

American University's 2nd Annual Latino Public Affairs Forum: The Role of the Latino Vote in the 2016 Presidential Election

Monday, February 29th, 2016
Abramson Family Founders Room, AU School of International Service

FORUM AGENDA

12:30pm-1:00pm

Arrival and Coffee

1:00pm-1:15pm

Welcome

Eric Hershberg, Director, American University's Center for Latin American & Latino Studies

James Thurber, Director, American University's Center for Congressional and Presidential Studies

1:15pm-2:30pm

Panel 1: The Republican Primaries

Topic: What is the Republican strategy with respect to Hispanics? What effects might Republican discourse and positions during the primary process have on the Hispanic vote and how might this affect the election? Can the Republican candidate increase the Party's historically small proportion of Hispanic voters?

Panelists:

Glen Bolger, Public Opinion Strategies

David Karol, Department of Government and Politics,
University of Maryland

Neri Martinez, Republican State Leadership Committee

2:30pm-3:45pm

Panel 2: The Democrats and the Latino Advantage

Topic: Are Democrats effectively building on or losing their historical advantage among Latinos? What party positions and policies are losers or winners with Latino voters and how might Latino support for the Democratic candidate or relative lack thereof affect the election?

Panelists:

Matt Barreto, Department of Political Science, UCLA and Latino Decisions

Maria Urbina, VP of Politics & National Campaigns, Voto Latino

Clarissa Martínez-de-Castro, Deputy VP of Research, Advocacy & Legislation, National Council of La Raza

3:45pm-4:00pm:

Break

4:00pm-5:15pm

Panel 3: Swing States and Wildcards

Topic: What other, perhaps unforeseen, factors might come into play to help determine the impact of the Latino vote or to influence the Latino vote in the upcoming election (e.g. the in-migration of Puerto Ricans to Florida, changing US-Cuba relations, current citizen enrollment efforts, key swing state battlegrounds, among other factors)?

Panelists:

Mark Hugo Lopez, Director of Hispanic Research, Pew Research Center

Luis Fortuño, former Governor of Puerto Rico, Steptoe & Johnson LLP

William LeoGrande, Professor of Government, American University

5:15pm-5:30pm

Concluding Remarks

Eric Hershberg, Director, American University's Center for Latin American & Latino Studies

James Thurber, Director, American University's Center for Congressional and Presidential Studies