

## AFD 297 Links and Notes - It's Bernie, Baby

- TioBernie

- <https://news.yahoo.com/latinos-sanders-secret-weapon-in-nevada-could-make-him-unstoppable-on-super-tuesday-015922411.html>
  - “This time around the Sanders campaign really has invested, and you see them everywhere,” says an operative who worked on Latino outreach for the Clinton campaign in 2016 and then worked with a 2020 candidate who left the race. “They are the ones who have consistently shown up at community events, in radio ads and newspapers. It’s very different from what they did in 2016. You have to understand the community first and then build your program around it — and I think they’ve done that.”
  - Rocha claimed he tried to work for Clinton’s 2016 campaign before Sanders entered the field but wasn’t hired because his conviction came up during vetting. He nearly choked up while recounting the early meeting where he told Sanders and Weaver about his background. According to Rocha, they were both adamant that he shouldn’t spend his life paying for a past mistake.
- <https://www.npr.org/2019/12/22/789317369/authenticity-culturally-relevant-with-bernie-sanders-is-resonating-with-latinos>
- <https://www.cnn.com/2020/02/23/politics/bernie-sanders-latino-vote-nevada-caucuses/index.html>

Almost all of the states with a large Latino population will vote in just the next four weeks: [Nevada](#) led the way Saturday, followed by [Texas](#), [California](#) and [Colorado](#) on March 3, or Super Tuesday, and [Arizona](#), [Florida](#) and [Illinois](#) on March 17.

Although Sanders won the youngest Latino voters, the analysis found, his support declined steadily among older generations.

"I really do think there is almost a total denial of the emerging Latino vote in the United States," said former Illinois Democratic Rep. Luis Gutierrez, who played a leading role on immigration issues until retiring from the House in 2018. "People say statistically they say we will outnumber any minority group, but when I read my favorite newspapers, watch my favorite newscasts, we're absent."

New Mexico, the state where Latinos comprise the largest share of eligible voters (at almost 43%), doesn't vote until June. But all of the states that rank next on the list for Latino presence are voting in this upcoming rush. That includes California (30.5% of eligible voters), Texas (30.4%), Arizona (23.6%), Florida (20.5%), Nevada (19.7%) and Colorado (15.9%). Latinos represent almost 12% of eligible voters in Illinois, the other state voting soon with a large concentration of that population.

In a Democratic primary, the Latino share of the vote in most of those states will likely be larger than their share of the overall eligible population. Barreto said all indications in polling points to high Latino turnout in the upcoming primaries.

"There is a very high level of interest," he said. "When you get to the Super Tuesday states we are expecting extremely high turnout in California and Texas."

The seven Latino-heavy states voting through March 17 will award 1,207 pledged delegates to the Democratic convention. That's 46% of the 2,603 total pledged delegates that will be awarded in primaries and caucuses through February and March.

In California, Sanders' state director and political director are Latinos, and his deputy state director is Latina.

Sanders also is far outpacing the other candidates, apart from the two self-funding billionaires in the race, in television advertising in the Latino-heavy states impending on the calendar. As of Friday, Sanders had spent \$1.7 million on television in Nevada, roughly twice as much as both Biden and Massachusetts Sen. [Elizabeth Warren](#), with former South Bend, Indiana, Mayor [Pete Buttigieg](#) trailing slightly behind those two, according to figures from Kantar Media/CMAG provided to CNN. Businessman [Tom Steyer](#), who is self-funding, has dwarfed all of them in Nevada television spending at nearly \$14 million.

**In the other states with big Latino populations looming on the calendar, only Sanders and the two billionaires are on the airwaves at all. Neither Biden, Buttigieg, Warren nor Minnesota Sen. [Amy Klobuchar](#) had purchased any television ads in Texas, Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida or Illinois as of Friday. But Sanders has spent more than \$7 million in California and Texas combined and another \$441,000 in Colorado.**

As these results suggest, in the Latino community, Biden can't count on the same reservoir of goodwill toward the Obama presidency as he's drawing on among African Americans. Although Latino groups grew warmer toward Obama in his second term -- when, among other things, he instituted the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program to protect from deportation millions of young people brought to the US illegally by their parents -- in his first term, the large number of deportations and the sublimation of immigration reform to health care reform rankled some leaders.

- <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/11/08/us/bernie-sanders-latino-voters.html>
- <https://theintercept.com/2020/02/20/nevada-caucus-bernie-sanders-latino-voters/>

"I appreciate that we're getting looked upon because that doesn't happen really in presidential elections," Parra said. "I just think it's really cool he's looking out for us, trying to take care of us, like we have a voice too, like we may be small but

every vote counts. It's just something I really appreciate from the bottom of my heart."

