8%
Latino Voting Rate	59.4%	34.5%	-41.9%

Note: The registration rate is the percentage of all eligible voters (citizens 18+ years of age) registered. The voting rate is the percentage of all eligible voters (citizens 18*) who voted.