Mecklenburg County Latinos: Mecklenburg County Latinos: Future Demographic and Political Dimensions

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Charlotte: A Welcome Denied/Charlotte: Una Bienvenida Frustrada
Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars and Charlotte H.E.L.P.
Levine Museum of the New South
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Hispanics largest minority group in U.S. (12.5%)

Hispanics among fastest growing groups in U.S.

Southeastern United States emerges as region with greatest degree of Latino growth
The New Urban South

Much of that growth occurring in region’s cities where broad and expanding economic opportunities attract a growing number of native and foreign born migrants.

- Raleigh/Durham
- Atlanta
- Greensboro
- Charlotte
- Orlando
- Nashville
- Fort Lauderdale
- Sarasota
- Greenville (SC)
- West Palm Beach

Of 18 metropolitan areas designated by the Brookings Institution as Hispanic Hypergrowth, 10 of the top 12 are in the South.
Mecklenburg County’s Hispanic Population Change, 1970 to 2005-2007
Citizenship Status of Mecklenburg County Latinos

- **You-all Latinos – 17.7%**
- **Tar Heel Latinos – 11.6%**

- **Not a Citizen**
  - 2000: 57.9%
  - 2005-2007 estimates: 48.8%

- **Born in U.S.A.**
  - 2000: 31.9%
  - 2005-2007 estimates: 40.1%
Charlotte and Mecklenburg County Latinos: Settling Out, Settling Down, Settling In

- 86% Latinos lived in Mecklenburg County for at least a year (2005-2007)
  90% all Mecklenburg County residents for one year

- 79.2% Latinos in labor force (2005-2007)
  73.6% all Mecklenburg County residents

- 35% Latinos own their homes (2005-2007)
  Up from 25.7% home owners in 2000

- 14.9% CMS student enrollment (2007-2008)
  Almost double from 2002-2003

- 771 to 2,106 Mecklenburg County Latino owned businesses (1997-2002)


- Property values in Central Avenue Corridor: 10.25% annual increase
  Almost twice countywide average
Latinos in the Electorate

- 7% of North Carolina population
- 3% of 2008 North Carolina Electorate (Source: CNN)
- 24,379 registered Latinos in 2004
- 66,883 registered Latinos in 2008 - increase of 42,469
- President Obama’s margin in North Carolina: 14,000
A Pre-emerging Immigrant Gateway

106,622 immigrants in 2007
(One out of every eight Mecklenburg County residents are foreign-born)
- 52% from Latin America
- 25% from Asia
- 11% from Europe
- 10% from Africa
New South, Nuevo South, Global South

Which “South” do we want to be?
Questions?