

LPOF Latino Survey

National mood, vote choice, immigration policy, and foreign policy
(March 2026)

LATINO PUBLIC OPINION FORUM

FIU

FLORIDA
INTERNATIONAL
UNIVERSITY

| Overview | Sampling Design | Data Collection | Weighting | Margin of Error | Questionnaire |
|---|---|---|---|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National survey of Latino adults (N=1,054) Fielded March 2026 Focus: economy, immigration, foreign policy, vote choice FIU Latino Public Opinion Forum | <p>Target:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Latino adults (18+) Stratified by state, nativity, origin Key states: FL, TX, CA, NY | <p>Mixed-mode:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> online + telephone Bilingual: English and Spanish | <p>Post-stratification weighting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Benchmarks: U.S. Census Adjusts for demographics | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ±3.0 percentage points 95% confidence level Higher for subgroups | <p>Modules:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> economy, immigration, foreign policy Neutral wording (AAPOR/WAPOR) |

LPOF Annual Latino Survey

National mood, vote choice, immigration policy, and foreign policy among 1,054 Latinos nationwide

67%

Wrong track

D+29

Congressional ballot

86%

Support pathway to citizenship

29%

Top LatAm priority: crime / trafficking

- The dominant cleavage in the study is partisan, not demographic.
- Cost-of-living concerns anchor the national mood, but immigration and foreign policy remain highly polarized.
- Across sections, origin and state add texture, especially Cuban-origin and Florida respondents.

- **The national mood is negative:** 67.2% say the country is on the wrong track, and inflation/cost of living is the top issue at 27.4%, ahead of immigration (15.7%) and health-care costs (14.1%).
- **Latinos remain broadly anti-Trump and Democratic-leaning nationally:** net Trump approval is -36 points, the congressional generic ballot is D+29.5, and the presidential generic ballot is D+28.6.
- **Immigration opinion is internally split on enforcement but not on legalization:** only 43.9% support deportation and 29.3% support ICE tactics, while 85.5% support a pathway to citizenship and 77.2% support legal status short of citizenship.
- **On foreign policy,** the electorate is skeptical of every Trump administration action; only the recognition of Venezuela’s interim government comes close to an even split.
- **Party ID is the main organizing divide across all three sections.** Age, gender, origin, and state matter, but primarily as secondary layers that sharpen how the partisan divide is expressed.

81%

Republicans say “right direction”

6%

Democrats say “right direction”

79%

Republicans support expedited deportation

95%

Democrats support citizenship pathway

+23

Cuban-origin Trump net approval

-10

Florida Trump net approval

Most important cues for interpretation

| Dimension | Main takeaway |
|----------------|--|
| Party ID | Primary cleavage in every section |
| Origin + state | Florida/Cuban exceptionalism stands out |
| Nativity | Usually weaker than party |
| Gender | Women are more Democratic and less hawkish |

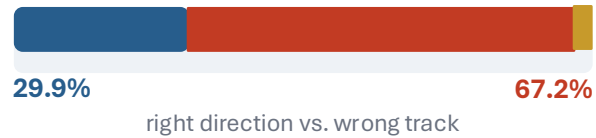
Section 1

National mood, cost pressures, and vote choice

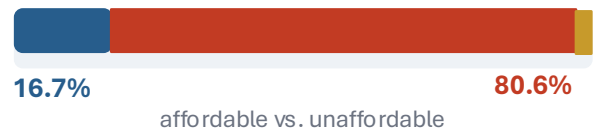
Direction of the country, issue agenda, health-care costs, presidential approval, and generic ballots



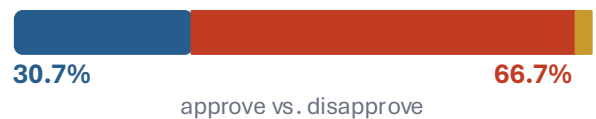
Direction of the country



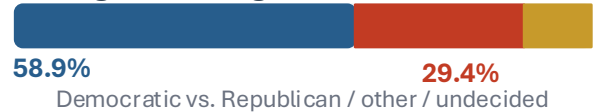
Health-care affordability



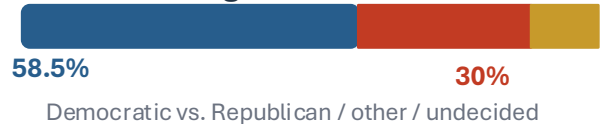
Trump approval



Congressional generic ballot



Presidential generic ballot



Most important issue

| Issue | % |
|------------------------------------|------|
| Inflation and cost of living | 27.4 |
| Immigration and border security | 15.7 |
| Health-care costs | 14.1 |
| Jobs and the economy | 9.6 |
| National security / foreign policy | 8.3 |
| Taxes and government spending | 8.0 |

- The topline environment is economically stressed and politically negative.
- Cost pressures dominate the agenda, but immigration is clearly the second-tier mobilizing issue.
- Ballot tests are nearly identical, which suggests a nationalized partisan environment rather than a candidate-specific one.
- Trump approval sits below the Republican ballot, leaving some room for Republican candidates among Latinos who dislike Trump personally.

