

Washington Post/Univision/TRPI
Election Survey of Latino Registered Voters
July 2004

This survey of 1,605 randomly selected Latino registered voters was sponsored by the Washington Post, the Univision Spanish language television network, and the Tomás Rivera Policy Institute (TRPI), an independent think tank affiliated with the University of Southern California, and was conducted by telephone July 6-16, 2004. Hispanic voters in the 11 states with the largest Latino electorates were interviewed, including: California, Texas, Florida, New York, Arizona, Illinois, New Mexico, New Jersey, Colorado, Virginia and Massachusetts. Together, these states are home to 88 percent of the Latino electorate. Margin of sampling error for overall results is plus or minus 3 percentage points. Fieldwork was conducted by Interviewing Service of America (ISA) of Van Nuys, Ca.

For more detailed information on how the survey was done, please read the [poll methodology](#).

National comparison data is from a Washington Post poll conducted by telephone July 8-11, 2004, among 850 randomly selected adults nationwide, including 721 self-described registered voters. National data shown is based on the registered voter subsample, for which the margin of sampling error is plus or minus 4 percentage points. Fieldwork by TNS of Horsham, Pa.

1. Do you approve or disapprove of the way George W. Bush is handling his job as president?

Q1 National Latinos

Approve	48%	36%
Disapprove	51	54
DK	2	9

2. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Bush is handling (READ ITEM)?

a. The economy;

Q2a National Latinos

Approve	46%	32%
Disapprove	52	60
DK	2	9

b. The situation in Iraq;

Q2b National Latinos

Approve	44%	29%
Disapprove	55	62
DK	2	9

c. The US campaign against terrorism;

Q2c National Latinos

Approve	56%	54%
Disapprove	42	38
DK	2	8

d. Immigration issues with Latin America;

Q2d National Latinos

Approve	33%	27%
Disapprove	50	55
DK	17	18

e. Education

Q2e National Latinos

Approve	49%	40%
Disapprove	44	46
DK	7	15

3. Some people do not pay much attention to political campaigns. How about you? Would you say that you have been following the 2004 presidential campaigns very closely, somewhat closely, not very closely, or not closely at all?

Q3 Latinos

Very closely	35%
Somewhat closely	41
Not very closely	17
Not closely at all	6
DK	*

4. In talking to people about elections, we often find that a lot of people are not able to vote because they aren't registered, they are sick, or they just don't have time. So far as you know now, how likely or unlikely would you say you are to vote in this November's election? Is it very likely, somewhat likely, somewhat unlikely, or very unlikely?

Q4 Latinos

Very likely	86%
Somewhat likely	11
Somewhat unlikely	1
Very unlikely	2
DK	*

*****Rotate items in parentheses*****

5./5a If the 2004 presidential election were being held today, would you vote for (George W. Bush and Dick Cheney, the Republicans), (John Kerry and John Edwards, the Democrats), or Ralph Nader and Peter Camejo, the independents? Which candidates are you leaning toward?

Net Leaned Vote, Registered Voters

Q5 National Latinos

Bush-Cheney	46%	30%
Kerry Edwards	46	60
Nader-Camejo	4	2
Other (vol)	1	*
None (vol)	2	2
No vote (vol)	1	*
DK	1	6

*****If named Bush/Cheney*****

6a. Will you definitely vote for Bush and Cheney, or is there a chance you could change your mind and vote for someone else?

Q6A National Latinos

Definitely	78%	77%
Could change	22	20
DK	*	3

*****If named Kerry/Edwards *****

6b. Will you definitely vote for Kerry and Edwards, or is there a chance you could change your mind and vote for someone else?

Q6B National Latinos

Definitely	80%	77%
Could change	19	21
DK	1	2

8. Who do you trust to do a better job handling (ITEM), (Bush) or (Kerry)?
How about handling (NEXT ITEM)?

a. The economy;

Q8a National Latinos

Bush	44%	28%
Kerry	50	53
Both	1	1
Neither	3	2
DK	2	16

b. The situation in Iraq;

Q8b National Latinos

Bush	47%	34%
Kerry	47	45
Both	1	1
Neither	4	3
DK	2	18

c. The US campaign against terrorism;

Q8c National Latinos

Bush	51%	35%
Kerry	43	43
Both	1	1
Neither	3	2
DK	3	18

d. Immigration issues with Latin America;

Q8d National Latinos

Bush	39%	26%
Kerry	41	46
Both	1	2
Neither	8	5
DK	12	21

e. Education

Q8e National Latinos

Bush	40%	27%
Kerry	50	51
Both	1	1
Neither	4	2
DK	4	19

9. How important or unimportant is a candidate's ability to speak Spanish to you in making a voting decision? Is it very important, somewhat important, somewhat **un**important, or not at all important?

