

About GCIR

Since 1990, Grantmakers Concerned with Immigrants and Refugees (GCIR) has been providing resources that foundations need to address the challenges facing newcomers and their host communities and to strengthen society as a whole. Our mission is to influence the philanthropic field to advance the contributions and address the needs of the country's growing and increasingly diverse immigrant and refugee populations.

As a nationwide network, GCIR involves grantmakers who work on a range of community issues and who fund in traditional immigrant strongholds and new immigrant destinations. Demographic trends, combined with today's complex social, economic, and political environments, make understanding immigration-related issues critically important to all grantmakers, regardless of their geographic focus or issue priorities. In response, GCIR helps funders connect immigrant issues to their funding priorities by serving as a forum to:

- **Learn** about current issues through in-depth analyses, research reports, and online data, tools, and resources tailored specifically for grantmakers
- **Connect** with other funders through programs, briefings, and conferences that examine major immigration trends and how they impact diverse communities
- **Collaborate** with grantmaking colleagues on strategies that strengthen immigrant-related funding locally and nationally

About the California Immigrant Integration Initiative

The California Immigrant Integration Initiative (CIII) seeks to develop a comprehensive immigrant integration agenda and to strengthen the immigrant integration infrastructure throughout the state. Its activities include:

- Generating data and information about California immigrants and their integration needs, focusing on health, education, workforce development, and civic participation
- Disseminating data and information to promote public discourse and response by diverse stakeholder groups, including but limited to, local and state policy-makers, advocates, service providers, foundations, and businesses
- Encouraging the identification and development of public policy, as well as community-based and private-sector solutions to promote immigrant integration
- Promoting funder coordination, collaboration, and leadership to advance immigrant integration in California

In addition to this report, CIII is working on several other research projects on the following topics: the need for and supply of English instruction by county, the capacity of existing nonprofit immigration legal services providers in Northern California, the role of community colleges in promoting immigrant integration, and existing sources of information on health and health services for immigrants in major California counties.

CIII involves a wide range of foundations and government agencies and collaborates with immigrant service and advocacy organizations. Current funders include Evelyn & Walter Haas, Jr. Fund, Rosenberg

Foundation, Silicon Valley Community Foundation, The California Endowment, The San Francisco Foundation, The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, van Löben Sels/RembeRock Foundation, and Zellerbach Family Foundation.

For more information on GCIR and CIII, visit www.gcir.org/about/ciii.

About Rob Paral and Associates

Rob Paral and Associates is a consulting firm that helps service organizations, charitable foundations and other institutions understand the populations they serve and the impact of their programs.

Recent projects have included:

- Helping a health policy organization determine the need for health insurance in legislative districts in Illinois.
- Estimating the numbers of legal immigrants in U.S. metro areas for a national philanthropic organization.
- Providing a legal aid corporation with information to understand the shifting needs of its clients.
- Evaluating the impact of charitable giving and support for community foundations in the Midwest.
- Developing policies and procedures needed by a state agency to communicate with limited-English clients.

Direct outcomes of their work have recently been cited in *The New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, the *Economist*, the *Wall Street Journal*, and a large number of other major news media outlets. Please contact Rob Paral and Associates at info@robparal.com, www.robparal.com, and 773-506-7308.

Rob Paral and Associates

Research and evaluation for family and community development



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

California is the leading destination for immigrants to the United States, receiving more than 325,000 new arrivals each year. The immigrant population overall exceeds 9.9 million persons and represents 27.2 percent of all residents in the state.

The numbers of immigrants in California are fairly well known, but largely unexamined is the need to ensure that newcomers are effectively integrated into the state's economy, society, and civic processes. Grantmakers Concerned with Immigrants and Refugees and its California Immigrant Integration Initiative commissioned this report as the first step in understanding that need by examining the size and the potential impact of three key populations: 1) naturalized adult immigrants, 2) legal immigrants eligible to naturalize, and 3) U.S.-citizen children of immigrants who are soon to become adults.

This report provides never-before-published estimates of these populations for the counties and state legislative districts of California, with breakout data on the countries and regions where the immigrants were born and the race of their citizen children. The findings underscore the critical need for integration policies to incorporate the sizable population of immigrants—both naturalized and naturalization-eligible—and their U.S.-citizen children who will soon turn 18 years of age. These newcomers play a vital role in the current and future vitality of California.

6.5 million immigrants in California are either naturalized or eligible to naturalize.

- **California is home to 4.2 million naturalized adults, and 2.3 million legal immigrants eligible to naturalize.¹** Helping the 2.3 million legal immigrants become U.S. citizens would increase the total adult citizen population in California by more than ten percent and could influence policy decisions on issues of concern to all Californians, including health, education, and workforce development.
- **Immigrants from Mexico and Asia constitute the largest share of naturalization-eligible immigrants.** More than 900,000 legal Mexican immigrants in California are eligible to naturalize. Nearly 800,000 Asian immigrants are eligible to naturalize; the top countries of origin include the Philippines (137,000), Vietnam (79,000), and China (69,000).

1.2 million children of immigrants will soon be eligible to vote.

- **Half of Californian children aged 12 and over are children of immigrants.** Having grown up in an immigrant family, these future voters are likely to be sympathetic toward policies that promote immigrant integration.
- **Eighty-four percent of California's children of immigrants are U.S.-born citizens.** These new voters need only register to vote to participate in the electoral process.
- **Latinos comprise two-thirds of the citizen children of immigrants who will turn 18 by the 2012 elections.**
- **Nearly all Asian children in California aged 12-17 years (93 percent) have an immigrant parent.** As a result, young Asian-American voters are likely to have interest in policies that address the challenges of the immigrant experience.

7.7 million immigrants and their young-adult children² constitute 29 percent of all potential Californian voters in 2012.

- **Naturalized adults, naturalization-eligible immigrants, and young-adult citizen children of immigrants total 7.7 million potential future voters in California.** These individuals with close ties to the immigrant experience represent 29 percent of all potential voters in 2012.
- **Seven California counties have more than 250,000 potential voters from an immigrant background.** A total of 15 counties have more than 100,000 such potential voters.
- **Immigrants and their children potentially comprise a large portion of voters in both Democratic and Republican districts.** Far from being confined to state Senate and Assembly districts held by Democrats, these potential voters could exceed 20 percent of all voters in Republican districts in both houses of the State Assembly.

These demographic trends make clear that every Californian has a stake in the timely integration of immigrants into local communities. By investing in immigrant integration efforts, California can strengthen its social fabric, invigorate its democracy, and increase its economic vitality and global competitiveness.

¹ "Legal immigrants" are synonymous with "legal permanent residents" in this report.

² The term "young adult" is used here to refer to persons who will be 18 to 23 years of age in 2012.

INTRODUCTION

No state symbolizes the modern immigrant experience more than California.

The Golden State receives more than 325,000 immigrants each year from virtually every part of the world. These immigrants enter the country through many channels. They come to fill jobs, reunite with family members, and flee persecution. They settle in large numbers in all parts of the state, from urbanized counties such as Los Angeles and San Francisco to rural and agricultural regions such as Merced and Fresno counties.

Once immigrants become established in California towns and cities, ensuring their integration into the economic, social, and political fabric of society is essential to addressing concerns and reaping the benefits of immigration.

For California, the benefits of immigrant integration will reveal themselves in a more dynamic economy in which immigrants fully utilize their skills, and in a more cohesive society where the foreign-born and their neighbors work together toward common goals. As importantly, immigrant integration will ensure that the voices of all the state's residents infuse the democratic process to the greatest extent possible and shape policies that protect rights and advance opportunities for all Californians.

