

Outreach to Minority/Ethnic and New Citizen Communities

A report by Andreas Udbye, June 2008

This report will suggest five main reasons why ethnic and immigrant communities have lower rates of voter registration and voting, and few candidates running for elected office. Subsequently, four main areas of remedies are suggested, followed by an action list of ten tangible steps the Elections Division can take this year to help the citizens of these communities.

The main objective of this report is to help the State's Elections Division improve voter outreach to minority/ethnic and new citizen communities. As it evolved, this paper can also serve as a useful roadmap for the staff of the Elections Division, and especially any new hires that the Division take on.

Official Census data and other polls show that the rate of voter registration, voting and running for elected office is substantially lower among eligible voters from certain ethnic and immigrant groups, such as Latinos and Asian Americans. To better determine the type of support needed from the Elections Division, this report will also look at some of the typical reasons given for these ethnic groups to be less involved in the electoral process.

The author has spoken with numerous representatives from several ethnic communities, most of them leaders of non-profit and human service organizations. During these conversations they were asked to suggest a few reasons for the low voter turnout, as well as possible remedies and assistance the state should provide to encourage greater participation. Many of the organizations interviewed are closely involved with citizenship classes, naturalization training, voter registration, and occasional get-out-the-vote campaigns, and would be natural partners for the Elections Division in its outreach efforts. As part of this study, an updated list of key contacts within these organizations is provided, as well as a listing of relevant ethnic media outlets.

The reasons given for not registering or voting seem to fall into five broad categories, details of which will be discussed later in the report:

- **Ignorance and confusion** about what is perceived as a complex democratic and voting system
- **Distrust and fear** about the whole voting process
- **Other priorities:** voting is low on the list of concerns and not considered a big benefit of citizenship
- **Issues and candidates** are often uninteresting or unappealing to the ethnic voters
- **Disenfranchisement** and a feeling among naturalized citizens that they are still foreigners

Many of the people interviewed also pointed out the classic socio-demographic factors as determinants of whether people vote. For example, a wealthy, Asian Indian doctor is a lot more likely to vote than a poor taxi driver from the same country. Regardless of the ethnicity of the eligible citizens, the four main factors determining voter participation are age, household income, education level and how often people move (transiency). However, even after controlling for these generic factors, Latinos and Asians are still considerably less involved in the electoral processes.

Due to time constraints, this study primarily focuses on Asian-Americans in Western Washington and Latinos in both the Eastern and Western parts of the state. In addition, I have looked at some of the Russian/Ukrainian groups in Western Washington. We chose these groups because they show the lowest rates of voting, and because they are relatively new immigrant groups to this area. More established ethnic minority groups (such as Blacks and Native-Americans) also have lower voting rates than the White population, but not as dramatically as the new citizens from Asia, Latin America and the former Soviet Union.

There is an enormous amount of statistical information available that documents the low voter turnout among minorities, including data from the U.S. Census Bureau and from surveys conducted by a variety of institutes and organizations. Although I spent quite a bit of time reviewing this data, the purpose of this report is not to rehash or re-tabulate information that is readily available from the internet. Suffice to say that we have a significant problem with minority and immigrant participation in our democratic process, and it is a problem that the public sector has an obligation to take seriously and try to remedy.

I received many useful and constructive suggestions for what the Outreach Team might do to stimulate and encourage voting. These suggestions centered around four areas, which will be discussed later in the report:

- **Education**, such as Civics classes and How-to-vote classes, often in a foreign language
- **Marketing campaigns**, using a variety of media and participating in events
- **Partnering with and supporting established community organizations**
- **Encourage the political parties to recruit and develop promising minority politicians**

As I suspected, the question of providing translated materials, such as forms and pamphlets, is controversial even within the immigrant community. The State and Counties are clearly doing the right (and often required) thing by providing materials in several languages, even though many immigrants (with great English skills) are of the opinion that people should learn English before even attempting to vote. This attitude may reflect a bit of the have's vs. the have-not's rift within new citizen communities, which I detected in many of the conversations I had. In this respect, these communities are as politically and philosophically diverse as the more established, general population, as people within the immigrant communities are not speaking with the same voice. Again, the multi-millionaire, Chinese high tech entrepreneur from Bellevue will have different needs and a different perspective than the recently arrived refugee from Somalia.

While it is useful to be aware of the diversity of views and socio-economic conditions within the immigrant communities, this should not prevent us from creating a solid and inclusive program for encouraging voter participation. The brutal reality is that by not participating in the voting process, it currently takes two Latino votes to make up for my vote, as a White person. Eligible Whites tend to vote at about double the rate of eligible Latinos, and Asians don't have a much better record. Washington State currently has less than an 80% white population, but whites populate about 95% of all the elected offices within the state. This may have been reflective of the population mixture in the year 1908, but not in 2008.

I should not directly correlate voting patterns with ethnic lines, as at least in theory, anybody should be interested in voting for anybody, as long as they agree with the political platform. However, it was suggested by many whom I talked with that the lack of non-white candidates discourage many from taking an interest in the campaigns and voting. Several examples were cited from cities in eastern Washington where more than half the population is Latino, but where the city councils are entirely white.

LET'S LOOK AT THE PROBLEM AGAIN

In short, the problem with low voter and candidate turnout among ethnic groups is that they become underrepresented in the political process. And census data shows that even after several generations, some ethnic minorities are voting at lower rates than the average population. As the U.S. Census Bureau notes in its "Current Population Report" from the 2002 elections, "As a proportion of all voting-age citizens, White citizens had the highest level of voter turnout – 49 percent, followed by Black citizens at 42 percent, Asian and Pacific Islander citizens at 31 percent, and Hispanic citizens at 30 percent". But the problem is even worse than this in terms of representation among the total population (citizens and non-citizens), as only 2 percent of Whites were non-citizens, 6 percent of Blacks, and as much as 38 percent of Asians, Pacific Islanders and Latinos. In 2002, of the total voting age population, 48% of Whites voted, while only 19% of the Latinos, in essence meaning that it would take two and a half Latino vote to make up for a White vote. Surprisingly, naturalized Latinos were more likely to vote than Latinos born in this country, implying that perhaps the voting patterns within this population segment do not improve with each generation. This is obviously a problem with respect to long term integration and proper representation, although some of it might be explained with the fact that Latinos born here tend to be younger than older people seeking and obtaining citizenship. For more data on this, it is worth reading the Census Bureau and other reports attached with this study.

The Census Bureau did a population survey in November of 2002, where they asked why registered voters (of all ethnicities) did not vote in the fall of 2002 elections. These are the reasons cited:

- Too busy or had conflicting work or school schedules (most cited by Latinos)
- Was ill, disabled or had a family emergency
- Not interested or felt the voice would make no difference
- Out of town
- Did not like the candidates
- Forgot to vote
- Confused or uncertain about registration
- Transportation problems

Some of these reasons (or excuses) are similar to the ones I discovered during my interviews, and many of them are symptoms of larger issues that discourage people from voting. For example, if a person was truly interested in the political process, being "too busy" is really a poor excuse. More honest (and indeed disconcerting) answers are probably "not interested", "vote would make no difference", and "did not like the candidates". We will look at some of the ingrained or cultural reasons why these reasons

are so prevalent among ethnic minorities and immigrants. The only really legitimate excuse among the ones mentioned, is the illness, disability and family emergency one. All the others are fixable if the voter really is interested in participating. How do you fix an attitude problem among these groups?

I also would like to point out the low number of elected officials from minority groups in this state. It was pointed out several times to me that if there were more people from minority groups running for office, the voter participation from those groups would increase substantially. A recent example is the larger than usual Chinese-American turnout to vote for former Governor Gary Locke, as well as national polls indicating that many Blacks will turn out to vote for Barack Obama this fall. A candidate from an ethnic community is often seen as a leader that people from the same community will be excited about and vote for.

Some examples of underrepresentation include:

- Our state's Congressional delegation, consisting of eleven people, all of whom are currently of Northern European ("Anglo") descent.
- Our state's 147 state senators and house representatives, of which only two (1.4%) are foreign born, and only eleven (7.5%) can be considered being from a racial minority group. As a comparison, the foreign born percentage of the state's population is 12.4%, while the White population is 80% (according to the 2006 Census Bureau survey).
- The Cities of Pasco and Yakima, with 56.4% and 33.7% Latino populations, respectively, but with no Latinos on their current (2007) City Councils.

SUMMARY OF REASONS STATED FOR NOT VOTING

As mentioned, it makes sense to break the various reasons into five broad categories:

1. **Ignorance and confusion about what is perceived as a complex democratic and voting system**
 - Many naturalized citizens have a hard time comprehending the difficult American political system, with its many elections, ballots, initiatives, referenda, and layers. Many are used to simple, often quite undemocratic systems that only require a vote or two every four years, while in this country the voters are asked to make a lot more decisions. The foreign born voters never went through any K-12 civics classes, so as adults they are totally unfamiliar with the American political system. The citizenship test mostly relies on memorization (rote learning) of names of persons, institutions or historical trivia, and the preparation for this test is really not focused on educating voters.
 - The changes in the voting procedures (e.g. the new top-2 primary system) makes it even more difficult for people trying to understand the system.
 - In addition, language deficiencies often make it hard for many to understand the forms and requirements. This is particularly an issue among older citizens.
 - Even with the outreach efforts, many cited a lack of information on where and how to vote. For example, a Chinese lady (with good English skills) approached me to ask how

she could change her ballot to a mail-in-ballot, because she never knew where to go to vote. (This may not be just an ethnic problem...)

- Many did not have established voting habits from the old country, often under repressive and totalitarian regimes where the votes really did not count much. This made them lose interest in or make them cynical about the political process.

2. Distrust and fear about the whole voting process

- By registering to vote, the authorities will know their address, which is frightening for large families with a variety of immigration statuses. The eligible citizens in the family fear jeopardizing the security of the non-citizens and undocumented members of the family by sticking their heads out. The fear of deportation is real. There is even a faulty impression that also citizens may be deported. The recent anti-immigration rhetoric and police raids on illegal immigrants have not helped to improve this sentiment.
- There is a fear of losing privacy and being monitored. After 9-11, many south Asians are particularly distrustful of the system
- A suspicion that the elections and ballots are not really secret, and that the system is rigged and corrupt. This is mostly an attitude imported from the old country, where election fraud was indeed often the case. Corrupt politicians in the old country have weakened the trust in the political process in general.
- An attitude that the authorities are not to be trusted. This may reflect the individualistic and somewhat egocentric personality of many immigrants.
- Many immigrants are used to systems where somebody else made the political decisions for them. They were not used to democratic principles from the old country, and their political participation was low there, too.
- **Hassle factor:** There are examples of South Asians (e.g. Sikhs) not wanting to have ID's issued, as they have to remove their turbans for the photographs.

