Opportunities and Challenges Facing California with the 2021 California Recall

SONJA DIAZ, JD, MPP
MISAEL GALDAMEZ, MCP
MICHAEL RIOS, MPP
JULY 14, 2021
CONTRIBUTORS

SONJA DIAZ, JD, MPP  
Founding Director

MICHAEL RIOS, MPP  
Research Analyst

MISAEL GALDAMEZ, MCP  
Research Analyst
WHAT’S AT STAKE:
CALIFORNIA’S POLITICAL LANDSCAPE

RACIAL/ETHNIC COMPOSITION OF ELIGIBLE AND REGISTERED VOTERS IN 2021 RECALL

CHANGES IN THE COMPOSITION OF THE CALIFORNIA ELECTORATE BETWEEN 2002 AND 2022
California Recall in the Context of a Youthful & Diverse Electorate that Remains Invisible in Shaping Tailored Public Policy

- The 2021 recall is an opportunity to build lasting relationships with California’s non-white electorate that should not be wasted.

- Since the last California recall election, UCLA LPPI estimates that there has been nearly a 126% increase of Latino voters and 94% increase for Asian American voters. During the past 20 years, the white voting population in California was largely unchanged.

- Failure to build a strategy targeting growing Latino and Asian American voters is done at a campaign’s peril; mobilizing voters in an off-cycle election will grow engagement for elections to come.
Californian’s Over and Under Age 18 by Race/Ethnicity

- Latinos: 10.9mn Under 18, 4.6mn 18 and Older
- Asian-American: 4.8mn Under 18, 1mn 18 and Older
- Black: 1.8mn Under 18, 473k 18 and Older
- Non-Hispanic White: 2.3mn Under 18, 12.1mn 18 and Older

Source: 2019 American Community Survey, 1-Year Estimates

- Together, Asian Americans and Latinos have twice as many under 18 residents as white Californians.
- These youthful and diverse electorates are fundamental to shaping electoral outcomes in California.
- California has the largest number of Latino and Asian American voters in the country.
2020 saw historic turnouts for all voters; California’s diverse voters were no exception.

Table 1. California’s Eligible Voters, Total Registered Voters, & Total Number of Voters Who Cast a Ballot in 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Statewide Total</th>
<th>White (non-Hispanic or Latino)</th>
<th>Latino</th>
<th>Asian</th>
<th>Black</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>N</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>%/Total</td>
<td>N</td>
<td>%/Total</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Citizen Population</td>
<td>25,946,000</td>
<td>11,685,000</td>
<td>45.0%</td>
<td>8,305,000</td>
<td>32.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Registered Voters</td>
<td>18,001,000</td>
<td>9,133,000</td>
<td>50.7%</td>
<td>5,014,000</td>
<td>27.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Voted</td>
<td>16,893,000</td>
<td>8,711,000</td>
<td>51.6%</td>
<td>4,539,000</td>
<td>26.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Estimated Racial/Ethnic Composition of Eligible and Registered voters in the 2021 Recall Election
2021 California Recall: Eligible, Registered, and Share of Estimated Votes by Race/Ethnicity

- Despite being 45% of all eligible voters, whites are estimated to be 57% of all voters during the 2021 Recall election.

- Older voters and whites are typically engaged and targeted at much higher rates in off-year and special elections.

- Black, Asian American, and Latino voters receive less outreach during non-presidential years.

Projected 2021 voters estimated by LPPI researchers based on 2020 Census, Political Data, Inc. data, and historical voting patterns.
Changes in the Composition of the California Electorate between 2002 and 2022 Midterm Elections
Changes Among **Eligible Voters** by Race/Ethnicity in California, 2002-2022

- Black, Asian American, and Latino voters are projected to grow their shares of eligible voters between 2002 and 2022, while the share of white eligible voters is estimated to decrease.

- Over the last two decades, Latino and Asian American voters are projected to account for the largest share of new eligible voters in California.

Changes Among **Registered Voters** by Race/Ethnicity in California, 2002-2022

- The number of Latino, Asian American, and Black registered voters is estimated to increase by 2022.
- Since 2002, Latino and Asian American voters are projected to account for the largest share of newly registered voters in California.

**Number of Registered Voters**

- **White**
  - 2002: 7,994,000
  - 2022: 7,914,700
- **Latino**
  - 2002: 2,017,000
  - 2022: 4,565,900
- **Asian**
  - 2002: 1,122,000
  - 2022: 2,184,200
- **Black**
  - 2002: 778,000
  - 2022: 1,160,800

Compared to 2002, the number of Eligible Voters in California is estimated to increase 36% by 2022. Latino eligible voters are projected to more than double, while the number of white voters are expected to decrease by 2%.

Table 3. Change in Registered Voters by Race/Ethnicity in California, 2002-2022

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Total Eligible Change</th>
<th>White Eligible Change</th>
<th>Latino Eligible Change</th>
<th>Asian Eligible Change</th>
<th>Black Eligible Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>% Change (2002 - 2022 Projected)</td>
<td>36.56%</td>
<td>-2.29%</td>
<td>118.09%</td>
<td>93.40%</td>
<td>36.46%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Registered Voters in California in 2022 are projected to grow 35% Compared to 2002. This increase will be driven by Asian and Latino voters. While the number of Latino registered voters is expected to more than double, registration among White voters will likely decrease.

Table 4. Change in Registered Voters by Race/Ethnicity in California, 2002-2022

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>% Change (2002 - 2022 Projected)</th>
<th>Total Registered Change</th>
<th>White Registered Change</th>
<th>Latino Registered Change</th>
<th>Asian Registered Change</th>
<th>Black Registered Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>35.11%</td>
<td>-0.99%</td>
<td>126.37%</td>
<td>94.67%</td>
<td>49.20%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>