



# IMMIGRATION POLICY CENTER

...providing factual information about immigration and immigrants in America

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## **THE EMPIRE STATE'S NEW SENATOR**

### ***Senator Kirsten Gillibrand Now Represents One of the Most Diverse States in America***

As Kirsten Gillibrand assumes her new responsibilities representing the people of New York State in the U.S. Senate, she will find her constituents are now a far more diverse group than the residents of the state's 20<sup>th</sup> congressional district near Albany, whom she previously represented in the House of Representatives. Not only is New York one of the most ethnically diverse states in the nation, but it is also a historic gateway for immigrants from virtually every part of the world. Immigrants, Latinos, and Asians are a political and economic powerhouse in New York.

***Immigrants account for more than one in five residents of New York—and more than half of them are U.S. citizens eligible to vote.***

- The 4.2 million foreign-born residents of New York make up 21.8% of the state's total population and 2.2 million of them are naturalized U.S. citizens who are eligible to vote., according to the U.S. Census Bureau's [2007 American Community Survey](#).<sup>1</sup>

***Latinos and Asians account for nearly one in four residents of New York.***

- New York is home to 3.2 million Latinos and 1.3 million Asians, according to the U.S. Census Bureau's [2007 American Community Survey](#).<sup>2</sup>

***Latinos, Asians, immigrants, and the children of immigrants comprise a powerful share of the New York electorate.***

- Latinos and Asians make up nearly 13% of all registered voters in New York.
- Nearly 18% of all registered voters in New York are New Americans: naturalized citizens or the U.S.-born children of immigrants who were raised during the current era of large-scale immigration from Latin America and Asia which began in 1965—according to an analysis of 2006 Census Bureau data by [Rob Paral & Associates](#).<sup>3</sup>

***Immigrants are essential to New York's economy.***

- "New York's immigrants are responsible for \$229 billion in economic output in New York State," or 22.4% of the total New York State GDP, according to a 2007 study by the [Fiscal Policy Institute](#).<sup>4</sup>

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- Moreover, “immigrants in New York State are entrepreneurs, managers, and workers in jobs at all levels of the economy, from the lowest-paid day laborers to the highest-paid investment bankers.”

***Latino and Asian entrepreneurs and consumers add billions of dollars and tens-of-thousands of jobs to New York’s economy.***

- The 2008 purchasing power of New York’s Latinos totaled \$75.3 billion—an increase of 220% since 1990. Asian buying power totaled \$51.4 billion—an increase of 323.6% since 1990, according to the [Selig Center for Economic Growth](#) at the University of Georgia.
- New York’s 145,108 [Asian-owned](#) businesses had sales and receipts of \$30.4 billion and employed 164,316 people in 2002,<sup>5</sup> the last year for which data is available. The state’s 163,588 [Latino-owned](#) businesses had sales and receipts of \$12.3 billion and employed 70,183 people in 2002,<sup>6</sup> according to the U.S. Census Bureau’s Survey of Business Owners.

## **Endnotes**

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<sup>1</sup> 2007 American Community Survey (1-Year Estimates).

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Rob Paral and Associates, [The New American Electorate: The Growing Political Power of Immigrants and Their Children](#) (Washington, DC: Immigration Policy Center, American Immigration Law Foundation, October 2008).

<sup>4</sup> Fiscal Policy Institute, Working for a Better Life: A Profile of Immigrants in the New York State Economy (New York, NY: November 2007)

<sup>5</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, [Asian-Owned Firms: 2002](#), August 2006.

<sup>6</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, [Hispanic-Owned Firms: 2002](#), August 2006.