



2012 ELECTION PROFILE

Latino Opportunities in State Legislatures

A REPORT BY THE NALEO EDUCATIONAL FUND

The nation's leading non-profit organization that facilitates full Latino participation in the American political process, from citizenship to public service.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In Election 2012, Latinos will continue their progress as elected leaders of their communities by seeking positions in state legislatures across the country. Latino candidates are demonstrating that they can successfully pursue seats in state houses nationwide, where some of the most important decisions are made about the policies that affect the lives of all Americans. These elections are the first since the 2010 Census and the 2011-2012 redistrictings, and will provide an opportunity to assess whether the process helped the Latino community achieve fairer representation in the political process.

Latinos are running for state legislative offices in 39 of the nation's states. Of the 373 Latino state legislative candidates identified for this report, 265 (71%) are running in states which are the traditional Latino population centers (Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Illinois, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, and Texas). More than one-fourth of the candidates (108 or 29%) are running in other states, a sign that Latinos are mobilizing for enhanced electoral opportunities in regions with emerging Latino communities such as the Plains States, the Midwest, and the Deep South.

Latinos in State Senates: After the 2012 general election, the number of Latinos in State Senates could increase by as many as 10, from 67 to 77.

Latinos in state lower houses: After the 2012 general election, the number of Latinos in state lower houses could increase by as many as 27, from 190 to 217.

The outcome of the 2012 state legislative elections may also provide some insights into the impact of certain political and policy trends on Latino representation. The election results will help reveal the extent to which Latino candidates were able to prevail in districts created during the 2011-2012 redistrictings to provide the Latino community with enhanced electoral opportunities. In California, as a result of a ballot measure which established the state's "top two" primary system, candidates of the same political party are facing each other in the general election in some districts, and the outcome may help inform the public dialogue about the impact of this system on Latino candidates - a dialogue which is also occurring in the 2012 election season as Arizona voters decide whether to adopt a similar ballot measure.

Additionally, in Election 2010, the partisan composition of Latino state legislators reflected the wave of Republican victories in some states. After that election, there was a net increase of six Latino Republicans in lower state houses, and that increase offset the net decline in the number of Latino Democrats, which prevented an overall decline in Latino state lower house representation. Political observers will be watching the results of Election 2012 to gauge the impact of national and state partisan trends on the composition of Latino state legislative delegations.

This *Election Profile* includes a state-by-state description of the key state legislative races involving Latino candidates (an analysis of the growing number of Latinos running for local offices, such as county, municipal and school board seats is beyond the scope of the *Profile*). On pages 14-16, the *Profile* sets forth tables which include the number of Latino candidates for state legislative offices, and potential Latino electoral gains for each state.

ALASKA

State House of Representatives

Public finance expert Lupe Marroquin (D) is in a competitive race against incumbent Bob Lynn (R) in the 23rd district. Business manager Jodie Dominguez (D) is in a tough 21st district contest against incumbent Craig Johnson (R).

ARIZONA

State Senate

Three incumbent Latino State Senators are running for re-election with excellent prospects for victory: Democrats Olivia Cajero-Bedford, Steve Gallardo, and Robert Meza. State Representative Anna Tovar (D), who is running in the 19th district, is likely to join them in the State Senate. Small business owner Joe Ortiz (R) is in a competitive race against former State Representative Barbara McGuire (D), for the 8th district seat.

State House of Representatives

Six Latino incumbents are running for re-election and face good prospects for victory: Macario Saldate (D), Sally Ann Gonzales (D), Steve Montenegro (R), Catherine Miranda (D), Ruben Gallego (D) and Martin Quezada (D).

In Arizona, each lower state house district is represented by two State Representatives, and both major political parties can field as many as two candidates for those two seats. The two candidates who win the most votes are elected to serve as State Representatives from each district. Thus, candidates in these contests may face as many as three other opponents.

In the 4th district, former San Luis Mayor Pro Tem Juan Carlos Escamilla (D) has excellent prospects of victory. Similarly in Maricopa County, insurance broker Lupe Chavira Contreras (D) and accountant and Planning Commissioner Mark Cardenas (D) are likely to win their election bids in the 19th district. Cartwright School Board President Lydia Hernandez (D) has excellent prospects in the 29th district.

Homemaker Rosanna Gabaldon (D) has a competitive race in Santa Cruz County's 2nd district. Workforce development specialist Emily Verdugo (D) and former state legislator Ernest Bustamante (D) also have prospects for victory in the 8th district.

ARKANSAS

State House of Representatives

Safety coordinator Yessie Hernandez (D) is running against former Justice of the Peace Micah Neal (R) in a tough battle for the 89th district.

CALIFORNIA

California's June 2012 primary was the first held under the state's new "top two" primary system. For the Congressional, state legislative and statewide offices, all candidates running in the primary election – regardless of their party preference – appear on a single primary election ballot, and people can vote for any candidate. The top two overall vote-getters (not the top vote-getter from each political party) move on to the November general election. On the ballot, candidates can list their affiliation with a political party or indicate "No Party Preference" (NPP). As a result, two candidates from the same political party may face each other in the general election.

