OVERVIEW

Orange County was the first jurisdiction to provide precinct level election results for the June 5, 2018 Primary Election in California. Orange County provides an important lens to understand voter preferences, voter turnout, and the role of the State’s plurality in driving candidates of choice to the November 2018 General Election. According to PDI there are 300,000 Latino voters in OC.

METHODOLOGY

LPPI analyzed precinct level data for all precincts in Orange County, California from the June 2014 and June 2018 primary elections to assess the following:

1. Latino vote choice in Orange County’s two contested Congressional races: California District 39 and 48 and;
2. Change in Latino votes cast from June 2014 to June 2018 across two Congressional Districts

This analysis focuses on a total of 30 precincts in California Districts 39 and 48 where Latinos make up 40 percent or more of the registered voters in each precinct, to best assess the impact of Latino voters on these two important contested Congressional races.

FINDINGS

- In Orange County districts where Latinos make up more than 40 percent of the precinct’s registered voters, turnout increased in 2018 as compared to the June 2014 primary election. This was particularly true for California District 39, which included two Latino Congressional candidates.

- In California District 39, support is much stronger for Gilbert Cisneros (D) in precincts where Latinos make up 40 percent or more of registered voters. Support is stronger for Young Kim (R) in precincts where Latinos are less than 40 percent of registered voters.

- In California District 48, there were not major differences in support for the leading Democratic candidates. Hans Keirstead (D) led Harley Rouda (D) by 5 points where Latinos make up 40 percent or more of registered voters. However Republican Dana Rohrabacher received a very low share of just 13% in areas with more Latino voters.

VOTE CHOICE

CALIFORNIA DISTRICT 39: There are a total number of 254 precincts in California District 39. Of those, 24 precincts have 40 percent or more Latino registered voters (“Latino precincts”). To compare the impact of the Latino vote on the California District 39 race, LPPI assessed the vote preference of the 24 Latino precincts as compared to the 254 precincts where Latinos make up less than 40 percent of registered voters. This analysis suggests Cisneros received substantially more votes in precincts the 24 Latino precincts than in 254 non-Latino precincts.
Table 1. Voter Preferences in California District 39

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Gilbert Cisneros (D)</th>
<th>Young Kim (R)</th>
<th>Phil Liberatore (R)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Precincts &gt;=40% Latino</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Precincts &lt;40% Latino</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**CALIFORNIA DISTRICT 48**: There a total of 415 precincts in California District 48, and only 6 where Latinos make up 40 percent or more of the precinct’s registered voters (“Latino precincts”). Comparing the 6 Latino precincts to the 409 non-Latino precincts, the data suggest voter support is strongest for Hans Keirstead (D) in the Latino precincts than non-Latino precincts. Yet, the same is not true of the other Democratic front-runner, Harley Rouda, who received more support in non-Latino precincts than Latino precincts, noting he received the same amount of support (13 percent) in the Latino precincts as Republican incumbent Dana Rohrabacher.

Table 2. Voter Preferences in California District 48

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Hans Keirstead (D) (D)</th>
<th>Harley Rouda (D)</th>
<th>Dana Rohrabacher (R)</th>
<th>Scott Baugh (R)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Precincts&gt;=40% Latino</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Precincts&lt;=40% Latino</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**VOTER TURNOUT**

In June 2018, Latino voter turnout increased in critical precincts within Orange County’s California Districts 39 and 48, as compared to June 2014 Latino turnout. California District 39, which included two Latino Democratic Congressional candidates, experienced a substantial increase in turnout among heavily Latino precincts. The regression line shows that as the percent Latino registered voters in a precinct increases, turnout in the 2018 primary increases as well. Latino voters were critical in Gilbert Cisneros’ second-place finish, ensuring he will be on the November 6, 2018 General Election ballot facing Republican candidate Young Kim.

Figure 1: Change in Voter Turnout in California Districts 39 & 48 Between June 2014 and June 2018

![Change in Voter Turnout](image)