

OCTOBER 2020



NEVADA

STATE PROFILE

NEWAMERICAN
VOTERS 2020



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Nevada is one of the most politically important states and its voters can sway the outcome of this year's presidential election. One of the critical voices and votes here are those of newly naturalized citizens, including the large number of immigrants who are originally from Mexico and the Philippines. Nevada is also one of the states where immigrant women can have the most electoral impact in 2020.

The impact that these potential new voters can have, however, will depend in part on the Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada and other grassroots efforts to specifically talk to newly naturalized citizens and encourage them to vote despite language barriers, the needed education around absentee ballots, and general information around voting, the limitations that voter engagement efforts face during the coronavirus pandemic, and ongoing voter suppression tactics. One emerging form of voter suppression against immigrant communities is the backlog of citizenship applications before U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), which prevents would-be citizens from naturalizing and being able to vote. According to the agency's latest data, there are over 700,000 immigrants stuck in the citizenship application backlog, including 10,431 Nevadans.¹ While the nationwide average for USCIS processing delays of citizenship applications is around nine months, the delays in USCIS' Las Vegas office range from 10.5 to 16 months, and in the Reno office they range from eleven to 19.5 months.² This serves to effectively keep immigrants who are eligible for citizenship, some of whom have applied as far back as a year and a half ago, from exercising the fundamental right to vote in the United States.

Still, the number of citizens who have naturalized and will be able to vote can have a tremendous impact on this year's election. Newly naturalized citizens in Nevada exceed the 2016 presidential margin of victory in the state.³ This potential voting bloc is represented mostly by immigrants who are originally from Mexico, followed by the Philippines, Cuba, China, and El Salvador is almost 60 percent women and is extremely young (59% were under 45 years old when they naturalized).

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 October 26, 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 October 26, 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 August 13, 2020, <https://egov.uscis.gov/processing-times/historic-pt>.

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

WHY NEVADA IS SO IMPORTANT IN 2020

Nevada ranks eighth as the state in which new citizens can have the greatest influence in 2020, 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.⁴

From 2014 to 2018, 39,265 immigrants naturalized, exceeding the 2016 presidential margin of victory of 27,202 votes.⁵ The number of newly naturalized citizens from 2014 through the end of 2020 is expected to double that margin at 59,332 new citizens. 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 2019.⁶ The estimates for naturalizations during FY 2020 is based on previous spikes in naturalizations in FY 2016, before that calendar year's presidential election.⁷ "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 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.⁸ Nevertheless, USCIS mismanagement will not

⁴ 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.

⁵ "Nevada Results," New York Times, August 1, 2017, <https://www.nytimes.com/elections/2016/results/nevada>.

⁶ 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>.

⁷ 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.

⁸ 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-e8>

hold back the approximately 5 million new citizens, including their large numbers in Nevada.

Of the more than 273,000 naturalized citizens in Nevada, 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.⁹

TOTAL POPULATION	REGISTERED VOTERS	ALL NATURALIZED	NATURALIZED 2014-2020
2,922,849	1,742,477	273,143	59,332

WHO ARE NEVADA’S NEW AMERICAN VOTERS

Naturalized citizens who are originally from Latin America represent 46% of new citizens in Nevada, 33% are from Asian and Pacific Island countries, ten percent are from Europe, six percent are from Africa, four percent are from the Middle Eastern or North Africa, and one percent are from the Caribbean. The chart below provides totals for 2014 to 2018.

LATIN AMERICAN	18,049	46%
ASIAN AMERICAN & PACIFIC ISLANDER	13,037	33%
EUROPEAN	4,102	10%
AFRICAN	2,282	6%
MIDDLE EASTERN & NORTH AFRICAN	1,553	4%
CARIBBEAN	242	1%
TOTAL 2014-2018	39,265	
TOTAL 2014-2020	59,332	

97-11ea-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/>.

⁹ "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 map represents the top 20 countries of origin for newly naturalized citizens.



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RANK	COUNTRY	TOTAL
1	MEXICO	10,598
2	PHILIPPINES	7,107
3	CUBA	2,216
4	CHINA	1,662
5	EL SALVADOR	1,606
6	ETHIOPIA	1,309
7	GUATEMALA	869
8	VIETNAM	689
9	INDIA	687
10	SOUTH KOREA	576
11	THAILAND	547
12	CANADA	536
13	PERU	488
14	IRAN	467
15	COLOMBIA	436
16	UNITED KINGDOM	400
17	BULGARIA	388
18	BRAZIL	331
19	RUSSIA	322
20	IRAQ	291

Almost 60% of newly naturalized citizens in Nevada from 2014 to 2018 were below the age of 45 when they naturalized. Almost 60 percent (58 percent) are women, making Nevada one of the states where immigrant women can have the most impact on the national election. The full breakdown by age and gender is shown in the following table:

NEVADA 2014-2018 NATURALIZED BY AGE				
AGE	FEMALE	MALE	TOTAL	%
18-24 YEARS	1,306	1,078	2,384	6%
25-34 YEARS	6,256	3,971	10,227	26%
35-44 YEARS	5,976	4,558	10,534	27%
45-54 YEARS	4,496	3,157	7,653	19%
55-64 YEARS	3,004	2,050	5,054	13%
65 YEARS AND OVER	2,148	1,521	3,669	9%
TOTAL	23,186	16,335	39,521	

Compared to all other states, Nevada ranks twelfth for new citizens who are originally from Latin America.

