



Analysis: Trump's options for Cuba thorny

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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
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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 CANNABIS LEGALIZATION

The Senate GOP chair's 'real path' to yes

Matthew Rink
USA TODAY NETWORK

It's been 10 years since then-Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Wolf signed the Medical Marijuana Act into law, so how much longer will efforts take to legalize recreational, adult-use cannabis?

And what needs to happen before Pennsylvania joins the 24 states and Washington, D.C., where marijuana has been legalized?

First, let's backtrack and review how we got to this point.

A brief history of cannabis legislation in Pennsylvania

The first piece of legislation to legalize recreational marijuana came in 2013 from then-state Sen. Daylin Leach, a Democrat who was attempting to make Pennsylvania only the third state in the nation at that time where marijuana was legal. He'd introduce similar legislation again, including in 2017.

In 2019, state Rep. Jake Wheatley Jr. proposed amending the Medical Marijuana Act to allow for recreational use.

Then, in February 2021, state Sen. Dan Laughlin of Erie County became the first sitting Republican in Pennsylvania to come out in favor of legalization, saying it was inevitable given how support for the issue was trending across the state and nation.



Laughlin

Laughlin and Sen. Sharif Street, a Philadelphia Democrat, introduced the first bipartisan bill at that time.

The Laughlin-Street bill, however, is still sitting in committee, meaning there isn't enough support on the committee alone to get the legislation in front of the entire Pennsylvania Senate for a vote.

There has been movement in the lower chamber – kind of.

Last year, Pennsylvania House Democrats used their very narrow majority to pass a legalization bill that would use a state-store model, similar to how the state distributes liquor and wine, for cannabis sales.

But Laughlin killed the bill upon its arrival in the Senate.

So how does Laughlin foresee the bill he and Street have cosponsored becoming law? Not through the Republican-controlled Senate, but the

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