State Senate

Six of California's incumbent State Senators are not up for re-election, and two are running for higher office: Democrats Gloria Negrete-McLeod and Juan Vargas are seeking congressional seats.

CALIFORNIA, continued

Latinos seeking to join the State Senate include State Assemblymember Ricardo Lara (D), who is running unopposed in the 33rd district. Former Assemblymember Joe Coto (D) faces current Assemblymember Jim Beall (D) in a competitive contest in the 15th district.

Latinos who will face more difficult contests include business executive Gilbert Gonzalez (R), who faces a challenging race against incumbent Carol Liu (D) in the 25th district. Similarly, contractor Frank Miranda (R) has an uphill battle against incumbent Lois Wolk (D) in the 3rd district.

State Assembly

Of the fifteen incumbent Latino State Assemblymembers, nine are running for re-election. Democrats Nora Campos, Luis Alejo, Henry Perea, Norma Torres, John A. Perez, V. Manuel Perez, Ben Hueso, Michael Allen, and Roger Hernandez face good prospects for victory.

Several Latino non-incumbent are likely to win seats in the State Assembly: Assembly staff member Ian Charles Calderon (D), who is facing business owner Noel Jaimes (R), in the 57th district; educator Cristina Garcia (D), who is facing business owner Patricia Kotze-Ramos (R) in the 58th district; and educator Anthony Rendon (D) who is facing business executive Jack Guerrero (R) in the 63rd district. Other Latino non-incumbents who face good prospects for their contests include Stockton City Councilmember Susan Talamantes Eggman (D), who is facing businessman Jeffrey Jafri (R) in the 13th district; Rialto City Councilmember Joe Baca Jr. (D), who is facing business owner Cheryl Brown (D) in the 47th district; Corona business owner Eric Linder (R), who is facing Alvord Unified School District Trustee Jose Luis Perez (D) in the 60th district; educator and former Riverside Community College District Trustee Jose Medina (D), who is facing Moreno Valley City Councilmember Bill Batey (R) in the 61st district; and retired Marine Colonel and former Undersecretary of the California Department of Veterans Affairs Rocky Chavez (R), who is facing former Assembly staff member Sherry Hodges (R) in the 76th district.

Latinos involved in more competitive races include former U.S. Marshal Antonio “Tony” Amador (R), who faces physician Richard Pan (D) in the 9th district, and small business owner and former Delano City Councilmember Pedro Rios (R) who faces Bakersfield City Councilmember Rudy Salas (D) in Kings County’s 32nd district. In the San Fernando Valley, Assembly staff member Raul Bocanegra (D) will battle Los Angeles City Councilmember Richard Alarcón (D) in the 39th district. In East Los Angeles, United Nurses Association Political Director Jimmy Gomez (D) competes against non-profit health care executive Luis Lopez (D) for the 51st district seat.

Candidates with more difficult races include Peralta Community College Trustee Abel Guillen (D) who is facing Alameda City Councilmember Rob Bonta (D) in the 18th district; Jonathon Sosa (D), who is facing incumbent Connie Conway (R) in the 26th district; Beaumont Unified School District Trustee Mark Anthony Orozco (D), who is facing incumbent Brian Nestande (R) in the 42nd district; Fullerton Mayor Sharon Quirk-Silva (D) who is facing incumbent Chris Norby (R) in the 65th district; Christina Avalos (D), who is facing incumbent Donald Wagner (R) in the 68th district; Jose Moreno (R), who is facing Orange County Clerk-Recorder Tom Daly (D) in the 69th district; educator Martha Flores Gibson (R) who is facing incumbent Bonnie Lowenthal (D) in the 70th district; and business educator Ruben Hernandez (D) who is facing former San Diego City Councilmember Brian Maienschein (R) in the 77th district.

COLORADO

State Senate

Latina state senators Lucia Guzman (D) and Angela Giron (D) are not up for re-election. Latina incumbent Irene Aguilar (D) faces excellent prospects for victory in the 32nd district. These incumbents are likely to be joined in the Senate by local activist, Jessie Ulibarri (D), who is likely to prevail in her race against homemaker Francine Bigelow (R) in the 21st district.

Costilla County Commissioner Crestina Martinez (D) is in a competitive contest against Rio Grande Valley Veteran Service Officer Larry Crowder (R) in the 35th district.

State House of Representatives

All five Latino incumbents are running for re-election, and four do not face serious opposition: Dan Pabon (D), Crisanta Duran (D), Edward Vigil (D), and Libby Szabo (R). Robert Ramirez (R) is facing a competitive challenge from businessowner Tracy Kraft Tharp (D) in the 29th district.

