



Marching Towards the American Dream: Illinois Immigrant Citizens Settle in Chicago Suburbs

A Research Brief on Illinois Immigrants in 2005 –
Demographic and Political Highlights

Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights



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Additional Research on the potential political impact of immigrant naturalization and voting by the U.S. born children of immigrants by the same authors can be found in the June, 200t report: "Today We March, Tomorrow We Vote", available at www.icirr.org.

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The debate on immigration reform in America has become poisoned with demagoguery and hate. The possibilities of a bi-partisan political compromise appear distant as politicians attempt to turn the issue towards their short term political advantage.

However while the immigration debate has raged, this Research Brief shows that a fundamental demographic transformation is occurring with stunning rapidity in Illinois. An update of the 2000 U.S. Census shows that by 2005 the Illinois immigrant population grew by 177,000 people, a number greater than the population of Aurora, Illinois's second largest city. While the immigrant population of the City of Chicago dropped 5% (a first since the 1960's) almost all of this growth occurred in the suburbs of Chicago. The immigrant population growing most rapidly in the suburbs is naturalized U.S. citizens.

Immigrants are marching towards their American Dream: learning English, becoming citizens in record numbers, and settling down in the suburbs. The stunningly high numbers of new Americans moving to the suburbs and the large number of their U.S. born children is fundamentally changing the political landscape of our state, because they can all vote!

Politicians who ignore the pressing need for immigration reform in Illinois, including family reunification and a path to earned citizenship for the undocumented, now ignore huge numbers of their own constituents. Key "swing" Congressional Districts in Chicago's suburbs (including those of Congressmen Hyde, Kirk, and Bean) are competitive for Democrats because of new immigrant voters. Political parties that are identified with anti-immigrant rhetoric in Illinois or that engage in anti-immigrant demagoguery for short term political gain will consign themselves to permanent political minority status in Illinois.

The Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights is a non-partisan state wide coalition of 130 organizations dedicated to promoting the rights of immigrants and refugees to full and equal participation in the civic, cultural, social, and political life of our diverse society. ICIRR is working to maximize the immigrant vote through its "New Americans Democracy Project". The Democracy Project has 18 young "Democracy Fellows" working full-time doing non-partisan voter registration and mobilization in Cook, Lake, DuPage, Will, and Kane Counties through the fall elections. The Democracy Project has registered 8,000 new voters in the last 8 weeks, on top of the 33,000 registered in 2004 and 2005.

Immigrant Population Change in Illinois: 2000-2005

| Total Population 2000 | Total Population 2005 | Pct. Increase in Total Population: 2000-2005 | Foreign Born in 2000 | Foreign Born in 2005 | Pct. Increase in Foreign-Born Population: 2000-2005 | Foreign-Born Percent of Population 2000 | Foreign-Born Percent of Population 2005 | Naturalized Citizen in 2000 | Naturalized Citizen in 2005 | Pct. Increase in Naturalized Population: 2000-2005 |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|--|----------------------|----------------------|---|---|---|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| 12,094,870 | 12,440,351 | 2.9% | 1,518,500 | 1,695,289 | 11.6% | 12.6% | 13.6% | 597,911 | 736,161 | 23.1% |

Source: 2000 Census and 2005 American Community Survey: U.S. Census Bureau

- The foreign-born population in Illinois reached 1.7 million persons in 2005.
- 13.6 percent or one in seven persons in Illinois was born abroad.
- The immigrant population is growing by 35,300 persons annually.
- There are 736,000 naturalized immigrants in Illinois, all eligible to vote.
- The rate of increase in immigrant naturalization (23%) far outpaces the pace of overall growth in the immigrant population (12%).

