

SEPTEMBER 2020

ARIZONA STATE PROFILE

NEWAMERICAN VOTERS 2020



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Arizona will be one of the most critical states during the 2020 presidential and Senatorial elections. One of the reasons why is because new American voters, who are mostly represented by immigrants who are originally from Mexico, followed by the Philippines, Iraq, India, and Vietnam, are so numerous that they can sway the outcome of this year's elections.

These potential voters' ultimate impact, however, depend in part on the efforts of Promise Arizona and other grassroots organizations' engagement with newly naturalized citizens and their ability to linguistically and culturally connect with them. This electoral season presents many challenges, including the need for nonprofit organizations to adapt their voter engagement work during the coronavirus pandemic, language access issues in voter registration and absentee ballot processes, the threat of the Trump administration to limit access to the ballot through the Post Office, and ongoing efforts to limit access to the ballot. One form of voter suppression that has emerged in recent years is the increasing backlog and processing delays of citizenship applications before U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). According to the agency's latest data, there are over 700,000 applications nationwide, with 10,742 applications backlogged in USCIS' two offices in Arizona.¹ While the national average processing delay is around nine months, USCIS' Phoenix office has delays ranging from 11 to 18 months while the Tucson office ranges from 9 to 11 months.² This means that immigrants who are eligible for citizenship and who would have otherwise have naturalized and have time to register to vote in time for this year's elections, will be effectively disenfranchised by USCIS' mismanagement.

The numbers of would-be citizens are, however, much smaller than the number of newly naturalized citizens. From 2014 to 2018, there were 60,673 immigrants who naturalized and there will be an estimated 86,131 new citizens from 2014 through 2020. The estimated number of new citizens from 2014 to 2020 near the margin of victory for the 2016 presidential election.³ And the number of citizens who naturalized from 2014 to 2018 can play a decisive role in a hotly contested Senate seat that is up for reelection this year.⁴

Almost half of all citizens who naturalized from 2014 to 2018 are originally from Mexico. Almost 60% are under the age of 45 years old and around 55% are women. And while they are

¹ Number of Form N-400, Application for Naturalization By Category of Naturalization, Case Status, and USCIS Field Office Location, January 1 - March 31, 2020," U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, accessed August 13, 2020, https://www.uscis.gov/sites/default/files/document/data/N400_performancedata_fy2020_qtr2.pdf.

² "Check Case Processing Times," U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, accessed September 11, 2020, <https://egov.uscis.gov/processing-times/>; "Historical National Average Processing Time (in Months) for All USCIS Offices for Select Forms By Fiscal Year," U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, accessed September 11, 2020, <https://egov.uscis.gov/processing-times/historic-pt>.

³ "Arizona Results," New York Times, August 1, 2017, <https://www.nytimes.com/elections/2016/results/arizona>.

⁴ Rothenberg, Stuart, "Donald Trump's Maricopa Problem," Roll Call, April 28, 2020, <https://www.rollcall.com/2020/04/28/donald-trumps-maricopa-problem/>.

concentrated in the counties of Maricopa, Pima, and to a lesser extent Yuma and Pinal, they are represented throughout the state. This is the rising electorate that will have an outsized role in what happens in 2020.

WHY ARIZONA IS SO IMPORTANT IN 2020

Arizona's recently naturalized citizens will play a critical role in the November presidential election. Arizona ranks 4th as the state in which new citizens can have the greatest influence, according to the New American Voters Impact Model, created by the National Partnership for New Americans (NPNA) and based on factors like the 2016 presidential election margin of victory; the margin of victory average during the last three presidential elections; the number and concentration of new citizens in the state; and the occurrence of a senatorial, gubernatorial, or state legislative election and their competitiveness.⁵

From 2014 to 2018, there were 60,673 immigrants who naturalized. From 2014 through 2020, 86,131 citizens are estimated to have naturalized, which is nearly equal to the 2016 margin for president (91,234 votes).⁶ The numbers of new citizens are based on USCIS data on naturalizations that occurred from Fiscal Year (FY) 2014 through FY 2018 and naturalization applications that the agency approved in FY 2019.⁷ The estimates for naturalizations during FY 2020 is based on previous spikes in naturalizations in FY 2016, before that calendar year's presidential election.⁸ "Newly naturalized citizens" or "recently naturalized citizens" are defined as those who have naturalized since FY 2014. "New American Voters" are defined as those who have naturalized since FY 2014 and can subsequently register to vote.