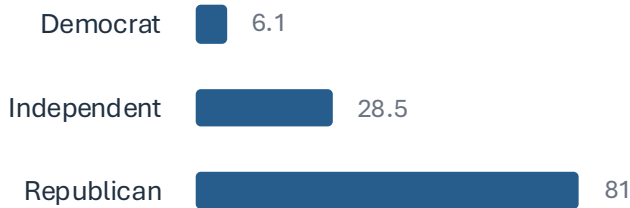
D+29.5 Congress

D+28.6 President

67.2% wrong track

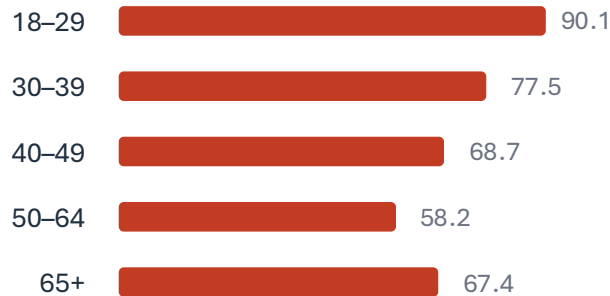
80.6% unaffordable

Right direction by party ID (%)

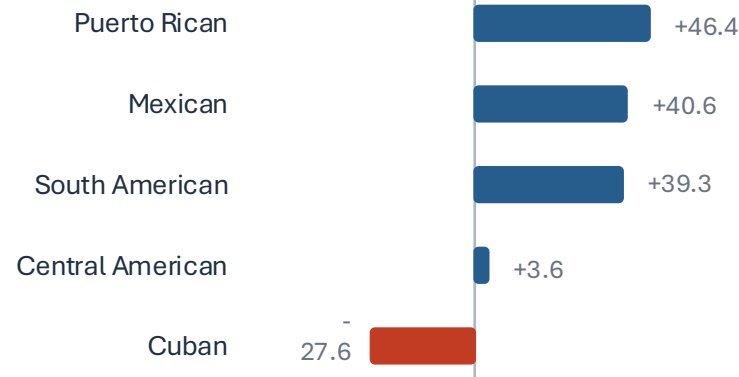


Party identification is the strongest demographic-political divider on national mood (Cramer's $V \approx 0.49$).

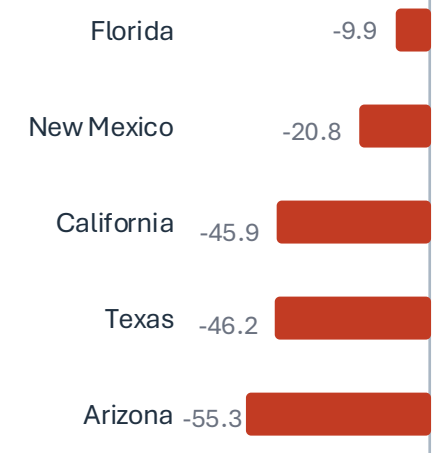
Wrong-track sentiment by age (%)



Democratic congressional margin by origin (pts)



Trump net approval by state (pts)



Among large states, Florida is the clear outlier and the least anti-Trump state in the sample.

- Gender matters too: women give Democrats a much larger congressional edge than men (+39 vs. +19).
- Issue emphasis is partisan: Republicans are much more likely to name immigration as the top issue, while Democrats are more likely to cite health-care costs.
- The youngest respondents are the most negative on national direction and the most Democratic on the ballot.

