

4-30-2020

Political Parties and Demographic Transformation in Nevada

Elia Del Carmen Solano-Patricio

University of Nevada, Las Vegas, solanopa@unlv.nevada.edu

Caitlin Saladino

The Lincy Institute and Brookings Mountain West, caitlin.saladino@unlv.edu

William E. Brown

The Lincy Institute and Brookings Mountain West, william.brown@unlv.edu

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalscholarship.unlv.edu/bmw_lincy_demography



Part of the [Human Geography Commons](#), [Political Science Commons](#), [Public Affairs Commons](#), [Public Policy Commons](#), and the [Urban Studies Commons](#)

Repository Citation

Solano-Patricio, E. D., Saladino, C., Brown, W. E. (2020). Political Parties and Demographic Transformation in Nevada. *Demography Fact Sheet No. 6* 1-4.

Available at: https://digitalscholarship.unlv.edu/bmw_lincy_demography/6

This Report is protected by copyright and/or related rights. It has been brought to you by Digital Scholarship@UNLV with permission from the rights-holder(s). You are free to use this Report in any way that is permitted by the copyright and related rights legislation that applies to your use. For other uses you need to obtain permission from the rights-holder(s) directly, unless additional rights are indicated by a Creative Commons license in the record and/or on the work itself.

This Report has been accepted for inclusion in Demography by an authorized administrator of Digital Scholarship@UNLV. For more information, please contact digitalscholarship@unlv.edu.

POLITICAL PARTIES AND DEMOGRAPHIC TRANSFORMATION IN NEVADA

Demography Fact Sheet No. 6 | April 2020

Prepared by: Elia Del Carmen Solano-Patricio, Caitlin J. Saladino, and William E. Brown, Jr.

PURPOSE:

This Fact Sheet presents projections of demographic change in Nevada’s political party coalitions using data provided in the report “States of Change: How Demographic Change is Transforming the Republican and Democratic Political Parties”¹ (hereafter referred to as “States of Change”). Using the composition of the two parties’ electorate in the 2016 presidential election as a baseline, researchers explore age, race, and education characteristics of voters in 14 U.S. swing states to predict the demographic makeup of voting groups in future elections. This Fact Sheet makes comparisons to other swing states, but focuses primarily on Nevada data.

NATIONAL KEY FINDINGS:

1. The Democratic and Republican “parties were more compositionally different in 2016 than at any point in the prior 36 years” (Griffin, Frey, & Teixeira, 2019, p. 2).
2. By 2036, it is expected that the share of white voters in the U.S.—and the share of “white, non-college voters,” in particular—will continue to decline while the share of non-white voters will grow in both parties across all states. However, the sharpest declines will be in fast-growing states; Arizona, Florida, Nevada, and Texas all experienced population growth of more than 12% this decade.
3. Hispanics are expected to surpass Black voters as the largest non-white voter coalition by 2032.
4. In the 14 key swing states analyzed during the 2016 presidential election, the Republican Party had the largest share of voters 65 and older (30% versus 21%).² This growing senior voter gap between the two parties is projected by Griffin, et al. (2019) to continue until the 2036 election.

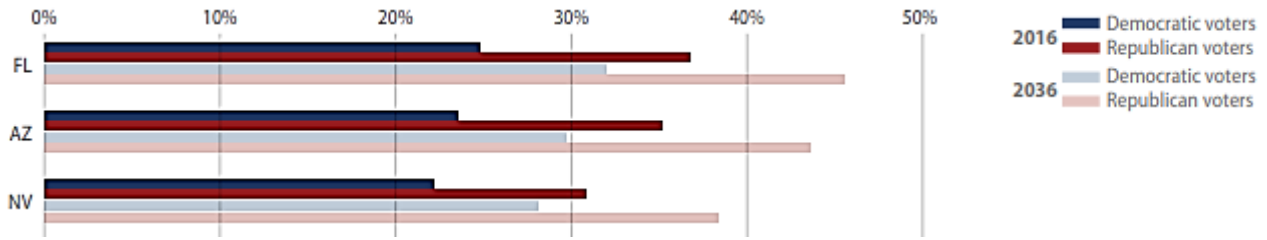
PROJECTED DEMOGRAPHIC TRANSFORMATION IN NEVADA:

Figure 1 displays the share of senior-age voters for three key retiree magnet swing states (Florida, Arizona, and Nevada). Among 14 U.S. swing states sorted in descending order by the senior share sizes of Republican voters in each state, these three states are considered the nation’s “faster-growing” states (Griffin, Frey, & Teixeira, 2019, p. 24). In Nevada, more senior-age voters were Republicans in the 2016 presidential election—a majority projected to continue through to the 2036 election.