Q9 Latinos

Very important	42%
Somewhat important	23
Somewhat unimportant	16
Not at all important	18
DK	1

10. Please tell me whether the following statement applies to BUSH or not.

- a. He understands the problems of people like you;

Q10a National Latinos

Yes	42%	37%
No	58	55
DK	1	8

b. He is a strong leader;

Q10b National Latinos

Yes	58%	58%
No	41	36
DK	1	5

c. He (Bush) can be trusted in a crisis;

Q10c National Latinos

Yes	57%	47%
No	42	44
DK	1	9

d. He (Bush) is a likable person

Q10d National Latinos

Yes	67%	61%
No	31	34
DK	1	6

11. Please tell me whether the following statement applies to KERRY or not.

a. He understands the problems of people like you;

Q11a National Latinos

Yes	52%	53%
No	41	23
DK	7	24

b. He is a strong leader;

Q11b National Latinos

Yes	51%	57%
No	39	22
DK	10	22

c. He can be trusted in a crisis;

Q11c National Latinos

Yes	51%	53%
No	36	21
DK	13	26

d. He (Kerry) is a likable person

Q11d National Latinos

Yes	71%	69%
No	25	14
DK	3	17

13. Do you think Kerry has or has not made a sincere effort to reach out to the Latino community?

Q13 Latinos

Yes	39%
No	30
DK	31

14. How about Bush, do you think he has or has not made a sincere effort to reach out to the Latino community?

Q14 Latinos

Yes	40%
No	50
DK	10

If answered yes to both Q13 and Q14, ask:

[n = 198]

15. Which candidate, (Bush) or (Kerry), has made more of an effort to reach out to the Latino community?

Q15 Latinos

Bush	43%
Kerry	28
Same	15
DK	14

***** Rotate items in parentheses *****

16. Which political party do you think has more concern for the Latino community? Is it the (Democratic Party), the (Republican Party), or is there no difference?

Q16 Latinos

Democratic Party	50%
Republican Party	14
No difference	30
DK	6

*****Scramble items in parentheses *****

17. Of the following list, which one will be the SINGLE most important issue in your vote for president this year: (The U.S. campaign against terrorism), (the war in Iraq), (the economy and jobs), (education), (Health care), (crime), or something else?

Q17 National Latinos

Terrorism	19%	15%
War in Iraq	20	13
Economy	28	33
Education	12	18
Health care	11	12
Crime	1	3
Other	8	4
DK	1	3

***** Rotate items in parentheses*****

18. Overall, who do you trust to do a better job coping with the main problems the nation faces over the next few years, (Bush) or (Kerry)?

Q18 Latinos

Bush	30%
Kerry	55
Both	1
Neither	1
DK	12

19. Do you think the nation's economy is getting better, getting worse or staying the same?

Q19 National Latinos

Better off	37%	29%
Worse off	28	30
About same	35	38
DK	1	3

20. Would you say that you and your family living with you are financially better off, worse off, or just about the same as you were a year ago?

Q20 National Latinos

Better off	26%	24%
Worse off	22	25
About same	52	50
DK	*	1

Rotate Bush and Democrats

21. [President Bush has proposed that undocumented immigrants be given temporary legal status for at least three years so long as they can prove they are employed. However, these individuals eventually would have to return home.]

[The Democratic Party has proposed that some undocumented immigrants currently in the United States be given amnesty and be allowed to become permanent legal residents.]

Do you support [President Bush's proposal], [the Democratic Party's proposal], or do you support leaving the current law unchanged?

Q21 Latinos

Bush proposal	23%
Democratic proposal	49
Leave law unchanged	16
DK	12

21N. As you may know, the US prohibits most US citizens from traveling to Cuba. Would you approve or disapprove of changing that policy to allow all US citizens unrestricted travel from the U.S. to Cuba? [INTERVIEWER: GET ANSWER AND THEN ASK] Would you (approve/disapprove) strongly or somewhat?

