

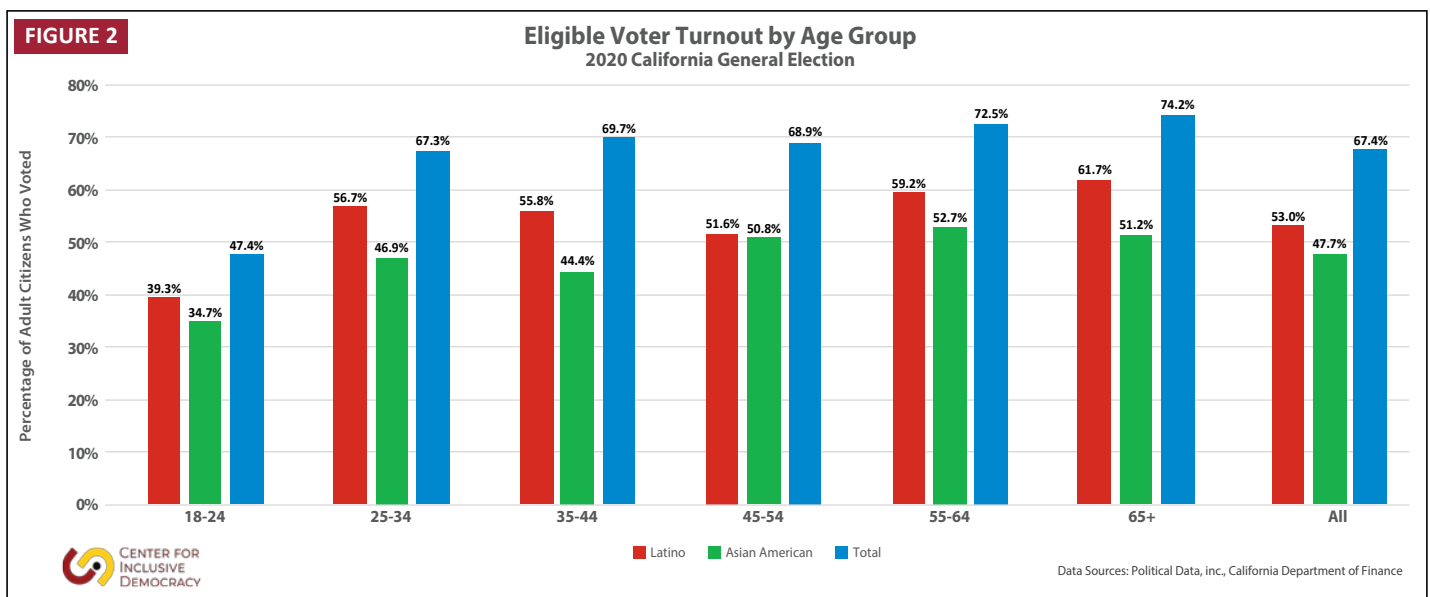
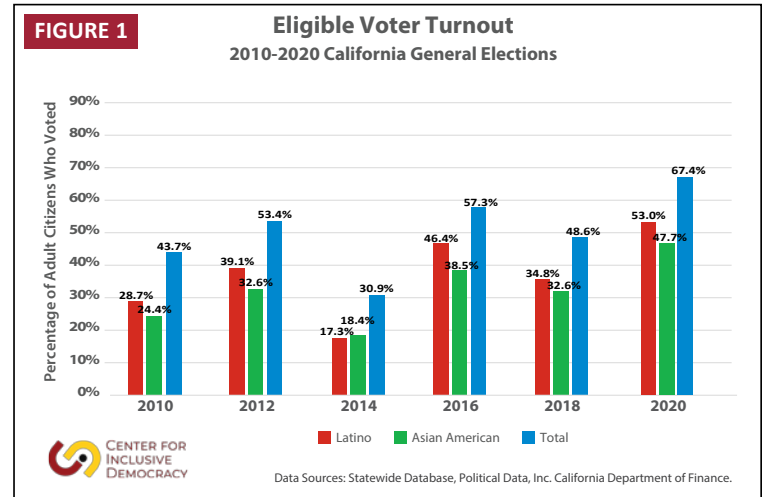
November 2020 General Election: Latino and Asian-American Vote



This Center for Inclusive Democracy fact sheet provides highlights of the participation of Latinos and Asian Americans in California’s 2020 general election.