Immigrants and Their Children in Illinois: 2000-2005

| U.S. Born Children of Immigrants 2000* | U.S. Born Children of Immigrants 2005* | Immigrants and Their Children as Pct of State Pop. 2000 | Immigrants and Their Children as Pct of State Pop. 2005 | # of Voting Age U.S. Born Children of Immigrants 2000 | # of Voting Age U.S. Born Children of Immigrants 2005 | Naturalized and U.S.-Born Children of Immigrants, Pct of Citizen Voting-Age Population | Pct. Increase of Voting-Age Naturalized Immigrants and U.S.-Born Children of Immigrants: 2000-2005 |
|--|--|---|---|---|---|--|--|
| 1,366,650 | 1,525,760 | 23.9% | 25.9% | 778,991 | 869,683 | 18.8% | 16.5% |

*Estimates by Rob Paral and Associates

Source: 2000 Census and 2005 American Community Survey: U.S. Census Bureau

- 1.5 million Illinois residents are the U.S. born children of immigrants, all eligible to vote.
- Children of immigrants are more than one in four Illinois residents.
- Some 870,000 U.S.-born children of immigrants are of voting age in Illinois.
- Each year, 18,000 U.S.-born children of immigrants become eligible to vote.
- Immigrants and their children now represent 26% of the population of Illinois.
- Naturalized immigrants and their U.S. born children now represent 19% of all eligible voting age people in Illinois.

Major Sending Countries to Illinois: 2000 and 2005

| | 2000 | 2005 | Pct. Increase |
|----------------|-----------|-----------|---------------|
| Total | 1,529,058 | 1,695,289 | 10.9% |
| Mexico | 617,828 | 693,928 | 12.3% |
| Poland | 139,710 | 150,302 | 7.6% |
| India | 83,916 | 104,064 | 24.0% |
| Philippines | 67,072 | 80,443 | 19.9% |
| China | 50,705 | 59,799 | 17.9% |
| Korea | 40,681 | 47,503 | 16.8% |
| Germany | 32,764 | 29,492 | -10.0% |
| Italy | 27,661 | 24,879 | -10.1% |
| Ukraine | 20,729 | 21,562 | 4.0% |
| United Kingdom | 20,130 | 18,335 | -8.9% |
| Canada | 19,098 | 21,362 | 11.9% |
| Other | 408,764 | 443,620 | 8.5% |

Source: 2000 Census and 2005 American Community Survey: U.S. Census Bureau

- The immigrant population in Illinois is extremely diverse: the three leading source countries for Illinois immigration are from three different continents, and more than 100 countries of origin are represented by Illinois immigrants.
- Mexico, Poland and India are the leading countries of origin of Illinois immigrants.
- Illinois is home to almost 700,000 Mexican immigrants, and 11% increase since 2005.
- The population of Indian, Filipino, Chinese, and Korean immigrants in Illinois all increased by over 15%.

Immigrants and Their Children in Chicago, Suburban Chicago, and Downstate Illinois: 2000-2005

| | Foreign Born in 2000 | Foreign Born in 2005 | Pct. Increase in Foreign-Born Population: 2000-2005 | Foreign-Born Percent of Population 2000 | Foreign-Born Percent of Population 2005 | # of U.S.-Born Children of Immigrants 2000* | # U.S. Born Children of Immigrants 2005* | Immigrants and Their Children as Pct of Pop. 2000 | Immigrants and Their Children as Pct of Pop. 2005 | Naturalized Citizens in 2000 | Naturalized Citizens in 2005 | Pct. Increase in Naturalized Citizens |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|---|---|---|---|--|---|---|------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Chicago city | 622,781 | 590,416 | -5.2% | 22.1% | 21.9% | 560,503 | 531,374 | 41.9% | 41.5% | 222,616 | 228,897 | 2.8% |
| Suburban Cook | 437,844 | 487,136 | 11.3% | 17.9% | 19.5% | 394,060 | 438,422 | 34.0% | 37.0% | 195,387 | 238,287 | 22.0% |
| Collar counties (7 counties) | 353,028 | 496,684 | 40.7% | 12.8% | 15.8% | 317,725 | 447,016 | 24.4% | 30.1% | 137,419 | 221,527 | 61.2% |
| Downstate (94 counties) | 104,847 | 121,053 | 15.5% | 2.6% | 3.0% | 94,362 | 108,948 | 4.9% | 5.6% | 42,489 | 47,450 | 11.7% |
| All Suburban Metro Chicago | 790,872 | 983,820 | 24.4% | 15.2% | 17.4% | 711,785 | 885,438 | 28.9% | 33.2% | 332,806 | 459,814 | 38.2% |
| Cook County | 1,060,625 | 1,077,552 | 1.6% | 20.1% | 20.7% | 954,563 | 969,797 | 38.2% | 39.3% | 418,003 | 467,184 | 11.8% |
| DuPage County | 136,727 | 169,466 | 23.9% | 15.4% | 18.5% | 123,054 | 152,519 | 29.3% | 35.2% | 61,051 | 91,234 | 49.4% |
| Kane, Kendall, McHenry counties | 85,010 | 124,934 | 47.0% | 11.9% | 14.6% | 76,509 | 112,441 | 22.6% | 27.7% | 25,609 | 44,439 | 73.5% |
| Lake County | 97,219 | 128,205 | 31.9% | 15.6% | 18.7% | 87,497 | 115,385 | 29.6% | 35.6% | 36,111 | 56,267 | 55.8% |
| Will, Grundy counties | 34,072 | 74,079 | 117.4% | 6.5% | 10.9% | 30,665 | 66,671 | 12.3% | 20.8% | 14,648 | 29,587 | 102.0% |
| Downstate (94 counties) | 104,847 | 121,053 | 15.5% | 2.6% | 3.0% | 94,362 | 108,948 | 4.9% | 5.6% | 42,489 | 47,450 | 11.7% |