3. Other priorities: voting is low on the list of concerns and not considered a cherished benefit of citizenship

- Many immigrants are preoccupied with making a living for themselves and supporting their families here, and tend to prioritize activities centered around work and family.
- Immigrants who try to balance long hours with other family responsibilities often find no time to devote to attending classes or participating in civic integration activities.
- Some immigrants did not obtain their citizenships in order to participate in the voting process; rather they were motivated by the ease of travel, being able to sponsor and bring in family members, gaining access to social benefits, and be able to apply for Federal jobs.
- Even well educated and highly paid entrepreneurs are often preoccupied with their careers and wealth creation. They may regard themselves as "global citizens", taking no particular interest in local or national elections.

4. Issues and candidates are often uninteresting or unappealing to the ethnic voters

- Candidates of the same ethnicity tend to bring out voters. The candidates are often perceived as respected leaders and role models.
- If all the candidates are Whites, many tend to lose interest in the races and voting
- The issues may seem abstract and not relevant to the immigrant's life and situation
- The Iraq war has mobilized voter interest among voters of South Asian descent (incl. India, Pakistan and the Middle East). The war is seen by some as an attack on their ethnic group.
- Many immigrants feel they cannot afford to run for office, and that the fund raising process favors "old boy networks" of mostly Anglos.
- A distrust of "white guys", whom they feel have taken advantage of their situation for generations. One example cited by a local Latino leader was that he had not heard from or seen certain leading white politicians for years, but now that they were running for higher office, they were on the phone to beg for endorsements and support from his organization in connection with their campaigns. Some also felt ripped off by whites wanting to partner with minority owned firms to bid on contracts favoring such firms.
- Some immigrants come from countries where voting was obligatory (e.g. Peru), but when they realize it is voluntary here, they think it is too casual and lose interest.
- One Latino leader suggested to me that the new top-two primary system will hurt candidates from minority groups, and will discourage many from running.

5. Disenfranchisement and a feeling among naturalized citizens that they are still foreigners

- A feeling that minorities (Asians and Latinos) are not welcome by the established political parties
- A feeling that even though they are citizens, they are still foreigners/strangers/aliens, and don't really belong in this community ("this is not my home")
- An attitude that it doesn't matter, that my vote has no impact, that things are predetermined (this is not an attitude exclusive to minorities or immigrants)
- A feeling of not being included and that their voting participation is not really appreciated or needed.

After this long laundry list it would be easy to be discouraged, but keep in mind that it is a compilation of anecdotal examples of attitudes and impressions held by a large number of people. Individual voters or potential voters will typically harbor only one or a couple of these sentiments, and it may not take that much to change this person's opinion or understanding. Also, it is worth keeping in mind that most of these "gripes" are impressions held by naturalized (foreign born) citizens, and that only a few of them prevail in subsequent generations. However, we should not disregard the importance of cultural influences, meaning that attitudes, misconceptions and suspicions may be passed on from generation to generation, prolonging the problem of low voter turnout.

The Russians and Ukrainians are an interesting group to observe, as they cannot be considered an ethnic minority (in that they are Caucasian), but still have prevailing attitudes that mirror the ones heard from

the Asians and Latinos. Immigrants from the former Soviet Union tend to be suspicious of the political system and processes due to the political traditions back home, where true democracy never really took root. However, among the better educated and well-to-do, there is a tendency to more fully embrace the voting process. So it is again worth noting that higher voting, regardless of your ethnic roots, come with higher household income, more education, higher age, and homeownership. As the new immigrants and their offspring move more permanently into these demographic brackets, it is likely that their voting patterns will start to resemble the population averages. In many cases, it may take a couple of generations or more.

Many of the ethnic community based organizations already do a great job of promoting voting, especially to new citizens. As part of their citizenship classes, they emphasize the importance of registering to vote and to exercise the right to vote. For example, an organization like the Korean Women's Association will frequently staff voter registration tables outside strategic locations such as grocery stores. Occasionally these non-profits will partner with larger and nationwide interest organizations, such as the Korean American Coalition (KAC).

HOW CAN THE PUBLIC SECTOR BE OF HELP?

The diversity of the minority and immigrant population presents a bit of a dilemma for us: For example, can we utilize a cookie cutter approach to reaching out to a fourth generation, U.S. born Japanese (whose great-grandfather arrived here in 1889), as well as the recently naturalized Cambodian who arrived here five years ago? Their needs and concerns may be vastly different, yet as an average ethnic group (Asian-Americans) they tend to be less involved in the voting process. My attitude here is that any help and assistance is better than none, knowing that a rising tide will lift all boats. Even with scarce resources, however, it is possible and not that hard for the Elections Division to tailor its outreach efforts to specific ethnic groups and situations, thus having an impact on the habits of the targeted communities. Let us first take a look at some of the suggestions gleaned from the various conversations I had with ethnic community leaders.

1. Education:

- Develop and deliver civics classes for new citizens, explaining how the complex American system works.
- Also provide class segments on the technicalities of registering and voting.
- As appropriate, these classes need to be provided in foreign languages (especially for older new citizens who did not have to pass the language test to be naturalized)
- Some of the civics and voting procedures classes can be combined with citizenship and naturalization classes (although these classes tend to focus on the requirements to pass the interview and exam), and even English classes to help broaden the vocabulary.
- Write occasional articles (op-ed's) that encourage registering, voting and running for office and submit them to the ethnic press. Some of the newspapers would want them translated (either they can do it or they would want us to provide it translated)

- Invite and be available for interviews with the ethnic media (either newspapers, radio or TV stations)
- Speaker's Bureau: Offer to attend and be a speaker at various events and seminars. This is especially well suited in the Asian communities, where there are frequent and numerous social gatherings. (The topic and duration of the speech, of course, have to suit the nature of the event)
- Information on issues: Several people suggested that the issues often are very confusing for immigrants. There is a need for somebody (preferably non-partisan or detached from the issue) to explain what the issues are and the difference between the alternatives presented. Again, some of this may have to be delivered in a foreign language.
- Some asked for more and better information on when and where to vote. They wanted this mailed to the registered voters (I believe it already is being mailed by most counties...)
- It was suggested that Elections start a student internship program to leverage its statewide resources. After some training in Olympia, the students would be Outreach helpers in their communities. This could be un-paid internships, and for many (Political Science students, for example), this would give them college credits.
- Short video: One suggestion was to produce a short (five minute) video – initially in English, Spanish and Chinese – with information on the new top-2 primary and other procedural changes, that can be distributed as well as posted on the Secretary of State website, with links from websites of partner organizations.

2. Marketing campaigns, using a variety of media and participating in events:

- Need translation of more materials. (King County is probably doing the most extensive translation into several Asian languages today, while other counties may need the State's help in accomplishing this)
- Advertise in the ethnic press, including newspapers, radio and TV stations. This is particularly important a few months before elections, to give people at least 30 days to submit their voter registration. The messages should not be wordy, but contain crucial information on dates
- Radio and TV are very important for the Latino community, while newspapers are more important for the Asian and Russian communities. South Asians (Indians) prefer written information, and their English skills are generally good.
- Credibility factor (role models and spokespersons): When doing personal marketing and outreach work, try to use people with the same or similar ethnic background to make it seem less a "lecture" from an established, white person.
- Elections may want to develop an expanded, multilingual website.
- It was suggested that follow-up materials be sent to voters just registered to vote to encourage them to actually vote on or before the voting days.
- The Secretary of State should speak at the Asia Pacific America (APA) Summit in Federal Way on September 19. This event is expected to draw more than 1,000 Asian Americans, and will also include a debate between Chris Gregoire and Dino Rossi.

3. Partnering with and supporting established community organizations:

- It will be very useful to have somebody on the Elections' Outreach team with Chinese and Spanish speaking skills.
- In the same vein, it was suggested that Outreach must take time to understand the nature of the ethnic community (not just scratch the surface). This again may point towards hiring people with Asian and Latino backgrounds (yet staying within the EEO rules)
- Partnering will ensure that the message gets through to the "common" person, not just the community leaders.
- Outreach should be represented at all naturalization ceremonies. (I tried contacting CIS's community relations officer for the Pacific NW, but so far just received a standard automated response in return. Given the millions of backlogged citizenship applications, I suspect helping people vote is a low priority for them at the moment)
- Many of the ethnic, non-profit community and service organizations are already extensively involved in voter registration efforts. To avoid unnecessary duplication and leverage our resources, it will be smart to partner more closely with a handful of these organizations to achieve our objectives. Many managers and staff members of these organizations have an immense expertise in dealing with their clients and their voting concerns, and it would behoove Elections to learn from them and offer to assist them in their work. At the end of this report I will recommend which organizations to approach. There is an ongoing need to identify and communicate with such trusted organizations (community agencies and groups, churches and chambers of commerce), as well as individual leaders (business, non-profit, religious and political).
- The Russian community is so far mostly connected through their churches and synagogues.
- Religious organizations (temples and mosques) are also important for the South Asian communities. For example, some will provide rides to the polling stations.
- It would be a good idea for Elections to establish an Advisory Panel to help guide us with the outreach activities. This panel (6- 8 people) should have representatives from the largest ethnic groups and from new citizens.

4. Encourage the political parties to recruit and develop promising minority politicians

- Minority candidates must be encouraged, supported and groomed to run for office. Some of this encouragement (and training) can come via appointed positions, meaning that it is important for public appointers such as the Governor's Office, County and City Councils to seek out talented minority representatives and put them on boards, commissions, panels and committees. The experience gained doing such work will be very useful in building the skill sets and courage needed for running for elected office.

- The political parties need a long term, committed and earnest strategy for recruiting and grooming candidates from the ethnic minorities. The parties should not just contact these groups prior to the elections to beg for endorsements and contributions. I suppose Elections could encourage party representatives to think more about this if and when we communicate with them.
- Recruit and train more minorities as poll and elections workers. This should stimulate more interest in the voting process, and the workers themselves become knowledgeable mentors within their communities.

It was stressed by several that the causes of poor voter participation are systemic and require a long term perspective. There are not necessarily any brilliant, quick fixes that will change cultural behavior and attitudes overnight. The best we can strive for at this point is an awareness and sensitivity to these concerns and issues, and a workable program of tangible steps that we can take to encourage, inform and stimulate, thus utilizing our (and the tax payers') limited resources in a most optimal manner.