Widening Turnout Gap in 2020

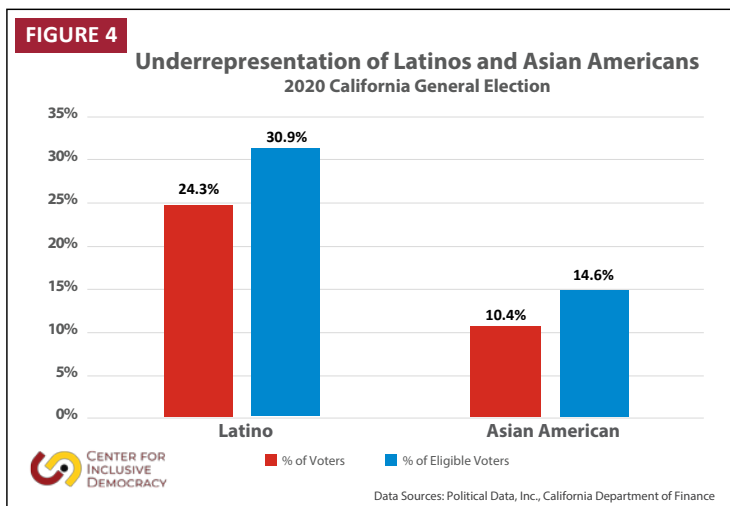
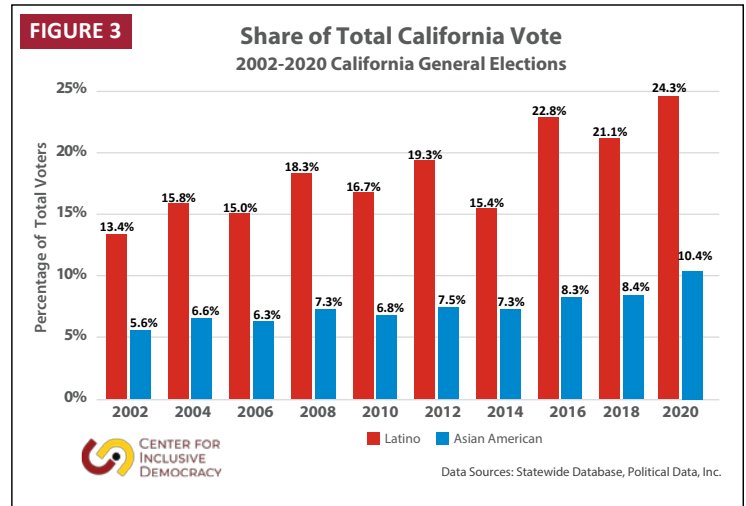
- According to the [California Secretary of State](#), in the 2020 general election, California saw the highest turnout of the eligible voting age population since the 1952 General Election.
- Our analysis found that the total eligible turnout rate (percentage of adult citizens who voted) for the California general election was 67.4% - up 10 percentage points over the 2016 general.
- Latinos and Asian Americans also experienced a significant increase in their eligible voter turnout rate compared to the prior presidential general election.¹ However, this increase was not as high as the increase seen in turnout for the total population.
- Latino eligible turnout was 53.0% in 2020 compared with 46.4% in 2016. Asian-American eligible turnout was 47.7% in 2020, while it was 38.5% turnout in 2016.
- The difference between the eligible voter turnout rates for Latinos and the total population increased to 14.4 percentage points in 2020 compared to a 10.9 percentage point gap in 2016.
- The difference between the eligible voter turnout rates for Asian Americans and the total population increased to 19.7 percentage points in 2020 compared to a 18.8 percentage point gap in 2016.
- In 2020, the eligible turnout rate for all Californians who are not Latino and not Asian American (comparable data is not available broken out for white and Blacks) was 80.9%. This population’s eligible turnout rate increased from 66.3% in 2016.²



- In the 2020 general election, eligible voter turnout of Latino and Asian-American youth (age 18-24) remained lower than the turnout of youth overall. Both Latino and Asian-American youth had similar eligible turnout rates at 39.3% and 34.7%, respectively. Overall, youth eligible turnout was 47.4% in 2020.
- In the 2020 general election, the difference in the eligible turnout rates between Asian-American youth and older Asian Americans age 65-74 (the age group with the highest turnout rate) was 16.5 percentage points. For Latinos, the difference in eligible turnout rates for the same age groups was 22.4 percentage points.