*Estimates by Rob Paral and Associates

Source: 2000 Census and 2005 American Community Survey: U.S. Census Bureau

- The collar counties and suburban Cook have an immigrant population, 984,000, that substantially exceeds the immigrant population in Chicago, 590,000.
- The immigrant population in Chicago actually fell over the last five years, while the suburban population grew by 24 percent.
- The number of naturalized immigrants in suburban Chicago rose by 127,000 persons, or 38 percent, in the last five years alone.
- The number of immigrant citizens in the suburbs (460,000) dwarfs the number in the City of Chicago (229,000).
- Immigrants and their U.S. born children are now 33% of the suburban Chicago Population.
- Many counties experienced a stunning 5 year increase in the number of naturalized citizens (all eligible to vote), including DuPage County with an increase of 30,000 immigrant citizens (49% increase), and Lake County with an increase of 20,000 immigrant citizens (56% increase).

Immigrants and Children of Immigrants in Illinois Congressional Districts: 2000-2005

| | Total Population 2000 | Total Population 2005 | Foreign Born in 2000 | Foreign Born in 2005 | 2000 Percent Foreign Born | 2005 Percent Foreign Born | # of Foreign Born and Children 2000* | # of Foreign Born and Children 2005* | % of Foreign Born and Children 2000 | % of Foreign Born and Children 2005 | Naturalized 2000 | Naturalized 2005 | Pct. Change in Naturalized: 2000-2005 |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|--|---|---|---------------------|---------------------|---|
| IL-01 Bobby Rush | 654,203 | 633,296 | 33,074 | 48,189 | 5.1% | 7.6% | 62,841 | 91,559 | 9.6% | 14.5% | 15,406 | 19,197 | 24.6% |
| IL-02 Jesse Jackson Jr. | 654,078 | 671,118 | 41,717 | 37,463 | 6.4% | 5.6% | 79,262 | 71,180 | 12.1% | 10.6% | 19,481 | 20,688 | 6.2% |
| IL-03 Daniel Lipinski | 653,292 | 646,509 | 124,019 | 133,556 | 19.0% | 20.7% | 235,636 | 253,756 | 36.1% | 39.3% | 54,092 | 62,035 | 14.7% |
| IL-04 Luis Gutierrez | 653,654 | 647,949 | 265,422 | 262,272 | 40.6% | 40.5% | 504,302 | 498,317 | 77.2% | 76.9% | 72,163 | 69,083 | -4.3% |
| IL-05 Rahm Emanuel | 654,116 | 611,050 | 191,758 | 178,956 | 29.3% | 29.3% | 364,340 | 340,016 | 55.7% | 55.6% | 78,815 | 82,603 | 4.8% |
| IL-06 Henry Hyde | 654,549 | 650,482 | 122,929 | 149,519 | 18.8% | 23.0% | 233,565 | 284,086 | 35.7% | 43.7% | 50,112 | 75,787 | 51.2% |
| IL-07 Danny Davis | 653,521 | 599,066 | 51,620 | 58,367 | 7.9% | 9.7% | 98,078 | 110,897 | 15.0% | 18.5% | 21,582 | 25,412 | 17.7% |
| IL-08 Melissa Bean | 652,805 | 716,099 | 90,010 | 125,753 | 13.8% | 17.6% | 171,019 | 238,931 | 26.2% | 33.4% | 34,586 | 54,445 | 57.4% |