Non-incumbent Latino candidates with excellent prospects of victory include Commerce Mayor Pro Tem Dominick Moreno (D), who is facing Paul Reimer (R) in the 32nd district; and Pueblo City Councilmember Leroy Garcia Jr. (D), who is facing Jerry Denney (R) in the 46th district. Attorney and business owner Joseph Salazar (D) is in a competitive race against educator Beth Martinez Humenik (R), and will likely win in the 31st district, left open due to term limits. Educator Clarice Navarro Ratzlaff (R) is in a tough race against ranch owner Chuck Rodosevich (D) for the 47th district.

CONNECTICUT

State Senate

State Representative Andres Ayala (D) is likely to emerge victorious in his 23rd district race against Caz Mizera (R).

Latinos with tough State Senate contests include business owner Malvi Garcia Lennon (R), who is facing incumbent Eric Coleman (D) in the 2nd district; business owner Hector Reveron (R), who is facing incumbent Gary LeBeau (D) in the 3rd district; business owner Art Linares (R), who is facing State Representative James Crawford (D) in the 33rd district; and former school teacher Daniel Dauplaise (D) who is facing incumbent L. Scott Frantz (R) in the 36th district.

State House of Representatives

Five Latino incumbents are running for re-election, and have excellent prospects of victory: Democrats Minnie Gonzalez, Jason Rojas, Robert Sanchez, Juan Candelaria, and Ezequiel Santiago. They are likely to be joined in the State House by four new Latino Democrats: Edwin Vargas (D), who is facing Michael Lupo (R) in the 6th district; recreation center director Victor Cuevas (D), who is facing John Alseph, Jr. (R) in the 75th district; Meriden City Councilmember Hilda Santiago (D), who is facing retired educator David Swedock (R) in the 84th district; and community development site manager Christina Ayala (D), who is facing Manuel Bataguas (R) in the 128th district.

Avon Town Councilmember David Peña (D) faces incumbent Timothy LeGeyt (R) in a tough contest for Canton's 17th district. Small business owner Pablo Soto (R) has an uphill battle against incumbent Catherine Abercrombie (D) in the 83rd district. Other Latinos with difficult races include Jose Quiroga (R), who is challenging incumbent Charles Clemons, Jr. (D) in the 124th district; and business owner Eva Maldonado (R), who is challenging incumbent Gerald Fox, III (D) in the 146th district.

DELAWARE

State Senate

Youth development program executive Ernesto Lopez (R) is in a competitive race against business owner Andrew Staton (D) in the 6th district, left open when incumbent Liane Sorenson (R) decided not to seek re-election. If elected, he will be the second Latino to serve in the Delaware State Legislature.

State House of Representatives

Incumbent Joseph Miro (R) has excellent prospects for re-election in November 2012.

FLORIDA

State Senate

All three Latino incumbents are seeking re-election and face no serious opposition: Republicans Anitere Flores, Rene Garcia, and Miguel Diaz de la Portilla. State Representative Darren Soto (D) is in a highly competitive race but has good chances of prevailing over attorney William McBride (R) for the 14th district seat.

Attorney John Couriel (R) has a chance of winning the 35th district contest against incumbent Gwen Margolis (D). Iraqi War veteran and community organizer Leo Cruz (D) has an uphill battle against incumbent David Simmons (R) in the 10th district.

State House of Representatives

Eight of Florida's 12 incumbent Latino State representatives face no serious opposition: Democrat Janet Cruz and Republicans Carlos Trujillo, Jose Oliva, Eduardo Gonzalez, Erik Fresen, Jose Felix Diaz, Frank Artiles, and Jeanette Nuñez. They are likely to be joined by Army veteran David Santiago (R), Marine Corps veteran Victor Torres (D) and school administrator Manny Diaz Jr (R), who are running unopposed or with no serious opposition.

Health care professional Marco Peña (R) is expected to succeed in his 49th district race against non-profit executive Joe Saunders (D). Former State Senator and Majority Leader Alex Diaz de la Portilla (R) is in a competitive race for the 112th district seat against attorney Jose Javier Rodriguez (D). Kissimmee Vice Mayor Art Otero (R) is in a competitive 43rd district contest against Army veteran Ricardo Rangel (D). Educator John Paul Alvarez (D) is in an uphill battle to unseat incumbent John Tobia (R) in the 53rd district. Jose Vazquez (D) will face a tough race against Plant City Mayor Dan Raulerson (R) in the 58th district.

GEORGIA

State Senate

Health care executive Dr. Nelva Lee (D) faces a tough but competitive race against incumbent Rick Jeffares (R) in the 17th district.

State House of Representative

Incumbent David Casas (R) has strong prospects for victory in the 107th district. Incumbent Pedro Marin (D) is facing a competitive challenge in his re-election bid in the 96th district.

HAWAII

State Senate

Incumbents Michelle Kidani (D) and Donovan Dela Cruz (D) face excellent prospects to emerge victorious in November 2012.