At this point it will make sense to organize and prioritize some of the above listed suggestions into an **action list** that Outreach could start working on. It is hoped that Outreach will have a budget to boost its staffing and increase its promotional activities associated with producing and translating materials, arranging civics classes, traveling to ethnic events, producing and running ads in ethnic newspapers and radio/TV stations, and developing a multilingual, informative website.

Here is my top ten "action list":

1. Hire staff members with Chinese and Spanish skills (I understand this may already be planned)
2. Either internally, or contracting with an outside instructor, develop a solid civics class and offer to teach this class in partnership with several community organizations. The class should be taught in languages other than English, if necessary.
3. Write several articles and submit them to the ethnic press, which is usually eager to receive relevant content. Agree with the media outlet who should do the translating, if necessary. Some of these articles can be written jointly with ethnic community leaders.
4. Contact ethnic radio and TV stations and offer to go on air to discuss this year's elections and voting procedures. To add credibility and relevance, some of these interviews should be done together with community leaders.
5. Contact the ethnic community organizations to offer to be a speaker/presenter at upcoming events. This may require the development of a suitable power point presentation, translated into several languages. Pair up with ethnic community leaders for added value.
6. This fall, convene a meeting with leaders of about 20 community organizations and a half a dozen ethnic media outlets. This meeting will have three main purposes: 1) An update on the activities, programs and resources of the Outreach Team; 2) A discussion on how we can partner and be of help to the organizations; and 3) Suggest and initiate the establishment of an Advisory Panel for the Elections division.
7. Develop an expanded, multilingual website as a resource center ("go to place") for the ethnic community. This is a work intensive effort that needs to be well planned.

8. Consider developing a statewide internship program for college students in six or more political science programs. This means identifying faculty members that would have an interest in supporting such a program.
9. Suggest to CIS that one or more of your representatives (incl. student interns) attend all naturalization ceremonies (in this state they are held in Seattle, Spokane and Yakima.)
10. Members of the Outreach Team must contact the ethnic organizations listed in the attachment (as well as many of the ones listed on CAPAA and CHA's websites) to develop personal rapport and a supportive network. With limited resources, there is no choice but to work closely with and supplement the activities of the ethnic community organizations. (The fact that I have recently contacted and spoken with many of these organizations has created a bit of an expectation that there will be some sort of follow-up from Elections)

How do the above mentioned ten actions address the five main problem categories identified (Ignorance & confusion, Distrust & fear, Other Priorities, Issues & candidates, and Disenfranchisement)? Here are some benefits that I can think of, and I am sure there are numerous others:

ACTION:	PROBLEM CATEGORY:	HOW IT HELPS:
1. Hire bilingual staff	Ignorance & confusion, Distrust & fear, Disenfranchisement	Our messages will have a greater chance of being heard and believed. Credibility factor. Can develop closer relationships. Reduces need for translators.
2. Offer civics classes	Ignorance & confusion, Other priorities, Issues & candidates, Disenfranchisement	Informed citizens are more likely to participate and vote. Knowledge of system and issues make you feel more "American". An informed citizen may evolve from voter to candidate.
3. Write articles	Ignorance & confusion, Distrust & fear; Other priorities	The more people know about the system, the process, the technicalities and the issues, the more likely they are to participate. Makes State Elections division seem more accessible, engaged and concerned.
4. Go on air	Ignorance & confusion, Distrust & fear, Other priorities	People listening to explanations of voting rules and procedures, issues and candidates will make them more likely to register and vote. Motivator.
5. Speakers' Bureau	Ignorance & confusion, Distrust & fear, Disenfranchisement	Being physically present and active in the community will add credibility. Effective way to get

		the message through. People appreciate hearing from leaders. Be available for Q&A. Sam Reed should speak at APA Summit on Sept. 19.
6. Convene and host meeting of community leaders	Distrust & fear, Issues & candidates, Disenfranchisement	This is a great way to kick off a "new start" for the Outreach Team, by reaching out and seeking input and advice from the immigrant and minority communities. Take the advice seriously and act on what can be done. Create Advisory Panel based on this meeting.
7. Multilingual website	Ignorance & confusion, Issues & candidates, Disenfranchisement	Such as site can be a handy "go-to-place" for people seeking advice on technical and elections related issues. Unbiased and non-partisan information provided. Can be portal to other sources of information (links to counties and ethnic community service organizations)
8. Internship program	Ignorance & confusion, Distrust & fear, Other priorities, Issues & candidates	Having young people out in the field will help in disseminating information and awakening interest. Minority alumni may themselves be interested in running for office.
9. Attend naturalization ceremonies	Ignorance & confusion, Disenfranchisement	New citizens will appreciate receiving attention and a "warm welcome" by the Elections people. They will realize how important their votes are regarded. Also, any speaker has a "captive" audience.
10. Develop personal relationships and ties with ethnic organizations	All of the above	If nothing else, this action item is the most important one to stay abreast of the communities' needs and concerns. To avoid duplication and awkwardness, requires knowledge of what the respective county elections agencies do.

Over the past month (May-June of 2008) I have attempted to contact about fifty representatives of ethnic communities and organizations, and I was able to conduct productive interviews with most of them. After about thirty interviews, each new conversation did not bring much additional discovery, so I feel quite confident that my relatively random, yet unscientific approach has helped uncover the main reasons many minorities a new citizens don't vote, as well as harvesting the most immediate ideas for remedies that came to people's minds. Admittedly, every one of my subjects can be categorized as being in a relative elite among their peers, as I spoke with presidents and directors of non-profit organizations, successful business people, university professors and commissioners. Most, if not all, of these people are actively involved in the democratic process, as voters or political candidates. However, their networks and personal experiences make them ideal for this type of study, and I really appreciated their thoughtful input.

ORGANIZATIONS THAT SHOULD BE INVITED TO ADVISORY PANEL

One of the attachments to this report is a listing of more than forty organizations with a mission to further the interests of minority groups, and mostly Asians and Latinos. Some of them are human services organizations, while others are more involved with advocacy, including "get-out-the-vote" campaigns. The list also includes more niche oriented associations, such as Chambers of Commerce and professional clubs. Many of these organizations have been involved with voter registration and civic education for a long time, and have a wealth of experience in this matter. All of these organizations (and possibly more, for example from the Hispanic and Asian Commissions' website directories) should be invited to the meeting suggested in item 6 above. I initially thought I would recommend a list of organizations to be invited to the more permanent advisory panel, but realized the danger of excluding relevant organizations when constructing such a list. A better approach might be to ask them all if they would be seriously interested in participating on such a panel. It is also important to remember that this report only covers Asian-Pacific and Latino groups, while other minorities that must be included in meetings and on advisory panels are Blacks and Native Americans. My recommendation when building this advisory panel is to seek out organizations and individuals whose mission is to improve participation in the voting and democratic process, and where there is some expertise. It is also important that the makeup of the committee is not all "Seattle-centric", and that proper representation from Eastern Washington is ensured.

The Governor's office recently issued Executive Order 08-01, which creates a "Washington's New Americans Policy Council". 12-15 members will be appointed to this new council, including representatives from state agencies, and it will make sense if somebody from the Secretary of State's Office is one of them. If this has not already been done, I suggest contacting the Governor's office soonest to indicate an interest in serving on this Council.

The following were interviewed for this report:

PERSON AND ORGANIZATION:	COUNTRY OF RELEVANCE:
Martha Davies, Director of ECIE	Peru
Uriel Iniguez, Executive Director of the Commission on Hispanic Affairs	Mexico

Dr. Jose Garcia-Pabon, Washington State University	Mexico
Yuri Mamchur, Russia Director, The Discovery Institute	Russia
Carol Vipperman, President of the Federation on Russian American Economic Cooperation	Russia
Jagdish Sharma, President of the Indo-American Friendship Forum	India
Mike Alvine, King County Executive's Office	All
Eleanor Lee, Editor of NW Asian Weekly	Asia
Ron Chow, Commissioner of CAPAA	China
Bettie Luke, Program Manager of Organization of Chinese Americans (OCA)	China
Thi Huynh, Commissioner of CAPAA	Vietnam
Kim Tran, Chair of ACRS (Asian Counseling and Referral Service)	Vietnam
Michelle Burkheimer, Legislative Assistant for Sen. Marilyn Rasmussen	Russia
Julia Ochs, Manager for Russian World Newspaper	Russia
Cristobal Guillen, Executive Director of Washington State Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (WSHCC)	Mexico
Ernie Aguilar, Founder and Chairman Emeritus, WSHCC	Mexico
David Woodward, President of Associates in Cultural Exchange	Middle East
Ralph Ibarra, President, Marketeer Unlimited	Mexico
Sheida Hodge, Hodge International Advisors	Iran
Edward Gonzales, Chair, Pierce County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce	Mexico
Jorge Madrazo, Director of Sea-Mar (and former Mexican Consul General)	Mexico
Miguel Velasquez, Consul of Peru	Peru
Antonio Sanchez, Lt. Governor's Office	Latin America
Sunil Dewan, Bellevue business executive	India
Alaric Bien, Executive Director of CISC (Chinese Information & Service Center)	China
Rita Castro, Program Specialist, International District Housing Alliance	Asian
Enrique Gonzalez, Administrative Asst., El Centro de la Raza	Latin America
Mario Paredes, Executive Director, Consejo Counseling and Referral Service	Latin America
George Cheung, the Win-Win Network (Washington Progress Alliance)	Asian
Thuy Nguyen-Leeper, Vietnamese-American Bar Association	Vietnam
Lam Nguyen, Vietnamese-American Bar Association	Vietnam
Joyce Yoo, Naturalization Services, Korean Women's Association	Korea
Jared Jonson, Coordinator, ROAR (Raising Our Asian Pacific American Representation)	Asian
Quang Nguyen, Ex. Dir., Washington Vietnamese American Chamber of Commerce	Vietnam
Gayatri Eassey, Executive Director, City Year Seattle/King County	India

Many others were contacted by voicemail or by e-mail, but by the deadline of this report, I had not yet heard back from them.

As part of my research, I was able to attend several organization meetings, incl.:

- The CAPAA meeting in Wapata, on June 14, where I gave a briefing and received useful feedback.
- The Pierce County Hispanic Chamber of Commerce luncheon meeting on June 19, where State Rep. Phyllis Gutierrez Kenney was the guest speaker.
- A Seattle reception of the Vietnamese American Bar Association.

I was also able to visit many of the organizations' offices in the Seattle and Tacoma area.

Concluding Comments:

To achieve the goal of higher voting and political participation among minorities and immigrants, the State must act as a supporter and team player with the established and already quite effective community organizations, as well as the various counties needing assistance. It is crucial to strengthen the Outreach Team with at least two more staff members (preferably bilingual – Spanish and Chinese) who can dedicate their time and resources to helping the ethnic communities. To solidify relationships with the various organizations and the ethnic media, this needs to be a long term effort, with an appropriate budget for promotional and outreach supplies and expenses, such as printed materials, advertising, website development, video production and in-state travel.