¹ Rob Griffin and others, “States of Change: How Demographic Change is Transforming the Republican and Democratic Parties,” Report. (The Center for American Progress in collaboration with Democracy Fund, the Bipartisan Policy Center, and the Brookings Institution: July 2019) Retrieved from <https://www.brookings.edu/research/states-of-change-2019/>

² Ibid.

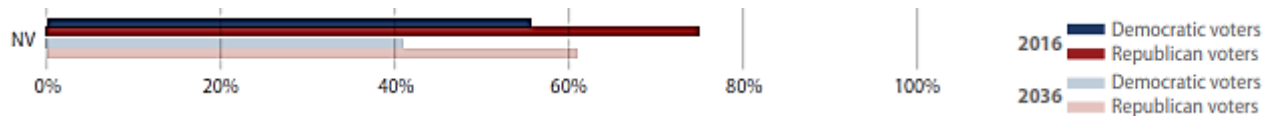
FIGURE 1: 2016 vs. 2036 SHARE OF DEMOCRATIC AND REPUBLICAN SWING STATE VOTERS AGE 65+



Original Data Source: "States of Change" by Rob Griffin, William H. Frey, and Ruy Teixeira

Figure 2 displays the allocation of white voters in Nevada, with the Republican Party receiving 75% of its total vote from this group in 2016 – a share projected to decrease by 2036. Among 14 swing states, Nevada ranks last for the share of whites in their Republican coalition. Compared to the 2016 election, the share of Republican white voters in Nevada is expected to drop -14 percentage points, while the the Democratic Party is expected to decrease -15 percentage points by 2036.

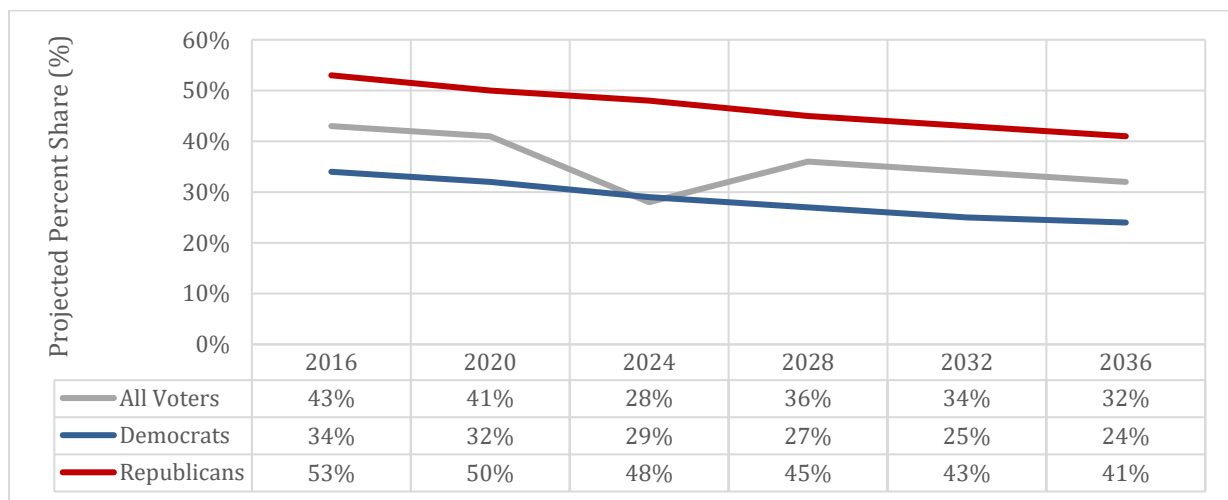
FIGURE 2: 2016 vs. 2036 SHARE OF NEVADA’S DEMOCRATIC AND REPUBLICAN VOTERS WHO ARE WHITE



Original Data Source: "States of Change" by Rob Griffin, William H. Frey, and Ruy Teixeira

Figure 3 shows the projected share of white, non-college educated voters in Nevada between 2016 and 2036 expected to drop -10 percentage points (from 34% to 24%) for Democrats and -12 percentage points (from 53% to 41%) in the Republican Party by 2036.