Section 2

Immigration policy, ICE, and legalization

Enforcement attitudes are polarized; legalization remains the bridge issue

Support deportation



End TPS / parole



ICE favorability



Expedited deportation



Support ICE tactics



Pathway to citizenship



ICE makes communities safer



Legal status, not citizenship



49.6%

Worried enforcement could affect close ties

23%

Know someone who lost TPS or parole

72 pts

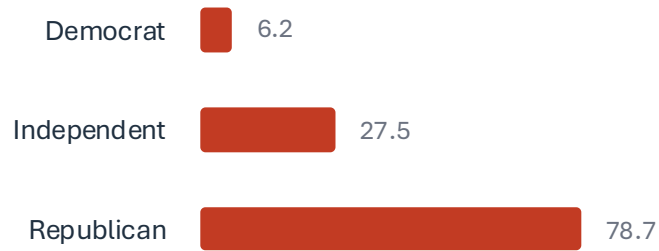
Dem-Rep gap on ICE tactics

68 pts

Dem-Rep gap on deportation

- The Latino electorate is mixed on deportation itself, but clearly negative toward ICE as an institution and toward aggressive tactics.
- The strongest consensus in the entire section remains in favor of earned legal incorporation, especially regarding citizenship.
- That means the debate is not enforcement versus open borders; it is enforcement style versus inclusive legalization.

Support for ICE tactics by party (%)



Citizenship support by nativity (%)



Deportation support by gender (%)



Support pathway to citizenship by party (%)



Expedited deportation by nativity (%)

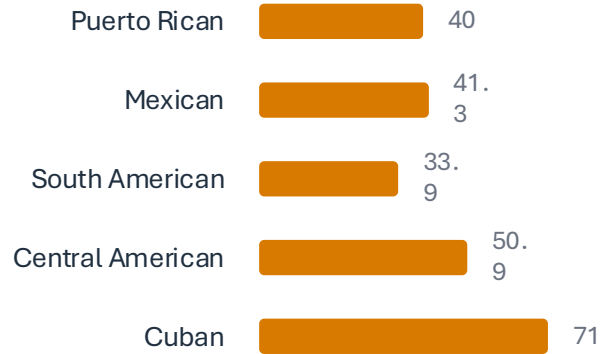


Citizenship support by gender (%)

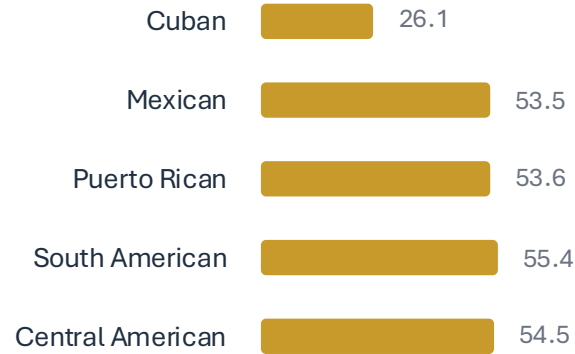


Citizenship remains majority-supported across party lines, making legalization the bridge issue.

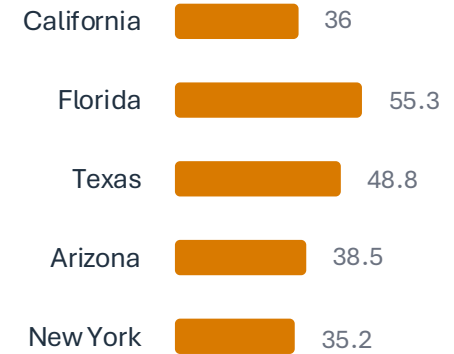
Deportation support by origin (%)



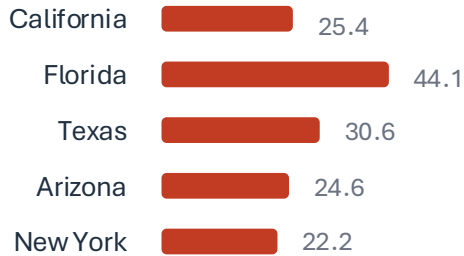
Worried enforcement could affect close ties (%)



Deportation support by state (%)



ICE favorability by state (%)



- Cuban-origin respondents are the clear enforcement-friendly outlier: much higher support for deportation and ICE, and much lower perceived personal exposure.
- Florida is the main geographic outlier; California is consistently more skeptical of ICE and enforcement-first proposals.
- State variation mainly changes tone and intensity; it does not overturn the broader national preference for legalization.

Section 3

Foreign policy, Trump approval, and regional priorities

Venezuela, Cuba, Latin America, and the generic ballots

Trump approval



Congressional generic ballot



Presidential generic ballot



Support U.S. military actions in Venezuela



Support recognition of Venezuela's interim government



Support U.S. policy toward Cuba



Support U.S. national-security policy toward Latin America



Support Greenland / Arctic policy

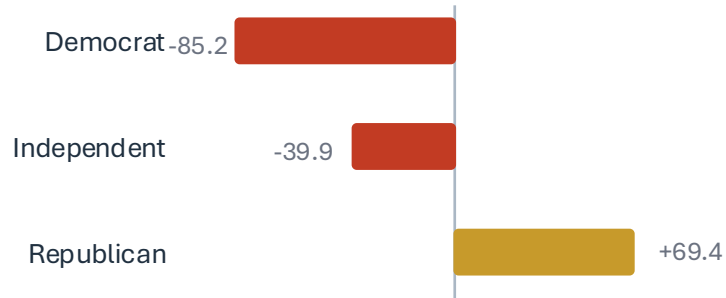


Top U.S. priority in Latin America

| Priority | % |
|---|------|
| Combat drug trafficking / organized crime | 29.3 |
| Economic development / trade | 21.2 |
| Democratic governance / human rights | 21.1 |
| None of these | 10.0 |
| Immigration / border management | 7.4 |

