



Latino Vote Reporter

Volume VI, No.1 A Publication of the Southwest Voter Registration Education Project

Spring 2001

Record Number of Latino Votes in Los Angeles April 10th Mayoral Election

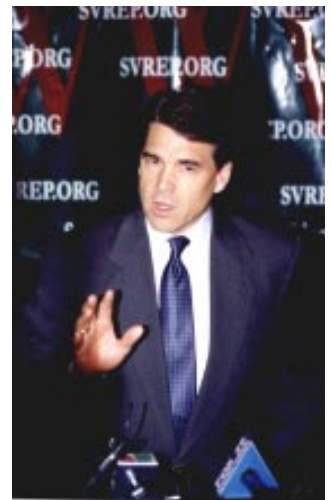
A larger than expected turn out of occasional and new Latino voters was instrumental in establishing a new record high Latino vote for the April 10th Los Angeles Mayoral election. Latinos turned out at a rate of 35.6% and represented 21.7% of all votes cast on election day. Latinos set up a new record for turnout, exceeding for the first time the rate of turnout of white voters.

A total of 110,119 Latinos voted in the April 10th, election of which 68,274 voted for mayoral candidate Antonio Villaraigosa who received 30.4% of all votes cast on election day, compared to 25.2% for James Hahn. Villaraigosa received 62% of the total Latino vote or 45% of his total primary votes. Southwest Voter Registration Education Project helped to mobilize a record number of votes cast, contacting 29,554 new and occasional voters. An outstanding 14, 455 voters or 49% turned out for the April election, in part to the efforts of four phone banks in four predominately Latino areas of Lincoln Heights, Pacoima, Canoga Park and San Pedro.

For the June 5th runoff election, SVREP will once again mobilize hundreds of volunteers in voter registration drives and get-out-the-votes campaigns. Latinos represented only 8% in 1993, of all votes cast, 15% in 1997 and 21.7% in 2001.

SVREP Unveils Latino Vote 2002 at Annual Banquet

At the annual Latino Vote Banquet held at the Westin Riverwalk in San Antonio on June 22nd, Southwest Voter Registration Education Project (SVREP) announced Phase 1 of the 2002 Latino Vote Campaign. The campaign's focus will be on opportunities resulting from redistricting. "Latino communities should have the opportunity to elect candidates of their choice in numerous congressional, state, and local elections," said Antonio Gonzalez, SVREP President, "Redistricting will create many of these opportunities."



(Texas Governor Rick Perry)

Bexar County Tax Assessor, Sylvia Romo, welcomed over 500 corporate and community leaders from Texas, Colorado and Florida. Governor Rick Perry delivered the keynote address, in which he told the audience, "your right to vote is not just a cherished fruit of democracy, it is the agent of change."

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<i>City of Los Angeles Elections, April 10, 2001</i>				
<i>Percentage Turnout by Ethnicity</i>				
<i>Ethnicity</i>	<i>Registered</i>	<i>Voted</i>	<i>% Voted</i>	<i>Share of Vote</i>
<i>Latino</i>	<i>309,736</i>	<i>110,119</i>	<i>35.6%</i>	<i>21.7%</i>
<i>Asian-PI</i>	<i>84,816</i>	<i>23,606</i>	<i>27.8%</i>	<i>4.7%</i>
<i>Jewish</i>	<i>119,205</i>	<i>50,719</i>	<i>42.5%</i>	<i>10.0%</i>
<i>Black</i>	<i>217,191</i>	<i>66,821</i>	<i>30.8%</i>	<i>13.2%</i>
<i>White</i>	<i>803,502</i>	<i>256,168</i>	<i>31.9%</i>	<i>50.5%</i>
<i>Total</i>	<i>1,534,450</i>	<i>507,433</i>	<i>33.1%</i>	<i>100.0%</i>

Source: WCVI Turnout Study Los Angeles City Elections April 10, 2001

SVREP Mobilizes Latino Get-Out-the-Vote Campaign in Los Angeles



(SVREP's volunteers celebrate a successful gotv campaign)



(Volunteers calling voters at San Pedro phone bank)

During the April 10th Los Angeles Mayoral election, eleven full-time coordinators mobilized hundreds of volunteers who staffed phone banks in crucial Latino communities throughout

Los Angeles in an effort to mobilize voters and get them out to vote. Such efforts were successful in achieving an all time record of Latino voters for a municipal election. SVREP focused on 29,554 new and occasional Latino voters. An outstanding 14,454 or 49.2% turned out in April. For the June 5th runoff election, SVREP's phone banks re-connected with the same universe of voters in addition to recently registered voters. Results will be published in future of SVREP's Latino Vote Reporter.

