What Arizona voters are signaling ahead of 2026

A new poll provides insight on voter priorities and election confidence, with particular attention to Latino voters

By Marshall Terrill , ASU News
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Story highlights

- Voting poll surveyed 1,300 registered voters in Arizona, including 700 Latino or Hispanic voters.
- Latino voters are one of the state's most closely watched and diverse electorates.
- Most Arizona voters say they plan to vote early, even as many express concern about voter fraud.

With the 2026 midterm cycle underway, Arizona voters are weighing issues, candidates and election procedures. A new Status of Arizona Voters Poll offers an early look at those views, with particular attention to Latino voters, one of the state's most closely watched and diverse electorates.

The poll, recently conducted by Arizona State University's Center for Latina/os and American Politics Research and the Hispanic Research Center, surveyed 1,300 registered voters in Arizona, including 700 Latino or Hispanic voters.

It asked respondents about candidate preferences, early voting, election integrity, ballot propositions, immigration policy and broader concerns affecting their communities.

Among the findings: Most Arizona voters say they plan to vote early, even as many express concern about voter fraud. Latino voters, in particular, showed both higher concern about election integrity and continued support for long-standing voting options such as mail-in ballots and early in-person voting. For researchers, that combination offers a more nuanced picture of trust, access and lived experience than any single number can capture.

The survey also found notable differences between Latino and non-Latino voters in several statewide races and policy questions. While Latino respondents showed support for several incumbent candidates, the results also point to a sizable share of undecided voters and a population that does not always fit neatly into fixed political categories.

“We also see important differences between Latino and non-Latino voters in their candidate choice and attitudes toward the elections,” said Stella Rouse, a professor in ASU’s School of Politics and Global Studies and director of the Hispanic Research Center. “Taken together, these findings remind us why it is so important to look beyond statewide averages and understand how different communities are experiencing and thinking about the issues that matter most to them and who they prefer to represent their interests.”

ASU News spoke with Rouse about what stood out in the latest poll, why Latino voters remain a key part of Arizona’s political landscape, and what reporters, campaigns and the public should understand before drawing broad conclusions from statewide results.

Note: Answers have been edited for length and clarity.

Question: One of your big findings from your polls is that Latinos favor Arizona incumbent candidates. What is your opinion as to why?

Answer: In midterm elections, the national out party[1] usually has an advantage and that’s the case in 2026, especially with Latinos. The incumbents of the executive offices in Arizona are Democrats, while the Republican Party controls the presidency and Congress. While incumbency matters some, especially for name recognition, Latinos are not favoring incumbents as much as that they are sending a message about their disapproval to those in charge in Washington regarding policies such as immigration raids, the rise in gas prices and cost of living and the Iran war. Latinos are less tied to a political party compared to other groups and therefore are exhibiting a thermostatic correction — cooling on the current federal administration and pushing back against its policies.

Q: Latino voters in the poll show both higher concern about voter fraud and strong support for early voting. What does that reveal about how Latino communities are experiencing election messaging, trust and access?

A: Latinos’ concerns about voter fraud are rooted in both fears that votes may not be counted fairly and that claims may be made about “rigged” elections. They are experiencing messages that pry on these fears. There is some level of distrust about the system, including efforts at their disenfranchisement. However, at the same time, their overall experience tells them that mail-in voting in Arizona had been in place for a long time with no significant problems. So, access and ease of voting likely outweigh concerns.

Q: Did anything surprise you about this latest poll/how does this compare with previous elections?

A: I am a bit surprised at the relatively high level of support Latinos continue to show for Proposition 314 — which was approved by voters in 2024. The law allows state and local police to arrest people who unlawfully cross the border, allows judges to issue deportation orders and increases penalties for selling fentanyl. Over half of Latinos continue to support this ballot initiative, even as they disapprove of the current administration's immigration policies.

A majority of Latinos — 60% — also support Proposition 144 on this year's ballot, which would amend the Arizona constitution that only citizens can vote in elections and require a government-issued ID card regardless of voting method. Together, support for these two policies indicate that Latinos are not opposed to more stringent immigration and voter ID policies, but that perhaps they trust state (government) more than the federal government to enact such policies.

Q: If you could urge reporters, campaigns, or the public to look beyond one headline number in this poll, which finding would you want them to sit with more deeply, and why?