IDAHO

House of Representatives

Information technology specialist Daniel Santiago (R) is challenging incumbent John Rusche (D) in a competitive but tough bid for district 6B.

IOWA

Iowa House of Representatives

Marine Corps veteran Matt Alcazar (R) is in a tough contest to unseat incumbent Helen Miller (D) in the 9th district.

ILLINOIS

State Senate

All four of Illinois' incumbent Latino State Senators are running for re-election unopposed or without serious opposition: Democrats Antonio Muñoz, William Delgado, Martin Sandoval, and Iris Martinez. Businessman Edgar Montalvo (R) is in a competitive race for the 19th district open seat against retired Army Captain Michael Hastings (D). Small business owner Peter Hurtado (R) is challenging incumbent Linda Holmes (D) in a competitive 42nd district race.

State House of Representatives

Six of Illinois' seven Latino incumbent representatives face no serious opposition in the 2012 general election: Democrats Edward Acevedo, Luis Arroyo, Cynthia Soto, Elizabeth Hernandez, Maria Antonia Berrios, and Linda Chapa LaVia. Incumbent Fred Crespo (D) faces a competitive race against public school teacher Ramiro Juarez (R). Former journalist Silvana Tabares (D), who is running unopposed in the 21st district, will join the incumbents in the Illinois State House.

Physical therapist Ricardo Fernandez (R) is in a competitive race against Chicago City Council staff member Fran Hurley (D) in the 35th district. Small business owner Marleen Suarez (D) is in a tough contest in the 112th district against incumbent Dwight Kay (R).

INDIANA

State House of Representatives

Incumbent Rebecca Kubacki (R) is expected to win her re-election bid. Incumbent Mara Candelaria Reardon (D) faces a more competitive challenge from Republican attorney William Fine.

Latino non-incumbent candidates include non-profit executive Christina Hale (D), who is in a competitive race, but has good prospects of prevailing over incumbent Cindy Noe (R) in the 87th district. Public relations consultant AJ Feeney-Ruiz (R) is in a competitive contest against state legislative senior policy analyst Justin Moed (D) for the open seat in the 97th district.

KANSAS

State House of Representatives

Four of Kansas' five Latino incumbents are running for re-election. Mario Goico (R) and Ponka-We Victors (D) are running unopposed, and will return to the State House. Incumbents Louis Ruiz (D) and Ramon Gonzalez (R) face opposition, but have good prospects for victory. They will likely be joined by Topeka Councilmember John Alcala (D), who is favored to win in his race for the 57th district against homemaker Aimee Rosenow (R).

MASSACHUSETTS

State Senate

Incumbent Sonia Chang-Diaz (D) is running unopposed and will win re-election in November 2012.

State House of Representatives

Democratic incumbents Carlos Henriquez, Cheryl Coakley-Rivera, Jeffrey Sanchez, and Marcos Devers are all expected to succeed in their contests for re-election. Holyoke City Councilor Aaron Vega (D) has good prospects of winning his race against Holyoke City Councilor Linda Vacon (R) in the 5th Hampden district. Lawrence City Council President Frank Moran (D) is running unopposed in his bid for the 17th Essex district.

MAINE

State House of Representatives

Former flight attendant and community leader Lisa Villa (D) is in a competitive bid for the 98th district against business owner Roxanna Hagerman (R).

MICHIGAN

State House of Representatives

Incumbents Bruce Rendon (R) and Harvey Santana (D) have excellent prospects for victory. Firefighter and paramedic Henry Yanez (D) is in a competitive race against sales manager Sean Clark (R) for the 25th district. Samuel Rodriguez (R) is in an uphill battle to unseat incumbent Fred Durhal (D) in the 5th district.

MINNESOTA

State Senate

Incumbent Patricia Torres Ray (D) is expected to succeed in her November 2012 re-election bid. Attorney Melisa Franzen (D) is in a competitive race against State Representative Keith Downey in the 49th district.

State House of Representatives

Incumbent Carlos Mariani-Rosa (D) has excellent prospects for victory. Mental health expert Melissa Valeriano (R) challenges incumbent Kim Norton (D) in an uphill battle for district 25A. College student Andrew Ojeda (R) hopes to unseat incumbent Erin Murphy (D) in a tough battle for district 64A.

MISSOURI

State Senate

Latino incumbent Brian Nieves (R) is not up for re-election.

State House of Representatives

Attorney Robert Cornejo (R) is in a competitive race against incumbent Wayne Henke (D) for the 64th district.

MONTANA

State Senate

Businessman Mark Perea (R) is in an uphill battle to unseat incumbent Christine Kaufmann (D) in the 41st district.

NEVADA

State Senate

Neither of the two Latino incumbents are up for re-election.