City	District	Targeted Latino Voters	Latino Votes Cast	Turnout
Los Angeles	1	4,538	2,196	48.39%
Los Angeles	3	2,438	1,059	43.44%
Los Angeles	7	5,347	2,649	49.54%
Los Angeles	9	3,680	2,078	56.47%
Los Angeles	13	4,714	2,413	51.16%
Los Angeles	14	5,301	2,594	48.93%
Los Angeles	15	3,579	1,565	43.73%
Total	-	29,597	14,554	49.17%

City	Total	Voters Registered March 3-26, 2001	Voters Registered Summer/Fall 2000
Lincoln Heights/El Sereno	585	585	-
Wilmington/San Pedro	822	578	244
Boyle Heights	261	261	-
Echo Park/Hollywood	476	141	335
LA/Highland Park	249	150	99
North Hollywood	113	18	95
South Central	1,256	380	876
Panorama City	49	49	-
Pacoima	1,532	255	1,277
LA/Canoga Park	1,210	90	1,120
LA/Pico Union	184	-	184
Total	6,737	2,507	4,230

Latino Voters Drive Ed Garza to Victory in San Antonio



(Honorable Ed Garza, Mayor of San Antonio)

On May 5, 2001, the Latino electorate was crucial in the election of Ed Garza as mayor of San Antonio. Garza defeated Tim Bannwolf as he carried eight of the ten city council districts in San Antonio. SVREP voter registration drives were instrumental in turning out new registered voters for this important city election. SVREP conducted a get-out-the-vote (GOTV) campaign in city council District 6 in the west side of San Antonio, as volunteers staffed phone banks contacting thousands of voters during and prior to election day. The overall turn out on election day in San Antonio was 17% of all registered voters. In District 6 the turn out was 19%, higher than the city over all. Garza was expected to have a close race against Bannwolf, yet he obtained 59% of total votes cast.

Political Participation of Latinos In 2001 San Antonio Mayoral Election				
Year	% Latino Registered Voter	% Latino Turnout	% Latino Votes Cast	% Overall Turnout
2001	44.8	12.0	36.6	14.6

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Latino Vote Reporter is published by the Communications Department of Southwest Voter Registration Education Project, a national tax exempt, non-partisan organization founded in 1974 to improve the level of participation and representation of Latinos and their communities.

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Latino Vote 2002

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(Honorable Silvestre Reyes, U.S. Representative, D-TX
 Chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus)

Congressman Silvestre Reyes (TX), chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus followed Governor Perry's address with remarks echoing sentiments of the importance of involvement in the civic process. "Thanks to last November's election, it has become unavoidable to recognize that our efforts to ensure Latino voter empowerment go beyond promoting a large voter turnout," said Congressman Reyes. Just getting people to the polls is not enough. We have to make sure that every vote cast is a vote counted. That is why we as Members of Congress are now focused on election reform. Election reform is about increasing the accuracy of elections to reflect the will of the voters," added the Democratic Congressman from El Paso, Texas.

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(Governor Rick Perry and Antonio Gonzalez with Guests)

WCVI, MALDEF and LULAC Form Redistricting Partnership

The William C. Velasquez Institute(WCVI), the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF), and the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), formed a Latino redistricting partnership in an effort to ensure that Latino communities are represented fairly in the redistricting process currently underway.

WCVI along with its partners has been working extensively in Latino communities that will be making redistricting adjustments including California, Texas, Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, Florida, Nevada, Utah, Washington and Idaho. After months of community outreach efforts and hundreds of interviews in those states, the alliance has produced carefully crafted redistricting plans that mirror the rapid population growth among Latino communities. For California, the recommended congressional redistricting plans calls for the reconfiguration of a new Latino majority district in South Los Angeles, and opens the possibility for new Latino representation in the Coachella Valley, Monterey County and San Diego County and the Central Valley. State senate and assembly redistricting plans reconfiguring two Latino State senate districts in Los Angeles and San Diego as well as eight Latino assembly districts throughout the state are also being proposed to the state for review.



(Steve Reyes, MALDEF Staff Attorney at a community outreach meeting in Oakland, CA)

In Texas, the redistricting plan calls for reconfiguration of nine Latino state senate districts, and 35 majority Latino state representative districts with the creation of seven new Latino districts, for the Dallas Metro area, Tarrant County in Fort Worth, Harris County in Houston, Travis County in Austin and South Texas.

A high Latino influence district is also proposed for the West Texas area. The congressional redistricting plan proposes a new Latino congressional district for the Rio Grande Valley in South Texas and a reconfigured district with a Latino majority for the Dallas area.