- Latinos are skeptical of every current foreign policy action.
- Recognition of Venezuela comes closest to parity; Greenland/Arctic is the most rejected proposal.
- On priorities, organized crime outranks immigration.

Trump net approval by party (pts)



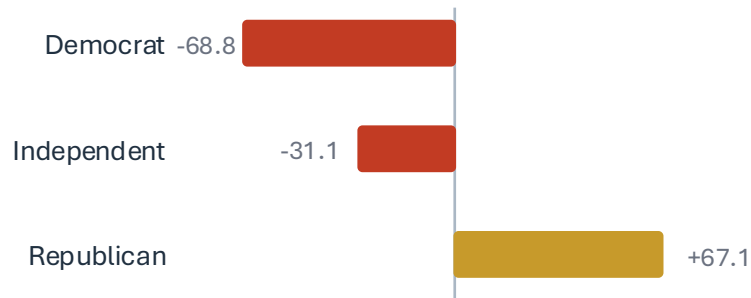
Democratic congressional margin by gender (pts)



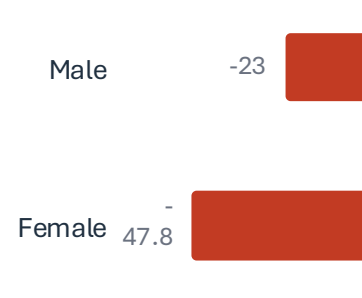
Priority in Latin America by gender

| Group | Crime / trafficking % |
|-------|-----------------------|
| Men | 29.8 |
| Women | 28.9 |

Net support for LatAm security policy by party (pts)

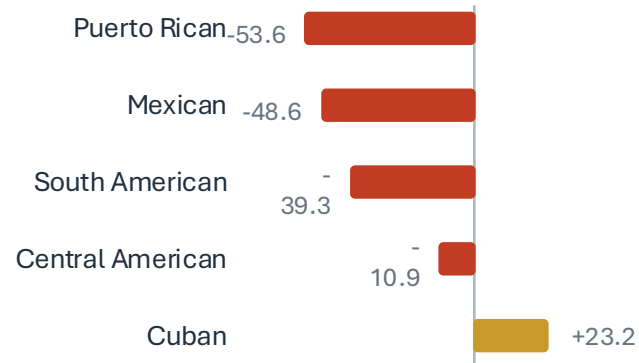


Trump net approval by gender (pts)

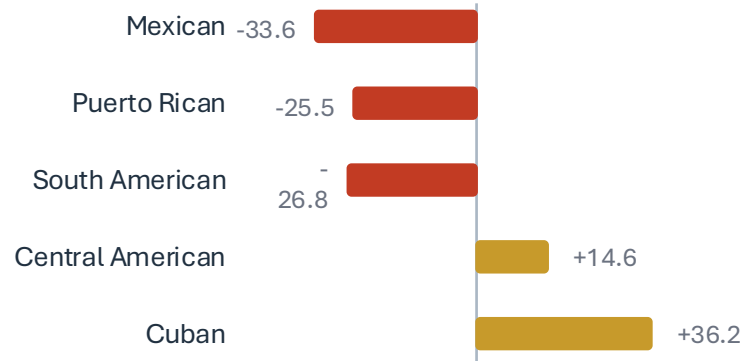


- Party ID structures every foreign-policy item more strongly than age, gender, origin, or state.
- Women are more Democratic and more anti-Trump than men, and they are substantially less supportive of hawkish regional policy.
- Even so, men and women converge on one point: the top regional priority is organized crime and trafficking.