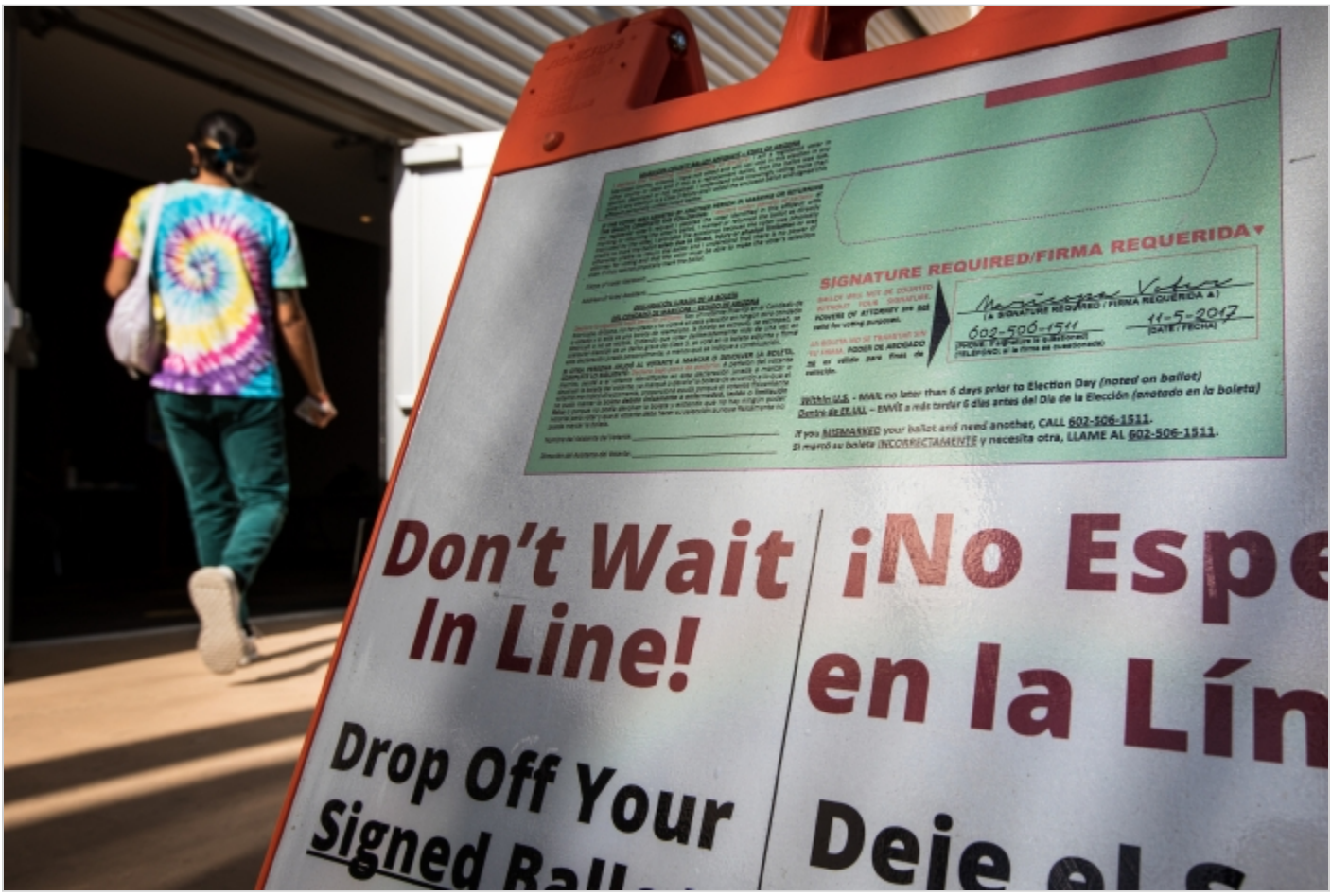
A: I would encourage reporters, campaigns and the public to not just report on or focus on choices and opinions of the general electorate, but to look across groups, especially Latinos. While results may be in the same direction across the electorate, there are often important differences in intensity that can provide better signals about how elections will play out.

It is not only important to survey a group like Latinos, but to do so with a representative sample and to offer an opportunity for responses in both English and Spanish, which is what we do in this poll. In other words, it is not just enough to survey Latinos, but the quality of the survey matters in order to have confidence in the results.

This story originally appeared on ASU News.

[1] The phrase "national out party" is how political scientists refer to the party that is not in power at the national level.

Main image



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Text image(s)



Stella Rouse