

5-26-2020

Immigrants and Their Voting Power in Nevada

Elia Del Carmen Solano-Patricio

University of Nevada, Las Vegas, eliadeltcarmen.solano-patricio@unlv.edu

Caitlin J. Saladino

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

William E. Brown Jr.

Brookings Mountain West, william.brown@unlv.edu

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



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

Repository Citation

Solano-Patricio, E., Saladino, C. J., Brown, W. E. (2020). Immigrants and Their Voting Power in Nevada. *Demography Fact Sheet No. 7* 1-4.

Available at: https://digitalscholarship.unlv.edu/bmw_lincy_demography/7

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.

IMMIGRANTS AND THEIR VOTING POWER IN NEVADA

Demography Fact Sheet No. 7 | May 2020

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

PURPOSE:

This Fact Sheet presents the number of both documented and undocumented immigrants in Nevada, synthesizing data provided by New American Economy (NAE), a bipartisan research non-profit organization. To estimate the total number of immigrants in the U.S. and across each of the 50 states, researchers reviewed various data sources including the U.S. Census, the American Community Survey, the Center for Migration Studies, and the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS)¹.

KEY FINDINGS:

1. For the working age population (those age 16 to 64), the share of Foreign-Born residents exceeded the share of U.S.-born residents in 2018 (80.9% compared to 59.9%). In the Las Vegas Metro, the gap was slightly larger in 2017 (82.1% compared to 59.6%).
2. In Southern Nevada, the immigrant share of the population is 13 percentage points higher in Congressional District 1 than in Congressional District 3, the next most populous congressional district in the State.
3. Each of Nevada’s 4 congressional districts has the same percentage share of immigrants who are eligible to vote and registered to do so: 61.8%.
4. Nevada has 165,212 undocumented immigrants, of which 3.5% are college students and 92.4% are of working age (16 to 64).
5. Of the 22,879 Nevada residents who are DACA-Eligible, 94.9% were in the employment labor force in 2018. Of Nevada’s college student population in 2018, 2.3% were DACA-Eligible.
6. There are 4,239 Temporary Protected Status holders in Nevada, of which 98.6% are working-age. Of those in the labor force, 98.9% were employed in 2018.

TERMS & JURISDICTIONS:

In keeping with the classifications used by NAE, the term “immigrants” includes four subcategories: undocumented immigrants, the DACA-eligible population, Temporary Protected Status holders (TPS), and immigrants eligible to vote.

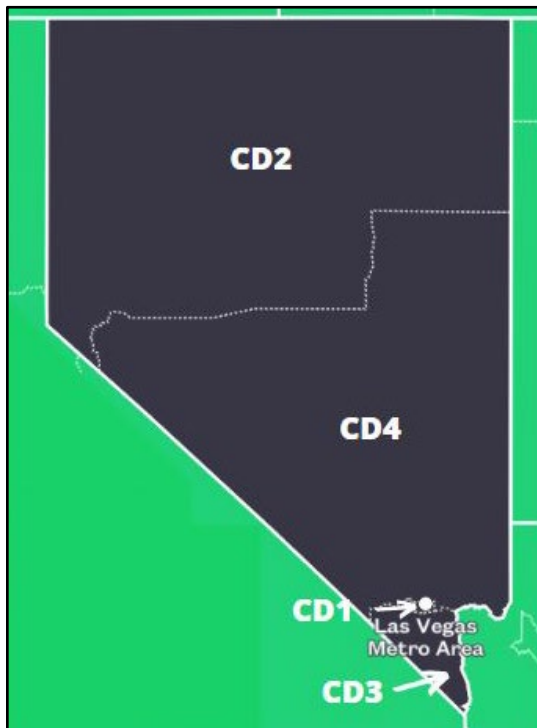
Undocumented Immigrants	To estimate the number of foreign-born individuals who are undocumented, NAE calculates the total number of immigrants who hold some type of legally permitted status and classify the residual as “undocumented.”
DACA-Eligible Population	This indicator refers to the number of immigrants who are <i>eligible</i> to apply for the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) policy implemented during the Obama Administration, not only those who are eligible and have received approval for a work permit and a two-year period of deferred action from deportation. According to NAE, the “DACA-Eligible population is a subset of the total undocumented population” and includes immigrants born after 1981 who emigrated to the U.S. after 2007, and after their 16 th birthday (NEA, 2020).

