



IMMIGRANT LATINOS & CALIFORNIA'S FUTURE

A Latino Heritage Month Survey of CHIRLA Members
October 2022

Compiled by:



CHIRLA
Coalition for Humane
Immigrant Rights

A Collaboration with:



Immigrant Latinos and California's Future:

A Latino Heritage Month Survey of CHIRLA Members

In commemoration of Latino Heritage Month, the [Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights \(CHIRLA\)](#) partnered with [California 100](#), a statewide initiative focused on inspiring a vision and strategy for California's next century that is innovative, sustainable, and equitable, to conduct a member survey of CHIRLA Members to capture their perspectives on the future of Latinos, and specifically immigrant Latinos, in California. The following briefly examines the exploratory survey results in the context of policy and political conditions in the state and how some response categories align with larger policy trends. The results are only reflective of the opinions of the sample of CHIRLA members surveyed.

Immigrant Latinos and California's Future

This survey asked respondents, across the age spectrum, about their vision for California's future, their own well-being and that of their family. The survey also asked participants on a scale of 1-10 to rank, "How well do you think California policies and leaders support Latino and Immigrant communities? Fifty-one percent of the respondents gave a positive (7 or above) evaluation when asked: How well do you think California supports Latino Communities.

A deeper dive into a specific lane of California policy, asks respondents to rate, "How welcoming is California to Latinos and immigrants today? With 92 percent of respondents identifying as immigrant, 69 percent of participants felt our welcoming policies were positive (between 10-7 on a numerical scale). Though a small sample size, this offers a snapshot of how welcoming policies are received directly by impacted individuals.

Table 1

Eval. CA Welcoming to Immigrants	Eval. CA s Latino Communities					
	Null	Excellent (9-10)	Good (7-8)	Little (3-4)	Satisfactory (5-6)	Very Little (1-2)
Null		50%		50%		
Excellent (9-10)		39%	44%		17%	
Good (7-8)	3%	3%	57%	3%	33%	
Satisfactory (5-6)			14%	50%	36%	
Little (3-4)				40%	40%	20%
Very Little (1-2)				33%		67%

% of Total Count of Records broken down by Eval. CA s Latino Communities vs. Eval. CA Welcoming to Immigrants.

Participants were also asked to imagine “What kind of future do you want to leave for your children, family members or future generations of Californians?” Responses were collected in both English and Spanish but have been translated into English for the purposes of this report.

Respondents in their own words – What California future do you envision for immigrants?:

- *“A future where one’s legal [immigration] status does not limit one’s life, education, or goals in this country. Where [we] will not have fear to persevere, and discover the possibilities we have to create the change that we want to create for one another.” – 20 year old respondent*
- *“I want future generations to have a future that sustains them. I want future policies to be equitable and fair.”- 20 year old respondent*
- *“I would love a future were[sic] my kids didn’t have to worry about the cost of living, didn’t have to worry about their status affecting anything. I would want them to have a future were[sic] opportunities are equal not based on your ethnicity or race.”- 25 year old respondent.*
- *“A future where college and buying a house is attainable and where we trust the police.”- 40 year old respondent.*
- *“I want a future in which my children have the tools to combat climate change and in which we will have a justice labor system where everyone can live comfortably off their wages.” - 25 years old respondent*
- *“I want for all our rights as immigrants to be respected, that our voices be heard, and that we have the protection, opportunity, and benefits. [And] That all abuse, mistreatment, and discrimination end. I want there to be pathways for everyone to [receive] legal [immigration status].” - 61 year old respondent*
- *“The kind of future I would like to leave for my relatives or children would be for them to learn a good job because the cost of living in California is very high, apart from climate change is very important among many other things but at the same time living in California has its good things.”- 22 year old respondent.”*
- *A state that is ran by clean energy so there aren’t many forest fires for them to deal with. A California that respects its workers -- documented and undocumented. Most importantly, a California that values the education of its*

youth by making its public colleges affordable. Lastly, ensuring that not only those with generational wealth can afford to buy homes.”- 32 year old respondent

The survey closed with focusing on what policy issues are top of mind for participants in terms of California’s future. Participants were asked to choose their top 3 policy issues of concern. Seventy-six percent of the respondents included the economy as one of their top three choices. This selection was followed by Homelessness (60%) and Citizenship was selected by more than half (51%). Zooming out and examining the current reality many families in California are facing, it is unsurprising that at this moment there is great concern related to cost of living, housing, and homelessness.

