Latino Voters Power Democrats to Historic Win in Sea Change Election

Latino voters rejected HR 1 and Operation Midway Blitz and the extreme policies behind it. New majorities must deliver dignity, safety, and an economy that works for everyone.

CHICAGO, IL – November 4, 2026 – For years, both parties have made the same mistake: treating the Latino vote as a settled matter, with permanent partisan loyalties. Yesterday proved them wrong again. Latino voters loudly repudiated the extreme and harmful policies of the Trump administration, such as HR 1, with about six in ten backing Democratic House candidates, a double-digit shift from 2024.[1] Here in Chicago, nearly 85% of voters demanded that the federal government answer for the harm Operation Midway Blitz did to our neighbors, our workers, and our small businesses.[2] Across the country, a majority of voters (53%) and 60% of Hispanic voters said before the election that immigration enforcement has gone too far.[3]

Democrats now hold majorities in both chambers of Congress and won new governing trifectas in at least four states.[4] Now is the moment for them to step up and work every day to earn the lasting trust of our community through their actions over the next two years. That starts with accountability on day one: reversing the ICE and DHS budget decisions that poured billions into mass detention and fueled the widespread abuse of our communities and loved ones along with unparalleled levels of apparent public corruption.[5] It means independent criminal investigations into abuse at every level of immigration enforcement, from the agents on our streets to the officials who directed them. Our families were promised accountability for the people who harmed us. Now we expect this 120th Congress to deliver it starting in January.

The cost-of-living crisis was also on the ballot. Rising prices have made life harder for working people and small business owners in every community. Latino entrepreneurs are driving small business growth across the country, with Latino-owned businesses growing 44% in five years,[6] and our families and businesses are among the most exposed to out-of-control increases in the cost of living and the cost of doing business.

Every day, more Latinos become eligible to vote. The future of Illinois and the nation runs through our community, and our support will be earned through action, not assumed. Leaders who want our trust should take note: our power is growing, and we will stand with those who stand with us.

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About the Illinois Latino Agenda: The Illinois Latino Agenda (ILA) is a coalition of Latino leaders and community organizations across the Chicago region working to advance the wellbeing, equity, and political power of Illinois's Latino communities. ILA is fiscally sponsored by the Latino Policy Forum.

1. NBC News Exit Poll and AP Voter Poll, preliminary results, November 3–4, 2026.

2. Chicago Board of Election Commissioners, unofficial results, 1,232 of 1,291 precincts reporting: Yes 526,034 (84.89%), No 93,599 (15.11%). Accessed November 4, 2026.

3. Fox News Poll, September 11–14, 2026; 1,211 registered voters; margin of error ±3 points (higher for subgroups).

4. Ballotpedia, November 4, 2026; New Republic, November 4, 2026 (Michigan, Minnesota, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin; additional states pending). [UPDATE COUNT BEFORE RELEASE]

5. U.S. Government Accountability Office audit of ICE detention expansion, September 2026. [ADD REPORT NUMBER]

6. Stanford Latino Entrepreneurship Initiative, State of Latino Entrepreneurship (2025), 2018–2023.