Washington State is a very attractive destination for a variety of immigrants, and the sooner we can get the newcomers up to speed in our democratic and political processes, the better this fantastic melting pot will function.

Ethnic Associations in WA State											
Name of Organization:	Group served:	Area served:	Address:	City:	State & ZIP:	Phone:	Web site:	Contact person:	Title:	E-mail:	Mission:
Arab Center of Washington	Arabs	Statewide	12525 28th Ave NE, 2nd Floor	Seattle	WA 98125	425-765-7961	www.arabcenter.net	Abed Kouttainy	Director		A cultural organization dedicated to promoting the rich and vibrant Arab culture in Washington State.
Asian Counseling and Referral Service (ACRS)	Asian	King County	3639 Martin Luther King Jr. Way S	Seattle	WA 98144	206-695-7600	www.acrs.org	Julia Friemund	Vocational & Naturalization Director		ACRS offers the largest Naturalization Services Program in Washington State. The program helps immigrants and refugees become active U.S. citizens by providing high quality classes at convenient locations within King County.
Asian Pacific American Caucus of Washington (APAC)	Asians & Islanders	Statewide	PO Box 6963	Bellevue	WA 98008-0963		www.apacwa.org	Nadine Shiroma	Secretary	president@apacwa.org	Democrats who are working to increase the voice of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in Washington on Democratic issues facing our community.
Asian Pacific Islander Coalition (APIC) –King County	Asians & Islanders	Puget Sound	c/o ACRS, 3639 Martin Luther King Jr Way S	Seattle	WA 98144	206-695-7600	www.acrs.org	Diane Narasaki	Executive Director		
Casa Latina	Latino population	Seattle area	220 Blanchard St.	Seattle	WA 98121	206-956-0779	www.casa-latina.org	Hilary Stern	Executive Director	hilary@casa-latina.org	Empowers Latino immigrants through educational and employment opportunities.
Centro Latino	Latino population	Pierce County	1206 S. 10th St	Tacoma	WA 98405	253-572-7717	www.clatino.org	Kate Smith	Director of Programs	reception@clatino.org	To help meet the increasingly diverse needs of the growing Latino population of Pierce County

Chinese Information and Service Center (CISC)	Chinese	King County	611 S. Lane St	Seattle	WA 98104	206-624-5633	www.cisc-seattle.org	Alaric Bien	Executive Director	alaricb@cisc-seattle.org	Providing cultural orientation, job training, senior day care, English instruction, youth activities and other valuable services enabling families, seniors and youth to positively participate and thrive in our community.
Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs (CAPAA)	Asian-Pacific	Statewide	210 11th Ave SW · RM 301	Olympia	WA 98504-0925	360-725-5667	www.capaa.wa.gov	Ellen Abellera	Executive Director	capaa@capaa.wa.gov	To improve the well-being of Asian Pacific Americans (APAs) by insuring their access to participation in the fields of government, business, education, and other areas
Commission on Hispanic Affairs (CHA)	Latino population	Statewide	P O Box 40924	Olympia	WA 98504-0924	360-725-5661	www.cha.wa.gov	Uriel Iñiguez	Executive Director	hispanic@cha.wa.gov	To improve public policy development and the delivery of government services to the Hispanic community
Consejo Counseling and Referral Service	Latino population	Statewide	3808 S Angeline Street	Seattle	WA 98118	206-461-4880	www.consejo-wa.org	Mario Paredes	Executive Director	mario@consejo-wa.org	Provides culturally-competent services designed to enhance client strengths and address the diverse needs of adults, children, adolescents and families in Latino communities across the state
El Centro de la Raza	Latino population	King County	2524 16th Avenue South	Seattle	WA 98144	206-329-9442	www.elcentrodelaraza.com	Roberto Maestas	Executive Director		Raise the awareness level of the general public, politicians, business and civic leaders toward the needs of the Chicano/Latino community in the United States and to help the Chicano/Latino community in the Seattle/King County area empower itself.

Electronic Commerce & Information Exchange (ECIE)	Latino population	Statewide		Tacoma		253-503-6213	www.ecie.org	Martha Davies	Director	daviesm@ecie.org	Training and motivating Hispanic communities to use the Internet as a means for expanding their horizons and opening new roads of opportunities for themselves and their families.
Ethnic Heritage Council	Minorities	Statewide	305 Harrison St, Suite 326	Seattle	WA 98109	206-443-1410	www.ethnicheritagecouncil.org	Burton Bard	President	ehc@seattle.gov	To preserve and promote ethnic and cultural traditions, foster mutual understanding, enrich lives and celebrate our heritage.
Filipino American Political Action Group of Washington (FAPAGOW)	Filipino	Statewide					http://fapagow.org/	Richard Gurtiza	President	rich-ibu@qwest.net	FAPAGOW's mission is to enable Filipino Americans across the State to become more aware of the issues and candidates that affect their best interest
Filipino Community of Seattle / Filipino Community Center	Filipino	Greater Seattle	5740 M.L. King Jr. Way South	Seattle	WA 98118	206-722-9372	www.filcomseattle.org	Bert Caoili	President		Committed to promoting cultural diversity, ethnic pride, unity, educational and socio-economic empowerment among Filipino Americans.
Hate Free Zone	Immigrants	Statewide	1227 S. Weller Street, Suite A	Seattle	WA 98144	206.723.2203	www.hatefreezone.org	Pramila Jayapal	Executive Director	info@hatefreezone.org	To advance the fundamental principles of democracy and justice at the local, state and national levels by building power within immigrant communities, in collaboration with key allies.

India Association of Western Washington (IAWW)	Asian Indians	Puget Sound	PO Box 404	Bellevue	WA 98009-0404		www.iaww.org	Divya Sheetal	Secretary	divya@iaww.org	To provide a common identity to the Indian community and facilitate cultural, social and educational services and opportunities for cultural integration from young to old of the community; as well as to foster those activities that enhance mutual understanding and appreciation between the Indo-American community and mainstream American community"
Indian American Education Foundation (IAEF)	Asian Indians	Statewide	PO Box 4305	Seattle	WA 98194	425-830-8158	www.iaefseattle.org	Dr. Prem Kumar	Founder/Executive Director	Info@iaefseattle.org	
Indo-American Friendship Forum	Asian Indians	Western WA	15815, 30th Drive South-East	Mill Creek	WA 98012	425-489-0510		Jagdish Sharma	Chairman	Jagdish.P.Sharma@Boeing.com	
International District Housing Alliance (IDHA)	Asians & Islanders	Greater Seattle	808 Maynard Ave S, # 105	Seattle	WA 98104	206-623-5132	www.apialliance.org/ldha	Sharyne Shiu-Thomton	Executive Director	sharyne@apialliance.org	Committed to improving the quality of life for International District residents and Asian and Pacific Islanders of greater Seattle.
Japanese American Citizens League (JACL)	Japanese	Greater Seattle	316 Maynard Ave S	Seattle	WA 98104	206-622-4098	www.jaclseattle.org	Kyle Funakoshi	President	email@jaclseattle.org	Membership organization whose mission is to secure and maintain the human and civil rights of Americans of Japanese ancestry and others victimized by injustice
Korean American Bar Association	Korean	Statewide	c/o Janet Lin, 1601 Fifth Avenue, Suite 2300	Seattle	WA 98101		www.kaba-washington.org	Candice Kim	President		Established with the objective of fostering the exchange of ideas and information among and between KABA members and other members of the legal profession, the judiciary, and the community.

Korean American Coalition of Washington (formerly KAPS & KAVA)	Korean	Statewide	1611 116th Ave NE #225	Bellevue	WA 98004	866-399-5277	www.kacwashington.org	Soloman Kim	President	info@kacwashington.org	To facilitate the Korean American community's participation in civic, legislative, and community affairs, encouraging the community to contribute to and become an integral part of American society.
Korean Women's Association of Washington State	Korean	Western WA	123 East 96th Street	Tacoma	WA 98445	253-538-8353	http://kwaoutreach.org	Joyce S. Yoo	Manager	joycekwa@nwlink.com	To provide services to the Asian and Pacific Island communities residing in the greater Tacoma/Pierce County area.
Korean-American Art & Cultural Association of the PNW (KACAPN)	Korean	Statewide	3920 185th PL SW	Lynnwood	WA 98037	206.354.0853	www.koamartists.org	Chung-Youl Han	President	chunggh@comcast.net	A group comprised of devoted professionals, mostly Korean-American Artists who are immigrants of Korea and have lived in Pacific Northwest. Each member hopes to bring an artistic sense to our diverse community.
National Asian Pacific Center on Aging (NAPCA)	Asian	Nationwide	1511 Third Ave #914	Seattle	WA 98101	206-624-1221	www.napca.org	Elaine Yeung	Director of Outreach	elaine@napca.org	Mission is to serve as the leading national advocacy organization committed to the dignity, well-being and quality of life of Asian Pacific Americans (APA) in their senior years.
National Association of Asian American Professionals (NAAAP)	Asian	Puget Sound	P.O. Box 14344 International Station	Seattle	WA 98104	206-351-5957	http://seattle.naaap.org	Andy Yip	President	info@naaapseattle.org	Cultivate and empower leaders for professional excellence. Connect accomplished professionals for mutual success. Engage and participate with the community-at-large. Inspire leaders to make a meaningful difference in government, education, business, and society.

Network of Indian Professionals (NetIP)	Asian Indians	Seattle area					www.netipseattle.org	Neha Negandhi	President	president@netipseattle.org	Dedicated to the professional and cultural development, community service, philanthropy and the overall advancement of South Asians.
Northwest Coalition of Asian Pacific Americans (NWCAPA)	Asian	Northwest	P.O. Box 9100	Seattle	WA 98109	206-601-9440	www.nwcapa.com	Albert Shen	President	info@nwcapa.com	To raise the visibility and increase the influence of Asian Pacific Americans in the electoral process by endorsing and providing financial support to political candidates for elected office.
Organization of Chinese Americans - Greater Seattle Chapter	Chinese	Greater Seattle	606 Maynard Ave S, # 102	Seattle	WA 98104	206-682-0665	www.ocaseattle.org	Bettie Luke	Project Manager	ocaluke@yahoo.com	Dedicated to advancing the social, political, and economic well-being of Asian Pacific Americans in the United States
Pacific Asian Empowerment Program (PAEP)	Southeast Asian	King County	270 S. Hanford St #100-B	Seattle	WA 98134	206-324-0236	www.paep-seattle.org/	Robert Friedlander	Executive Director	pacific@w-link.net	Help improve the quality of life of Pacific Asian residents of King County through empowered Community Groups of Filipinos, Laotians, Miens, Hmong and Polynesians and other needy Pacific Asian residents of King County.
Raising Our Asian Pacific American Representation (ROAR)	Asian Pacific	Statewide	c/o Washington Progress Alliance, 1402 3rd Ave #515	Seattle	WA 98101	877-689-4162		Jared Johnson	Coordinator	johnsonwsu@yahoo.com	To promote the civic engagement of Asian Pacific Americans in Washington State and enable like-minded organizations to utilize data that informs grassroots civic action.
Rural Community Development Resources	Latino population	Yakima Valley	24 South 3rd Ave	Yakima	WA 98902	509-453-5133					Promotes business development, economic development, and housing opportunities for low- and moderate-income persons with a focus on minorities and women.