State Assembly

Six of the seven Latino incumbents are running unopposed or with no serious opposition, and are likely to emerge victorious in the 2012 general election: Olivia Diaz (D), Steven Brooks (D), Richard Carillo (D), Teresa Benitez-Thompson (D), Lucy Flores (D), and Irene Bustamante Adams (D). Incumbent John Ocegüera (D) is running for Congress.

Latino candidates with tough contests in Clark County include contracts and finance manager Felipe Rodriguez (D), who is facing incumbent Crescent Hardy (R) in the 19th district; Arthur Martinez (R), who is facing incumbent Jason Frierson (D) in the 8th district; and realtor Eric Mendoza (R), who is facing business consultant Ellen Spiegel (D) in the 20th district. Technology architect David Espinosa (R) faces an uphill battle against incumbent Skip Daly (D) in Northern Nevada's 31st district.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

State House of Representatives

All four of New Hampshire's Latino incumbents are running for re-election, and face excellent prospects of victory: Jim Aguiar (D), Marilinda Garcia (R), Carlos Gonzalez (R), and Peter Silva (R). Bianca Rose Garcia (R) is likely to win her contest for a seat in the Rockingham 8 district.

NEW JERSEY

State Senate

Generally, elections for the New Jersey Senate are held in odd-numbered years, and neither of the state's two Latino incumbents are up for re-election.

State Assembly

Generally, elections for the New Jersey Assembly are held in odd-numbered years, and five of New Jersey's Latino incumbents are not up for election. Incumbent Gabriela Mosquera (D), who was appointed in early 2012 as an interim Representative, must prevail in a November 2012 special election to retain her 4th district seat. She is expected to win her contest against former Gloucester Township Councilwoman Shelley Lovett (R).

NEW MEXICO

State Senate

Twelve of New Mexico's 16 Latino incumbents have excellent prospects of emerging victorious in their re-election bids: George Muñoz (D), Richard Martinez (D), Carlos Cisneros (D), Pete Campos (D), Linda Lopez (D), Gerald Ortiz y Pino (D), Nancy Rodriguez (D), Howie Morales (D), Michael Sanchez (D), Mary Jane Garcia (D), Phil Griego (D), and John Sapien (D). They are likely to be joined the State Senate by several new Latinos, including small business owner Michael Padilla (D), who is unopposed in the 14th district; non-profit director Jacob Candelaria (D), who is unopposed in the 26th district; and State Representative Joseph Cervantes (D), who is facing real estate consultant and broker Brett Preston (R) in the 32nd district.

Daniel Ivey-Soto (D), executive director of New Mexico's County Clerks professional organization, was voted to replace incumbent Tim Eichenberg on the ballot as Democratic nominee in the 15th district, after Eichenberg's resignation. Mr. Ivey-Soto has good prospects of winning the contest against former State Senator Diane Snyder (R). Clemente Sanchez (D), who is a director of the Small Business Development Center at New Mexico State University's Grants Campus is in a competitive race against former Albuquerque City Council President Vickie Perea (R) in the 30th district.

New Mexico House of Representatives

Twenty Latino incumbents have good prospects for victory in November 2012: Eliseo Lee Alcon (D), Patricia Lundstrom (D), Henry Saavedra (D), Rick Miera (D), Ernest Chavez (D), Miguel Garcia (D), Antonio Maestas (D), Edward Sandoval (D), Sheryl Williams (D), Lorenzo Larranaga (R), Mary Helen Garcia (D), Rodolpho Martinez (D), Nick Salazar (D), Debbie Rodella (D), Roberto Gonzalez (D), Jim Trujillo (D), Luciano Varela (D), Nora Espinoza (R), Ken Martinez (D), and Alonzo Baldonado (R). Incumbent Andrew Nuñez, now running as an Independent, faces Democratic and Republican challengers, business consultant Mike Tellez (R) and retired state administrator Phillip Archuleta (D), in a three-way race for the 36th district.

Latino non-incumbents who have good prospects of victory include educator Christine Trujillo (D), who is facing small business owner Elisabeth Keen (R) in the 25th district; homebuilder Carl Trujillo (D) who is running unopposed in the 46th district; nonprofit executive director Doreen Gallegos (D) who is facing small business owner Arlington Brewbaker (R) in the 52nd district; David Gallegos (R), who is facing business owner Hector Ramirez (D) in the 61st district; and Tomas Salazar (D), who is running unopposed in the 70th district.

Latinos in more competitive races include former State Representative Andrew Barreras (D), who is facing small business owner Kelly Fajardo (R) for the seat in the 7th district. Elementary school teacher Stephanie Garcia Richards (D) has prospects of unseating incumbent Jim Hall (R) in the 43rd district. Former public administrator and community and economic developer Patricia Roybal Caballero (D) is facing off against Jose Orozco (R) in the 13th district.

