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How The Mountain West States Voted In 2016: A Post-Election Analysis of Trends, Demographics, and Politics in America's New Swing Region

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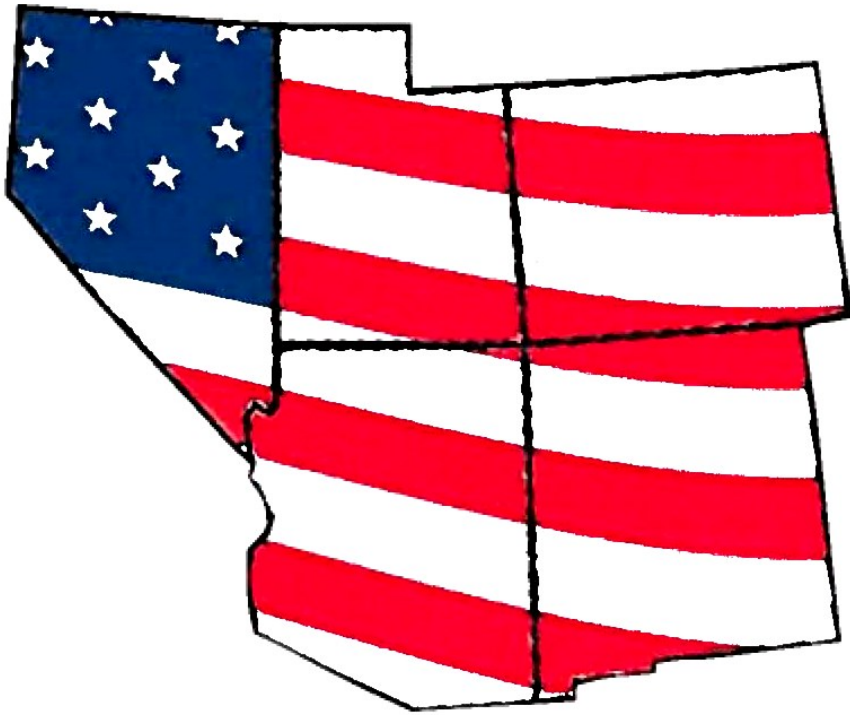
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How The Mountain West States Voted in 2016:



*Post-Election
Analysis of Trends,
Demographics,
and Politics in
America's New
Swing Region*

Who Voted?

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Voter Turnout, 2012 and 2016

State	2012		2016	
	Registered	Age Eligible	Registered	Age Eligible
AZ	74.4%	53.0%	57.1%	43.2%
CO	71.2%	70.6%	69.3%	65.6%
NV	80.8%	56.5%	76.7%	57.1%
NM	62.7%	54.8%	61.9%	54.7%
UT	80.2%	56.1%	60.7%	42.8%

Data from state election returns and United States Elections Project

Exit Polls, 2016

State	White			Black			Latino			Asian			Other		
	Share	D	R	Share	D	R	Share	D	R	Share	D	R	Share	D	R
AZ	75%	39%	52%	2%	-	-	16%	60%	30%	2%	-	-	5%	-	-
CO	78%	45%	47%	4%	-	-	12%	67%	30%	3%	-	-	4%	-	-
NV	62%	56%	5%	9%	81%	12%	18%	60%	29%	6%	62%	36%	4%	46%	45%
NM	49%	47%	42%	1%	-	-	40%	54%	33%	1%	-	-	9%	53%	33%
UT	86%	47%	25%	0%	-	-	9%	63%	24%	1%	-	-	3%	-	-

Data from Election Polling Services, Edison Research

- In 2012 the Exit Polls estimated that Mitt Romney won 25% (AZ), 23% (CO), NV (24%), and 29% (NM) of the Latino vote
- In 2016 Latino Decisions estimated that Donald Trump won 12% (AZ), 16% (CO), and 16% (NV) of the Latino vote (+/- 4.9 percentage points)

Errors in the Exit Polls

- Exit Polls are one (of many) attempts to measure voting behavior
 - Exit Polls were created to assist news organizations interpret outcomes
 - Exit Polls draw voters from a handful of precincts and they do not select many high-density Latino, African American, or Asian American precincts
 - Increases in early voting means that Exit Polls are now done partially by phone

Errors in the Exit Polls

- Exit Polls demographics of Latinos do not match reality
 - Few interviews are completed in Spanish (25 to 30% of Latino voters prefer Spanish)
 - Compared to the CPS, Exit Polls typically have 11 to 12% more college graduates and 5% more respondents with above-median incomes
 - Exit Polls for Latino voters are inconsistent with high-quality, large sample pre-election polls and actual results