These estimates of new citizens were made in NPNA's report, *The Power of Newly Naturalized Citizens in the 2020 Elections*, released in June 2020. The report calculated that from FY 2014 through FY 2020, there would be 5.3 million new citizens who naturalized, the majority of which, 3.1 million, naturalized since the election of Donald Trump to President. Since the report's release, USCIS has released data indicating that around 290,000 naturalization applicants

⁵ Iñiguez-López, Diego, "The Power of Newly Naturalized Citizens in the 2020 Elections," National Partnership for New Americans, June 2020, newamericanvoters2020.org/assets/2020/06/NAV-REPORT-2020-UPDATED.pdf.

⁶ "Arizona Results," New York Times, August 1, 2017, <https://www.nytimes.com/elections/2016/results/arizona>.

⁷ See "Naturalizations," U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, accessed August 12, 2020, <https://www.dhs.gov/immigration-statistics/naturalizations>; "Immigration and Citizenship Data," U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, accessed August 12, 2020, <https://www.uscis.gov/tools/reports-and-studies/immigration-and-citizenship-data>.

⁸ See Iñiguez-López, Diego, "Naturalize Now, Vote Tomorrow: New Americans Vote 2020," National Partnership for New Americans, February 2020, https://partnershipfornewamericans.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Naturalize_Now_Vote_Tomorrow_FINAL.pdf.

awaiting their interview will not be naturalized in time to register to vote, meaning that NPNA’s original estimates of 5.3 million will be reduced to around 5 million new citizens.⁹ Nevertheless, USCIS mismanagement will not hold back the approximately 5 million new citizens, including their large numbers in Arizona.

Of the more than 394,000 naturalized citizens in Arizona, approximately one-fifth are new citizens. Since the release of NPNA’s June 2020 report, which utilized American Community Survey (ACS) data from 2017, ACS released 2018 data, which this report uses.¹⁰

TOTAL POPULATION	REGISTERED VOTERS	ALL NATURALIZED	NATURALIZED 2014-2020
6,946,685	3,989,214	394,826	86,131

WHO ARE ARIZONA’S NEW AMERICAN VOTERS

Latinos represent 54% of new citizens, 20% are Asian Americans & Pacific Islanders, 11% are Europeans, 8% are Middle Eastern & North African, 6% are African, and 1% are Caribbean.

LATIN AMERICAN	32,893	54%
ASIAN AMERICAN & PACIFIC ISLANDER	12,335	20%
EUROPEAN	6,415	11%
AFRICAN	3,697	6%
MIDDLE EASTERN & NORTH AFRICAN	4,917	8%
CARIBBEAN	416	1%
TOTAL 2014-2018	60,673	
TOTAL 2014-2020	86,131	

⁹ See Rampell, Catherine, "The 'Missing' Immigrant Voters Whose Absence Might Swing the Election," Washington Post, August 27, 2020, https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/the-missing-immigrant-voters-whose-absence-might-swing-the-election/2020/08/27/db144c16-e897-11ea-97e0-94d2e46e759b_story.html; "The Fix Is In — Nearly 300,000 Immigrants Won't Become U.S. Citizens In Time For the 2020 Election," Boundless, September 3, 2020, <https://www.boundless.com/blog/immigrants-citizenship-vote-2020/>.

¹⁰ "Nativity and Citizenship Status in the United States," United States Census Bureau, accessed September 11, 2020, <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?q=B05001%3A%20NATIVITY%20AND%20CITIZENSHIP%20STATUS%20IN%20THE%20UNITED%20STATES&g=0400000US39&tid=ACSDT5Y2018.B05001&moe=false&tp=false&hidePreview=true>.

The following represents the top 20 countries of origin for newly naturalized citizens.



RANK	COUNTRY	TOTAL
1	MEXICO	28,454
2	PHILIPPINES	2,856
3	IRAQ	2,855
4	INDIA	2,634
5	VIETNAM	1,529
6	CANADA	1,409
7	CHINA	1,321
8	UNITED KINGDOM	903
9	IRAN	751
10	CUBA	647
11	GUATEMALA	602
12	EL SALVADOR	587
13	SOUTH KOREA	584
14	ROMANIA	542
15	BURMA	500
16	GERMANY	430
17	COLOMBIA	422
18	SOMALIA	420
19	BHUTAN	416
20	BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA	407

58% of newly naturalized citizens in Arizona from 2014-2018 were below the age of 45 when they naturalized and around 55% of all new citizens were women. The full breakdown by age and gender is shown in the following table:

AGE	FEMALE	MALE	TOTAL	%
18-24 YEARS	2,619	2,352	4,971	8%
25-34 YEARS	8,066	6,608	14,674	24%
35-44 YEARS	8,654	7,141	15,795	26%
45-54 YEARS	6,144	5,240	11,384	19%
55-64 YEARS	4,446	3,640	8,086	13%
65 YEARS AND OLDER	3,310	2,704	6,014	10%
TOTAL	33,239	27,685	60,924	

Compared to all other states, Arizona ranks 8th for Latin American new citizens and 12th for Middle Eastern & North African.