Who are the respondents? Sample Size and Demographics

Geography

The survey was distributed via email and text message across CHIRLA’s statewide membership lists and resulted in 72 responses. Participating respondents were largely from Southern California. The majority of responses, 64%, came from Los Angeles County, followed by Orange County (18%), with the remaining responses from the Inland Empire and Central California. Seventy-seven percent of the respondents who are foreign born, have called the United States home for more than 10 years, with 40% having lived in the United States for over 20 years.

Breakdown of Age for Participants

The following is a breakdown of how different age groups responded to the survey.

Table 2

Survey Respondents	Count	%
Null	2	3%
(18-25) Gen Z	20	28%
(26-41) Millennials	27	38%
(42-57) Gen X	11	15%
(58+) Boomers	12	17%
Grand Total	72	100%

Source: CHIRLA Member Survey October 2022



Retirement Plans

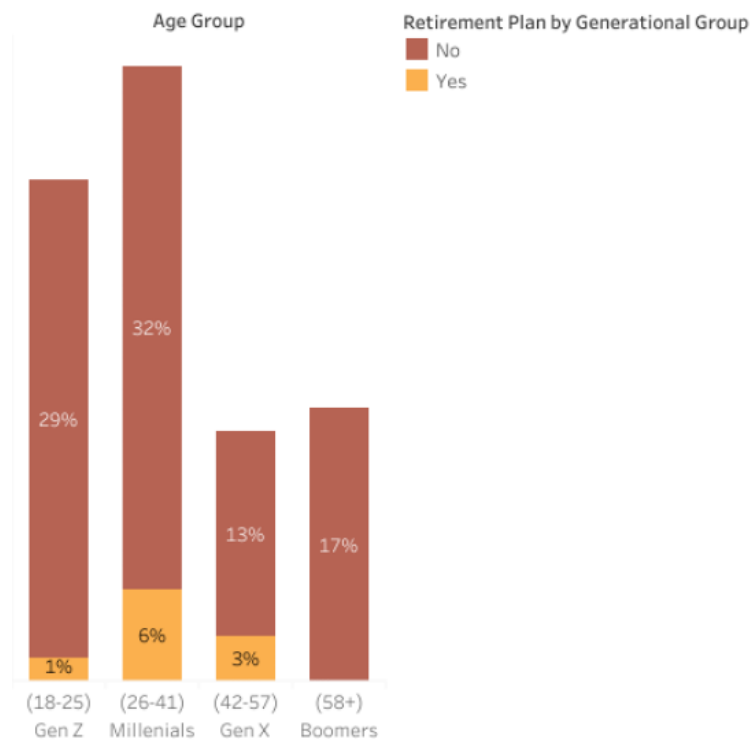
Despite the age range, 90% of participants noted that they do not have a retirement plan.

The lack of retirement plan is much more severe in the “Boomers” category, where 100% of the respondents, who were over 57 years old, indicated they lack a retirement plan. For the other generational groups the rates of lack of retirement plan are as follows: “Gen Z” (95%), Millennials (87%) and from “Gen X” 82% do not have a retirement plan.

In October of 2021, a [private financial institution](#) released a report noting that “two-thirds of Latino households weren’t putting aside any money through workplace 401ks. Additionally, the conversation around retirement in the Latino community grows increasingly complex based on factors such as socioeconomic status and immigration status. Low wage earners are often left out of retirement benefits or unable to invest because every dollar of each paycheck is critical to staying afloat. For undocumented individuals, retirement plans are not only rare, but after years of working in their home state and perhaps filing taxes with and ITIN, they are still unable to access any federal benefits, often afforded to citizen seniors once they hit 65 years of age.



Table 3



Source: CHIRLA Member Survey October 2022

Education

When asked about education level, 18 participants noted they had completed high school or received their GED. Twenty participants noted they received education from the K-12 system. Nearly half of respondents pursued some form of higher education. A full breakdown can be seen below. The younger the age category, the more likely respondents were to further their education after high school graduation.