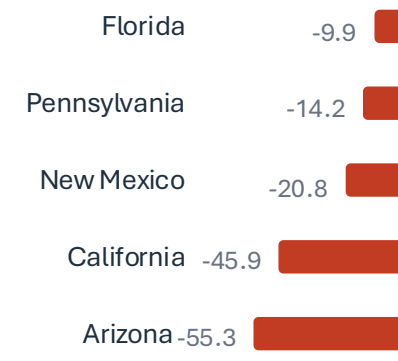
Trump net approval by origin (pts)



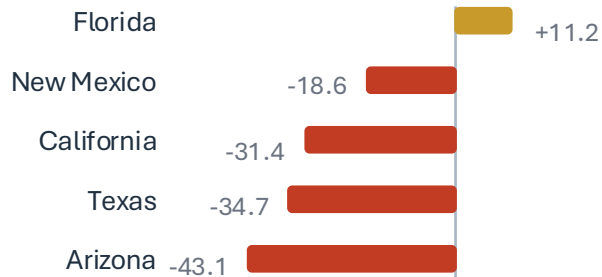
Net support for military action in Venezuela by origin (pts)



Trump net approval by state (pts)



Net support for LatAm security policy by state (pts)



- Cuban-origin respondents and Florida Latinos form the clearest pocket of support for Trump and for tougher regional policy toward Venezuela, Cuba, and Latin America.
- That exceptionalism matters politically, but it does not cancel the overall national pattern: most Latino subgroups remain net anti-Trump and net skeptical of intervention.

What is broadly shared?

| Theme | Evidence |
|------------------------|--|
| Economic stress | Cost of living is the top issue; health care is also high-salience |
| Democratic lean | Congressional and presidential ballots both sit around D+29 |
| Legalization consensus | 85.5% back citizenship; 77.2% back legal status short of citizenship |
| Security priority | Crime / trafficking is the leading Latin America priority |

What is sharply divided?

| Theme | Evidence |
|----------------------|--|
| Direction of country | 6% of Democrats vs. 81% of Republicans say right direction |
| ICE and deportation | Party gaps of roughly 68–72 points on enforcement items |
| Foreign policy | Democratic Latinos oppose tested actions; Republicans support them |
| Gender | Women are more Democratic, less pro-enforcement, and less hawkish |

Who are the key outliers?

| Subgroup | Signal |
|--------------|--|
| Florida | Least anti-Trump large state |
| Cuban-origin | Most pro-enforcement and most hawkish origin row |
| Young adults | Most wrong-track and most Democratic ballot |
| Men | More enforcement-friendly than women |

- Analytically, the study shows a Latino electorate that is still nationally Democratic-leaning but internally sorted by the same partisan logic that structures the broader U.S. electorate.
- Strategically, the main message is not that “Latinos think XYZ,” but that different Latino subcoalitions react very differently depending on whether the issue is framed as cost pressure, legalization, enforcement, or regional security.

- On national mood and electoral politics: Democrats retain a large national Latino advantage, but that advantage is uneven across states and origins. Florida and Cuban-origin respondents remain the clearest Republican openings.
- On immigration: campaigns should distinguish between legalization and enforcement. A strong majority supports legalization, but enforcement tone, ICE, and deportation tactics are where the real partisan fight occurs.
- On foreign policy, a security-first message resonates most when tied to organized crime and trafficking, not to broad geopolitical confrontation. That is the strongest cross-subgroup consensus in the regional battery.
- For targeting, party ID should anchor any model of Latino opinion. Age, gender, origin, and state are useful refinements, not substitutes for partisanship.
- For interpretation: small-base origin and state categories should be treated as directional, especially Venezuelan, Dominican, Colombian, and the smallest state cells.

Frequently used subgroup bases

| Dimension | Def |
|-----------|--|
| Age | 18–29 n=71; 30–39 n=111; 40–49 n=179; 50–64 n=349; 65+ n=344 |
| Gender | Male n=507; Female n=547 |
| Nativity | U.S.-born n=785; Foreign- born n=262 |
| Origin | Mexican 441; Puerto Rican 110; Cuban 69; South American 56; Central American 55 |
| States | CA 303; FL 152; TX 121; AZ 65; NY 54; NM 43 |

Section 1 variables

| Code | Item |
|------|---|
| Q2 | Direction of the country |
| Q4 | Most important issue |
| Q11 | Health-care affordability |
| Q3 | Approval of Trump / current administration |
| Q38 | Congressional generic ballot |
| Q39 | Presidential generic ballot |

Section 2 + 3 variables

| Code | Item |
|---------|---|
| Q13 | Support deportation of undocumented immigrants |
| Q14 | Favorability toward ICE |
| Q15 | Support ICE enforcement tactics |
| Q17 | End TPS / humanitarian parole |
| Q18 | Expedited deportation |
| Q21 | Pathway to citizenship |
| Q22 | Legal status without citizenship |
| Q23–Q28 | Foreign-policy battery + LatAm priority |

- All percentages are within the subgroup.
- Significance judgments come from chi-square tests and Cramer’s V values.