

Timeline

- 1492** Christopher Columbus arrives in the New World, landing in the Bahamas

- 1513** Ponce de Leon arrives in Florida

- 1565** First permanent Spanish settlement is established in St. Augustine, Fla.

- 1820** Mexico, which includes settlements in California, Arizona, Texas, Colorado and New Mexico, gains independence from Spain. American settlers begin moving into Mexican territories

- 1822** Joseph Marion Hernandez becomes first Hispanic member of Congress, serving six months as a nonvoting delegate from Florida

- 1845** Texas is annexed by the United States

- 1846** Mexican-American War begins

- 1848** Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo establishes Rio Grande River as the U.S.-Mexico border, ceding Texas, California, Arizona, New Mexico and parts of Colorado, Nevada and Utah. About 75,000 Mexicans choose to remain in the U.S. as citizens

- 1862** Homestead Act allows squatters in the West to claim vacant land—land often owned by Mexican-Americans

- 1868** Fourteenth Amendment declares all people born in the United States to be U.S. citizens

- 1876** Romualdo Pacheco of California becomes first Hispanic U.S. representative

- 1898** In Treaty of Paris, Spain surrenders control of Cuba, Puerto Rico, the Philippines and Guam to the United States

- 1910** Mexican Revolution begins; hundreds of thousands of Mexicans flee to the United States

- 1912** Mexican ambassador formally protests the mistreatment of Mexican Americans in the southwestern United States, citing lynchings and murders

- 1917** Ezequiel Cabeza de Baca of New Mexico becomes first Hispanic U.S. governor

- 1917** Jones Act extends U.S. citizenship to all Puerto Ricans

- 1917** During World War I, “temporary” Mexican farm workers, railroad laborers and miners enter the United States to work

- 1924** Congress creates the U.S. Immigration Service Border Patrol

- 1928** Octaviano Larrazolo of New Mexico becomes first Hispanic U.S. senator

- 1929** During the Great Depression, more than 400,000 Mexicans and Mexican Americans are deported or otherwise forced to return to Mexico

- 1942** Under the Bracero Program (which would run through 1964), the U.S. brings in seasonal Mexican agricultural laborers to ease shortages during World War II

- 1950** Puerto Rico becomes a U.S. commonwealth

- 1954** In *Hernandez v. Texas*, Supreme Court rules that all racial groups are guaranteed equal protection under the 14th Amendment

- 1954** Over the next five years, Operation Wetback results in the deportation of about 3.8 million undocumented Mexicans

- 1955** KCOR in San Antonio (now KWEX) becomes first Spanish-language TV station in United States



Romualdo Pacheco



Immigrants arrive in California for the Bracero Program



The Capitol building in San Juan, Puerto Rico

1962 César Chávez and Dolores Huerta found National Farm Workers Association, forerunner of United Farm Workers of America

1965 Mexico and the United States allow corporations to operate assembly plants on their shared border to provide jobs for Mexicans displaced when Bracero Program ends

1966 Over the next eight years, about 250,000 Cubans fleeing the Castro regime are airlifted to the United States

1968 Congress passes resolution that requests President to annually issue a proclamation declaring the week including Sept. 15 and 16 as National Hispanic Heritage Week

1973 Roberto Clemente becomes first Hispanic inducted into Baseball Hall of Fame

1973 U.S. government officially adopts the term Hispanic

1974 Equal Educational Opportunity Act allows for bilingual education

1975 Voting Rights Act of 1975 makes bilingual ballots a requirement in certain areas

1980 Mariel Boatlift brings about 125,000 Cuban refugees to the United States

1986 Immigration Reform and Control Act creates process for undocumented immigrants to gain legal status and grants citizenship to about 3 million people in the country illegally

1988 Secretary of Education Lauro Cavazos becomes first Hispanic Cabinet member

1988 Congress passes resolution that authorizes President to proclaim the 31 days from Sept. 15 to Oct. 15 as National Hispanic Heritage Month

1989 Ileana Ros-Lehtinen becomes first Hispanic woman elected to Congress

1990 Antonia Novello becomes first Hispanic and first woman Surgeon General

1997 U.S. government officially adopts the term Latino

1999 U.S. creates “people-to-people” licenses, lifting some restrictions on travel to Cuba

2001 Hispanics officially pass Blacks to become the nation’s largest minority group

2003 Arturo Moreno becomes the first Hispanic owner of a major U.S. sports franchise, buying the Anaheim Angels baseball team

2009 Sonia Sotomayor becomes first Hispanic Supreme Court Justice

2009 Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis becomes first Hispanic woman Cabinet member

2010 Susana Martinez of New Mexico becomes first Hispanic woman governor

2012 Supreme Court strikes down provisions of Arizona law that require immigrants to carry registration documents at all times and that authorize police to arrest undocumented immigrants without a warrant, but still allows immigration checks during law-enforcement stops

2012 Hispanics make up 10 percent of the electorate for the first time, helping to reelect President Obama

2013 U.S. Senate passes immigration-reform bill that, among other things, establishes pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants, but House refuses to bring the bill to its floor

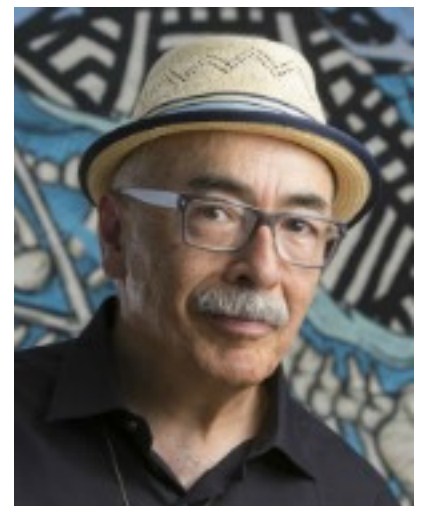
2015 Juan Felipe Herrera named the United States’s first Latino Poet Laureate

2016 The U.S. Supreme Court deadlocks over the issue of immigration, leaving millions of immigrants in jeopardy

2017 “Day Without Immigrants” protests take place across the nation with the intention of showing businesses how valuable immigrants are to the economy



Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor



Juan Felipe Herrera



Businesses feel the impact of “Day Without Immigrants”

Sources: Britannica.com, Gale, infoplease.com, PBS, The New CEOs, Texas State Historical Museum, Reuters