Tacoma Community House	Immigrants	South Sound	3828 East Portland Avenue	Tacoma	WA 98415	253-471-5306	www.tacomacommunityhouse.org	Marisol Melendez	Refugee & Immigrant Program Coordinator	mmelendez@tchonli.net	Provides education, employment, multilingual services and advocacy for refugees, immigrants, and non-English speaking adults and youth.
Turkish-American Cultural Association	Turks	Statewide	P.O. Box 357	Kirkland	WA 98083	206-339-8222	www.tacawa.org	Gokce D. Sezgin	President	info@tacawa.org	guiding and enhancing awareness of the Turkish culture, art and heritage and to sponsor positive relationships between various Turkish and local communities
Vietnamese American Bar Association of Washington	Vietnamese	Statewide	c/o C.Vuong, Hellsell Fetterman, 1001 4th Ave #4200	Seattle	WA 98154		www.vabaw.com	Thuy Nguyen-Leeper	President	leeperthuynguyen@yahoo.com	Serve as a voice for the local Vietnamese American community, and represent Vietnamese American attorneys within the State Bar.
Washington Latino Business Association (WLBA)	Latino population	Statewide	1313 E. Maple Street, Ste. 456	Bellingham	WA 98225	360-685-4292	www.wlba.org	Diane Barrera Turner	President	promisehomecare@aol.com	Dedicated to the success of Latinos in Washington State. We serve as a unifying vehicle for Latino leadership in business and communities
Washington State Hispanic Chamber of Commerce	Latino population	Statewide	P.O. Box 21925	Seattle	WA 98111-3925	206-441-8894	www.wshcc.com	Cristobal Guillen	Executive Director	execdirector@wshcc.com	Dedicated to the advancement of the Hispanic business community through economic, political, and educational initiatives.
Washington State Migrant Council	Latino population	Eastern WA	105 B South 6th Street	Sunnyside	WA 98944	509-839-9762	www.wsmconline.org/				Exists to improve the quality of life for migrant, seasonal, farmworkers and rural poor families by promoting human service opportunities.
Washington Vietnamese American Chamber of Commerce	Vietnamese	Western WA	1032 South Jackson St #205	Seattle	WA 98104	206-799-4804	www.wavachamber.org	Quang Nguyen	Executive Director	quang.nguyen@wava-chamber.org	
Win-Win Network	Asian Americans	Statewide	c/o Washington Progress Alliance, 1402 3rd Ave #515	Seattle	WA 98101			George Cheung	Director	george@washingtonprogress.org	

Yakima Hispanic Chamber of Commerce	Latino population	Yakima County	24 South 3rd Ave	Yakima	WA 98902	509-453-2050	www.yakimahispanicchamber.com	Nestor Hernandez	President	yakimahispanicchamber@charterinternet.com	An advocate for Hispanic business issues and as a partner in support of issues confronting the Hispanic community as a whole
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ETHNIC MEDIA:															
Name:	Mode:	Frequency:	Readers:	Target group:	Range:	Address:	City:	State, ZIP	Phone	Website	Contact	Title	E-mail	Language	
Colors NW Magazine	Magazine	Monthly	Circ. 25,000	Minorities	King County	1319 Dexter Ave. N, Suite 250	Seattle	WA 98109	206-444-9251	www.colorsnw.com/	Robert Jeffrey Jr	Publisher	roberti@colorsnw.com	English	To illuminate issues relevant to communities of color through high-quality, enlightening and thought-provoking content.
El Mundo	Newspaper	Weekly	Cir. 19,000	Latinos	WA State	P.O. Box 223	Wenatchee	WA 98807	425-603-9480	www.elmundonews.net			generawest@elmundonews.net	Spanish	Washington State's Leading Spanish Language Newspaper
Filipino American Herald	Newspaper	Monthly		Filipinos	Greater Seattle	P O Box 14166	Seattle	WA 98114	206-280-8406		Alma Kern	Publisher	filamherald@cablespeed.com	English	To provide information for and about Filipino Americans and fellow Americans
International Examiner	Newspaper	Bi-weekly	30,000	Asian Pacific Americans	Pacific NW	622 S. Washington St	Seattle	WA 98104	206-624-3925	www.iexaminer.org	Diem Ly	Editor in Chief	editor@iexaminer.org	English	Provide a voice for the Asian Pacific American communities in the Pacific Northwest
Korea Times Hankook Ilbo	Newspaper	Daily		Koreans	Puget Sound	12532 Aurora Ave N	Seattle	WA 98133	253-572-0433						
Koreatimes.com	Website	Daily		Koreans	Puget Sound	12532 Aurora Ave N	Seattle	WA 98133	206-622-5332	www.koreatimes.com					
La Raza del Noroeste	Newspaper	Weekly		Latinos	Northwest				425-673-6635	www.raza-nw.com	Jorge Rivera	Director	rivera@raza-nw.com	Spanish	Local edition of national publication
La Voz Hispanic News	Newspaper	Weekly	Circ. 18,000	Latinos	Eastern WA					www.lavozhispanicnews.com					
Northwest Asian Weekly	Newspaper	Weekly	Circ. 10,000	Asians	King County	412 Maynard Ave. S.	Seattle	WA 98104	206-223-5559	www.nwasianweekly.com	Eleanor Lee	Editor	e.lee@nwasianweekly.com	English	The only weekly English-edition newspaper serving Washington's Asian community
One Philippines	Newspaper	Bi-weekly		Filipinos	WA State	3031 Beacon Ave S	Seattle	WA 98144	206-508-1654	www.onephil.com	Antonio Remorosa	Acct. Exec.	admin@onephil.com	English	"Uniting Philipinos worldwide"
Russian World Newspaper	Newspaper	Bi-weekly	10,000 copies	Russians	WA State	11411 NE 124th St #195	Kirkland	WA 98034	425-821-3741	www.russianreklam.net	Julia Ochs	Office manager	russianworld@russianreklama.net	Russian	Distributed free through grocery stores, etc.
RussianSeattle.com	Website	Daily		Russians	King County		Seattle		206-227-4589	www.russianseattle.com	Alexander Goyhman	Chief Editor	webmaster@russianseattle.com	Russian	information useful for the Russian community of Greater Seattle.
Sea Latino	Newspaper	Weekly	Circ. 18,700	Latinos	Greater Seattle	23303 Pacific Hwy S	Kent	WA 98032	253-852-6436	www.sea-latino.com	Mario Quintero	Regional Manager	mquintero@sea-latino.com	Spanish	Seattle section as insert in national newspaper
Seattle Chinese Journal	Newspaper	Weekly		Chinese	Greater Seattle	519 6th Ave S #210	Seattle	WA 98104	206-622-6666		Tony Chu	Executive Director	seattlechinesejournal@yahoo.com	Chinese	
Seattle Chinese Post	Newspaper	Weekly	Circ. 5,000	Chinese	King County	412 Maynard Ave. S.	Seattle	WA 98104	206-223-0623	www.seattlechinese.com	Assunta Ng	Publisher	assunta@nwasianweekly.com	Chinese	
The Korea Central Daily	Newspaper & website	Daily		Koreans	Puget Sound	13749 Midvale Ave	Seattle	WA 98133	253-588-2375						
The North American Post	Newspaper	Weekly		Japanese	Greater Seattle	519 6th Ave S	Seattle	WA 98104	206-623-0100	www.napost.com	Tomio Moriguchi	Publisher	info@napost.com	English & Japanese	Voice of the Nikkei community

Tu Decides (You Decide)	Newspaper	Weekly	Latinos	WA State	7425A W. Clearwater Ave	Kennewick	WA 99336	509-591-0495	www.tudecidesmedia.com	Albert Torres	Publisher	albert@tudecidesmedia.com	English & Spanish	Bilingual paper with a mission to provide all generations of Hispanics with a more balanced perspective and keener insight
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RADIO AND TV STATIONS					
CALL SIGN & DIAL:	CITY:	Coverage area:	Phone:	Ethnicity:	Website:
KBNO 89.3 FM	White Salmon	Clark County, Vancouver		Spanish	
KDNA 91.9 FM	Yakima	Yakima	509-854-2222	Spanish	http://www.radiokdna.org/
KZHR 92.5 FM	Dayton	Tri-Cities	508-546-0313	Spanish	
KZML 95.9 FM	Quincy	Yakima		Spanish	
KRCW 96.3 FM	Royal City	Tri-Cities, Moses Lake	509-854-1900	Spanish	http://www.campesina.com/
KZTB 96.7 FM	Benton City	Tri-Cities	509-457-1000	Spanish	
KZTA 96.9 FM	Naches	Yakima	509-457-1000	Spanish	
KHSS 100.7 FM	Walla Walla	Tri-Cities, Walla Walla	509-525-0434	Spanish	
KMNA 101.7 FM	Prosser	Tri-Cities	509-786-1209	Spanish	
KWLN 103.3 FM	Wilson Creek	Grant County, Moses Lake		Spanish	
KYXE 1020 AM	Union Gap	Yakima	509-457-1000	Spanish	
KZTS 1210 AM	Sunnyside	Yakima	509-457-1000	Spanish	
KWYZ 1230 AM	Everett	Seattle Metro	253-815-1212	Asian	
KWWX 1340 AM	Wenatchee	Wenatchee	509-665-6565	Spanish	http://www.lasuperz.com/
KKMO 1360 AM	Tacoma	Seattle Metro	206-777-5469	Spanish	http://www.radiosol1360.com/
KRSC 1400 AM	Othello	Tri-Cities, Moses Lake	509-488-2791	Spanish	
KSUH 1450 AM	Puyallup	Seattle Metro	253-815-1212	Korean	http://www.radiohankook.com/
KXPA 1540 AM	Bellevue	Seattle Metro	206-292-7800	Ethnic/Spanish	http://www.kxpa.com/
KRPI 1550 AM	Ferndale	North Puget Sound	360-384-5117	Ethnic/South Asian	http://www.krpiradio.com/
KVRI 1600 AM	Blaine	North Puget Sound		Ethnic/South Asian	http://www.radioindiabroadcasting.com/
KTFH 1680 AM	Seattle	Seattle Metro		International	
TV stations					
KUNS-TV	Seattle	Western Washington	206-404-5867	Spanish	http://www.kunstv.com/
KUNP-TV	Portland	Vancouver	503-231-4222	Spanish	http://www.kunptv.com/
KOAM-TV	Federal Way	Western Washington	253-946-5537	Korean	http://www.koamtv.net/

USEFUL EXCERPTS FROM A VARIETY OF SOURCES - VERY EDUCATIONAL READING (in no particular order):

Governor Locke in 2003 speech to KAVA (Korean American Voters Association):

The Korean American Voters Alliance has done an outstanding job in uniting and empowering this community. Since its founding just last year, the Alliance has registered over 4,200 new voters. KAVA produced the first-ever Korean-language voters guide.