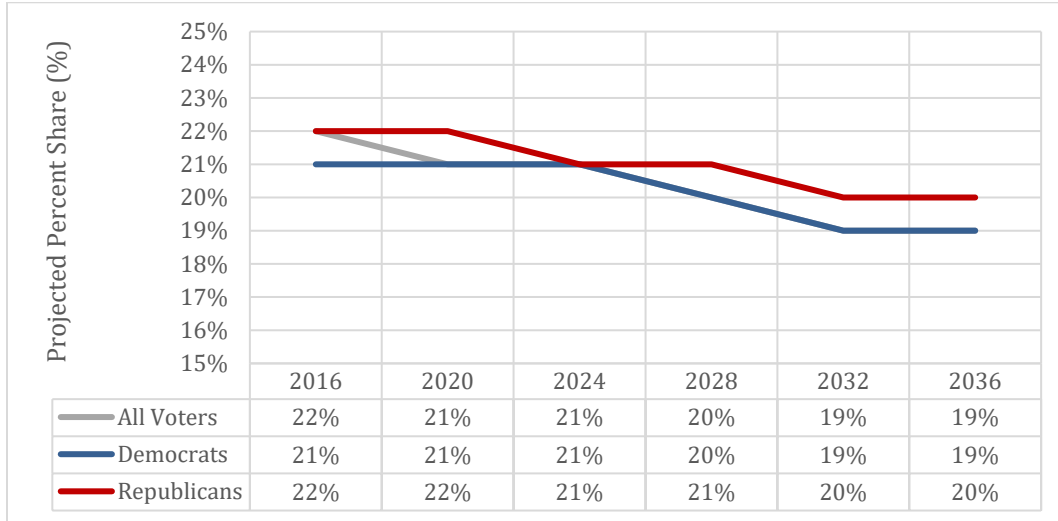
FIGURE 3: PROJECTED SHARE OF WHITE, NON-COLLEGE EDUCATED VOTERS IN NEVADA, 2016 - 2036



Original Data Source: Author’s analysis of data provided in “States of Change” by Rob Griffin, William H. Frey, and Ruy Teixeira

Figure 4 shows the share of white, college-educated voters is expected to remain steady and decrease by only -2 percentage points for both parties by the 2036 election.

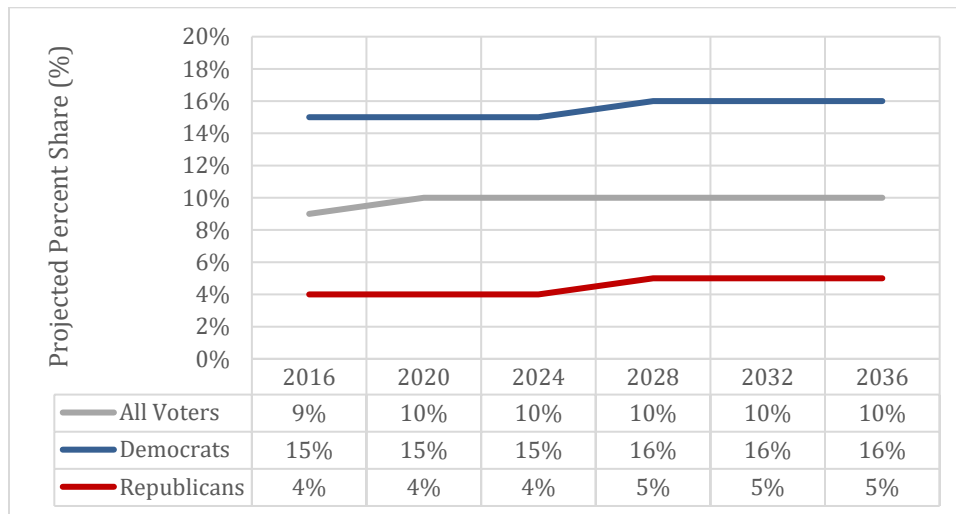
FIGURE 4: PROJECTED SHARE OF WHITE, COLLEGE EDUCATED VOTERS IN NEVADA, 2016 - 2036



Original Data Source: Author’s analysis of data provided in “States of Change” by Rob Griffin, William H. Frey, and Ruy Teixeira

Figure 5 shows the share of Black voters in Nevada is expected to remain steady and increase by only +1 percentage point for both parties by 2036.