Latino candidates who are facing tough contests include small business owner Christopher Saucedo (R), who is facing firefighter Emily Kane (D) in the 15th district; attorney Thomas Guerra (R), who is facing incumbent Dona Irwin (D) in the 32nd district; retired educator Pablo Martinez (D), who is facing incumbent Candy Spence Ezell (R) in the 58th district; and former Albuquerque Police Department officer and small business owner Paul Pacheco (R), who is facing entrepreneur Marci Blaze (D) in the 23rd district.

NEW YORK

State Senate

All six Latino incumbents will seek re-election. Democrats Jose Peralta, Martin Malave-Dilan, Jose Serrano, Adriano Espaillat, Ruben Diaz, and Gustavo Rivera are likely to emerge victorious in the 2012 general election. Suffolk County Legislator Ricardo Montano (D) faces an uphill battle to unseat incumbent Philip Boyle (R) in the 4th district.

State Assembly

Thirteen of New York's 16 incumbent Assemblymembers are running for re-election with strong prospects for winning: Democrats Philip Ramos, David Weprin, Francisco Moya, Felix Ortiz, Vito Lopez, Rafael Espinal, Jr., Robert Rodriguez, Jose Rivera, Carmen Arroyo, Marcos Crespo, Nelson Castro, and Republicans Peter Lopez and Nicole Malliotakis. Incumbent Naomi Rivera, running on the Working Families party ticket, faces a tough battle against Bronx native and businessman Mark Gjonaj (D) and Nicolas Torres (R).

Nily Rozic (D), chief of staff to Assemblymember Brian Kavanagh, has good prospects of winning the 25th district contest against retired postal worker Abraham Fuchs (R). Senior policy advisor Gabriela Rosa (D) is likely to emerge victorious in her 72nd district race against Ronnie Cabrera (R). Community leader and advocate Luis Sepulveda (D) is expected to succeed in his contest against Michael Dennis (R) in the 87th district. Army veteran Peterson Vazquez (R) is in a tough race to unseat incumbent Harry Bronson (D) in the 138th district.

NORTH CAROLINA

State Senate

Incumbent Tom Apodaca (R) is running unopposed and will emerge victorious in the 48th district.

OHIO

State House of Representatives

Incumbent Dan Ramos (D) faces no challenge for his re-election bid in the 56th district.

OKLAHOMA

State House of Representatives

Incumbent Charles Ortega (R) does not face opposition in his 52nd district re-election race.

OREGON

State House of Representatives

Incumbent Sal Esquivel (R) has excellent prospects for re-election in the 6th district.

Computer industry professional Jessica Vega Pederson (D) is likely to win her race against educator Maggie Nelson (R) in the 47th district. Joseph Gallegos (D) is in a tough race against incumbent Shawn Lindsay (R) in the 30th district. Small business owner Manuel Castaneda (R) is in an uphill battle against incumbent Jeff Barker (D) in the 28th district.

PENNSYLVANIA

State House of Representatives

Incumbent Angel Cruz (D) faces no challenge in his 180th district bid for re-election.

Community organizer J.P. Miranda (D) is favored to win against professional actor Steve Crum (R) in the 197th district. Army veteran Kenneth Barreto (R) is facing a tough contest in his 135th district bid to unseat incumbent Steve Samuelson (D).

RHODE ISLAND

State Senate

Incumbent Juan Pichardo (D) has excellent prospects for winning his re-election bid.

State House of Representatives

Incumbents Anastasia Williams (D), Grace Diaz (D) and Larry Valencia (D) are likely to emerge victorious in their re-election bids.

TENNESSEE

State Senate

Incumbent Dolores Gresham (R) is seeking re-election and has excellent prospects of winning her contest.

TEXAS

State Senate

Senator Mario Gallegos Jr. of Houston passed away on October 16, 2012. Senator Gallegos was first elected to the House of Representatives in 1991 and later the Senate in 1995. He served in the Legislature for more than 20 years and was the first Latino state senator elected to represent Harris County. His name remains on the ballot for the general election - if he receives the most votes, the Governor will call a special election to fill the seat. If Republican challenger, Rasuali Bray, prevails, Mr. Bray will take the seat in the Senate.

All six of Texas' incumbent State Senators are seeking re-election and most face good prospects of winning: Democrats Carlos Uresti, Judith Zaffirini, Leticia Van de Putte, Eddie Lucio, Jr, and Jose Rodriguez. Juan "Chuy" Hinojosa (D) is in a competitive challenge with State Representative Raul Torres (R) in the 20th district.

Latinos facing tougher contests include consultant Sam "Tejas" Texas (D) who is facing incumbent Dan Patrick (R) in the 7th district; and firefighter Pete Martinez (D), who is challenging incumbent Kelly Hancock (R) in the 9th district.

