

Introduction

- **Hispanic Voters' Influence:** Hispanic Americans grew significantly as a share of eligible voters in key battleground states during the 2020 election, influencing political outcomes (Igielnik & Budiman, 2020; DeSipio, 2006; Domínguez-Villegas et al., 2021).
- **Diverse Perspectives:** The Hispanic electorate is not monolithic, with varying political views and attitudes on immigration. Many are personally connected to the immigration experience, either as immigrants or through family ties (Hickel et al., 2024).
- **Immigration as a Key Issue:** Immigration has become a more prominent concern for Hispanic voters (UnidosUS, 2024). Recent research suggests their increased support for anti-immigrant politicians due to internalized negative stereotypes or concerns over perceived status devaluation (Sommer & Franco, 2024).
- **Research Gap:** Previous work has largely focused on Hispanic vote choice, leaving gaps in examining their immigration policy attitudes—not least within the context of the 2020 general election. Beyond Fraga et al. (2024)'s evidence of a modest pro-Trump shift among first-generation Latinos, there is limited research on how generational status influences immigration views among Hispanics during the 2020 general election.

Results

Bivariate

- A **one-way ANOVA analysis** indicates a significant effect of generational status on the immigration favorability score ($F = 6.064, p < 0.001$).
- The **post-hoc Tukey HSD test** shows that **fourth-and-higher generations differs significantly from all other generations**. No significant difference is observed across other 3 generations.
- **Simple linear regression** confirms a significant negative effect only for **fourth-and-higher generations** as compared to the first generation ($\beta = -2.735, p < 0.001$).

Multivariate

- **Political leaning** is also revealed to be significantly associated immigration attitudes, with **conservatives** ($\beta = -6.632, p < 0.001$) and **moderates** ($\beta = -1.979, p < 0.001$) **showing lower immigration favorability** than liberals.
- **Adding an interaction term**, no significant interaction was found between generational status and political leaning, suggesting that **their effects are largely independent**.

Discussion

- **Generational status has a significant negative effect on immigration attitudes**, with fourth-and-higher-generation Hispanic voters expressing less favorable attitudes than their first-generation counterparts. This underscores the complexity of assimilation and intergenerational cultural shifts.
- **Political leaning is an independent predictor of immigration attitudes, not interacting with the main association.** Conservatives and moderates hold less favorable attitudes compared to liberals.
- **This study shows nuances** within the Hispanic electorate, vital for policymakers and scholars examining voter behavior.
- **The limited sample size of 348 participants** may constrain the generalizability of the findings. Further studies with larger and more diverse samples are needed.
- **Additional variables like education levels or socioeconomic status might also mediate or moderate the observed effects.** They deserve further examination.

Research Questions

- How does the generational status of Hispanic voters influence their views on immigration in the 2020 U.S. election?
- How do the Hispanic voters' political leanings influence the relationship between generational status and their attitudes towards immigration in the 2020 U.S. election?

Methods

Sample:

- After excluding responses with missing or invalid data, participants who self-identify as Hispanic ($n = 348$) were drawn from the 2020 American National Election Studies (ANES) Time Series, a nationally representative sample of the U.S. electorate.

Measures:

- **A) Generational status** is coded upon participants' responses about the country of birth of themselves, their parents, and grandparents. Following the U.S. Census Bureau (2021):
 - **First-generation:** born outside the U.S.;
 - **Second-generation:** U.S. born with at least 1 foreign-born parent;
 - **Third-generation:** U.S.-born with 2 U.S.-born parents and at least 1 foreign-born grandparent;
 - **Fourth-and-higher generation:** U.S.-born with all U.S.-born parents and grandparents.
- **B) Immigration attitude** is measured on a scale through an **aggregate immigration favorability score** comprising participants' opinions on federal budget spending on border security, unauthorized immigrants, birthright citizenship, illegally staying children, border wall, and immigrants' economic contribution.
- **C) Political leaning**, based on participants' self-placement on a scale, is grouped into 3: **liberal, moderate, and conservative**.

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