



# Latino Policy Coalition

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

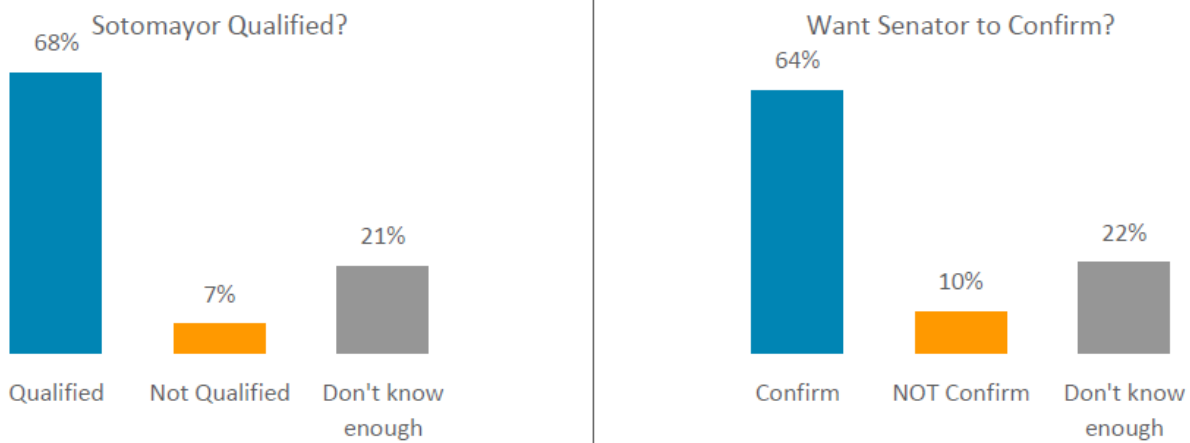
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## **Will Latino Voters Judge GOP on Sotomayor Confirmation Vote?**

*Nationwide survey finds Latino voters believe that Sotomayor is exceptionally qualified; and that GOP may be skating on thin ice.*

**Sacramento, CA** – According to a nationwide poll of Latino voters, Latinos have been closely following the news about Judge Sonia Sotomayor’s nomination to the U.S. Supreme Court. Latino voters, from both parties, are overwhelmingly convinced (68%) that Sotomayor is well qualified to sit on the U.S. Supreme Court. Similarly, Latino voters are clear that their own U.S. Senators should confirm her nomination (64%). The extensive survey was sponsored by the Latino Policy Coalition and was conducted by Lake Research Partners in the 23 states with the highest Latino populations in the U.S.



“Latino voters are paying especially close attention to the confirmation process of Judge Sonia Sotomayor’s appointment to the U.S. Supreme Court,” said Latino Policy Coalition Chair Jim Gonzalez. “Latinos are witnessing a historic breakthrough that will provide more balanced representation for all in our nation’s highest court. The data clearly states that there will be greater political support for those who vote for her confirmation; and rejection for those who vote against her confirmation.”

Latino voters are dissatisfied with the tone and focus of the debate around Sotomayor’s confirmation. Celinda Lake, of Lake Research Partners noted that “As several U.S. Senators prepare to cast their first ever no votes on a Supreme Court nominee - when that nominee just happens to be the first Latina ever nominated to the Court - they may want to consider the long term consequences.”

When asked whether Sotomayor was treated too critically, and by whom, the majority (42%) responded that the press and media outlets were too critical; and that the Republicans in the U.S. Senate were too critical (40%). Conversely, 49% believed that Democrats in the U.S. Senate treated her fairly.

The Latino vote is growing substantially. In another ten years 62% of all teens will be Latino. It is only a matter of time before all U.S. Senators and Representatives will need to pay more attention to the views of the Latino electorate. "In the case of Sotomayor's confirmation hearing, the Republican Party is skating on thin ice," Gonzalez concluded.

### **About the Latino Policy Coalition**

The Latino Policy Coalition is a national non-partisan non-profit consortium of the country's leading Latino research organizations and scholars. These organizations are dedicated to measuring through nationwide polls public policy issues affecting the Latino community. Chaired by former SF Supervisor Jim Gonzalez, the LPC's mission is to help define Latino community concerns on key contemporary issues in order to stimulate public policy debate among local, state and national elected officials.

### **METHODOLOGY**

Lake Research Partners designed and administered this survey, which was conducted by phone using professional interviewers. The survey reached 1,000 Latino/a registered voters in the 23 states with the highest Latino population density. A quarter of the interviews were conducted in Spanish. These states include: CA, TX, FL, NY, IL, AZ, NJ, NM, CO, GA, NV, NC, WA, MA, VA, PA, CT, MI, OR, MD, IN, OH, and WI. The survey was conducted July 23 through July 28, 2009. Telephone numbers for the survey were drawn from files of registered voters. The data were weighted slightly by age and education. The margin of error for the survey is +/- 3.1 percentage points.

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