Immigrant integration in California, however, will not happen on its own. The United States has no cohesive immigrant integration policies, and the failure to pass comprehensive federal immigration reform legislation in 2007 underscores the disconnect between federal leadership and local needs and realities.

With one-third of California's residents born abroad, state and local governments have a demographic, economic, and civic imperative to act. These institutions—working in partnership with the private and nonprofit sectors—must fill the federal leadership void and advance immigrant integration policies, programs, and

practices to maximize immigrants' contributions to the well-being of all California communities.

In supporting integration, state, counties, and localities have a wide range of options: English-language instruction, culturally competent health care, job training, and services to assist legal immigrants to naturalize and become active participants in our democratic process. All sectors of our society—from government to business to foundations—have a role to play in developing strategies and solutions that integrate immigrants to the benefit of our society.

Assessing the Potential

A key measure of immigrant integration is the attainment of U.S. citizenship and the exercise of basic rights and responsibilities bestowed to citizens. These rights and responsibilities include registering to vote and casting a ballot on election day, serving on juries, or holding jobs in the public sector that are reserved for citizens, from providing police and fire protection to serving as elected officials. Knowing how many immigrants currently possess citizenship and how many are eligible to pursue citizenship is essential to promoting immigrant civic integration.

As a dynamic, ongoing process, integration entails generational shifts. Unsurprisingly, many immigrants have children born in the United States. These U.S.-born children are inextricably linked to the phenomenon of immigration. A child born in California yet raised by immigrant parents will naturally have a special awareness of the immigrant experience. That boy or girl may well grow up in a bilingual environment and witness his or her parents navigate, sometimes with difficulty, the challenges and barriers of getting a job, seeking health care, and becoming involved in their children's education.

As such, children of immigrants are likely, as future voters, to support inclusive messages and to reject efforts to exclude and otherwise restrict the rights of immigrants. From their personal experience, they are well-positioned to appreciate the importance of expanding opportunities for all community members. An understanding of the potential of immigrant civic participation and its impact, therefore, must include the U.S.-born children of immigrants who will soon become the next generation of voters.

Using the most recent data sources available as of March 2008, this report provides new information on potential civic participation by California's immigrant communities. Specifically, the report provides estimates of the following populations:

- Naturalized adult immigrants, including information on their country/world region of origin.
- Legal immigrants eligible to naturalize, again including information on their country/world region of origin.
- U.S. citizen children of immigrants who will soon become voting-age adults, including their race/ethnicity.

The report draws information primarily from the 2006 American Community Survey, the 2000 Census, and data from the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. The data and findings are organized for major jurisdictions: for counties, as entities that provide key integration services such as health care; and for state Senate and Assembly districts, whose elected officials cast critical votes in Sacramento on immigrant integration issues. Statistics are also provided for official planning areas used by the City of Los Angeles and for suburban Los Angeles County subdivisions. These geographic areas have some of the largest and most concentrated foreign-born populations in North America.

FINDINGS

1

California is home to 4.2 million naturalized adults and 2.3 million legal immigrants eligible to naturalize.

Home to the largest immigrant population in the United States, California in 2006 had more than 9.2 million foreign-born adults, constituting more than one-third of all state residents over 18 years of age. Of these adult immigrants, 4.2 million were naturalized U.S. citizens; 2.3 million were legal permanent residents eligible to naturalize; and about 2.8 million were either legal immigrants not yet able to naturalize or were unauthorized immigrants. (See Table 1.)

TABLE 1

Place of Birth and Citizenship of California Adults: 2006

	Estimated Number	Percent of Total
All Adults	26,913,190	100.0%
Native Born	17,691,483	65.7%
Naturalized Immigrant	4,151,339	15.4%
Immigrants Eligible to Naturalize	~2,300,000	8.5%
Other Immigrants	~2,770,368	10.3%

Sources: 2006 American Community Survey; author's estimates

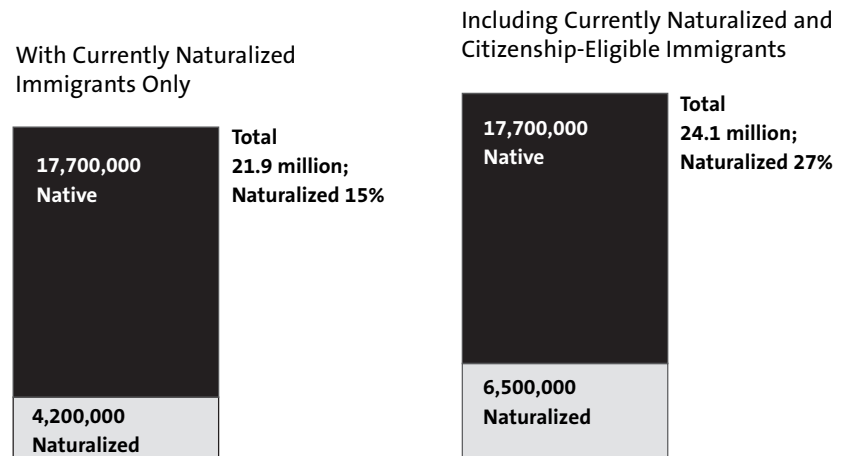
2

Naturalization could increase California's adult citizen population by 10 percent.

Naturalizing the 2.3 million eligible immigrants would increase the number of naturalized adults by more than 55 percent and would raise the state's entire population of adult citizens by 10 percent, from 21.9 to 24.1 million residents. (See Figure 1.)

FIGURE 1

The Potential Adult Citizen Population in California, through Naturalization



Source: 2006 American Community Survey; author's calculations

3

Immigrants from Mexico and “Other Asia” constitute the largest naturalization-eligible population in California

Naturalized Immigrants. As seen in Tables 2 and 3, more than 1.1 million naturalized adults came from Mexico, and these citizen adults are nearly 27 percent of all naturalized adult citizens in the state. China and the Philippines are the countries of birth for more than 400,000 adult naturalized citizens in California, and each of these nations is the source of more than ten percent of all naturalized adults in the state. Immigrants from “Other Asia” have nearly 800,000 naturalized adults.³

Immigrants Eligible to Naturalize.

While immigrants from Mexico represent 27 percent of naturalized immigrants, they constitute nearly 40 percent of all immigrants who are eligible to naturalize but have not done so. Conversely, immigrants from China are about 10 percent of naturalized immigrants but only three percent of those eligible to naturalize. Immigrants from “Other Asia” are 19 percent of naturalized adults and almost 21 percent of immigrants eligible to naturalize. Immigrants from the Philippines are 12 percent of naturalized adults and six percent of immigrants eligible to naturalize. In addition, more than 150,000 immigrants from Central America are eligible to naturalize.