¹ See New American Economy, “Immigrants and the economy in Nevada,” 2020 (www.newamericaneconomy.org/locations/nevada/)

Temporary Protected Status Holders (TPS)	This indicator refers to the number of immigrants who are <i>eligible to apply</i> and <i>have received approval</i> for Temporary Protected Status (TPS), a policy established by Congress in the Immigration Act of 1990 ² to process visas for “immigrants who are temporarily unable to safely return to their home country because of ongoing armed conflict, an environmental disaster, or other extraordinary and temporary condition” (NEA, 2020). NEA’s method for estimates of undocumented immigrants includes TPS holders, “though their status is comparable to other legally present non-citizens” ³ .
Immigrants Eligible to Vote	To estimate the number of immigrants <i>eligible</i> to vote and the number <i>registered</i> to vote, NEA used four years of data (2010, 2012, 2014, and 2016) from the Current Population Survey (CPS). Foreign-born eligible voters are those who are naturalized citizens aged 18 or older and not institutionalized (in a correctional facility, for example). The number of registered foreign-born voters is then calculated by “applying the registration rates obtained from CPS to the number of eligible immigrant voters” in the state ⁴ .

As part of their “Map the Impact” initiative, NAE separates the State of Nevada into jurisdictional categories: **Nevada Overall**, the **Las Vegas Metro**, and **Nevada’s four congressional districts** (CD 1, CD 2, CD 3, and CD 4). Figure 1 is a map of Nevada’s four congressional districts.

FIGURE 1: NEVADA CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT MAP



Source: Adapted from New American Economy

CD 1 is represented by U.S. Congresswoman Dina Titus (D). The Southern Nevada district includes most of Las Vegas, as well as parts of North Las Vegas and unincorporated Clark County.

CD 2 is represented by U.S. Congressman Mark Amodei (R). In Northern Nevada, the district encompasses most of Lyon County, all of Churchill, Douglas, Elko, Eureka, Humboldt, Lander, Pershing, Storey, and Washoe counties, as well as the state capital, Carson City.

CD 3 is represented by U.S. Congresswoman Susie Lee (D). In Southern Nevada, this district includes Henderson, Boulder City, and much of unincorporated Clark County.

CD 4 is represented by U.S. Congressman Steven Horsford (D). In Central Nevada, the district includes parts of northern Clark County, southern Lyon County, and all of Esmeralda, Lincoln, Mineral, Nye and White Pine counties.

² <https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/101/s358/text>

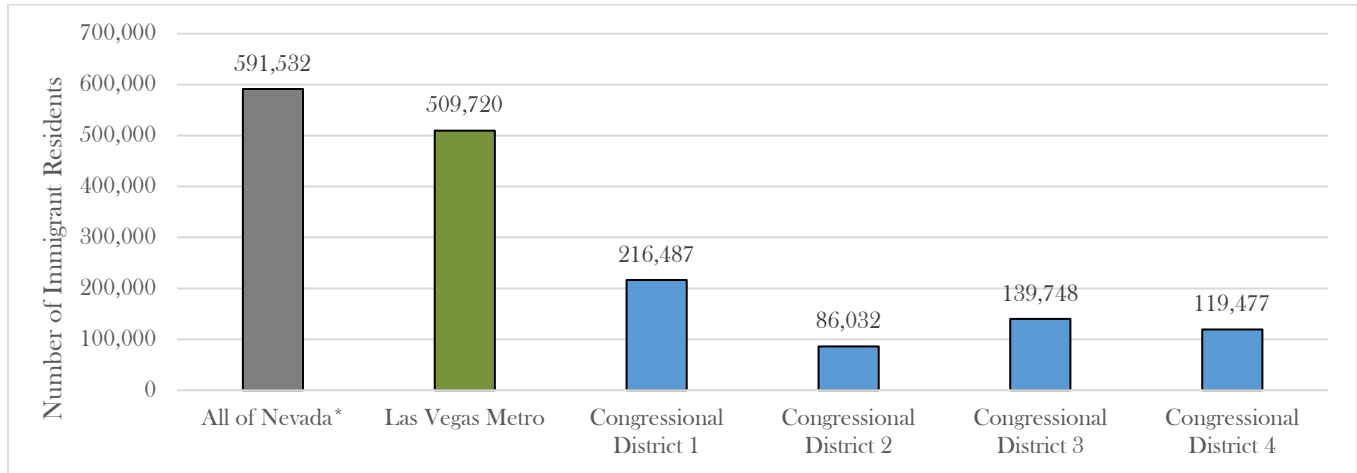
³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.