State House of Representatives

Of the state's 31 Latino State Representatives, 25 are seeking re-election. Democrats Sergio Muñoz, Rene Oliveira, Richard Peña Raymond, Eddie Rodriguez, Ryan Guillen, Eddie Lucio III, Armando "Mando" Martinez, Joe Farias, Roland Gutierrez, Ana Hernandez Luna, Naomi Gonzalez, Marisa Marquez, Rafael Anchia, Roberto Alonzo, Trey Martinez Fischer, Mike Villarreal, Jose Menendez, Armando Walle, Carol Alvarado, Jessica Farrar, Robert "Bobby" Guerra and Republican Larry Gonzalez are running unopposed or without serious opposition and have good prospects of retaining their seats. Incumbent Pete Gallego is running for a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Three state house incumbents face more challenging races - in El Paso, incumbent Donald "Dee" Margo (R) is favored, but is facing a competitive contest with former Representative Joe Moody (D) for the 78th district; incumbent Jose Manuel Lozano (R) faces serious opposition in the 43rd district from former Representative Yvonne Gonzalez Toureilles; and incumbent John Garza (R) faces a tight race against former San Antonio City Councilmember Philip Cortez (D) in the 117th district

New Latinos in the Texas State House will include attorney Oscar Longoria (D), attorney Terry Canales (D), and educator Mary Gonzalez (D), who are running unopposed. Attorney Poncho Nevarez (D) is likely to emerge victorious against rancher Thomas Kincaid, Jr. (R) in the 74th. Attorney and former San Antonio City Councilmember Justin Rodriguez (D) has excellent prospects of winning his contest against retired small business owner Alma Perez Jackson (R) in the 125th district.

Two Latino non-incumbents are in competitive contests, but have good prospects of winning their races: Houston Community College Board Trustee Mary Ann Perez (D), who is facing Marine Corps veteran David Pineda (R) in the 144th district; and attorney Jason Villalba (R), who is facing former State Representative Carol Kent (D) in the 114th district. Attorney Abel Herrero (D) is also in a competitive bid for the 34th district against incumbent Connie Scott (R).

Latinos with more difficult contests include Colin Guerra (D), who is facing incumbent Tim Kleinschmidt (R) in an uphill race for the 17th district. Attorney and former State Representative Dora Olivo (D) is in tough fight against incumbent Phil Stephenson (R) in the 85th district. Attorney Alex Hernandez, Jr. (D) is in a difficult race in the 30th district to unseat incumbent Geanie Morrison (R). In the 62nd district, college student Eristeo Perez (D) is in a tough contest against incumbent Larry Phillips (R). Marine Corps veteran Abel Bosquez (D) is in a challenging race against incumbent Four Price (R) in the 87th district.

UTAH

State Senate

Latina incumbent Luz Robles (D) has excellent prospects of winning her re-election in the 1st district. Josie Valdez (D) is in a competitive race against Dr. Brian Shiozawa (R) in the 8th district.

State House of Representatives

Incumbents Rebecca Chavez-Houck (D) and Mark Wheatley (D) are likely to win their re-election bids in November 2012. Non-profit program manager Angela Romero (D) and former Poplar Grove Community Councilmember and health educator Andres Paredes (R) are running competitively for the open seat in the 26th district. Travel industry sales manager Celina Milner (D) has good prospects of prevailing over incumbent John Anderson (R) in the 34th district. Salt Lake City housing official Liz Muñoz (D) has a competitive race in the 33rd district against attorney Craig Hall (R). Latino candidates with more difficult contests include retired police officer Elias McGraw (D), who is facing incumbent Eric Hutchings (R) in the 38th district; and business owner Cimarron Chacon (D), who is facing incumbent Don Ipson (R) in the 75th district

VERMONT

State House of Representatives

Incumbent Michel Consejo (D) faces excellent prospects for victory for his re-election in the Franklin 4 district.

WASHINGTON

State House of Representatives

Incumbent Luis Moscoso (D) faces no challenge in the 2012 general election. Battle Ground City Councilmember Adrian Cortes (R) is in a difficult race against landscaping firm marketing manager Brandon Vick (R) for an open seat in district 18, position 1. College student Pablo Gonzalez (D) is in an uphill battle against incumbent David Taylor (R) in district 15, position 2.

WISCONSIN

State House of Representatives

Incumbent JoCasta Zamarripa (D) is running unopposed and will emerge victorious in November 2012.

WYOMING

State Senate

Incumbent Floyd Esquibel (D) is seeking re-election and expected to emerge victorious.

State House of Representatives

Incumbent Ken Esquibel (D) faces excellent prospects for re-election in November 2012. Retired educator Tony Mendoza (D) is in a competitive race to unseat incumbent Matt Greene (R) in the 45th district.

STATE SENATES

The following table sets forth for each state: the number of Latinos currently serving in the State Senate, the number of Latino candidates running for State Senate, the potential net gain or loss of Latino seats, and the potential composition of the State Senate after the November 2012 election. In determining the potential gain of Latino seats, the table projects that strongly competitive Latino candidates will win their elections.