| IL-09 Janice Schakowsky | 653,117 | 579,451 | 200,293 | 174,028 | 30.7% | 30.0% | 380,557 | 330,653 | 58.3% | 57.1% | 92,150 | 97,214 | 5.5% |
| IL-10 Mark Kirk | 654,062 | 646,395 | 120,170 | 136,314 | 18.4% | 21.1% | 228,323 | 258,997 | 34.9% | 40.1% | 50,848 | 67,281 | 32.3% |
| IL-11 Jerry Weller | 653,861 | 696,088 | 27,624 | 41,113 | 4.2% | 5.9% | 52,486 | 78,115 | 8.0% | 11.2% | 10,993 | 16,137 | 46.8% |
| IL-12 Jerry Costello | 653,456 | 629,650 | 11,832 | 13,356 | 1.8% | 2.1% | 22,481 | 25,376 | 3.4% | 4.0% | 5,110 | 6,422 | 25.7% |
| IL-13 Judy Biggert | 652,879 | 748,189 | 72,599 | 108,444 | 11.1% | 14.5% | 137,938 | 206,044 | 21.1% | 27.5% | 36,353 | 54,888 | 51.0% |
| IL-14 J. Dennis Hastert | 654,031 | 752,346 | 83,018 | 117,292 | 12.7% | 15.6% | 157,734 | 222,855 | 24.1% | 29.6% | 25,224 | 40,159 | 59.2% |
| IL-15 Timothy Johnson | 653,618 | 634,699 | 22,838 | 25,439 | 3.5% | 4.0% | 43,392 | 48,334 | 6.6% | 7.6% | 7,472 | 7,895 | 5.7% |
| IL-16 Donald Manzullo | 653,467 | 702,138 | 36,560 | 51,777 | 5.6% | 7.4% | 69,464 | 98,376 | 10.6% | 14.0% | 13,765 | 23,215 | 68.7% |
| IL-17 Lane Evans | 653,531 | 606,797 | 13,834 | 12,041 | 2.1% | 2.0% | 26,285 | 22,878 | 4.0% | 3.8% | 5,785 | 4,947 | -14.5% |
| IL-18 Ray LaHood | 653,426 | 635,587 | 12,770 | 12,713 | 2.0% | 2.0% | 24,263 | 24,155 | 3.7% | 3.8% | 6,118 | 5,288 | -13.6% |
| IL-19 John Shimkus | 653,627 | 633,442 | 6,971 | 8,697 | 1.1% | 1.4% | 13,245 | 16,524 | 2.0% | 2.6% | 3,466 | 3,465 | 0.0% |

*Estimates by Rob Paral and Associates

Note: Small numeric changes should be treated with caution as they may reflect sampling error.

Source: 2000 Census and 2005 American Community Survey: U.S. Census Bureau

- Immigrants are more than one in five constituents in the Congressional districts of Representatives, Lipinski, Gutierrez, Emanuel, Hyde, Schakowsky and Kirk.
- Immigrants and their U. S. born children are over half of the constituents in the Congressional Districts of Cong. Gutierrez (04), Emmanuel (05), and Schakowsky (09); over a third of the population in the districts of Cong. Lipinski (03), Hyde (06), Bean (08), Kirk (10), and Weller (11); and over a quarter of the population in the districts of Cong. Biggert (13) and Hastert (14).
- Immigrants are rapidly becoming U.S. citizens in key suburban districts. In just the 5 years from 2000 to 2005 there was a 59% increase in the number of immigrant citizens in the Congressional District of Cong. Hastert; 57% increase in Cong. Bean's district; 51% increase in Cong. Hyde's district; and 32% increase in the Cong. Kirk's district.