(Zachary Gonzalez, WCVI Redistricting Coordinator and Amadis Velez, MALDEF Redistricting Coordinator at community outreach meeting in Coachella, CA)

In Arizona, redistricting plans have reconfigured two high influence Latino state legislative districts in Tucson and Southern Phoenix while a new Latino majority congressional district for Pinal and Southern Arizona are also being proposed.

Community outreach efforts in the state of Nevada have also identified a high Latino influence congressional district for the Las Vegas area, as well as a Latino legislative district. In the Pasco/Yakima areas of Washington State, a state legislative district with high Latino influence is also being proposed. In Utah, the organizations are recommending the creation of a reconfigured state legislative district in the Salt Lake area that mirrors the fast growing Latino population of the area.

In Colorado and New Mexico discussions are currently underway for congressional and legislative districts with Latino majority. In Colorado where the state is gaining a new congressional district, plans are being developed to reconfigure districts that reflect the growing Latino population of the state.

In New Mexico congressional and legislative plans with high Latino influence are also being proposed.



(Steve Reyes, MALDEF Staff Attorney and Zachary Gonzalez, WCVI Redistricting Coordinator at community outreach meeting in Oakland, CA)

WCVI Analysis Shows Split Among Non-Hispanic Voters in San Antonio

A study released by the William C. Velásquez Institute, revealed that 96.9% of Latino registered voters that cast ballots in the 2001 Mayoral election voted for Ed Garza in stark contrast to only 52.1% of non-Hispanic voters. In a study of racial polarized study of San Antonio precincts, WCVI in conjunction with Dr. Henry Flores of St. Mary’s University showed Latinos represented 60.1% of Ed Garza’s total support, with 39.9% of the votes cast from non-Hispanic voters. Overall, Latinos represented 36.6% of the electorate in the 2001 mayoral election. These numbers are consistent with past trends where elections have a competitive Latino mayoral candidate. In such elections, the Latino vote has averaged 39.4% versus 21.5% in elections lacking a competitive Latino mayoral candidate.

Political Participation of Latinos In 2001 San Antonio Mayoral Election				
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SVREP Unveils Latino Vote 2002 at Annual Banquet

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(Antonio Gonzalez, President, SVREP)

The corporate chairs for the Latino Vote 2001 Banquet included Henry Cisneros of American City Vista, Blaine Bull of Public Strategies and Greg Hartman of MGT of America. Major donors for the event were Cemex, Kickapoo Casino, Public Strategies, TXU and Western Union. Proceeds from this event reached \$100,000. Antonio Gonzalez, also unveiled Latino Vote 2002. To leverage redistricting opportunities, SVREP will train young leaders and organizers, and WCVI will train candidates through the Latino Academy to be held in August and October in McAllen and San Antonio.

SVREP will conduct non-partisan voter registration drives in areas where redistricting opportunities exist beginning in the summer and fall of 2001. These areas include Harris County, Dallas-Fort Worth, the Panhandle, and the Rio Grande Valley. This year’s Latino Vote Campaign is based on the redistricting work conducted by a coalition formed by the William C. Velásquez Institute (WCVI), the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund and the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), whose work consists of drawing redistricting plans and providing technical support and advocacy training to those interested in playing a role in the redistricting of their communities.

The initial phase of the Latino Vote 2002 Campaign will be followed by get-out-the-vote campaigns in March 2002 primaries. Voter registration and get-out-the-vote campaigns will proceed in the summer and fall of 2002 in order to continue raising Latino influence in statewide elections. “The Latino Vote 2001-2002 Campaign has the potential to increase Latino voter registration to 2.2 million and reach record-level turnout results in Texas,” stated Gonzalez.

SVREP Moves Forward with Texas and Arizona Latino Academies

Latino community leaders throughout the southwestern states including Florida will once again, convene this year for the Southwest Voter Registration Education Project Latino Academy scheduled for McAllen Texas and Sedona Arizona. Both academies will teach participants the specialized training on techniques and strategies on how to organize, motivate and lead their communities in the upcoming 2002 primary elections. SVREP will host this year's Latino Academy 2001 in McAllen, Texas August 9-12, where 50 community leaders and youth will participate in the training.



(Latino Academy Graduates of 2000)

The second academy will be held on August 23rd to the 26th, at the Hilton Sedona Resort, in Sedona Arizona where fifty-two community organizers from the southwestern states of California, Arizona, Nevada, Utah and Oregon will participate. The political opportunities made available to Latinos communities through the recent redistricting process will be the focus of this year's Latino academy.