I am proof that we can challenge the glass ceiling through political involvement and empowerment. We can challenge the glass ceiling and we can shatter it. If you care about education and jobs, you must be involved.

I encourage you to continue engaging your fellow citizens. You are doing more than empowering the Korean American community to vote. You are empowering people, to be part of our political system. And that's what democracy in our country is all about.

From the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials' website www.veyvota.org/:

With Latinos constituting the second largest population group in the nation, we are poised to continue shaping the future of our country. Currently, over 6,000 Latinos are providing dynamic leadership to diverse communities by serving in elected or appointed office across all levels of government.

FACTS ON LATINO ELECTED OFFICIALS IN THE UNITED STATES

Members of Congress	17	19	25
Governor	0	0	1
State Officials	6	8	8
State Legislators	156	190	232
County Officials	358	398	498
Municipal Officials	1,295	1,469	1,651
Judicial and Law Enforcement	546	465	678
School Board Members	1,240	1,392	1,760
Special District Officials	125	119	188
Total	3,743	4,060	5,041

- In 1996, there were no Latinos serving in the U.S. Senate. In 2006, there are three Latinos serving in Congress' upper chamber.
- In 1996, there were 17 Latinos serving in voting positions in the U.S. House of Representatives. In 2005, there are 23 Latinos serving in such positions. Other Latinos in Congress include the Resident Commissioner of Puerto Rico and the Delegate from Guam.
- In 1996, there were no Latino governors. As of 2006, there is one Latino, Bill Richardson, serving as Governor of New Mexico.
- In 1996, there were six Latinos serving as state officials. As of 2005, there are nine serving as state officials.
- In 1996, 156 Latinos served as state legislators. In 2005, there are 232 Latinos serving as state legislators. In 2005, three states, California, New Jersey and New Mexico, have Latinos serving as Speakers of the State Assembly or House of Representatives.

Between 1988 and 2004, the number of Latino voters in Presidential elections more than doubled, growing from 3.7 million voters to 7.6 million, and we believe that more than 9.2 million Latinos will cast ballots in the 2008 Presidential contest.

In 2006, we worked together with a national coalition of civil rights and civic associations in a successful effort to secure the reauthorization of key provisions of the Voting Rights Act of 1965("VRA"). We published two reports, which were both submitted to Congress to help document the continued need for the VRA's protection. One report, "The ESL Logjam: Waiting Times for Adult ESL Classes and the Impact on English Learners," examined the unmet demand for English-as-a-Second-Language classes, and the challenges confronting newcomers in obtaining ESL instruction. The other report, "I Was Asked If I Was A Citizen": Latino Elected Officials Speak Out on the Voting Rights Act, documented the continued existence of discrimination against Latino elected officials and voters in the electoral process. Our VRA activities also included an initiative to educate Latino elected officials and civic leaders about the importance of the reauthorization of the VRA's provisions.

From Organization of Chinese-Americans' website:

Aside from the individual cases/projects, OCA-GS has represented the APA community at the King County Racial Profiling and Police Accountability Task Force, and has monitored the King County Election Office's compliance with Section 203 (Language Minority Voting Rights) of the Federal Voting Rights Act (FVRA); and encouraged civic involvement via voter registration drives and informed participation in the political process via the candidates' forums. At the urging of OCA-GS, King County Elections Office hired a bilingual Chinese Outreach worker and administrative specialist to help ensure compliance with Section 203 of the FVRA. Moreover, the chapter successfully lobbied the county to include an OCA-GS representative on the King County Elections Oversight Committee, a body created to review and make recommendations regarding voting operations and procedures.

King County

The King County Council created the Citizens' Elections Oversight Committee (CEOC) to monitor county elections and recommend improvements to the performance and accountability of the King County Elections Section. In May 2006, the County Council voted to make the CEOC a permanent committee, after having two previous panels review, monitor and make recommendations on improving the Election Section in 2003 and 2005.

The CEOC presented six "high priority" recommendations to the Council in March 2006. The recommendations included all vote-by mail elections, the consolidation of election facilities, improved management, communications and leadership and improved voter registration and security.

The 13 members of the Committee are appointed by the Chair of the Council and the Vice Chair of Council Affairs from nominations made by all Council members. The current committee includes members representing:

- The Municipal League,
- The League of Women Voters,
- The King County and state Republican and Democratic Parties,
- A King County junior taxing district,
- An independent research and policy institute,
- The Washington State Auditors Association,
- The office of the Washington Secretary of State,
- The Chinese-speaking community,
- Two registered King County voters.

The committee also has two ex-officio, non-voting members representing the Washington Secretary of State's Office and the State Auditors Association.

The Council created the original CEOC in 2003. That committee presented the Council a lengthy report and a series of recommendations in 2004 many of which were implemented by the Elections Director.

The panel was reactivated in 2005 to review the 2004 general election, monitor the 2005 primary and general elections, and make recommendations for improvements.

The Council will re-evaluate the need for a continued CEOC in 2009. In that year the CEOC will send to the Council an evaluation of the effectiveness of the improvements made to the Elections Section and a recommendation on whether the Committee is still needed.

ROAR:

The dream to someday see an Asian American president can be realized by first taking smaller, more local steps, which is just what Seattle API groups are joining forces to do. The training workshop, organized by a number of sponsors, including Progressive Majority, ROAR (Raising Our Asian Pacific American Representation), the National Federation of Filipino American Associations (NaFFAA), Organization of Chinese Americans (OCA), Japanese American Citizens League (JACL), among others, seeks to increase the number of API elected officials by presenting an affordable, nonpartisan API political leadership workshop.

Nadine Shiroma of ROAR and Eastside APIs notes that though Bellevue has become diverse, "the leaders are not" (Bellevue City Councilman Conrad Lee is the only API elected official on the Eastside).

As diversity is a hot topic in the presidential race, so is the youth vote. As some say that the younger generation is hard to reach, API youth are even harder to motivate to become interested in politics. Florian Purganan of NaFFAA believes that Filipino youth may have a sense of apathy in terms of the issues because of the lack of role models as there are so few numbers of Filipinos elected in office.

LOPEZ & CHEUNG INC: A public affairs consulting firm, Seattle:

Client: Raising Our Asian Pacific Islander Representation (ROAR)

Project Name: Washington State Asian Pacific Islander (API) Civic Census

Description: A newly-formed organization, ROAR set out to increase civic engagement in the API community that went beyond traditional voter registration drives. ROAR recruited Lopez & Cheung, Inc., to develop a new model, which resulted in the API Civic Census, a project that identifies civic engagement on an individual level. This allows ROAR to create targeted drives for citizenship classes, voter registration and lobbying efforts.

Client: National Association of Latino Elected Officials (NALEO):

Project Name: 2002 Los Angeles County Voter Registration Drive

Name:

Description: NALEO hired Lopez & Cheung, Inc., to develop innovative methods of reaching unregistered Latinos in Los Angeles County by mail. This was accomplished through sophisticated data analysis incorporating Census demographics, voter files and private consumer data

Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance, AFL-CIO:

Every Vote Counts is APALA's voter mobilization project. Because Asian Americans are one of the fastest growing minority groups in the country, APALA believes an active and mobilized Asian American and Pacific Islander community can become a strategic partner and supporter of the labor movement. APALA will continue to pursue the objective of integrating Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders into the labor movement and political system by being involved in nonpartisan electoral processes.

From LULAC (League of United Latin American Citizens):

Like any voting group, Latinos are not easily categorized and voting patterns neatly generalized. However, several major factors play out as key decision-making variables: one's point of origin, length of time in United States, and income levels. Although Latinos share a common history of Spanish colonialism and similar nation building, they differ in political processes and agendas. Despite having citizenship, Puerto Ricans can vote in a presidential election only if they live on the mainland and establish residency. Cuban-Americans are concentrated in South Florida and tend to be conservative. Mexican-American voting patterns are very issue-oriented, divided according to income levels and generation.

From Whitman College's website:

- **Voting Rights:** Political jurisdictions abound in Washington where there is a stark mismatch between the Latino population and the proportion of Latino political representatives. Statistical evidence in this report shows the existence of structural

barriers to Latino representation suggesting the need for court-ordered remedies under the federal Voting Rights Act.

WALLA WALLA, Wash.— A public meeting on “Political Mobilization and Voting Rights among Latinos in Washington State,” the third in a series of reports written by Whitman students on “The State of the State for Washington Latinos,” will be held Thursday, May 1, on the Whitman College campus.

A seminar class at Whitman College, under the direction of Paul Apostolidis, professor of politics, and Gilbert Mireles, assistant professor of sociology, has conducted new research to add to the considerable information gathered on the lives of Latinos living in Washington by students in 2005 and 2006. Beginning at 7 p.m. in Olin Hall 130, students will discuss this year’s research topics, which focused specifically on voting and political mobilization.

“The State of the State for Washington Latinos’ continues to be the only broadly inclusive report on social and political conditions for Latinos in Washington, where the Hispanic population has been rapidly rising while inequalities remain multiple and serious,” said Apostolidis. The reports have garnered the attention of state politicians, Latino activists and various city councils around the state. The research conducted by Ian Warner ’07 on voting rights in Sunnyside, Washington, catalyzed local debate about the issue and gained the attention of the U.S. Department of Justice, which looked into Warner’s findings that the city’s election process was in violation of the Voting Rights Act.

This election year, the class conducted research in eight Washington communities: Walla Walla, Pasco, Toppenish, Granger, Wapato, Quincy, Othello, and Yakima. Students have conducted their research in partnership with the League of United Latin American Citizens, the nation’s oldest Latino civic organization, and with community partners from around the state.