IMMIGRANTS IN NEVADA

Figure 2 and Table 1 below show the total number of immigrant residents in Nevada in 2018; immigrant residency within Nevada’s congressional jurisdictions is also shown for the year 2017. As shown, Nevada Congressional District 1 is where the majority of Nevada’s immigrant population resides.

FIGURE 2: NUMBER OF IMMIGRANT RESIDENTS, BY JURISDICTION



Source: Author’s analysis of original data provided by New American Economy *Data for the State of Nevada was collected in 2018

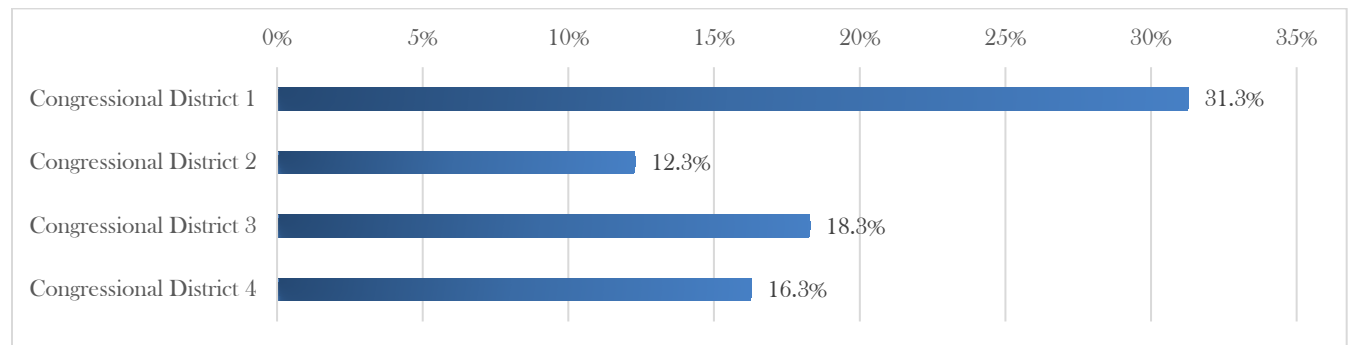
TABLE 1: NUMBER OF IMMIGRANT RESIDENTS, BY JURISDICTION

	2018	2017				
	Nevada Overall	Las Vegas Metro	CD 1 Titus	CD 2 Amodei	CD 3 Lee	CD 4 Horsford
Immigrant Residents	591,532	509,720	216,487	86,032	139,748	119,477

Source: Adapted from New American Economy

Figure 3 shows the percentage share of immigrants in Nevada, the Las Vegas Metro, and each of Nevada’s four congressional districts in 2017. Congressional District 1 in the Las Vegas Valley has both the highest number of immigrant residents (216,487) and the largest share among Nevada’s 4 congressional districts (31%).

FIGURE 3: IMMIGRANT SHARE OF THE POPULATION, BY JURISDICTION (2017)



Source: Adapted from New American Economy

Table 2 categorizes the age and origin of residents in Nevada and the Las Vegas Metro. Notably, the Foreign-Born population outweighed the U.S.-Born population for residents age 16 to 64 in both jurisdictions.