These statistics reflect different naturalization rates among the source countries and regions. In other words, immigrants from China are more likely to have naturalized than immigrants from Mexico, and so there are relatively more Chinese immigrants in the naturalized group, and relatively few in the group eligible to

TABLE 2

Estimates of Naturalized and Potentially Naturalized Immigrants in California: 2006

	Naturalized Adults (a)	Immigrants Eligible to Naturalize (b)
Total	4,151,339	2,300,000
Europe	401,490	200,040
China	425,167	69,165
Philippines	476,543	137,338
Vietnam	345,449	79,871
Other Asia	783,021	480,651
Mexico	1,104,264	914,225
El Salvador	140,008	75,567
Other Central America	136,844	75,879
Other Areas	338,553	267,263

(a) 2006 (b) based on 2004 statewide total
Source: American Community Survey; author’s estimates

TABLE 3

Country/Regional Percent of Naturalized and Potentially Naturalized Immigrants in California

	Percent of Naturalized Adults (a)	Percent of Immigrants Eligible to Naturalize (b)
Total	4,151,339	2,300,000
Europe	9.7%	8.7%
China	10.2%	3.0%
Philippines	11.5%	6.0%
Vietnam	8.3%	3.5%
Other Asia	18.9%	20.9%
Mexico	26.6%	39.7%
El Salvador	3.4%	3.3%
Other Central America	3.3%	3.3%
Other Areas	8.2%	11.6%

(a) 2006 (b) based on 2004 statewide total
Source: American Community Survey; author’s estimates

naturalize. For Mexicans, the opposite is true, but in recent years, Mexican naturalization rates have begun to increase. Naturalization rates are affected by a variety of factors including education and literacy levels, income, and length of residence in the United States.

³ Immigrant adults in California came from more than 100 countries around the world. Statistics on many of these countries are available in the American Community Survey, but due to sampling constraints, the numbers are unreliable for the smaller populations. Another data limitation is that the USCIS provides data on immigrants eligible to naturalize for only a select number of countries and regions. To ensure reliable data estimates and to match as closely as possible the USCIS categories, this report categorizes naturalized and naturalization-eligible immigrants into nine countries or geographic regions: Europe, China, Philippines, Vietnam, other Asian nations, Mexico, El Salvador, other Central America, and other world areas.

4

Half of California’s children ages 12 to 17 are children of immigrants.

Immigration is having a profound trans-generational effect on the demographics of California. An extraordinary 1.5 million young Californians—or **49 percent of all California children aged 12-17 years**—have an immigrant parent. These 1.5 million children include both U.S. citizens and noncitizens. (See Tables 4 and 5 and Figure 2.)

TABLE 4

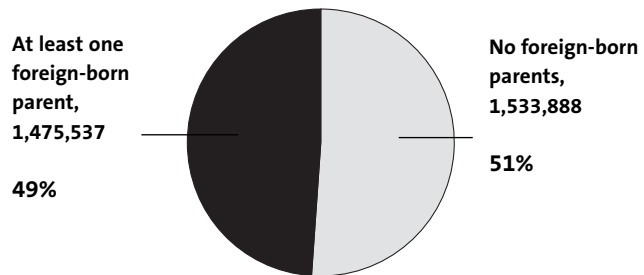
Half of California Children Aged 12-17 Have an Immigrant Parent

	Number	Percent of Total
Children aged 12-17	3,009,425	100.0%
No foreign-born parents	1,533,888	51.0%
At least one foreign-born parent	1,475,537	49.0%

Source: 2006 American Community Survey; author’s estimates

FIGURE 2

Half of California Children Aged 12-17 Have an Immigrant Parent



Source: 2006 American Community Survey; author’s estimates

TABLE 5

Minor Children of Immigrants in California Turning 18 by 2012

	Number	Percent of Total
Total	1,475,537	100.0%
Native Born	1,180,765	80.0%
Foreign-Born, Naturalized	56,724	3.8%
Foreign-Born, Noncitizen	238,048	16.1%

Source: 2006 American Community Survey; author’s estimates

5

Eighty-four percent of children of immigrants, or 1.2 million youth in the state, are U.S. citizens.

Of the 1.5 million children of immigrants ages 12-17, almost 84 percent or 1.2 million are U.S. citizens, either through birth or naturalization.

In the election cycles of 2008, 2010, and 2012, a significant number of these children will become eligible to vote. Using the 2006 American Community Survey data, the following age cohorts were created to estimate the waves of children coming of age in those three election periods:

Age Cohort	Becoming Adult in Year
16-17	2008
14-17	2010
12-17	2012

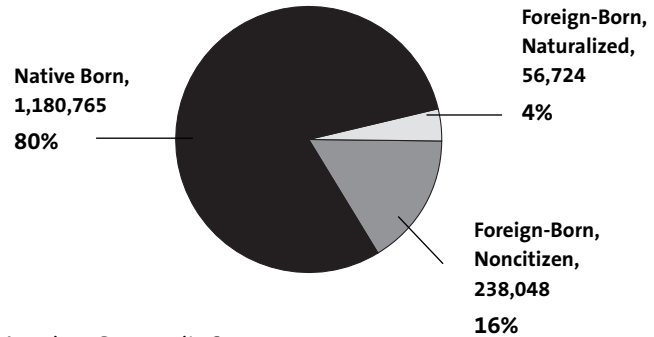
The largest of these cohorts are the children who will become voting age by the year 2012. Information on the other two age cohorts can be found in the appendices.

A large portion of U.S.-citizen children who will turn 18 by 2012 and who have an immigrant parent have at least one noncitizen parent. In fact, of the 1.2 million citizen children of immigrants, 20 percent have at least one noncitizen parent (and have another parent who is a citizen) and 34 percent have only noncitizens as parents.

As discussed earlier, the viewpoints and experiences of children of immigrants are likely to be shaped by their immigrant parents' experiences and immigration status. As a result, they are likely to be sympathetic to policies that protect the rights of immigrants and foster their full integration into society. (See Figures 3 and 4.)

FIGURE 3

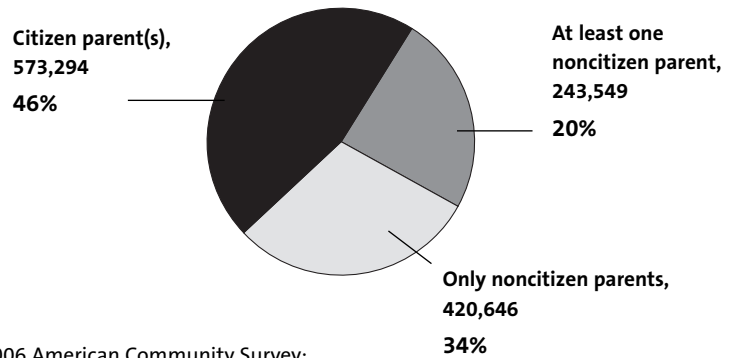
84% of California Children of Immigrants Turning 18 by 2012 Are Already U.S. Citizens



Source: 2006 American Community Survey; author's estimates

FIGURE 4

California U.S. Citizen Children of Immigrants Turning 18 by 2012: Most Have At Least One Noncitizen Parent



Source: 2006 American Community Survey; author's calculations

6

Most children of immigrants are Latino.

Latinos constitute the majority of the citizen children of immigrants, with 819,000 Latino citizen children representing two-thirds of all the citizen children of immigrants.⁴ Asian and white children also have significant representation among these children. About 237,000 Asian children in California aged 12-17 years are citizens; they constitute about a fifth of all children turning 18 by 2012. White non-Latinos number 123,000 and are about 10 percent of all children turning 18 by 2012. (See Table 6.)

