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# BUCKS COUNTY Courier Times

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ANALYSIS

## Latino vote shifting away from Trump, GOP



Majorities of Latino voters believe that their economic fortunes have declined since President Donald Trump returned to the White House. Moreover, they expect the situation to worsen over the next year. In March, The Economist reported that Trump's support among Latinos had fallen to 22%. ALLISON DINNER/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

### Trend could sway outcome of 2026 midterms

**Matt A. Barreto and Gary M. Segura**  
UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs  
THE CONVERSATION

In the 2024 election, President Donald Trump dramatically improved his performance among nearly all groups of voters from four years earlier. Trump's growth among Hispanic voters was especially notable, increasing by more than 10 points from 2020 to 2024, at least according to exit polls.

This led to a considerable amount of commentary speculating that Hispanic voters, historically more supportive of Democrats, might continue shifting toward the GOP.

News reports suggesting Latinos were critical to Trump's 2024 victory were, in our view, overblown. Even if Latinos had not shifted, Trump still

would have won in 2024.

Yet there is no question that over the past three election cycles, Latino voters – Latino men under 40, in particular – have shifted right. That change has benefited GOP candidates, even as the majority of Latinos still voted for Democrats.

However, evidence from general elections in 2025 in places such as New Jersey, New York and Virginia, as well as special elections in 2026, suggests an abrupt correction is underway, with some of the Latino voters who backed Trump now swinging back to the Democrats.

As political scientists and pollsters who study Hispanic voting trends, we are concerned with the question of whether these latest movements are

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ICE agents look over lists of names and hearing times inside a courthouse before making arrests on June 27 in New York City. Latinos are overwhelmingly opposed to federal troops in U.S. cities, according to polling.

BRYAN R. SMITH/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

## PA House passes budget

Here's what it boosts

**Mark Walters**  
USA TODAY NETWORK

A state budget cleared the Pennsylvania House on a bipartisan vote April 14, but the Gov. Josh Shapiro-approved spending plan faces uncertainty in the Republican-controlled Senate.

The \$53.3 billion spending plan is a nearly \$2.7 billion increase, around 6.3%, from last year's budget that came five months past its June 30 deadline. Counties, human services agencies and schools had to borrow money or cut services as they went months without state funding.

The proposal is ahead of last year's plan, which was not unveiled until June. Delays hinged heavily on mass transportation funding.

The plan supported by five House Republicans and every Democrat pumps \$700 million more into education funding than a year ago, with \$50 million increases each for basic education and special education.

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## Trump: U.S. Navy seizes Iranian ship

Unclear if Iran will attend planned talks in Pakistan

**Kathryn Palmer and James Powell**  
USA TODAY

With only days remaining until a fragile ceasefire expires, President Donald Trump on April 19 said that U.S. forces damaged and seized the Iranian ship *Touska* as it attempted to break the blockade of the Strait of Hormuz, adding that the United States has "full custody" of the ship.

"The Iranian crew refused to listen, so our Navy ship stopped them right in their tracks by blowing a hole in the engine room," Trump wrote. He added that the ship was sanctioned for what he called a "prior history of illegal activity."

Also on April 19, Trump threatened to attack critical Iranian infrastructure

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