TOP 15 STATES BY REGION								
LATIN AMERICA			AAPI			EUROPE		
Rank	State	Total	Rank	State	Total	Rank	State	Total
1	California	314,645	1	California	302,467	1	California	69,325
2	Florida	266,187	2	New York	131,603	2	New York	55,372
3	Texas	155,321	3	Texas	80,503	3	Florida	34,438
4	New York	138,284	4	New Jersey	57,651	4	Illinois	31,056
5	New Jersey	69,942	5	Illinois	41,225	5	New Jersey	23,112
6	Illinois	36,444	6	Virginia	37,600	6	Massachusetts	20,328
7	Massachusetts	34,288	7	Florida	34,613	7	Washington	17,473
8	Arizona	32,893	8	Washington	32,572	8	Texas	16,685
9	Virginia	24,555	9	Pennsylvania	31,916	9	Pennsylvania	13,261
10	Georgia	23,826	10	Massachusetts	30,770	10	Michigan	12,689
11	North Carolina	19,581	11	Georgia	29,527	11	Connecticut	10,017
12	Nevada	18,049	12	Maryland	24,857	12	Virginia	9,860
13	Maryland	17,432	13	Ohio	21,848	13	Georgia	9,586
14	Washington	15,954	14	North Carolina	20,613	14	North Carolina	8,515
15	Pennsylvania	15,907	15	Michigan	19,099	15	Ohio	8,174
AFRICA			MENA			CARIBBEAN		
Rank	State	Total	Rank	State	Total	Rank	State	Total
1	Texas	25,907	1	California	62,108	1	Florida	62,494
2	New York	25,509	2	Michigan	21,860	2	New York	57,642
3	Maryland	24,438	3	New York	20,615	3	New Jersey	12,599
4	California	17,151	4	Texas	15,726	4	Massachusetts	12,447

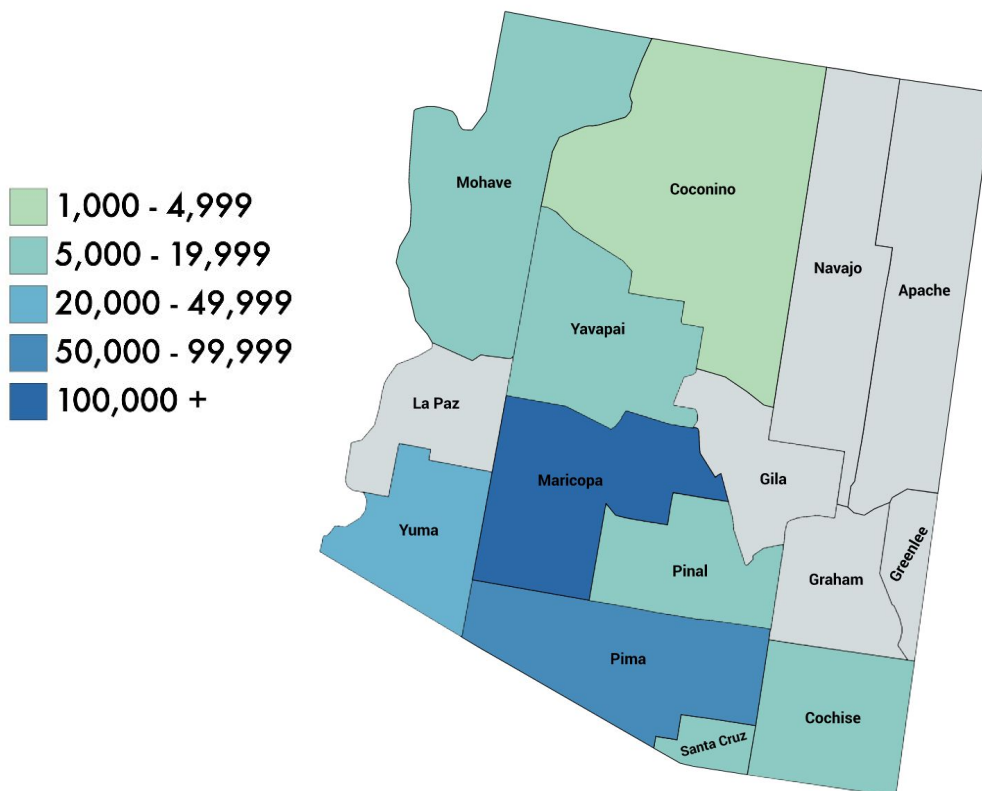
5	Minnesota	15,555
6	Massachusetts	15,493
7	Georgia	14,124
8	Virginia	14,120
9	Ohio	11,910
10	New Jersey	10,177
11	Pennsylvania	9,600
12	Washington	8,522
13	Illinois	8,263
14	North Carolina	7,879
15	Florida	6,027