Area	% Latino	% Clinton	% Trump
Las Cruces (#80), NM	99%	85%	9%
Las Cruces (#13), NM	99%	87%	7%
Starr County, TX	96%	79%	19%
Las Cruces (#87), NM	96%	84%	9%
Starr County, TX	96%	79%	19%
Valencia (#24), NM	94%	72%	16%
Hogg County, TX	94%	77%	20%
Maverick County, TX	94%	77%	21%
Zavala County, TX	93%	78%	20%
San Miguel (#17), NM	91%	79%	11%
Kissimee (#210), FL	78%	80%	17%
Mlwke. (12-232), WI	78%	87%	9%
Mlwke. (12-233), WI	77%	88%	9%
Kissimee (#411), FL	71%	80%	18%
Mlwke. (12-321), WI	72%	90%	8%
Kissimee (#200), FL	69%	78%	18%

Source: actual election results gathered from County registrar of voters, Nov 9, 2016

Source: "Lies, Damn Lies, and Exit Polls...", Gary Segura and Matt Barreto, *Huffington Post*, 11/9/16

The Latino Vote

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The Latino Electorate

- Latino voters in the Mountain West were critical if not decisive in Hillary Clinton's wins in Colorado (9 EC votes), New Mexico (5 EC votes), and Nevada (6 EV votes)
- In Arizona (10 EC votes, increased Latino turnout helped to close the GOP margin (Romney + 10.1 versus Trump + 4.3) and defeat Sheriff Joe Arpaio

The Latino Electorate in Nevada

- 26% were first time voters
 - 43% of those 39 or younger
- 53% named immigration reform their top issue priority, followed by jobs and the economy (33%)
 - 11% cited anti-immigrant or Latino discrimination
- 60% decided who to vote for president more than six months ago

The Latino Electorate in Nevada

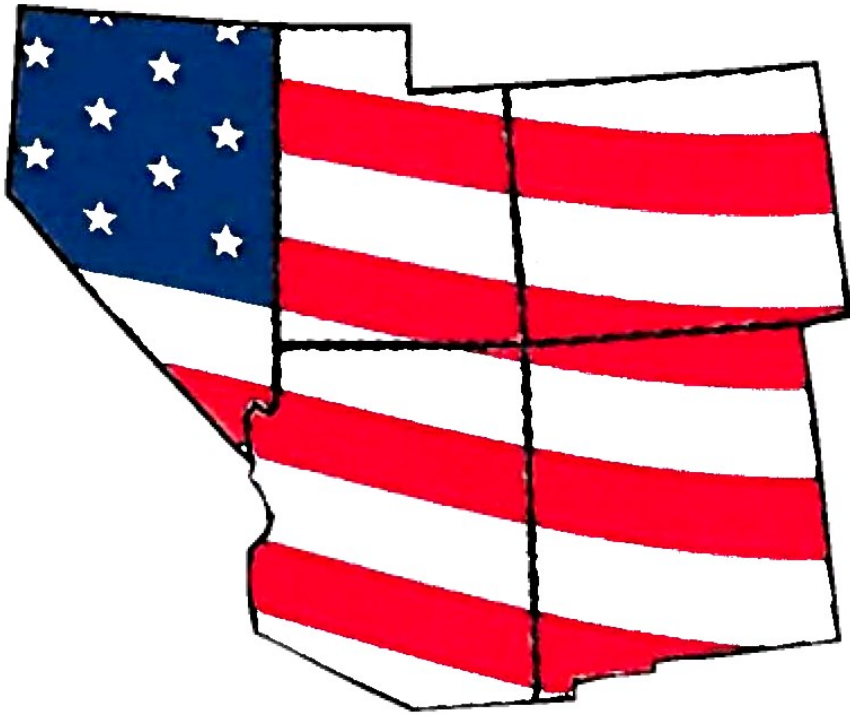
- 45% responded that they voted to support and represent the Latino community
 - 34% voted to support Democratic candidates (37% contacted by Democrats)
 - 9% voted to support Republican candidates (16% contacted by Republicans)
- 82% support DACA and 66% oppose GOP efforts to kill the implementation of DAPA
 - 81% said immigration was the most important or one of the most important issues in their vote choice
 - 68% know a family member, friend, or co-worker who is undocumented

Contours of the Latino Vote in Nevada

Candidate	All	Men	Women	Spanish	< \$40k	No College	18 to 39	1st Time Voter	Dem	Rep	Other
President											
Clinton	81%	74%	88%	90%	86%	85%	89%	92%	98%	17%	74%
Trump	16%	23%	10%	9%	10%	12%	7%	4%	1%	79%	19%
U.S. Senate											
Cortez-Masto	79%	76%	82%	87%	82%	82%	85%	86%	97%	13%	71%
Heck	19%	22%	15%	10%	15%	16%	12%	13%	1%	85%	25%
U.S. House of Representatives											
Democrat	83%	77%	87%	90%	87%	85%	89%	91%	99%	18%	75%
Republican	15%	20%	10%	9%	10%	13%	8%	7%	1%	82%	15%

Source: 2016 Latino Decisions Election Eve Poll, Nevada Sample, n = 400 (moe +/-4.9 percentage points)

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