State	Number of Latinos Currently in State Senate		Latinos running in November 2012		Potential Net Gain/Loss	Potential Number of Latinos After Election
	DEM	GOP	DEM	GOP		
AZ	4	0	4	1	1	5
CA	8	0	2	2	0	8
CO	3	0	3	0	2	5
CT	0	0	2	3	1	1
DE	0	0	0	1	1	1
FL	0	3	2	5	2	5
GA	0	0	1	0	0	0
HI	2	0	2	1	0	2
IL	4	0	4	2	2	6
MD	1	0	0	0	0	1
MA	1	0	1	0	0	1
MN	1	0	2	0	1	2
MO	0	1	0	0	0	1
MT	0	0	0	1	0	0
NV	2	0	0	0	0	2
NM	16	0	17	2	1	17
NJ	2	0	0	0	0	2
NY	6	0	7	1	0	6
NC	0	1	0	1	0	1
RI	1	0	1	0	0	1
TN	0	1	0	1	0	1
TX	6*	0	8	2	0	6**
UT	2	0	2	0	0	2
WA	1	0	0	0	-1	0
WY	1	0	1	0	0	1
Total	61	6	59	23	10	77

* Does not reflect the seat vacated by the passing of Senator Mario Gallegos Jr.

**Does not reflect the seat vacated by the passing of Senator Mario Gallegos Jr., and does not take into account the future results of the special election which may be held to fill this seat. See page 11 for an explanation of how this seat will be filled.

See “Methodology” on page 17 for more information.

STATE ASSEMBLIES OR HOUSES OF REPRESENTATIVES

The following table sets forth for each state: the number of Latinos currently serving in the state lower chamber, the number of Latino candidates running for the state lower chamber, the potential net gain or loss of Latino seats, and the potential composition of the state lower chamber after the November 2012 election. In determining the potential gain of Latino seats, the table projects that strongly competitive Latino candidates will win their elections.

State	Number of Latinos Currently in State House			Latinos running in November 2012			Potential Net Gain/Loss	Potential Number of Latinos After Election
	DEM	GOP	IND	DEM	GOP	IND or 3rd Party		
AK	0	0	0	2	0	0	1	1
AZ	7	1	0	12	1	0	5	13
AR	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
CA	15	0	0	27	11	0	5	20
CO	4	2	0	6	4	0	2	8
CT	9	0	0	10	3	0	0	9
DE	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1
FL	3	9	0	6	12	0	2	14
GA	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	2
ID	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
IL	7	0	0	9	2	0	2	9
IN	1	1	0	2	2	0	2	4
IA	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
KS	2	3	0	3	2	0	0	5
LA	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
ME	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	1
MD	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
MA	4	0	0	6	0	0	2	6
MI	1	1	0	2	2	0	1	3
MN	1	0	0	1	3	0	0	1
MO	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
NV	7	0	0	7	3	0	-1	6
NH	1	3	0	1	4	0	1	5
NJ	6	0	0	1	0	0	0	6
NM	25	4	1	28	12	1	-1	29
NY	14	2	0	14	8	1	0	16
NC	0	1	0	0	0	0	-1	0

Continued on page 16

See "Methodology" on page 17 for more information.

STATE ASSEMBLIES OR HOUSES OF REPRESENTATIVES

(continued)

State	Number of Latinos Currently in State House				Latinos running in November 2012			Potential Net Gain/Loss	Potential Number of Latinos After Election
	DEM	GOP	IND		DEM	GOP	IND or 3rd Party		
OH	1	0	0		1	0	0	0	1
OK	0	1	0		0	1	0	0	1
OR	0	1	0		2	2	0	2	3
PA	1	0	0		2	1	0	1	2
RI	4	0	0		3	0	0	-1	3
TX	24	7	0		36	12	0	2	33
UT	2	1	0		7	1	0	2	5
VA	1	0	0		0	0	0	0	1
VT	1	0	0		1	0	0	0	1
WA	2	0	0		2	1	0	-1	1
WI	1	0	0		1	0	0	0	1
WY	1	0	0		2	0	0	1	2
Total	150	39	1		197	92	2	27	217

See "Methodology" on page 17 for more information.

METHODOLOGY

In the tables presented on pages 14-16, potential Latino gains and losses were calculated with reference to the number of Latino incumbents running for re-election, and the number of Latino non-incumbent candidates in very competitive races. In determining which Latino candidates were running in competitive races, we considered a variety of factors including the extent to which candidates were challenging strong incumbents, the party registration of the district, campaign finance information, and information obtained from local political observers. The number of Latino candidates includes all those we could identify as running for legislative office, both incumbent and non-incumbent, and without reference to whether the candidates are running in competitive races. Although we have made every effort to verify that candidates identified as Latino are of Hispanic or Latino origin, it is possible that a small number of candidates have been misidentified and that we may have included or excluded a few candidates incorrectly.

Generally, this *Profile* only discusses Latinos who are running either as Democrats or Republicans, unless the candidacy of an Independent or third-party Latino will have a significant impact on the outcome of the race in which the candidate is involved.