

# The U.S.-Mexico Relationship in the Obama Administration

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## The U.S.-Mexico Relationship in the Obama Administration

- Governing in a Time of Economic Crisis
  - Macro Economic Policies
  - Bilateral Issues
- What It Means for Business Travel



## Obama Foreign Policy

- Reverse George Bush
  - Guantanamo / Torture / Wiretapping
  - Engagement with International Organizations
  - Climate Change
- All-Star Team
  - Secretary of State Hillary Clinton
  - Vice President Joe Biden

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## Obama on Mexico

- NAFTA & Trade
  - Obama Campaign Rhetoric: "One million jobs have been lost because of NAFTA, including nearly 50,000 jobs here in Ohio... Well, I don't think NAFTA has been good for America -- and I never have."
  - Governing Reality: Trade on timeout, not being rolled back
- Obama Trade Team
  - U.S. Trade Representative Ron Kirk
    - Border state mayor from Houston
  - Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis
    - Aggressive pro-union agenda

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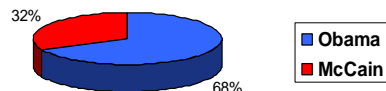
## Obama on Mexico

- Immigration
  - Obama Campaign Rhetoric: "...we've had a President who made all kinds of promises to Latinos on the campaign trail, but failed to live up to them in the White House, and we can't afford that anymore. We need a President who isn't going to walk away from something as important as comprehensive reform when it becomes politically unpopular."
  - Governing Reality: Legislative Activity Must Wait until Unemployment Rates Stabilize
  - Politics: Democratic share of Hispanic vote increasing as size of vote increases

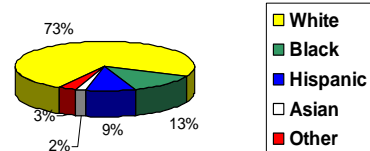
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## Immigration Politics

**Hispanic Voters  
2008 Presidential Election**

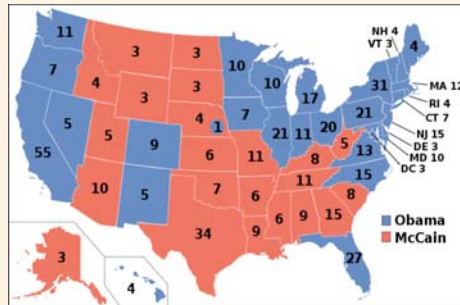


**Voter Turnout  
2008 Presidential Election**



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## Immigration Politics



- Colorado, Nevada and New Mexico switched from Republican in 2004 to Democrat in 2008: Swing of 19 electoral votes

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## Border Enforcement

- 601 miles of the 670 miles of border fence promised by the Bush Administration have been completed

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## US-Mexico Relationship

- Drug Violence
  - Increasing concern about ability to govern
  - U.S. aid increasing
- Border Infrastructure
  - \$2B in economic stimulus for ports of entry

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## U.S.-Mexico Travel Agenda

- Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative
  - Final implementation June 2009
  - Must have passport or equivalent document to enter or reenter U.S.

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## U.S. Mexico Travel Agenda

- Trusted Traveler Programs
  - DHS launched Global Entry in 2008 to bypass immigration upon arrival
  - Will be integrated with SENTRI and NEXUS
  - Mexico needs reciprocal air program

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## Future U.S.–Mexico Relationship

- Obama met with Mexican President Felipe Calderón in January
- Obama stated - "My message today is that my administration is going to be ready on Day One to build a stronger relationship with Mexico."

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