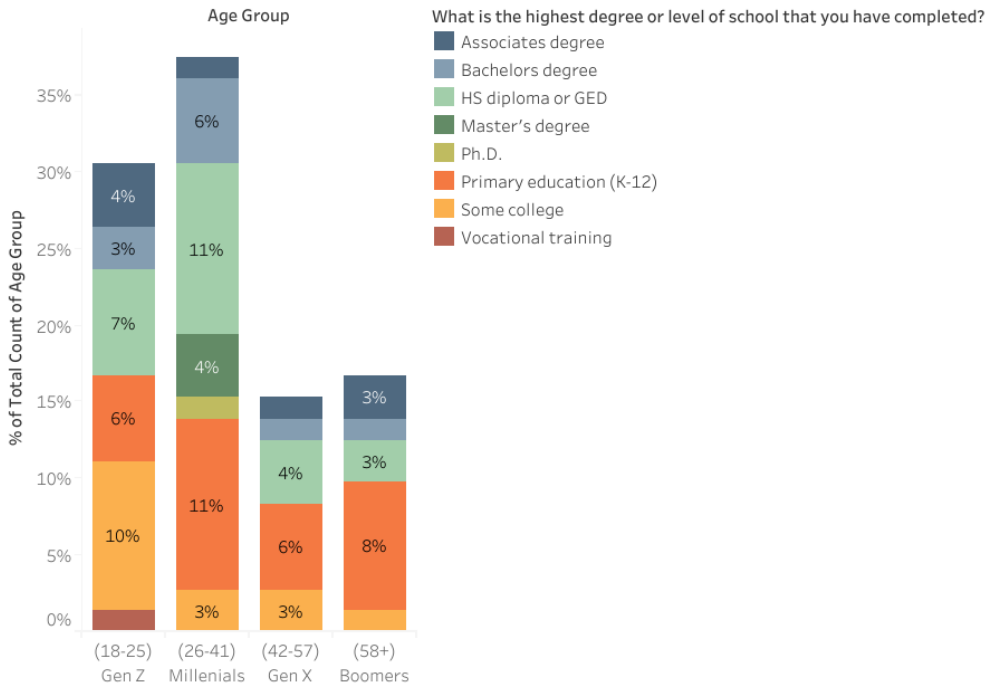
Table 4

Educational Breakdown	Responses from survey participant
Associates degree	7
Bachelor's degree	8
HS diploma or GED	18
Master's degree	3
Ph.D.	1
Primary education (K-12)	22
Some college	12
Vocational training	1
Grand Total	72

Source: CHIRLA Member Survey October 2022

In California, a recent report by the Campaign for College Opportunity, “[The State of Higher Education for Latinx Californians.](#)” observed the following: Of those Latino Californians 19 years of age and older, 69% have a high school diploma or equivalent. This is an increase of nearly 15% over the last decade. Additionally, over 1.39 million Latinos were enrolled in college in California and 43% of California undergraduates are Latino.

Table 5



Source: CHIRLA Member Survey October 2022



Personal Identity

In California, the “Hispanic/Latino population,” [as defined by the 2020 Census](#), is nearly 40% of the state’s population with 27% identifying as [“foreign born”](#) according to data collected by the Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC).

When respondents in the survey were asked if they identified as an immigrant, 92% responded in the affirmative. Of note, 15% of respondents noted they were born in the United States, leading us to see how immigrant identity can transfer to individuals who are born on U.S. soil. Only 20% of respondents are US citizens, with over half of that group obtaining citizenship through naturalization. Of those who are citizens, only half are registered to vote. In the state of California, approved naturalizations for FY 2021 stood at [173,900](#) according to the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). According to the PPIC, Latinos comprise [35%](#) of the adult population but just [22%](#) of likely voters.

“What Does Full Citizenship Mean to You?”

Later in the survey, participants were asked “What does full citizenship mean to you?”

A few participant responses included:

- *“A quiet life with a good job and more rest, I can live in a place worthy of a family”- 25 year old respondent*
- *“For me obtaining citizenship means freedom. Means being able to feel at ease and feel like I belong to the place I consider my home.”- 25 year old respondent*
- *“Being able to vote and see my family.”- 23 year old respondent*
- *“Well, it would be a great privilege, I think that without a doubt it would have opened more doors in jobs.”-37 year old respondent*
- *“More benefits for retirement.”- 53 year old respondent*

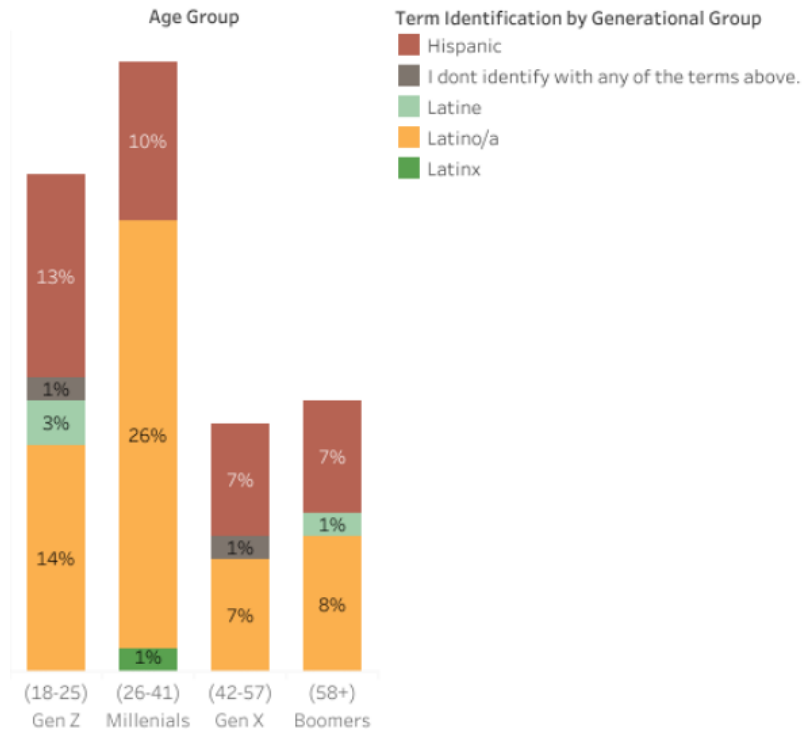
Latino/a, Hispanic, Latine, or Latinx? How Respondents Identify?