The campaign, which has knocked on more than 200,000 doors in Nevada in the past 17 days, is also getting organizing help from two major Latino groups. Mijente and Make the Road Action, an immigrant rights group, have thrown their support behind Sanders with their first-ever presidential endorsements, and each has a significant ground presence.

And out of all the Democratic candidates running for the nomination, Latinos gave the most political donations to Sanders, contributing almost \$8.3 million to the campaign in 2019, according to an analysis of campaign finance data by Plus Three, a technology company. The analysis, first reported by [NBC News](#) last week, found that 36 percent of Latinos' dollars went to the democratic socialist.

One poll, conducted by the progressive think tank Data for Progress, found that 66 percent of Hispanic voters in Nevada support Sanders. No other candidate made it out of the single digits. And last week, a [Morning Consult poll](#) showed the democratic socialist with a staggering lead among Hispanic voters, jumping 10 points with the demographic the day after winning the New Hampshire primary. According to the poll, Sanders had the highest support among the group at 48 percent, followed by Mike Bloomberg at 17 percent and a distant Joe Biden at 13 percent. But a new Telemundo poll found Sanders and Biden in a virtual tie for the state's Latino vote. Biden had a narrow lead at 34 percent to Sanders's 31 percent, with a margin of error of 4 percentage points.

"We started talking to people in Spanish here before we started talking to people in English, so to me that's very intentional organizing showing the community that we respect them, that we're going to be here, and that we're not going to leave," said Rocha. The Democratic Party's decadeslong failure to activate Latino voters has created a self-feeding cycle of disengagement: Candidates and campaigns don't expect them to vote so they don't bother asking them to, or at least not on the scale necessary for significant mobilization. Latino voters, poised to be the largest nonwhite eligible voting bloc in 2020, are crucial to winning the presidency and have been playing a key role in Sanders's rise.

"So I think that's the key to our success, is that we knew that Bernie Sanders was popular with Latinos," Rocha continued. "But we had never really done the deep-dive organizing within the community, making sure that they knew everything about him so they can go tell their friends and their neighbors. And that's a big part of what you're seeing today with this soccer tournament, there's community-based events, which are key. But community-based events alone will not win you the elections — spending lots of money to talk to lots of Latinos is how you win the elections."

- <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2019/nov/17/bernie-sanders-message-increasingly-resonates-with-latino-voters>
- <https://www.politico.com/news/2019/11/05/bernie-sanders-latino-2020-vote-065820>
- <https://www.newyorker.com/news/campaign-chronicles/what-bernie-sanders-is-doing-differently-to-win-over-latino-voters>
  - A few feet behind Sanders were Ezequiel and Ulises Romero, twins in their teens, who were waving a large Mexican flag. Ulises said that he found Sanders's proposals for free college and universal health care most compelling. "I like he's supporting marijuana, I'm straight on for that!" his brother said, smiling. Ezequiel explained that their father had immigrated from Veracruz, Mexico, three decades ago, and that he often worried about his mother's health. "You never know, she's always complaining!" he said. Luz Narváez, a retired teacher from Puerto Rico, who was walking ahead of the twins, told me that she was mostly concerned about her home town. "My Puerto Rico is in need," she said. "Let's hope Bernie will help us." She said that Puerto Ricans were being humiliated by the Trump Administration. "We have the citizenship, but it's barely worth anything," she said, her eyes watering. "They always look down on us, they confuse us with others, and it doesn't matter to them." At the front of the crowd was Nelly Tobón, a woman in her thirties from Michoacán, Mexico, who was keeping an eye out for her five-year-old girls. They were scampering, letting their costume butterfly wings flow freely. "He's the only one giving us a reason to unite," Tobón said.
  - After voting, members of the crowd walked a few blocks to the Make the Road local headquarters. Folding tables and chairs filled the parking lot in front of the office, garlands hung from the light poles, and arrangements of paper *cempasúchil*, or Mexican marigolds, adorned each table. Several food stands served tamales, corn on the cob, esquites, tacos, frijoles, and red rice. Belem Orozco, a single mother in her twenties, told me that she was a volunteer with Make the Road who had travelled from Allentown, Pennsylvania, for the event. A *daca* recipient, Orozco was born in Mexico and had migrated north with her family in the early two thousands. "I think other candidates are dealing with us how they usually do, which is just tokens," she said. "Bernie sees *us*. Especially with the current President right now, who is essentially dehumanizing us, he brings the human back in us." She said that, as an undocumented person, she had dealt with uncertainty for her entire life. "I definitely want to see Bernie in office, because we believe that he will finally bring some peace of mind to immigrant folks like myself," she said. "We're not fighting *for* him, we're fighting *with* him."