



## **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**



Report by: Joshua Hoyt, Executive Director  
Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights

Research by: Rob Paral, Research Fellow  
Institute for Latino Studies, University of Notre Dame

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](http://www.icirr.org).

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

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

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%
<b>All Suburban Metro Chicago</b>	<b>790,872</b>	<b>983,820</b>	<b>24.4%</b>	<b>15.2%</b>	<b>17.4%</b>	<b>711,785</b>	<b>885,438</b>	<b>28.9%</b>	<b>33.2%</b>	<b>332,806</b>	<b>459,814</b>	<b>38.2%</b>
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	Total	Foreign	Foreign	2000	2005	# of	# of	% of	% of	Naturalized	Naturalized	Pct. Change
	Population	Population	Born in	Born in	Percent	Percent	Foreign	Foreign	Foreign	Foreign			
	2000	2005	2000	2005	Foreign	Foreign	Born and	Born and	Born and	Born and	2000	2005	2000-2005
					Born	Born	Children	Children	Children	Children			
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: [jhoyt@icirr.org](mailto:jhoyt@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](mailto: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](http://www.icirr.org).