In addition to the basic demographic identification information collected, the survey asked respondents to engage in the growing conversation related to the use of “Hispanic/o, Latino/a, Latinx and Latine” as a form of identification for the community called Hispanic by the US Census. (Note: this survey did not include any supplemental information for respondents to explain the differences between the labels).

Respondents were asked to mark which term they might identify with, if any. 56% of people responded that Latino/a was the term they most identified with. This was followed by the term “Hispanic/o” which 36% of respondents said they identified as. The terms “Latinx” and “Latine” came in at three and four percent respectively.

In the last several years, Latinx and more recently, Latine, have increased in use for identifiers. These terms are rooted in being more inclusive and removing a gendered approach from the language. However, Latinx is rooted in modifications based on the English language and the “x” does not lend itself well to the Spanish language. A proposed solution has emerged that suggests a substitution for the “x” with the gender neutral “e” which fits better into the Spanish vocabulary. For more on the issue see [this](#) creative comic explainer and [this](#) public statement explaining the uses from Colorado State University. Interestingly, Latinx and Latine have also been publicly associated with younger generations of individuals who seek to be more inclusive, however these did not emerge as a popular option with the younger survey respondents.

Table 6



Source: CHIRLA Member Survey October 2022



Appendix

The survey: The survey can be found here:

<https://chirla.tfaforms.net/f/hispanicheritagemonth2022>

Sample Selection (N=3129) and considerations

Defined the sample from over 80,000 contacts in our database that had a phone number. Separated the contacts between paying and non paying contacts, hotline, or “irelief”, (Member services) relief recipients. Then separated between the following age groups: Under 20, 21-40, 41-55, over 56, and no age assigned. The youth segment of the population (18-29) was overrepresented in this survey, as targets and also in the speed by which they responded before the survey closed. The older cohort (55+), also was targeted at higher numbers but their responses lagged in comparison to the other segments in the sample. Gen X remained consistent in the percentage of people who received a text and a proportionate number of people who responded for that age category. The older cohort (56+), also was targeted at higher numbers but their responses lagged in comparison to the other segments in the sample. Gen X remained consistent in the percentage of people who received a text and a proportionate number of people who responded for that age category. The young adult and older adult cohorts were over sampled because their traditional rates of responses fell below average. However, this survey included an incentive of \$10, and that may have been a driver to boost the response rate overall, especially among young adults. It has been our experience at CHIRLA, that Older adults do lag behind when engaged in text or email communication campaigns, and a more effective method of communication with that cohort has been via direct phone calls.

Text and Email Launch

Two text campaigns, and one email campaign were launched between Saturday, 09/24/2022 to Thursday 09/29/2022 to a total of 3129 individuals. Those that had listed their language as Spanish received a Spanish text and otherwise received an English text

Copy:

Text 1: Good morning, we are CHIRLA. Hispanic Heritage Month is in full swing and we want to hear from YOU! What are some of the top issues in California that drive you to think about the future of our state for Latinos and immigrants? How are you preparing for your own future and for your loved ones? Tell us

<https://chirla.tfaforms.net/f/hispanicheritagemonth2022>

Text 2 (Spanish): Somos CHIRLA. Le ofrecemos \$10 por dejarnos saber cual es su opinión acerca del futuro de California. Responda aqui:

<https://chirla.tfaforms.net/f/hispanicheritagemonth2022>

Salesforce Text Campaign	# Text Launch	% Proportion Campaign	# respondents	% respondents
(blank)	230	7%	2	3%
Gen Z (18-24)	438	14%	20	28%
Millennials (26-41)	995	31%	27	38%
Gen X (42-57)	442	14%	11	15%
Boomers (58+)	1064	34%	12	17%
	3169		72	