TABLE 6

Race/Ethnicity of California U.S. Citizen Children of Immigrants Turning 18 by 2012

	Number	Percent of Total
Total	1,237,489	100.0%
White not Latino	127,757	10.3%
Latino	818,682	66.2%
Asian not Latino	236,882	19.1%
Black not Latino	13,021	1.1%
Other not Latino	41,147	3.3%

Source: 2006 American Community Survey

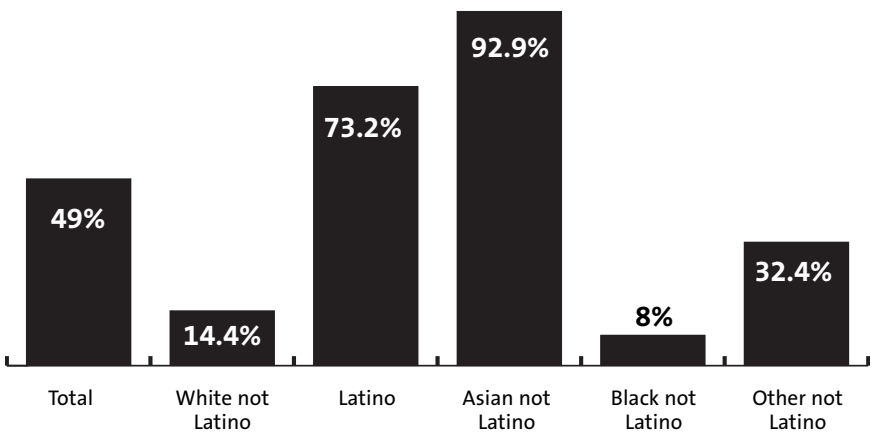
7

Nearly all Asian children in California, aged 12-17, have an immigrant parent.

When the proportion of children of immigrants is categorized by race/ethnicity, the results are striking, particularly for children of Asian heritage. **Nearly 93 percent of the California's Asian-American children ages 12-17 have an immigrant parent.** Among Latino citizen children, some 73 percent have an immigrant parent. (See Figure 5 and Table 7.)

FIGURE 5

Large Majorities of California's Asian and Latino Children Aged 12-17 Have an Immigrant Parent



Source: 2006 American Community Survey

⁴ Adult immigrants were analyzed based on the country/region in which they were born. A comparable analysis is substantially more complicated for the children of immigrants because, for example, some children have two parents, each of whom came from a different country. So to further understand the characteristics of the children of immigrants, the analysis focused on the racial/ethnic group to which they belong, rather than their parents' country or countries of origin. The analysis here, therefore, is restricted to the 1.2 million children aged 12-17 in 2006 who themselves are U.S. citizens.

TABLE 7

Large Majorities of California's Asian and Latino Children Aged 12-17 Have an Immigrant Parent

	Children Aged 12-17	No foreign-born parents	At least one foreign-born parent	Percent with an Immigrant Parent
Total	3,009,425	1,533,888	1,475,537	49.0%
White not Latino	1,039,269	889,433	149,836	14.4%
Latino	1,337,577	357,950	979,627	73.2%
Asian not Latino	309,898	22,081	287,817	92.9%
Black not Latino	190,298	174,983	15,315	8.0%
Other not Latino	132,383	89,441	42,942	32.4%

Source: 2006 American Community Survey

8

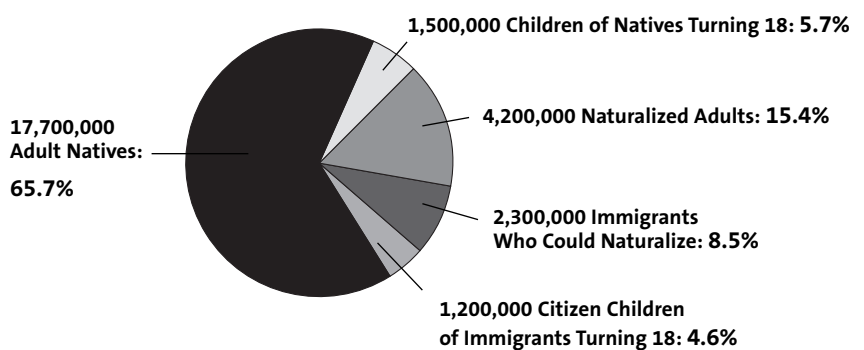
Immigrants and their young-adult children could potentially represent 29 percent of California voters.

This report separately discusses the naturalized adult population, the number of naturalization-eligible immigrants, and the U.S.-citizen children of immigrants turning 18 by the 2012 elections. Combining these three populations gives a composite, “immigrant-inclusive” picture of the potential impact of immigration, particularly with regard to the potential voting population.

The sum of all potential voters in California in 2012—regardless of place of birth—will equal an estimated 26.9 million persons. This total pool of potential voters will include some 7.7 million immigrants and their young-adult children,⁵ making the immigrant-inclusive population a striking **28.5 percent of all California voters.** (See Figure 6.)

FIGURE 6

California's Potential Electorate in 2012



The “Immigrant-Inclusive” Electorate Represents 28.5% of Voters

Source: 2006 American Community Survey; author’s calculations

⁵ The term “young-adult” is used here to refer to persons who will be 18 to 23 years of age in 2012.

9

In seven California counties, the immigrant-inclusive electorate exceeds 250,000.

The potential size of immigrant voters and their children exceeds a quarter of a million in seven California counties: Alameda, Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Diego, and Santa Clara. Potential immigrant voters and their children exceed 100,000 persons in a total of 15 counties statewide. (See Table 8 and the subsequent maps.)

TABLE 8***The Potential for Immigration-Based Civic Participation in California Counties***

	A	B	C	
	12-17 Years Old in 2006, Turning 18 by 2012	Immigrants Eligible to Naturalize	Total Naturalized Adults	Total, Columns A-C
California	1,237,489	2,300,000	4,151,339	7,688,828
Alameda County	43,583	124,356	214,835	382,774
Alpine County	15	26	17	59
Amador County	205	602	630	1,436
Butte County	3,747	2,885	6,572	13,204
Calaveras County	278	565	633	1,475
Colusa County	786	1,770	1,235	3,792
Contra Costa County	28,036	53,114	112,736	193,886
Del Norte County	365	828	938	2,131
El Dorado County	2,090	1,867	6,384	10,341
Fresno County	32,155	45,537	61,313	139,005
Glenn County	812	1,547	1,416	3,775
Humboldt County	851	2,647	2,854	6,352
Imperial County	8,692	6,991	17,007	32,690
Inyo County	216	415	336	967
Kern County	25,879	34,837	45,516	106,232
Kings County	2,778	6,567	7,205	16,550
Lake County	558	1,787	2,029	4,374
Lassen County	204	971	1,040	2,215
Los Angeles County	457,722	755,621	1,506,371	2,719,714
LA City-North Valley	41,813	60,806	132,939	235,558
LA City-South Valley	24,262	63,304	110,694	198,260
LA City-West Los Angeles	7,925	31,459	63,467	102,851
LA City-Central	28,938	99,871	116,967	245,776
LA City-East	19,030	34,576	60,820	114,426
LA City-South Los Angeles	43,065	64,838	62,609	170,512
LA City-Harbor	8,249	12,960	21,406	42,615
LA County-Antelope Valley/Newhall	21,122	25,387	51,309	97,818
LA County-Santa Monica/Calabasas	8,711	15,644	48,964	73,319
LA County-Upper San Gabriel/Pasadena	32,676	77,163	195,578	305,417
LA County-East San Gabriel	46,809	60,277	162,827	269,913
LA County-Southeast/SW San Gabriel	55,444	71,763	146,718	273,925
LA County-Downey-Norwalk/Whittier	42,394	37,928	122,847	203,169
LA County-Inglewood/Compton	36,415	47,038	79,906	163,359
LA County-Long Beach/Torrance	40,869	52,605	129,320	222,794