Latino academy graduates will be instrumental in helping their communities take advantage of these opportunities by mobilizing them for upcoming elections in which they can elect the candidates of their choice. The curriculum taught at the Latino Academies will concentrate on voter registration and GOTV techniques, Latino demographics, ethics and accountability, community service, media training, basic principles of community organizing, redistricting issues and local fundraising. Political experts as well as Latino elected officials will teach the classes.



(Latino Academy 2000 students attending class)

SVREP Opens Office in Florida

Southwest Voter Registration Education Project has opened a Miami regional office in Florida, in an effort to increase the participation of Latinos and other underserved communities in the American electoral and political process. Currently, under the direction of Alvaro Fernandez, SVREP's Florida regional office is focusing its efforts on redistricting.

Recently, Southwest Voter Registration Education Project in conjunction with various Latino organizations, proposed to the Florida Legislation the creation of two new Latino majority congressional districts one in the Miami-Dade and Brower county area and another in the Orlando area. The five counties of Miami-Dade, Broward, Hillsborough, Orange, and Palm Beach constitute nearly 77% of the Latino population in Florida. Latinos represent the largest minority group in the state numbering close to 2.7 million persons or 16.8% of the total Florida population. Over the past decade, Latinos have been one of the fastest growing population growing at a rate of 70.4% or nearly three times the rate of the total population.

Southwest Voter Registration Education Project has been working to get all the Latino communities involved in the political process by reaching to all diverse communities including Puerto Ricans, Cubans, Mexicans, Argentineans, Dominicans, Haitians, Salvadorans, Colombians and many others. All of these communities working together towards one common goal: to have their votes count and their voices heard in Florida's civic and political life.

In the Florida redistricting efforts, SVREP Miami office is currently working with groups like the Latino Leadership Institute, HISPAC, Concejo Colombo-Americano, Grupo de Accion Comunitaria Dominicana, the Latino Voters League, the Haitian American Foundation, the Americas Community Center, the Colombian American Political Action Committee and many others. This year, SVREP's Miami office will also be working aggressively in voter registration drives and get-out-the-vote campaigns in anticipation to the upcoming Miami City mayoral election and other important elections that impact Latinos.

SVREP Celebrates 2ND Annual Golf Classic Tournament

Under a perfect Southern California blue sky ideally for playing golf, avid golfers participated in the Southwest Voter Registration Education Project's Second Annual Golf Classic Tournament which took place at the beautiful Mountain Gate Country Club in Bel Air, California, on Monday, March 12, 2001. Contestants representing SVREP's sponsors and guests, enthusiastically took to the greens like a rabbit to a bowl of salad displaying their masterful golfing abilities while others, well, let's say they showed up.

With few birdies falling, golf balls landing on the roughs or in sand traps, and an occasional drive that could make Tiger Woods proud, 80 participants tried their best to make the event a joyous occasion and all for a good cause. Southwest Voter Registration Education Project raised over \$46,000 in what is fast becoming a popular recreational event for SVREP and its sponsors.

Anheuser Busch served as the tournament Chair, while other sponsors in attendance included: Alvarado, Sanchez & Smith, Hon. Daniel Arguello, ATU Local #1277, AT&T, the California Teachers Association, E.J. De La Rosa, & Associates, Bastion Capitol, BP Amoco, Cacique Cheese, Cuba Travel Services, the Disney Company, The Gas Company, Laborers International Union of North America, LACECA, Premier Products, Pacific Bell, Richards, Watson & Gershon, Sears, UFCW Local #770, Univision and Verches/Flores.



(Ed de la Rosa foursome at the 2nd Annual Golf Classic)

Throughout the 18-hole golf tournament, contestants participated in special contests that including the longest drive, the closest to the pin and hole-in-one competition. After the tournament, a late lunch was served and attendees participated in SVREP's auction and raffle. Prizes raffled included a Disney gift basket valued at \$300.00, a television set, a prepaid AT&T cellular phone, two boom boxes, a set of golf clubs and assorted golf equipment. Among the items auctioned were round-trip travel for two to Cuba and premier seating for the LA Dodgers, LA Kings and Los Angeles Clipper.



(Golf Tournament Participants)

Preparations are being made for the third annual golf tournament, stay tuned.

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TELEMUNDO

iGracias!
Southwest Voter Registration
Education Project
for your initiative:
"Expanding the power of the
Latino Community"

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*Latino Vote 2001 Banquet
Pasadena Hilton, Los Angeles, California
July 13, 2001*

*Latino Academy 2001
Country Inn Suites, McAllen, Texas
August 9-12, 2001*

*Latino Academy 2001
Hilton Sedona Resort, Sedona, Arizona
August 23-26, 2001*

*Latino Vote 2001 Banquet
Holiday Inn Embarcadero, San Diego, California
November 9, 2001*



SAVE THE DATE!