Latinos and Asians in Illinois Congressional Districts: 2000-2005

| | Latinos 2000 | Asians 2000 | Latinos 2005 | Asians 2005 | Pct. Latino Growth: 2000- 2005 | Pct. Asian Growth: 2000- 2005 |
|-------------------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|--|--|
| IL-01 Bobby Rush | 31,079 | 10,572 | 51,318 | 12,464 | 65.1% | 17.9% |
| IL-02 Jesse Jackson Jr. | 68,226 | 4,717 | 79,190 | 4,062 | 16.1% | -13.9% |
| IL-03 Daniel Lipinski | 139,268 | 18,699 | 185,211 | 18,665 | 33.0% | -0.2% |
| IL-04 Luis Gutierrez | 486,839 | 10,697 | 493,261 | 14,469 | 1.3% | 35.3% |
| IL-05 Rahm Emanuel | 150,524 | 42,864 | 162,227 | 42,009 | 7.8% | -2.0% |
| IL-06 Henry Hyde | 81,503 | 52,302 | 108,151 | 63,568 | 32.7% | 21.5% |
| IL-07 Danny Davis | 36,903 | 25,128 | 47,681 | 29,143 | 29.2% | 16.0% |
| IL-08 Melissa Bean | 69,793 | 36,635 | 101,545 | 56,499 | 45.5% | 54.2% |
| IL-09 Janice Schakowsky | 75,501 | 79,226 | 61,251 | 75,886 | -18.9% | -4.2% |
| IL-10 Mark Kirk | 80,789 | 38,460 | 86,264 | 47,803 | 6.8% | 24.3% |
| IL-11 Jerry Weller | 43,735 | 5,389 | 64,702 | 6,243 | 47.9% | 15.8% |
| IL-12 Jerry Costello | 12,103 | 5,121 | 12,180 | 6,308 | 0.6% | 23.2% |
| IL-13 Judy Biggert | 35,579 | 43,604 | 57,009 | 62,458 | 60.2% | 43.2% |
| IL-14 J. Dennis Hastert | 120,355 | 11,554 | 168,025 | 21,887 | 39.6% | 89.4% |
| IL-15 Timothy Johnson | 14,100 | 15,078 | 17,031 | 17,780 | 20.8% | 17.9% |
| IL-16 Donald Manzullo | 42,010 | 7,485 | 63,820 | 13,408 | 51.9% | 79.1% |
| IL-17 Lane Evans | 24,017 | 4,021 | 26,431 | 4,458 | 10.1% | 10.9% |
| IL-18 Ray LaHood | 10,107 | 5,809 | 11,735 | 6,127 | 16.1% | 5.5% |
| IL-19 John Shimkus | 6,710 | 2,877 | 7,587 | 4,450 | 13.1% | 54.7% |

Note: Small numeric changes should be treated with caution as they may reflect sampling error.

Source: 2000 Census and 2005 American Community Survey: U.S. Census Bureau

Bios

Joshua Hoyt has been the director of the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights since May of 2002. During that time the Coalition has fought vigorously for citizenship for the undocumented and to protect civil liberties in the wake of the attacks of September 11, 2001. The Coalition has helped to make Illinois one of the most immigrant friendly states in the U.S.

Mr. Hoyt has worked a total of 29 years as an organizer for social justice in Chicago, Baltimore, and in the countries of Spain, Peru, and Panama. Josh was educated at the University of Illinois and the Universidad Central de Barcelona, Spain, and received his Master's from the University of Chicago. He has testified before Congress; spoken to such national media as the Lehrer News Hour, the O'Reilly Factor, and the New York Times; written numerous articles; and directed political campaigns. He speaks fluent Spanish and limited Portuguese. His e-mail is: jhojt@icirr.org.

Rob Paral is a consultant and writer specializing in public policy, demographic and human services-related issues involving immigrants, Latinos, and other populations. He is a fellow with the Institute for Latino Studies at Notre Dame University, and is a Research Fellow with the American Immigration Law Foundation in Washington, DC.

Mr. Paral has published numerous analyses of immigration and its economic and social impacts. His recent publications include reports and book chapters on Mexican immigrant integration in Chicago, the role of Mexican immigrant workers in the national labor force, immigrant use of welfare, and poverty trends in Illinois. His e-mail is: rob@robparal.com.

Together with Mr. Fred Tsao they co-authored the report: "Today We March, Tomorrow We Vote" on the potential national political impact of immigrant citizenship and youth voting. This report is available at www.icirr.org.