In attendance at the public meeting May 1 will be a representative from Gov. Gregoire's office; the executive director of the Washington state chapter of the League of United Latin American Citizens; the director of the Washington State Commission on Hispanic Affairs; and the president of the Pierce County Chamber of Commerce.

Specific research topics to be discussed will be:

- Overcoming Obstacles to Latino Mobilization in Walla Walla, Washington;
- The Role of Electoral Politics and Latino Mobilization Strategies in Granger and Toppenish, Washington;
- Latino Political Representation in the Toppenish, Wapato, and Granger School Districts: The Case for Change;
- The Invisible Latino: A Study of the Electoral Politics of Walla Walla;
- The Political Representation of Latinos in Small Cities: An Examination of Latino Representation in Quincy, and Othello, Washington;

- Latino Political Participation and Civic Engagement through Mobilization Efforts in Pasco, Washington;
- Breaking the Cycle of Political Non-Participation: The Effect of Community Involvement and Civic Education on Latino Families;
- Political Mobilization through the Use of Bilingual Media in Yakima;
- The Latino Electoral Experience in a Small City: Twenty Years of Latino Nonsuccess in City Council Elections in Pasco, Washington.

A question-and-answer and public discussion will follow.

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Study finds Washington Latinos politically under-represented

By MANUEL VALDES
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

SEATTLE — Latinos remain largely politically underrepresented in rural towns in Eastern Washington, where about a third of the state's fast-growing Latino population lives and works, according to a Whitman College study released Thursday.

Latinos are the state's largest minority group, accounting for nearly 10 percent of the state's 6.4 million population. Most of the Latinos living east of the Cascade Range are in the central part of the state, according to the latest U.S. Census Bureau estimates.

In towns such as Toppenish, Wapato and Walla Walla, Latinos have considerable less influence in local politics and policy-making although in some places Latinos outnumber whites, according to the study, entitled "The State of the State for Washington Latinos."

"The bad news is there is mounting evidence that (Latinos) are vastly under represented in these communities," said Paul Apostolidis, a professor of politics who led the research dubbed "The State of the State for Washington Latinos" ...

The basic questions motivating these studies will be: How fairly are Latinos represented in the jurisdiction in question? What factors (legal-structural, social-economic, and political-organizational) account for any Latino under-representation that exists? What kinds of action should be taken to enhance representative democracy and racial equality in these jurisdictions?

Two Areas of Focus

1. **Voting rights:** Do circumstances in this jurisdiction provide grounds for applying Section 2 Voting Rights Act remedies for Latino under-representation? What would change here, if VRA provisions were applied, or were applied more vigorously? What would not change? What factors, aside from voter mobilization efforts, explain Latino representation and turnout levels, racially polarized voting, any lack of district elections, and any difficulties in obtaining bilingual voting materials, in this location?
2. **Political mobilization:** What efforts are being made by organizations in this area to mobilize greater Latino participation in local politics and public affairs? What have organizations specifically done to mobilize greater Latino voter participation? What have these organizations achieved, and what have they not achieved? Why have these organizations been active, and why have they been able or unable to accomplish certain changes, apart from considerations addressed by the VRA (availability of bilingual voting materials, patterns of racially polarized voting, at-large vs. district elections)?

Sunnyside holds at-large elections. With a nearly 75% Latino population and only 14.3% Latino representation among elected officials, Sunnyside is definitely experiencing a near complete lack of representation proportionate to its Latino population. Add to this the fact that only about 30% of registered Latinos are voting.

Throughout the State of Washington Latinos are under-represented in comparison to their percentage of the population in various cities. Ian Warner has a few recommendations for making elected bodies more accurately reflect the local population.

1. Re-examine the use of at large-general elections in Sunnyside and other cities around the state.
2. Increase voter mobilization and education efforts in Sunnyside and re-examine the general election format in the city council elections.
3. Make these efforts bilingual to increase their reach within the Latino community.

District elections would help eliminate the barrier to Latino representation that at-large elections are creating in Washington.

Latinos are registered to vote and turn out to vote at lower rates than non-Latinos. Warner discusses in his full report how the extremely low turnout of Latino voters means that not enough resources and interest are being devoted to voter mobilization efforts in Sunnyside and around Washington State.

Some solutions are simple and straightforward. As Warner points out, creative solutions, such as Bengie Aguilar's suggestion of having a bilingual newsletter aimed at educating Sunnyside about the issues in the city and decisions made by the city council, seem to be a very practical way to begin the effort to improve the level of Latino involvement in politics

Young people are extremely mobile and that makes the logistics of voting difficult—residency requirements and registration deadlines require interest and attention. Young people know how the winner is chosen for *American Idol*, votes are cast by phone or online. They are less likely to know what is involved to elect public officials or vote for an initiative.

"Among all populations, the young, the less well educated, and the low-income are less likely to vote. All of these groups are disproportionately represented among Latinos."

Making opportunities for political participation easier, more transparent, and by supporting the sentiment favoring political participation that already exists within the Latino population.

Redistricting and Latino Vote:

Since 2002 Latino voter registration, education and mobilization efforts have been expanded from a regional (SW Idaho) to a statewide effort. Efforts have been focused in "Latino" legislative districts formed during the 2002 redistricting work. Latino voter registrations have been increased to over 20,000 (from less than 10,000) and Latino voter participation has been increased to 40% by effectively utilizing same day/election day registration and vote-at-home (absentee ballot). During October 2, 2006 the Hispanic Pew Center released information that the number of eligible Latino voters in Idaho is 46,242. The IHCIRE serves the interest of some 126,785 Idaho Latinos; this population is primarily Mexican American. Most migrated into the state. Many work in the agricultural and service industries, and contribute to their communities in many ways, but do not have a political voice.

Saturday's workshops on Voter Activation and Running for Office were introduced by Judge Sergio Gutierrez, Idaho's only Latino judge, who has held positions as District Judge and now as Court of Appeals Judge through three elections after his initial appointment. Eight participants indicated an interest in running for public office. Many of the fifteen organizations attending agreed to work together on voter activation plans.

Asian Americans:

Studies have shown that Asian Americans are more likely to vote Democratic, and so the Democratic Party has stepped up its outreach efforts in recent years to encourage more Asian Americans to vote. As the Asian community becomes more comfortable and interested in voting, more of its members are also stepping up to run for public office.

Political candidates are feeling the influence of Asian Americans not only in terms of votes, but in other aspects as well, including campaign contributions. The increase in social awareness, combined with strength in numbers, because Asian Americans are more educated now, they are also more familiar with the elections process and their candidates than ever before. They know the issues and will vote for the candidate who reflects their own stances. Many Asian Americans, politicians and everyone else have become accustomed to the presumption that we're "perpetual foreigners".

Washington Latino Voter Statistics:

Census Analysis
(All statistics in thousands)

VAP - Voting Age Population
 Reg. - Registered
 Reg. % - Registered Percentage = (Reg. / VAP)
 TO - Turnout
 TO% - Turnout Percentage = (TO / VAP)
 CVAP - Citizen Voting Age Population
 % C - Percentage Citizen = (CVAP / VAP)

1992	All	3,699	2,645	71.5%	2,453	66.3%	n/a	n/a
	White	3,366	2,510	74.6%	2,331	69.3%	n/a	n/a
	Black	132	51	38.6%	41	31.1%	n/a	n/a
	Hispanic	42	18	42.9%	13	31.0%	n/a	n/a
1994	All	3,924	2,636	67.2%	1,826	46.5%	n/a	n/a
	White	3,605	2,499	69.3%	1,755	48.7%	n/a	n/a
	Black	100	62	62.2%	25	24.9%	n/a	n/a
	Hispanic	71	21	29.4%	19	26.3%	n/a	n/a

1996	All	4,059	2,840	70.0%	2,436	60.0%	3,911	96.4%
	White	3,779	2,686	71.1%	2,306	61.05	3,679	97.4%
	Black	52	38	72.1%	38	72.1%	52	100.0%
	Hispanic	167	54	32.1%	50	30.2%	104	62.3%
1998	All	4,179	2,622	62.8%	1,905	45.6%	3,895	93.2%
	White	3,587	2,393	66.7%	1,779	49.6%	3,483	97.1%
	Black	81	40	(B)	16	(B)	81	(B)
	Hispanic	182	64	34.9%	31	16.8%	85	46.7%
2000	All	4,314	2,852	66.1%	2,527	58.6%	4,078	94.5%
	White	3,734	2,589	69.3%	2,346	62.8%	3,651	97.8%
	Black	123	62	50.8%	39	31.5%	101	82.3%
	Hispanic	167	71	42.4%	59	35.0%	109	65.0%
2002	All	4,456	2,901	65.1%	2,097	47.1%	4,134	92.8%
	White	3,702	2,649	71.6%	1,940	52.4%	3,630	98.1%
	Black	111	71	63.9%	48	43.3%	111	100.0%
	Hispanic	244	63	25.8%	34	13.8%	134	54.9%
2004	All	4,596	3,133	68.2%	2,851	62.0%	4,220	91.8
	White	3,584	2,674	74.6%	2,461	68.7%	3,483	97.2
	Black	141	80	56.7%	67	47.5%	141	100.0
	Hispanic	248	56	22.6%	44	17.7%	120	48.4

Source: **US Census Bureau, Current Population Reports: Voting and Registration in the Election of November 1992, 1994, 1996, 1998, 2000, and 2002.** Note: The symbol B means that the base is too small to show the derived measure.

WCVI Analysis

(All statistics in thousands)

TVR - Total Voter Registration

TVC - Total Votes Cast

TT% - Total Turnout = (TVC / TVR)

LVR - Latino Voter Registration

LVC - Latino Votes Cast

LT% - Latino Turnout Percentage = (LVC / LVR)

Share TVR - Share Total Voter Registration = (LVR / TVR)

Share TVC - Share Total Votes Cast = (LVC / TVC)

Year	TVR	TVC	TT%	LVR	LVC	LT%	Share TVR	Share TVC
1992	2,645	2,453	92.7%	18	13	72.2%	0.7%	0.5%
1994	2,636	1,826	69.3%	21	19	90.5%	0.8%	1.0%
1996	2,840	2,436	85.8%	54	50	92.6%	1.9%	2.1%
1998	2,622	1,905	72.7%	64	31	48.4%	2.4%	1.6%
2000	2,852	2,572	90.2%	71	59	83.1%	2.5%	2.3%
2002	2,901	2,097	72.3%	63	34	54.0%	2.2%	1.6%
2004*	3,157	2,811	89.0%	72	59	81.9%	2.3%	2.1%

Nationwide:

Census Analysis

(All statistics in thousands)

Year	Race	VAP	CVAP	REG	REG %	TO	TO %	REG SHARE	TO SHARE	VR POTENTIAL
2004	All	215,694	197,006	142,070	72.1%	125,736	88.5%	n/a	n/a	54,936
	White	176,618	162,958	119,929	73.6%	106,588	88.9%	84.4%	84.8%	43,029
	Black	24,910	23,346	16,035	68.7%	14,016	87.4%	11.3%	11.1%	7,311
	Hispanic	27,129	16,088	9,308	57.9%	7,587	81.5%	6.6%	6.0%	6,780

Southwest Voter Registration Education Project (SVREP) and the Latino Academy:

WHAT IS THE LATINO ACADEMY?

