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AMERICAN ELECTIONS ARE SECURE: Dangerous Anti-Immigrant Falsehoods Are Attempts to Suppress Votes by Millions of Latinos and Other Eligible Voters

American elections are generally secure, soundly administered, and safe. Every state has legal checks and balances that ensure that [only citizens vote in our federal elections](#). Federal and state laws are clear, and election officials use a rigorous process to verify a voter's identity when people register to vote. Election officials also regularly compare voter rolls with state and federal records to ensure that only eligible voters are registered, removing those who are ineligible, which usually occurs when someone has moved or died.

Eighty-one percent—8-in-10—Latinos in the U.S. are citizens and therefore eligible voters. In fact, disinformation alleging our election process lacks safeguards to ensure fair and accurate outcomes is just a way **to justify restrictions that impact the ability of millions to exercise their right to vote.** When combined with anti-immigrant claims that [lack any factual basis](#), it is a clear attempt to suppress the voting power and voice of Latinos and other eligible voters. They make it harder for voters—including millions voters of color—to cast a ballot.

For example, when states have attempted to purge “non-citizens” from voter rolls, eligible U.S. citizens—including many with “Latino” names—get removed instead. For example, in 2019, Texas threatened to remove [tens of thousands of naturalized citizens](#) who were eligible voters, based on outdated DMV records. A federal court blocked the state from carrying out this plan, and the secretary of state resigned.

Latino voters are part of the fabric of our country, and a supermajority of Latinos are citizens who are eligible to vote. It is expected that more than 17.5 million Latino voters will cast a ballot in this year's election. Although half of Latino eligible voters are not yet registered to vote, Latino voters are already a deciding factor in battleground states. Every year, 1.4 million Latinos become legally eligible to vote: more than a million Latino citizens turn 18—**one every 30 seconds**—and 400 thousand Latinos also become citizens.

Policies to diminish access to the ballot—including ID laws and attacks on mail-in and early voting—are a new kind of “poll tax” intended to keep the Latino electorate and other groups from having a voice, now and in the future. It is no coincidence that states and counties with growing Latino populations are also seeing an increase in voter restrictions, including in Arizona, Texas, Wisconsin and Florida.

THE FULL STORY: LATINO VOTERS WILL INFLUENCE ELECTION OUTCOMES

Anti-immigrant disinformation is a direct response to the Latino community's growing size and power:

- **Latinos are already an electoral powerhouse.** In 2020, Latinos became the largest non-white racial or ethnic voting-age group of eligible voters. This is true although **half of eligible Latino voters remain unregistered to vote.** In California and Texas, Latinos are now the [largest racial/ethnic group](#).
- **Latino voters are shaping outcomes.** Latinos are an increasingly significant voting population in districts with [razor thin margins](#). In AZ, FL, GA, PA, NV, NC, TX, MI and WI, the number of Latino votes cast in 2020 was larger than the margin that decided the Presidential race in that state. In 2022, there were 36 congressional seats decided by five points or less, and Latino voters made up at least 15% of the voting age population in 18 of those districts.
- **Latino voters are newer voters.** An estimated 36.2 million Latinos are eligible to vote this year, up from 32.3 million in 2020. **This represents 50% of the total growth in eligible voters during this time. In 2024, 38% of the Latino presidential electorate is new since the 2016 elections.**
- **Latino voters are younger voters.** Due to a higher birth rate and demographic trends, each of the next few years, over [1 million Latino citizens](#) will turn 18, and this trend will continue after it peaks in 2025.
- **Latino voters are working-class voters.** Latinos will make the working-class [majority minority by 2029](#)—growing from 21% in 2013, to 32% of the working-class in 2032.

THE RISKS FOR VOTERS AND DEMOCRACY

Electoral disinformation and the restrictions on access to the ballot are attempts to interfere with our democratic processes and reflect an underlying political fear that a fair fight cannot be won at the ballot box. This disinformation, because it targets specific communities and their fundamental rights, erodes our shared democratic values, institutions and the voice of every voter.

- **Disinformation about Latino voters and our election processes risk harm to our community.** Threats to election officials and voters at the polls are increasing, especially in places where Latinos are a growing and significant part of the eligible voting population, such as Arizona.
- **The risks are real.** Because of falsehoods, Latinos could be wrongly perceived as ineligible voters by poll-watchers and vigilante groups, asked for proof of citizenship even when not required, wrongfully removed from voter rolls or have a ballot questioned, or be targeted for intimidation and harassment on-line, in communities or on Election Day.
- **There is a convergence of threats.** Online platforms have weakened policies against disinformation, both the courts and administrators of elections have been further politicized and key voting rights protections have been gutted by the courts.

- **Racialized attempts at voter suppression go back centuries.** Voting restrictions have long been used to disempower communities of color. For more than 60 years, Arizona law required voters to pass an English literacy test to register to vote. The authors of that 1909 law stated their intention plainly: “to block the ignorant Mexican vote.”
- **Such disinformation is being cited as a reason** for additional legislative restrictions to voting rights. **And it could be used to scapegoat the Latino community for a loss in the election, raising the risks of violence, harassment and intimidation even after the election is decided.**
 - As [a consensus statement](#) from the bi-partisan [Task Force on Election Crises](#) explains, “The media and all Americans should be mindful that false claims of widespread noncitizen voting are designed **to sow distrust in our elections and to potentially serve as pretext to undermine or challenge the rightful results.**”
- **American elections are generally secure, soundly administered and safe.** New laws like proof-of-citizenship requirements [disproportionately disenfranchise](#) voters of color, as well as older and disabled voters. A 2024 survey [found that](#) “about 1 in 10 adult citizens (21.3 million eligible voters), say they either do not have or could not quickly find in order to show the next day their U.S. birth certificate, passport, naturalization certificate or certificate of citizenship.” Yet such attacks on the right to vote continue:
 - Since 2020, when Latinos became the second largest voting bloc in the country, five states (Alabama, Colorado, Florida, Louisiana and Ohio) amended their state constitutions to “ensure non-citizens can’t vote in local state elections”—although there is no evidence that this is an issue.
 - Eleven states since the 2020 election have enacted laws to “identify non-citizens who have registered to vote and remove them,” although countless [studies](#) show that effective safeguards are in place.
 - The federal “SAVE Act” would create major barriers to registration for eligible voters by adding burdensome ID requirements for federal elections, impacting millions of voters [who already face disproportionate barriers](#) to participating in elections.