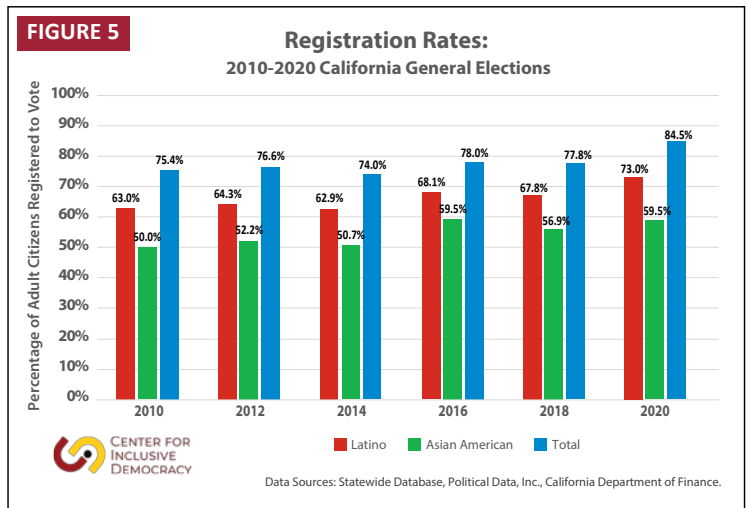
Highest Latino and Asian-American Share of Voters in 2020

- Despite the turnout gap in the 2020 election, the Latino and Asian-American share of California's voters increased from 22.8% to 24.3% for Latinos, and from 8.3% to 10.4% for Asian Americans.
- Driven by population growth, the Latino and Asian-American shares of California's voters in the 2020 general election were the highest of any California statewide general election since at least 2002 (the earliest these election data are available).
- However, Latinos and Asian Americans continue to be underrepresented in California's voting electorate compared to their share of the state's eligible voter population (adult citizens). At 10.4%, the Asian-American share of California's 2020 general election voters is smaller than the Asian-American share of the state's eligible voter population at 14.6%. For Latinos, their share of California's 2020 general election voters was 24.3%, smaller than their share of the state's eligible voter population at 30.5%.



- The registration rate (percentage of citizens who are registered to vote) immediately prior to the 2020 general election reached 84.5%.³ The registration rate was 73.0% for Latinos and 59.5% for Asian Americans – an increase over the registration rate for these groups in the 2016 midterm general election (68.1% and 59.5% respectively).

- One significant challenge for Latinos and Asian Americans turning out to vote, is their continuing low registration rates compared to the total population. In 2020, the difference in registration rates between Latinos and Asian Americans and the overall population was 11.5 percentage points and 25 percentage points, respectively.



About the Center for Inclusive Democracy (CID)

Center for Inclusive Democracy (CID), formerly California Civic Engagement Project, is a nonpartisan research center serving the U.S. Founded and directed by Dr. Mindy S. Romero, CID moved to the USC Price School of Public Policy, Sacramento, California in 2018. CID conducts a range of national and multi-state research initiatives exploring voting behavior, civic engagement, electoral and economic research, the intersection of social justice and democracy, and more. Inclusive civic and political participation is critical in addressing disparities in social and economic well-being, and can improve health, education and employment outcomes.

1. Latinos and Asian Americans are distinguished in the voter data sources from the general population by a Spanish and Asian-American surname analysis which identify registrants with commonly occurring Spanish and Asian surnames. Although surname matching has a high degree of accuracy, the Statewide Database acknowledges there are some [drawbacks to the method, particularly in the identification of Asian-American sub-groups](#).
2. A breakdown of voter data specifically for whites and African Americans is not available with these data sources. This population is 84% white in California during 2020.
3. The official state registration rate reported by the California Secretary of State as of October 19, 2020 was 87.9%.

For more information about this research study, contact Mindy Romero, CID Director, at msromero@usc.edu.

Data sources: Statewide Database, Political Data, Inc., and California Department of Finance For study methodology, see CID website.