TABLE 8 *continued*

The Potential for Immigration-Based Civic Participation in California Counties

	A	B	C	
	12-17 Years Old in 2006, Turning 18 by 2012	Immigrants Eligible to Naturalize	Total Naturalized Adults	Total, Columns A-C
Madera County	4,862	6,500	6,135	17,497
Marin County	3,647	15,931	22,916	42,494
Mariposa County	124	289	291	703
Mendocino County	1,175	3,309	3,646	8,130
Merced County	11,479	15,531	20,117	47,127
Modoc County	84	233	225	542
Mono County	122	319	299	741
Monterey County	15,713	25,366	34,097	75,175
Napa County	2,319	8,140	10,330	20,789
Nevada County	85	929	1,383	2,398
Orange County	109,116	221,985	389,769	720,870
Placer County	2,428	8,670	14,378	25,476
Plumas County	21	203	303	528
Riverside County	68,096	104,337	157,611	330,044
Sacramento County	29,735	82,519	112,126	224,380
San Benito County	2,747	3,487	4,632	10,866
San Bernardino County	71,680	99,877	159,910	331,467
San Diego County	85,107	145,662	302,194	532,963
San Francisco County	18,080	48,937	165,743	232,760
San Joaquin County	19,283	38,372	57,851	115,506
San Luis Obispo County	1,848	4,166	11,082	17,096
San Mateo County	19,734	50,506	126,907	197,147
Santa Barbara County	11,357	20,480	30,913	62,750
Santa Clara County	58,846	193,207	287,855	539,908
Santa Cruz County	6,914	10,595	14,807	32,316
Shasta County	1,070	924	2,736	4,730
Sierra County	4	37	52	92
Siskiyou County	377	1,069	1,045	2,491
Solano County	8,082	16,638	35,989	60,709
Sonoma County	9,243	23,377	27,452	60,072
Stanislaus County	16,117	26,123	38,101	80,341
Sutter County	1,419	3,243	6,780	11,442
Tehama County	1,129	1,668	1,934	4,731
Trinity County	156	116	311	584
Tulare County	15,714	23,276	25,360	64,350
Tuolumne County	339	901	945	2,185
Ventura County	25,823	38,390	68,733	132,946
Yolo County	3,439	9,921	13,991	27,351
Yuba County	1,004	1,834	3,323	6,161

Source: 2006 American Community Survey

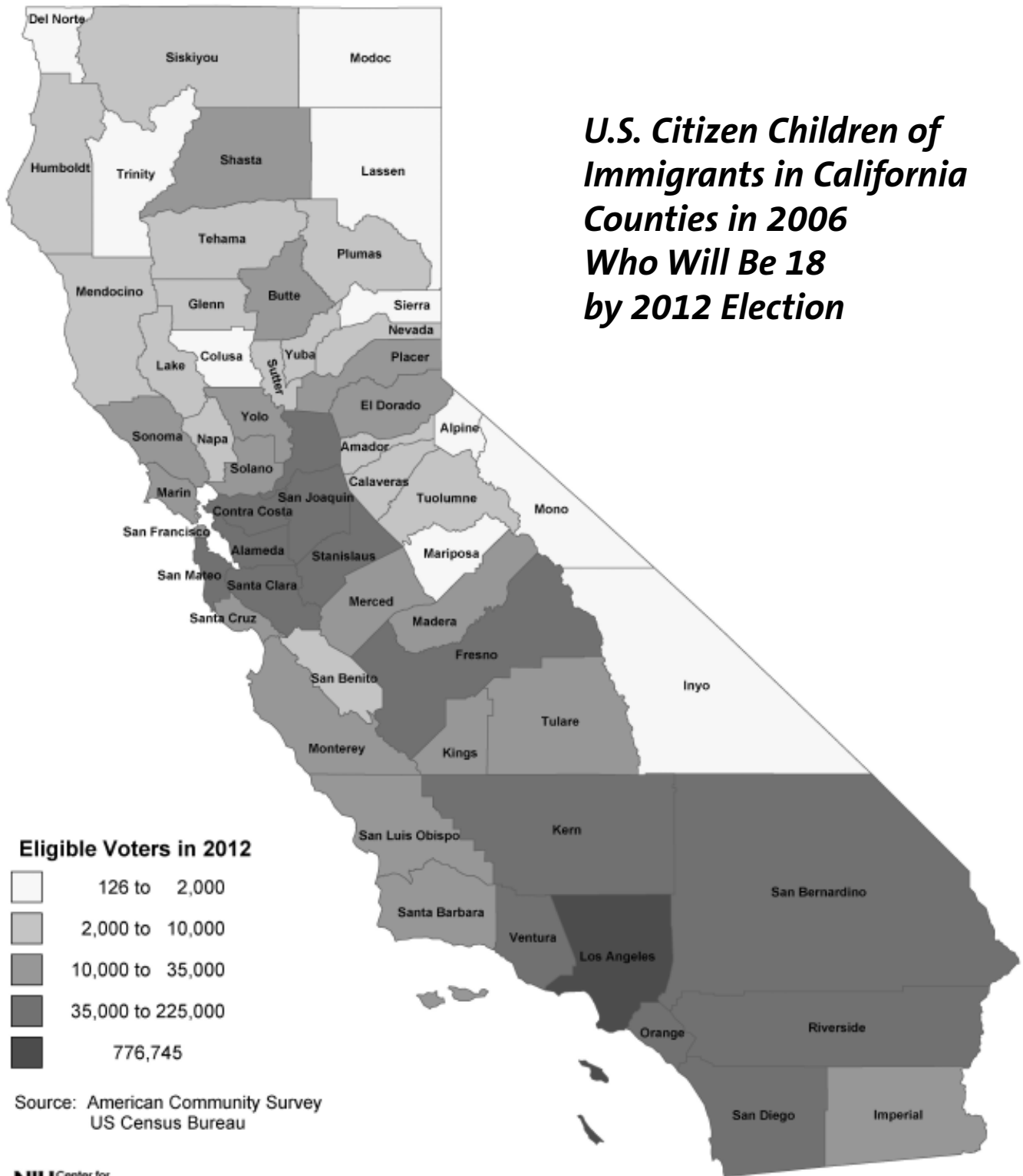
Naturalized Adult Immigrants in California Counties 2006



Legal Immigrants in California Counties Eligible to Naturalize 2004



U.S. Citizen Children of Immigrants in California Counties in 2006 Who Will Be 18 by 2012 Election



10

Immigrants and their children are a potentially large portion of voters in both Democratic and Republican districts.

Using an “immigrant-inclusive” framework, immigrants and their children would constitute large portions of potential voters in both Democratic and Republican districts. They would represent more than one in three voters in California Assembly and Senate districts currently held by Democrats, and more than one in five voters in districts currently held by Republicans in both the Assembly and Senate.⁶ (See Table 9.)

TABLE 9

Impact of an “Immigrant-Inclusive” California Electorate in 2012: By State House and Political Party

	Potential Electorate in 2012	Immigrants and Their Adult Children ¹	“Immigrant-Inclusive” Percent
Statewide	26,912,798	7,688,828	28.6% ²
Senate			
Democrats ³	16,039,455	5,509,344	34.3%
Republicans	10,873,342	2,179,483	20.0%
Assembly			
Democrats	15,302,789	5,262,439	34.4%
Republicans	11,610,009	2,426,390	20.9%

1 “Adult Children” include young citizens who have immigrant parent(s) and who are turning 18 years of age by 2012.