5	New Jersey	13,128
6	Florida	11,709
7	Illinois	10,536
8	Virginia	10,007
9	Massachusetts	8,746
10	Pennsylvania	6,280
11	Ohio	5,710
12	Arizona	4,917
13	Tennessee	4,104
14	North Carolina	4,055
15	Maryland	4,034

5	Georgia	6,862
6	Connecticut	6,477
7	Pennsylvania	5,088
8	Maryland	4,680
9	Texas	3,169
10	California	2,441
11	Virginia	2,193
12	North Carolina	1,912
13	Illinois	1,653
14	South Carolina	1,448
15	Ohio	919

WHERE ARE ARIZONA'S NATURALIZED VOTERS

The following shows counties with 1,000 or more naturalized citizens. Maricopa has over 200,000 naturalized citizens, followed by Pima with over 60,000, Yuma with over 23,000, and Pinal with approximately 15,000.



COUNTY	TOTAL	LATIN AMERICAN	ASIAN	AFRICAN	EUROPEAN	OCEANIA	NORTH AMERICAN
Maricopa	239,924	104,270	76,378	10,701	37,107	1,394	10,074
Pima	60,758	34,904	12,732	2,125	8,551	440	2,006
Yuma	23,590	21,170	1,323	114	563	9	411
Pinal	15,157	8,946	3,027	250	2,144	70	720
Santa Cruz	8,490	8,043	176	29	172	20	50
Cochise	7,363	4,182	1,702	109	1,217	74	79
Yavapai	6,720	1,870	1,202	148	2,582	102	816
Mohave	6,555	3,160	1,422	67	1,433	0	473
Coconino	2,687	934	707	65	833	30	118
Navajo	1,384	635	237	0	338	11	143

TESTIMONIAL



Guillermina Ramirez is a new citizen from South Phoenix who's lived in Arizona for more than 30 years. Guillermina is one of Promise Arizona's leading citizenship program volunteers. In this capacity, she helps folks with their naturalization process; from studying for the exam to preparing for their interview. Last year, Guillermina was able to complete her naturalization process and became a voter. "I became a citizen in September 2019 and I was looking forward to voting. Earlier this year, I voted for the first time in the Arizona primary, and I will happily vote in my first general election this November!"

RESOURCES

COVID - 19 RESOURCES

In these times of uncertainty, we want to let you know that we are close to you! We continue to provide help with immigration, civic engagement, and adult education, contact us anytime at our **TOLL-FREE HOTLINE: 1-888-356-1443**

BECOME A VOTER TODAY!

According to the Pew Research Center, 32 million Latinos will be eligible to vote in the 2020 election. That is 32 million voices with the powerful potential to play a key role in national and state elections across the country. **MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD AND YOUR VOTE COUNT!**

[REGISTER TO VOTE](#)

CONTACT US

Website: promiseaz.org

Telephone: **602-288-3663** | Fax: **602-412-3579**

Toll free: **888-511-7136**

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ABOUT US

THIS REPORT WAS CREATED BY NPNA AND PROMISE ARIZONA



The National Partnership for New Americans is a national multiethnic, multiracial partnership. We represent the collective power of the country's 41 largest regional immigrant and refugee rights organizations in 37 states. Our members provide large-scale services—from Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals application processing to voter registration to health care enrollment—for their communities, and they combine service delivery with sophisticated organizing tactics to advance local and state policy. We exist to leverage their collective power and expertise for a national strategy.

To learn more about the National Partnership for New Americans, visit partnershipfornewamericans.org.



At Promise Arizona, we believe that building immigrant and Latino political power is key to bringing hope, dignity, and progress to our communities. We were born out of a passion for fairness and unity, and our organization strives to promote and harness the power of the Latino community in Arizona. Promise Arizona aims to unite the millions of Arizonans who reject the divisive politics of immigrant-baiting, millions who believe in treating their neighbors with fairness and dignity. These like-minded individuals share a common interest in good jobs, a robust economy, quality education, and safe communities in which to raise children. We help connect individuals who share similar goals so that they may work toward a better Arizona by investing in statewide infrastructure and training a new generation of leaders. As part of this movement, PAZ connects and helps train leaders to build confidence, promote Latino leadership, and encourage civic involvement in our communities. Promise Arizona is led by Petra Falcon, a fourth-generation Arizonan who is a mother of five children and six grandchildren. Petra has a deep investment in the state's future. Her leadership builds on the work she has done over 25 years as a nonprofit community and faith leader in the state.

To learn more about the Promise Arizona, visit promiseaz.org.