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

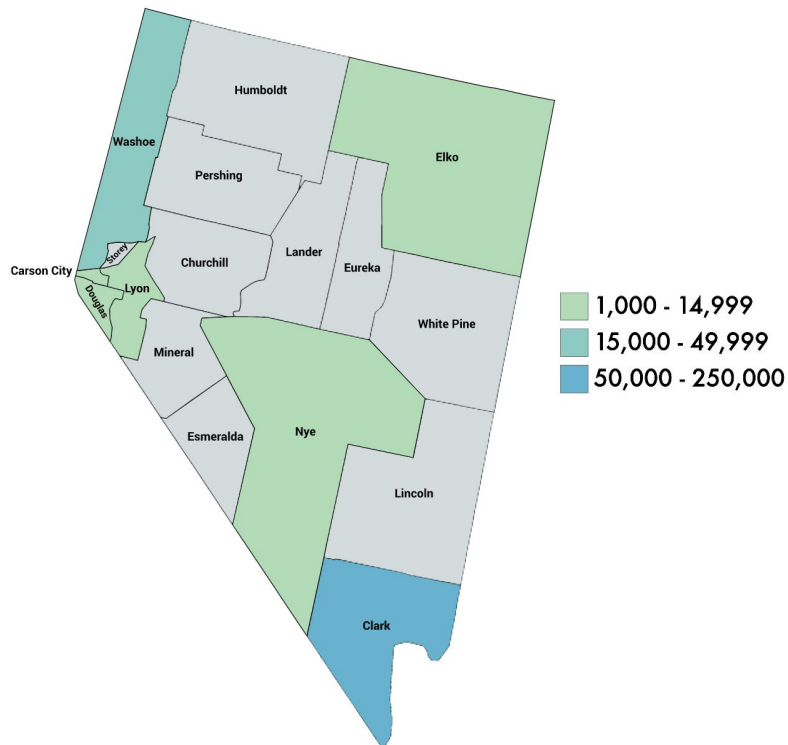
AFRICA		
Rank	State	Total
1	Texas	25,907
2	New York	25,509
3	Maryland	24,438
4	California	17,151
5	Minnesota	15,555
6	Massachusetts	15,493
7	Georgia	14,124
8	Virginia	14,120
9	Ohio	11,910
10	New Jersey	10,177
11	Pennsylvania	9,600
12	Washington	8,522
13	Illinois	8,263
14	North Carolina	7,879
15	Florida	6,027

MENA		
Rank	State	Total
1	California	62,108
2	Michigan	21,860
3	New York	20,615
4	Texas	15,726
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

CARIBBEAN		
Rank	State	Total
1	Florida	62,494
2	New York	57,642
3	New Jersey	12,599
4	Massachusetts	12,447
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 NEVADA'S NATURALIZED VOTERS

The following table shows counties with 1,000 or more naturalized citizens. Clark County has more than 226,000 naturalized citizens, while Washoe County has more than 30,000. Carson, Douglas, Elko, Nye, and Lyon counties each have more than 1,000.



COUNTY	TOTAL	LATIN AMERICAN	ASIAN	AFRICAN	EUROPEAN	OCEANIA	NORTH AMERICAN
Clark	226,452	88,697	101,744	9,101	22,347	1,067	3,486
Washoe	30,723	14,140	11,647	828	3,134	312	662
Carson	2,438	1,390	597	0	334	0	117
Douglas	1,964	685	461	33	701	4	80
Elko	1,797	1,319	250	27	149	29	23
Nye	1,567	696	525	0	169	0	177
Lyon	1,277	688	311	0	131	0	147

TESTIMONIALS

Claudia A. Cruz

Reno, NV



Claudia is a new U.S. Citizen from Reno who has lived in Nevada since arriving from Mexico many years ago. On August 21st, 2020 Claudia was able to complete her naturalization process and immediately after her oath ceremony registered to vote with PLAN - CIP. Since then, she has been eager to vote and was able to do so alongside her husband as soon as early voting began. "My dream of becoming an American Citizen came true this year. I wanted to participate in the democracy of this country and was able to vote for the first time in the general elections." Claudia was one of the many legal permanent residents qualifying for Citizenship; she urges those who have the opportunity to become citizens to do so and to those who can vote to go out and vote!

RESOURCES

PLAN Citizenship and Immigration Program



Website: www.planimmigration.org

Telephone: 775-800-1851

Fax: 775-800-1853

Mailing Address: 495 Apple Street
Suite 108
Reno, NV 89502