2 Naturalized adult immigrants and their U.S. citizen children could be 29 percent of all voters **if naturalization and voter education efforts are in place.**

3 Party affiliation here refers to current elected officials holding office in the Senate and Assembly, not to voters.

Source: Author’s calculations

6 In the table, “Democrats” and “Republicans” refer to the elected officials currently holding office; the terms do not refer to the political affiliation of immigrant voters.

CONCLUSION

Every Californian has a stake in the timely integration of immigrants into local communities. The demographic trends in this report make clear that integration is a social, economic, and civic imperative, not only for California as a whole but for each and every county in the state. Successful integration holds the potential to strengthen the social fabric of California, invigorate its democracy, and increase its economic vitality and global competitiveness.

As immigrants continue to arrive and their children continue to grow into adulthood, the need for integration efforts will intensify. The sheer size of the

immigrant population—coupled with the multi-faceted nature of the challenges and opportunities—demands a coordinated response through multi-sector partnerships. Policymakers, grantmakers, advocates, service providers, and others concerned about fostering healthy communities in California will want to consider what role they can play to promote immigrant integration.

Immigrant civic participation strategies will vary depending on the different groups involved. Legal immigrants most need English and civics instruction and naturalization application assistance. Naturalized immigrants may require voter registration, as well as education on the political process

and how they can become involved in community affairs. The children of immigrants, meanwhile, like all young persons in the United States, would benefit from civic education efforts that explain the value and impact of registering and voting—and generally becoming more engaged in civic life. These strategies need to be implemented at the local, county, and state levels. Some may best be targeted locally, while others might be statewide initiatives or efforts that work across different ethnic communities.

By investing in immigrant integration, California can reap the benefits of immigration and emerge a stronger state.

Procedure for Determining Immigrant Characteristics in California State Legislative Districts

This procedure involves 2006 American Community Survey (ACS) data at the Public Use Microdata (PUMA) level for California.

The ACS provides information on children of immigrants who are U.S. citizens,⁷ on naturalized adult immigrants, and on the period of entry of noncitizens. All these data are available for the country/world region populations that are the focus of this analysis. The data on period of entry of noncitizens is used to apportion statewide estimates of these populations.

Data from the PUMAs are assigned into California state legislative districts using a geographic equivalency file that indicates which blocks in each PUMA are found within each legislative district. This block information is used to assign the PUMA variables described above, by race/ethnicity, into the legislative districts.

Procedure for Estimating County-Level Characteristics

ACS data for 2006 used in this report are available for the 233 Public Use Microdata Areas (PUMAs) in California. In 34 of the 58 California counties, microdata for one or more PUMAs can be summed to individual counties. For example, data for 67 PUMAs are combined into Los Angeles County.

PUMAs consist of more than one county for the remaining 24 counties. For example, PUMA 00400 consists of Lake and Mendocino counties. For these areas, PUMA data are apportioned into counties by Race/Latino characteristics. These counties, which mostly do not figure among areas with large immigration populations, include:

Alpine	Inyo	Mono	Siskiyou
Amador	Lake	Monterey	Sutter
Calaveras	Lassen	Nevada	Tehama
Colusa	Mariposa	Plumas	Trinity
Del Norte	Mendocino	San Benito	Tuolumne
Glenn	Modoc	Sierra	Yuba

Procedure for Estimating Immigrants Eligible to Naturalize

Determine California Populations with Sufficient Samples in the American Community Survey

This procedure begins with acquiring a statewide estimate of immigrants belonging to countries and world regions for which sufficient records are available in the 2006 American Community Survey. These populations include: Mexico, El Salvador, Other Central America, Philippines, China, Vietnam, Other Asia, Europe, and other areas.

Determine National Estimates by Country and Region

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Office of Immigration Statistics, provides national estimates of the number of legal immigrants eligible to naturalize.⁸ These estimates are for specific countries, and these data are aggregated to match the countries/world regions for which ACS data are available in California. The DHS data include about one million persons whose country of origin is not reported. Ninety percent of this number is distributed across the major regions of Asia, Europe and Latin America, based on these regions' representation among the foreign-born population in 2006. The remaining amount is included among an "other" category.

Apportion National Estimates to California

The national estimates of countries/regions eligible to naturalize are apportioned based on California's share of these populations in

the American Community Survey. For example, California has 38 percent of the national Mexican immigrant population in 2006, and so the state is assigned 38 percent of the national estimate of Mexicans eligible to naturalize. This apportionment led to an initial estimate of 2.1 million immigrants eligible to naturalize, a number that is quite close to the 2.3 million such immigrants estimated by DHS to be in California. The difference between the initial estimate and that of DHS across the major world regions is then apportioned based on their share of the California foreign-born population as reported in the ACS.

Distribute Statewide California Estimates across Legislative Districts and Counties

A portion of the statewide estimate of legal immigrants eligible to naturalize is assigned to individual California state legislative districts and to counties based on these geographic areas' share of noncitizens who entered the United States in the 1990-2006 period. This period-of-entry cohort is used because the Department of Homeland Security reports that 79.9 percent of immigrants eligible to naturalize entered the U.S. in this period.⁹ The assignment process is repeated for each of the countries/world regions that are the focus of this report.

7 The analysis includes "own children" in families and children in sub-families.

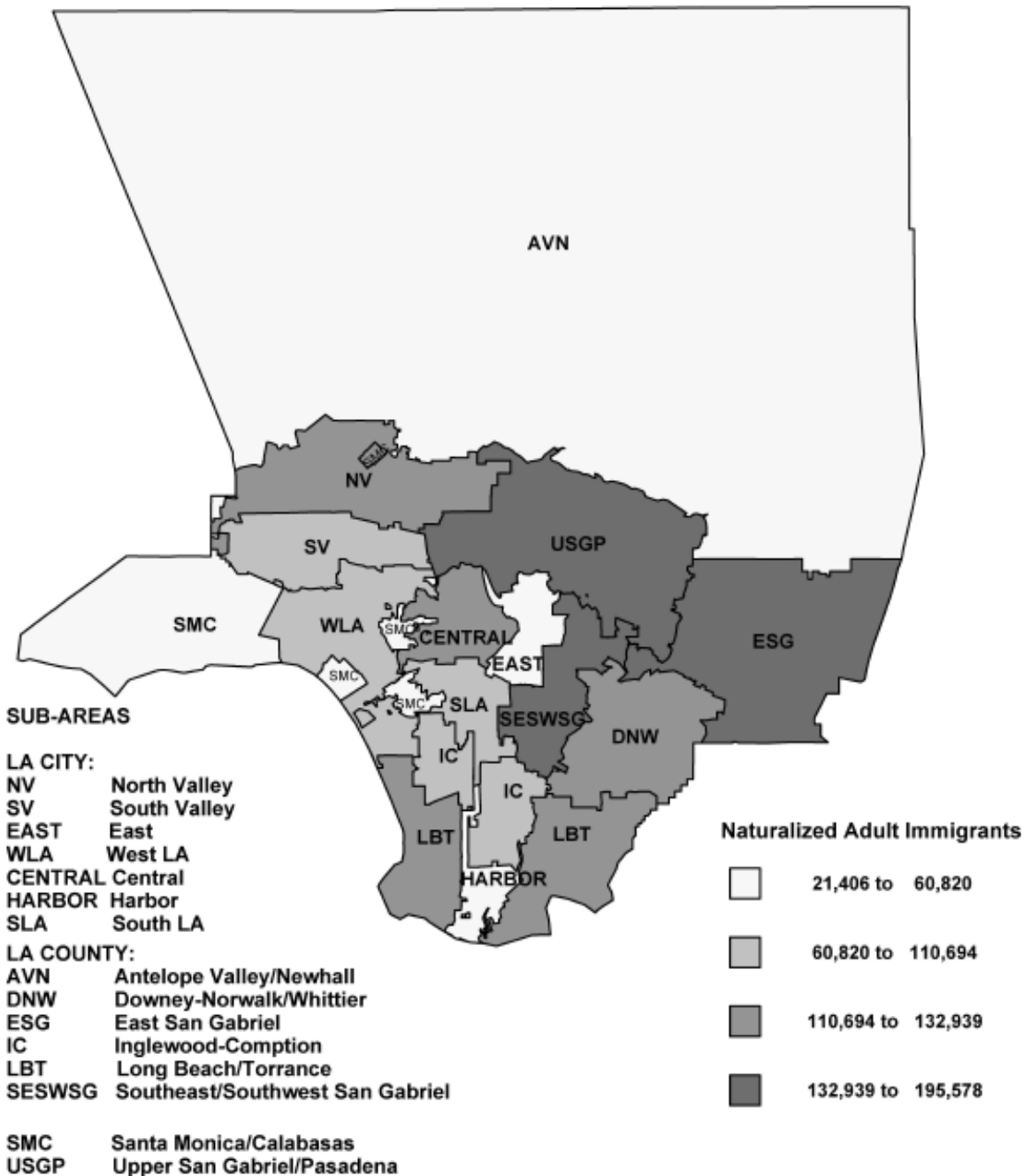
8 U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Office of Immigration Statistics 2006 "Estimates of the Legal Permanent Resident Population and the Population Eligible to Naturalize in 2004" Washington, DC <http://www.dhs.gov/xlibrary/assets/statistics/publications/LPRest2004.pdf>