Q21N Latinos

Strongly Approve	45%
Somewhat Approve	13
Somewhat Disapprove	10
Strongly Disapprove	17
Neither	5
DK	10

22. On another subject, do you think the United States is winning or losing the war on terrorism?

Q22 National Latinos

Winning	45%	37%
Losing	39	40
Neither	14	11
DK	2	13

23. All in all, considering the costs to the United States versus the benefits to the United States, do you think the war with Iraq was worth fighting, or not?

Q23 National Latinos

Yes	45%	31%
No	53	63
DK	2	6

24. Do you think the war with Iraq has or has not contributed to the long-term security of the United States?

Q24 National Latinos

Has contributed	52%	44%
Has not contributed	45	48
DK	3	8

*** Rotate items in parentheses ***

25. Do you generally consider yourself a (Democrat), a (Republican), or an independent?

Q25 National Latinos

Democrat	36%	56%
Republican	32	18
Independent	29	22
Other	4	1
DK	*	4

Asked of Democrats:

26A. Have you always considered yourself a Democrat or have you identified with the Republican Party in the past?

Q26A Latinos

Always a Democrat	86%
Used to be Republican	11
Used to be Independent	1
Other	*
DK	2

Asked of Republicans:

26B. Have you always considered yourself a Republican or have you identified with the Democratic Party in the past?

Q26B Latinos

Always a Republican	63%
Used to be Democrat	34
Used to be Independent	1
Other	1
DK	1

Asked of independents

27. Do you think of yourself as closer to the (Republicans) or the (Democrats)?

Q27 National Latinos

Republicans	39%	19%
Democrats	41	36
Neither	18	32
DK	1	13

Party ID with leaners (Q25/27 combined)

	PARTY ID	National	Latinos

Democrat	49%		66%
Republican	46		23
Indep/Other	5		11

Asked of Independents

28. Have you always considered yourself a political Independent, or have you identified with the (Democratic) or (Republican) Party in the past?

	Q28	Latinos

Always an Independent		62%
Used to be Democrat		25
Used to be Republican		8
Other		3
DK		3

29 Which of the following statements best describes how your feelings about the parties have changed in recent years [READ RESPONSE CATEGORIES]?

	Q29	Latinos

Much closer to Republicans		13%
Somewhat closer to Republicans		6
Much closer to Democrats		26
Somewhat closer to Democrats		7
Feelings have not changed		42
DK		4

DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

Now just a few more questions to help classify your answers:

30. Were you born in the continental United States, Puerto Rico, or another country?

Born in the United States ... 1	46%
Born in Puerto Rico ... 2	7%
Born in another country ... 3	47%
DK/No opinion ... 8	1%

31. [ASK IF Q30=1] Was your mother or father born in the United States?

Father only ... 1	6%
Mother only ... 2	9%
Both parents ... 3	46%
Neither parent ... 4	39%
DK/No opinion ... 8	1%

32. As you know, the term Hispanic, or Latino, refers to people from different countries of Latin America and the Caribbean. To what country in the Americas do you trace your ancestry?

Mexico ... 1	57%
El Salvador... 2	3%
Guatemala... 3	2%
Puerto Rico... 4	10%
Cuba ... 5	6%
Columbia ... 6	2%
Dominican Republic... 7	4%
Other Latin America... 8	5%
Spain... 9	5%
Other part of the world ... 10	2%
More than one ancestry... 11	2%
DK/No opinion ... 98	3%

33. In what year were you born?

AGE GROUPS

18 – 29	12%
30 – 39	16%
40 – 49	20%
50 – 59	20%
60 – 69	15%
70 and over	16%

34. What is the last grade of school you completed? [READ RESPONSE CATEGORIES]

Grade school or less (No schooling or Grade 1 through 8) ... 1	19%
Some high school (Grade 9 through 12) ... 2	20%
High school graduate ... 3	19%
Some college/Vocational (technical) school ... 4	22%
College graduate (BA, BS) ... 5	14%
Graduate (MA, MS, MBA, MPA, MD, M.Div., M.Ed., JD, Ed.D., Ph.D.etc.) ... 6	5%
DK/No opinion ... 8	1%

40. Gender [DO NOT ASK]

Male ... 1	46%
Female ... 2	54%