



# Latino Representation in State Houses and Congress

By Casellas

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## Latino Representation in State Houses and Congress By Casellas

This book argues that Latino representation in U.S. legislative institutions is shaped not only by demographics but by legislative institutional design, as well as elite-driven methods, features of the electoral system, and the increasing mainstreaming of Latinos in American society. The election of Latino legislators in the United States is thus complex and varied. This book provides evidence on how successful Latinos have been in winning state legislative and congressional districts in which they have no natural advantage. In particular, this book demonstrates that Latino candidates benefit from higher percentages of Latino citizens in the state, more liberal citizenries and citizen legislatures. Jason Casellas argues that the legislatures most conducive to the election of Latino candidates are Florida, New Mexico and California, whereas the least conducive are the U.S. House and New York.

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### **Editorial Review**

#### **Review**

"Jason Casellas's excellent book provides badly needed information and analysis of the representation of the country's largest and fastest-growing minority group. Casellas's study of Latino representation raises the bar as it includes not just Congress but state legislatures and approaches the topic from multiple directions."

-David Lublin, American University

"Casellas has written the first truly comprehensive study of Latino representation in American politics. He combines rigorous quantitative analysis with elite interviews in his examination of Latino representation in multiple levels of government. As a result, readers will gain as thorough an understanding of this subject as one book can provide."

-Rene Rocha, University of Iowa

"Jason Casellas has gone where few Latino politics scholars dare to tread-into American political institutions. In so doing, he offers a sober assessment of the process of minority political representation which is a complex product of redistricting and voting rights enforcement, electability, and self-image. It is an important addition to how we understand minorities in public office."

-Gary M. Segura, Stanford University

"Hispanics are the largest and fastest growing ethnic minority in the United States. This path-breaking study of Latino representation in Congress and statehouses offers a thorough analysis of a topic of great national importance. The book fills a major void in existing literatures on race and ethnic representation, American politics, and legislative studies. It is appropriate for policymakers as well as graduate and undergraduate students. I highly recommend it for classroom adoptions."

-Carol M. Swain, Vanderbilt University

#### **About the Author**

Jason Casellas is Assistant Professor of Government and Associate Director of the Irma Rangel Public Policy Institute at the University of Texas at Austin. He specializes in American politics, with specific research and teaching interests in Latino politics, legislative politics and state and local politics. He is the recipient of numerous fellowships, including a Princeton President's Fellowship, an American Political Science Association Fellowship and a Ford Motor Company Fellowship. His dissertation won third place in a nationwide, interdisciplinary competition for the best dissertation given by the American Association of Hispanics in Higher Education and Educational Testing Service. In 2007-2008, he was the Samuel DuBois Cook Postdoctoral Fellow at Duke University. In 2009-2010, he was a visiting postdoctoral Fellow at the United States Studies Centre in Sydney, Australia. His work has appeared in the *Journal of Politics*, *Legislative Studies Quarterly*, *Political Research Quarterly*, *Qualitative Methods* and the *Journal of California Politics and Policy*.

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