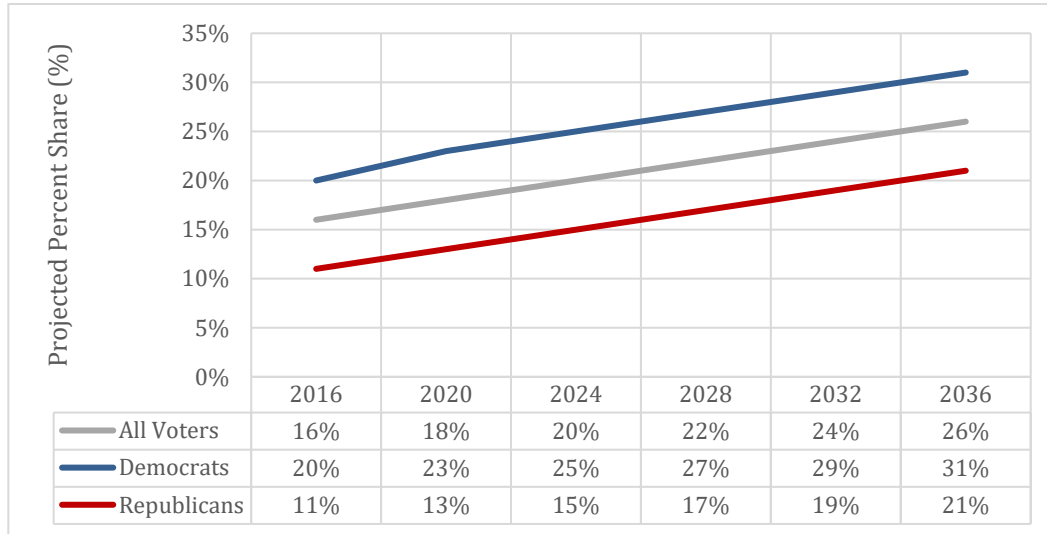
FIGURE 5: PROJECTED SHARE OF BLACK VOTERS IN NEVADA, 2016 - 2036



Source: Author’s analysis of data provided in “States of Change” by Rob Griffin, William H. Frey, and Ruy Teixeira

Figure 6 shows that by the 2036 election, the share of Hispanic voters is expected to increase by +11 percentage points for the Democratic Party and +10 percentage points for the Republican Party.

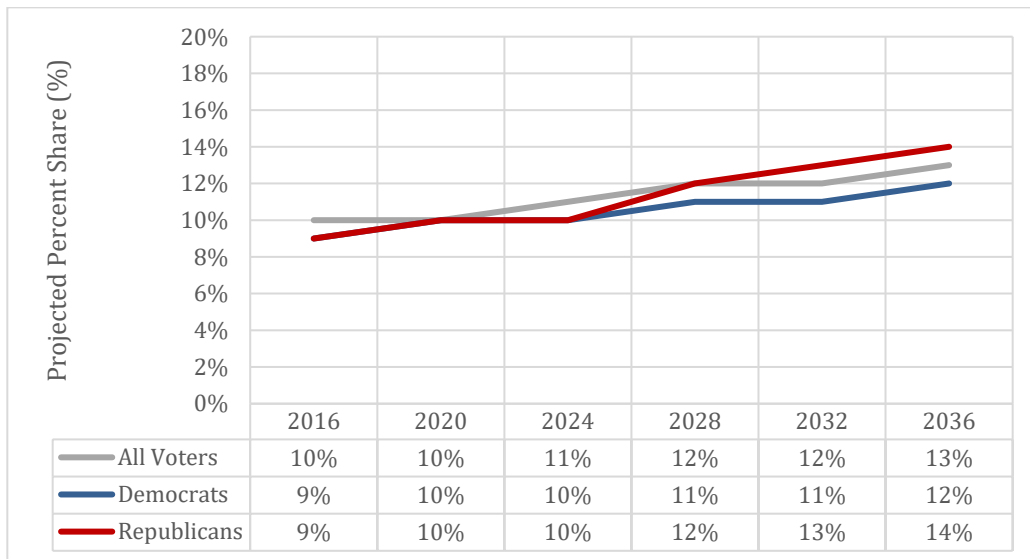
FIGURE 6: PROJECTED SHARE OF HISPANIC VOTERS IN NEVADA, 2016 – 2036



Source: Author’s analysis of data provided in “States of Change” by Rob Griffin, William H. Frey, and Ruy Teixeira

Figure 7 shows that the share of Asian/Other voters³ in Nevada is expected to increase by +3 percentage points for Democrats and +5 percentage points for Republicans by 2036.

FIGURE 7: PROJECTED SHARE OF ASIAN/OTHER VOTERS IN NEVADA, 2016 – 2036



Source: Author’s analysis of data provided in “States of Change” by Rob Griffin, William H. Frey, and Ruy Teixeira

³ Voters categorized as Asian/Other consist of those who are Non-Hispanic Asians, Pacific Islanders, Native Americans, and all other races and non-Hispanic multi-racial.