TABLE 2: DEMOGRAPHICS, NEVADA & LAS VEGAS METRO

	Age Group (0 to 15)		Age Group (16 to 64)		Age Group (65+)	
	Foreign-Born Population Share	U.S.-Born Population Share	Foreign-Born Population Share	U.S.-Born Population Share	Foreign-Born Population Share	U.S.-Born Population Share
Nevada Overall (2018)	2.8%	24.5%	80.9%	59.9%	16.3%	15.6%
Las Vegas Metro (2017)	3.1%	26.1%	82.1%	59.6%	14.7%	14.3%

Source: Adapted from New American Economy

Table 3 categorizes the age and origin of residents in Nevada’s four congressional districts. Notably, the Foreign-Born population outweighed the U.S.-Born population for the ages of 25 to 64 in all the districts, with Congressional District 1 having the largest difference (31.7 percentage points).

TABLE 3: DEMOGRAPHICS, NEVADA CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS (2017)

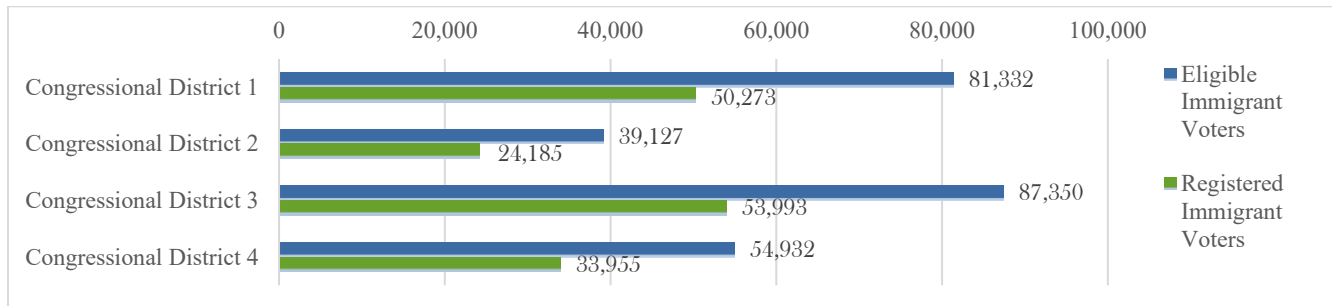
	Age Group (0 to 24)		Age Group (25 to 64)		Age Group (65+)	
	Foreign-Born Population Share	U.S.-Born Population Share	Foreign-Born Population Share	U.S.-Born Population Share	Foreign-Born Population Share	U.S.-Born Population Share
CD 1 - Titus	11.6%	42.4%	76.2%	44.5%	12.2%	13.2%
CD 2 - Amodei	10.3%	33.9%	76.6%	49.6%	13.2%	16.4%
CD 3 - Lee	8.0%	34.0%	73.9%	51.3%	18.1%	14.7%
CD 4 - Horsford	10.9%	39.0%	74.9%	47.1%	14.0%	14.0%

Source: Adapted from New American Economy

IMMIGRANT VOTING POWER IN NEVADA

Figure 3 and Table 4 show the distribution in Nevada’s four congressional districts of immigrants *eligible* to vote in 2017 compared to those who were *registered* voters. In each district, the percent share of those who were eligible and registered to vote was 61.8%.

FIGURE 4: IMMIGRANT SHARE OF POPULATION, BY CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT (2017)



Source: Author’s analysis of original data provided by New American Economy

TABLE 4: IMMIGRANT VOTERS IN NEVADA, BY CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT (2017)

Jurisdiction	# of Eligible Immigrant Voters	Registered Immigrant Voters	% Share of Registered Eligible Immigrant Voters
CD 1	81,332	50,273	61.8%
CD 2	39,127	24,185	61.8%
CD 3	87,350	53,993	61.8%
CD 4	54,932	33,955	61.8%

Source: Adapted from New American Economy