9 Ibid. Table 3.

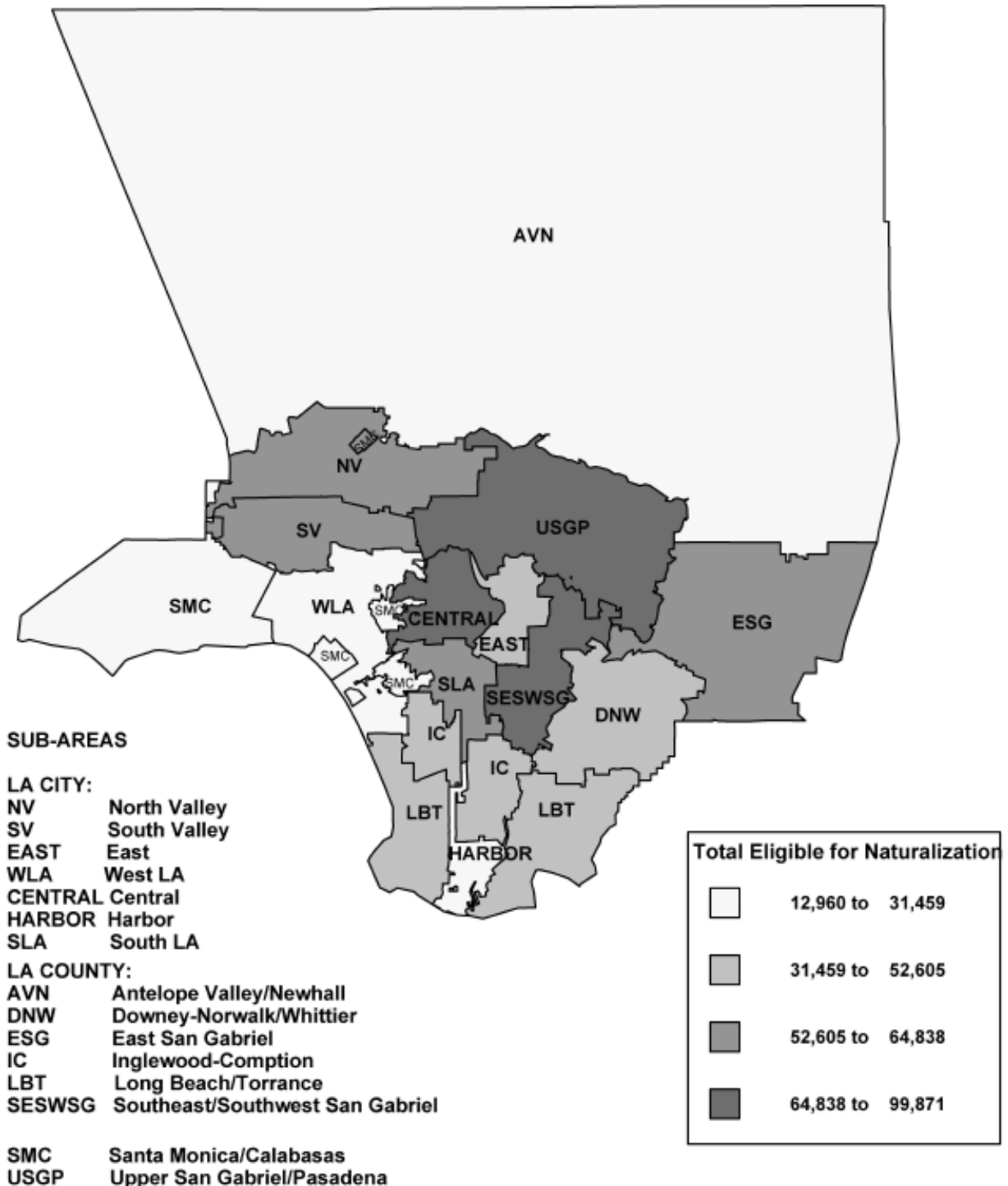
ADDITIONAL MAPS

The following pages include maps of the three key indicators of immigrant civic potential for Los Angeles sub-regions and outline maps of state legislative districts.

