

Advocacy group identifies 32,000 registered Latino voters in Iowa

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DES MOINES, IA – The state's largest Latino advocacy group has identified almost 32,000 registered Latinos in Iowa during its initial evaluation of Iowa's voter records.

The Iowa League of United Latin American Citizens, led by Council 307 in Des Moines, reviewed more than 1 million voter records in Iowa's four Congressional Districts as part of its statewide voter identification and registration efforts.

Among the findings:

- District 1 has 4,404 registered Latinos, most of whom come from Linn, Black Hawk and Dubuque counties. There are 1,976 registered Independents, and 1,656 Democrats.
- District 2 has 10,808 registered Latinos, mostly in Scott, Muscatine and Johnson counties. The number of registered Independents and Democrats is almost identical with 4,582 and 4,525, respectively. The district also is almost evenly broken down by voters who are younger than age 28 and older than age 28.
- District 3 has 9,813 registered Latinos. They mostly reside in Polk and Pottawattamie counties. The majority of voters, 4,401, are registered Democrats.
- District 4 has 6,887 registered Latinos, mostly in Woodbury, Buena Vista and Story counties.
 Most voters are Independent.

"There is already a strong Latino voting bloc in Iowa," said Joseph Enriquez Henry, director of Iowa LULAC and president of Council 307. "We hope with our continued outreach efforts we will register at least another 5,000 to 10,000 Latinos in the state, which will further add to the role we will play in the outcome of the November elections."

Next, LULAC will send registration and informational postcards to those identified Latino voters and ask them to help register family members, friends and other community members. This will be followed-up by telephone calls to inquire about unregistered voters currently living in the household. Iowa's LULAC councils also will continue to hold voter registration drives throughout the state.

Founded in 1929, the League of United Latin American Citizens is the oldest Latino civil rights organization in the United States. There are more than 880 local LULAC councils, which hold voter registration drives, provide awareness to residents about language and immigration issues, sponsor programs and advocate for Latinos.

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