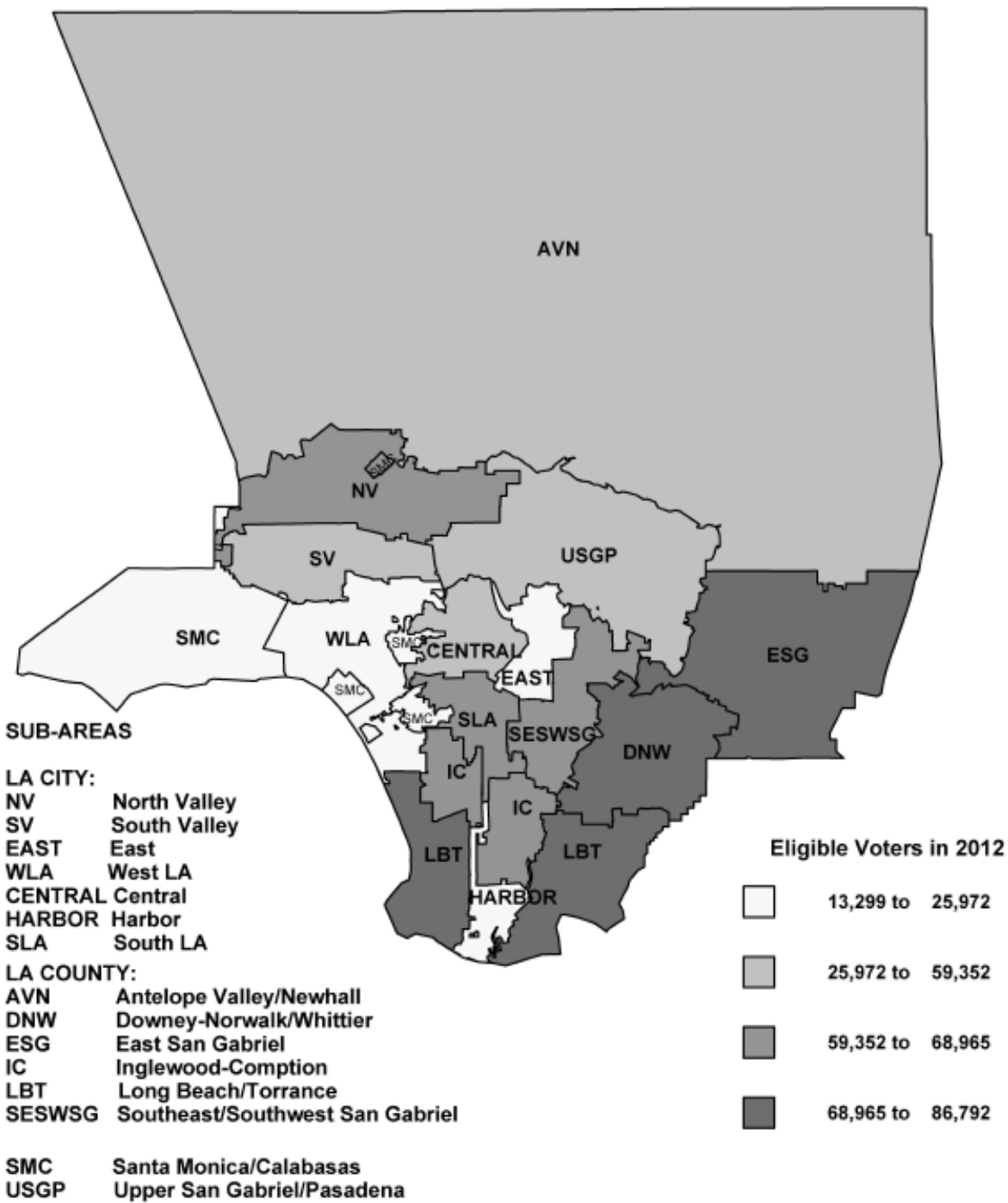
Naturalized Adult Immigrants in Los Angeles City and County Sub-Areas



Legal Immigrants Eligible to Naturalize Los Angeles City and County Sub-Areas



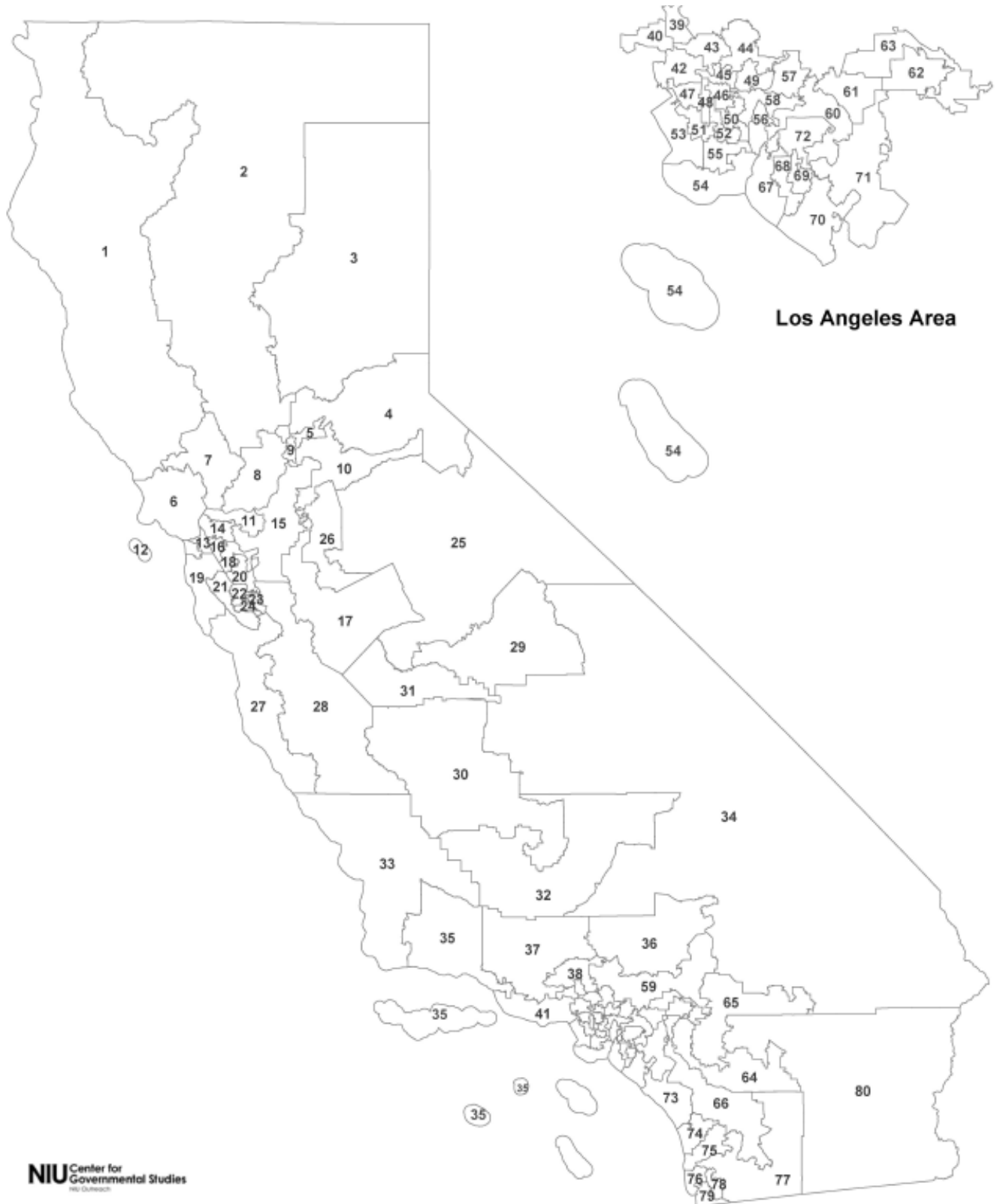
***U.S. Citizen Children of Immigrants in Los Angeles
City and County Sub-Areas Turning 18 by 2012 Election***



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GCIR Staff

Frances Caballo, Research and
Communications Director
frances@gcir.org • 707.544.4171

Rebecca Dames, Research and
Program Associate
rebecca@gcir.org • 213.346.3275

Alison De Lucca, Program Director
alison@gcir.org • 213.346.3275

Amanda Graves, Membership and
Administration Associate
amanda@gcir.org • 707.824.4374

Daranee Petsod, Executive Director
daranee@gcir.org • 707.824.4375

Acknowledgments

This report was made possible with support from Evelyn & Walter Haas, Jr. Fund, Rosenberg Foundation, Silicon Valley Community Foundation, The California Endowment, The San Francisco Foundation, van Löben Sels/RembeRock Foundation, and Zellerbach Family Foundation.

Special thanks to Lina Avidan and Henry Der for their editorial assistance. Our appreciation goes to the project's principal researcher and writer, Rob Paral of Rob Paral and Associates (www.robparal.com or 773.506.7308). We are also grateful to Michael Norkewicz of Rob Paral and Associates for developing the innovative methodology that assigned the 2006 American Community Survey data to state legislative districts.

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P.O. Box 1100
Sebastopol, CA 95473
707.824.4374
info@gcir.org
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