Southwest Voter Registration Education Project (SVREP) invites community advocates, young leaders, and civic activists to participate in intensive training camps conducted throughout the nation. Participants have the opportunity to attend seminars, trainings, and political simulations, as well as interact with experts in fields such as public speaking, governance, and political activism. Upon completion from the Latino Academy, graduates are eligible to serve as project chairs, coordinators, or treasures on a voter registration education project (VREP) in their community.

SVREP Latino Academy offers students an incredible opportunity to participate in rigorous trainings covering the basics of grassroots organizing, mass voter registration and mobilization. With a Community Organizing Track for experienced activists and a Youth Track, the SVREP Latino Academy offers something for organizers at any level.

WHAT TO EXPECT...

Latino Academy coursework provides you with essential training in:

- Ethics and Accountability Principles
- Organizing and Governance
- Latino Political History and Ideology
- Policy Issues: Education, Economic Development, Crime and Drugs

Whether you have recently entered the political sphere or you have been organizing for decades, the Latino Academy is the perfect opportunity to develop essential organizing skills. Youth Track Students will acquire a foundation in political activism while the Advanced Community Organizing Track will sharpen skills and learn new techniques. SVREP will cover room, board, costs and training material for Latino Academy Students (students, are responsible for travel expenses to and from Academy's), so why not become part of the Alumni of SVREP's Latino Academy?

Meanwhile, the report recommends: Improving poll worker training; ensuring proper protocols for dealing with election machinery breakdowns; guaranteeing that all eligible registrants make it on to the registration rolls; and widely publicizing correct requirements and restrictions about voter identification and other procedures.

Be part of history, and join with Latina leaders across the country to register, educate and mobilize 100,000 new Latinas to vote for the November 2008 election! The slogan, **Vota Una Latina, Vota Una Familia**, says it all. Make it a tradition for your families' future.

KOAM-TV:

From Federal Way, KOAM-TV carries from an hour to 90 minutes of programming each night, including soap operas and local news. It reaches viewers from Olympia to Bellingham. The station is considering switching to a 24-hour format in upcoming months to meet growing demand.

Readers don't have to wander far from the station's office to see exactly how fast the community has grown.

Strips malls near the station, located in an office complex near downtown Federal Way, are plastered with Korean-language signs advertising restaurants, laundries, beauty shops, video stores and Korean markets.

Three census tracts that cover the Twin Lakes area of Federal Way near the TV station have the largest percentage of Koreans in the region, according to the latest census figures.

It's no surprise that Federal Way has a Korean mayor, Michael Park, and is home to two weekly newspapers, Christian News and the Korea Post, as well as the 24-hour Korean Radio Hankook.

When she moved to Federal Way from Los Angeles in 1996, Radio Hankook's founder Jean Suh said she saw few Korean businesses.

LatinosVote.com:

Welcome to LatinosVote.Com. This is a site dedicated to educating Latino voters about the elections process. For information on this site contact us at (info at latinosvote dot com).

Get-Out-The-Vote:

Since January, more than 5,600 brand-new U.S. citizens have joined voter registration rolls in Cook, Lake and DuPage counties as part of the New Americans Vote '04 Campaign, organized by the Illinois Coalition of Immigrant and Refugee Rights. The campaign is part of a national get-out-the-vote initiative launched by the Center for Community Change, which will spend \$2 million to register 400,000 new voters in 15 states, including Illinois.

Jovel joins a growing movement of new American citizens rushing to register to vote before Election Day. Last weekend, 50 people registered to vote in just two hours during a health fair at the Howard Area Community Center in Rogers Park. "Those are excellent results because normally you can get five registrations per

hour, but people were really receptive," said community organizer Jamiko Rose, who registered Jovel at Delray Farms.

Naturalized American citizens are 35 percent less likely to be registered to vote than native-born citizens, according to a 1999 U.S. census report that examined the 1996 presidential elections.

From Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF):

The legacy of these discriminatory policies and the notion of Asian Americans as foreigners is still strongly felt today, impeding Asian American political participation.

The long wait, rising naturalization fees and the mishandling by INS of applications has deterred many other immigrants from applying for citizenship.

A number of voting problems were documented by AALDEF, including insufficient Chinese and Korean language assistance, availability of translated materials, and knowledge of general election procedures.

These persistent problems underscore the need for state and local officials to implement new election reform procedures in ways that will remove institutional voting barriers faced by Asian American voters.

Language assistance and bilingual ballots are needed to preserve access to the vote:

Forty-three percent (43%) of Asian Americans expressed that they were limited English proficient, and 13% identified English as their native language. A number of poll sites were mandated to provide bilingual ballots and interpreters under the federal Voting Rights Act; other jurisdictions voluntarily provided language assistance. In the 2006 elections, nearly half of all voters surveyed (46%) needed interpreters to vote, and 38% used translated written materials. The greatest beneficiaries of language assistance were first-time voters, 47% of whom were limited English proficient.

While Asian Americans constitute 4.3% of the total U.S. population, they comprise 14% of Seattle, WA.

Percentage of Voters Asian American respondents

100% 4,726 Total Surveyed

48 Women

52 Men

38 Chinese

27 South Asian

14 Korean

8 Southeast Asian
7 Filipino
6 Other Asian

19.... 18 to 29 years old
17.... 30 to 39 years old
16.5.... 40 to 49 years old
20.... 50 to 59 years old
14.... 60 to 69 years old
13.5.... 70 and over

17 Born in the U.S.
83 Foreign born, naturalized citizen:
... 8 0-2 years ago
... 12 3-5 years ago
... 20 6-10 years ago
... 43 More than 10 years ago

29 No formal education in the U.S.
Educated in the U.S., highest level:
2 Elementary school
2 Less than high school
8 High school degree or equivalent
3 Trade school degree
36 College or university degree
20 Advanced degree

Hispanic Population:

The Hispanic population in Washington has increased at least 31 percent over the past six years, according to the latest U.S. Census Bureau estimates reported in May. Hispanics in Washington now number at least 580,000 out of the 6.15 million total population, according to those estimates. In addition, there are more than 200,000 illegal immigrants in the state, according to a 2006 study by the Pew Hispanic Center.

The Hispanic Vote in the 2008 Democratic Presidential Primaries:

Susan Minushkin and Mark Hugo Lopez, Pew Hispanic Center

Report Materials

Complete Report: <http://pewhispanic.org/files/reports/86.pdf>

Other Resources

Updated June 4, 2008 to include results from the Puerto Rico primary

Updated March 7, 2008 to include results from Texas and other recent primaries

Hispanics have emerged as a potentially pivotal constituency in the battle between Senators Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama for the Democratic presidential nomination. This report examines the turnout, demographic characteristics, opinions and voting patterns of the Hispanic electorate in Democratic primaries and caucuses held so far in 2008. Where possible, it draws comparisons and contrasts between Latino, black and white voting patterns. It also compares Latino turnout in 2008 with turnout in 2004. The report is based on an analysis of Super Tuesday exit polling data about Hispanics that the Pew Hispanic Center received on a contractual basis from Edison Media Research and Mitofsky International, the firm that conducts exit poll surveys for the National Election Pool, a national consortium of media organizations. It also contains analysis of publicly available exit poll data for the Texas primary and vote tallies for the Puerto Rico primary from the State Electoral Commission of Puerto Rico.

Other Resources

Pew Hispanic Center, February 2008. Hispanics in the 2008 Election Fact Sheets. Washington, DC: Pew Hispanic Center.

Paul Taylor and Richard Fry. Hispanics and the 2008 Election: A Swing Vote?. December 2007. Washington, DC: Pew Hispanic Center.

From Fairvote.org's Right to Vote brochure:

Curriculum Component 1:

History of Voting Rights

Learning Democracy takes students on a historical journey through the evolution of suffrage in the United States and provides a snapshot of democracy around the world. In order for students to understand *why* people vote, they need to know *how* our current state of suffrage came to be in the United States. Learning about international political systems provides students with a frame of reference to consider why voting matters to so many people.

Curriculum Component 2:

Mechanics of Voting

A typical high school civics curriculum effectively teaches the foundational elements of democracy. Studying institutions, how laws are made and political parties gives students a solid base that prepares them for a future of active citizenship. What can be missing, however, is a lesson about the basic mechanics of voting like "how to vote" and "what to expect on Election Day." Students should feel comfortable going into their polling place for the first time and should not be intimidated by the process. In addition, first-time voters need a basic tutorial about how to request an absentee ballot and change their address or party affiliation. *Learning Democracy* makes the mechanics of voting more accessible to young people.

Robert Richie:

- A troubling disconnect between citizens and their representative democracy—one due at least in part to a lack of widely shared public understanding of government, elections, and citizen power.
- Civics classes and Constitution Day assemblies; (3) classes that explain voting mechanics and the powers of local, state, and federal elected offices and dispel common myths
- There is strong evidence that direct experience with the mechanics of voting boosts turnout among first-time eligible voters, and that after a citizen has voted once, he or she is more likely to vote in the future.
- But three clear obstacles can be removed through straightforward changes in policy: ensure that all newly eligible voters are registered, let them know about the mechanics of how to vote in person or by mail in their community, and give them regular and substantive information about upcoming elections.
- They can be in the form of "voter's ed" classes and in high school assemblies, perhaps focused on democratic processes on Constitution Day that include students learning to fill out voter registration forms.
- The current vicious cycle of low youth participation leading to most politicians' lack of attentiveness to youth issues.

SOME NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS ABOUT POLITICIAN VS. MINORITY DEMOGRAPHICS:

(By Andreas Udbye)

There are overlapping demographic and socio-economic factors that may cause our lawmaking population to be overwhelmingly white:

- The average educational level of the lawmakers is higher than the average in the population. Typically, ethnic minorities and most immigrant groups tend to have less education, and tend to hold more "blue collar" and agricultural jobs.
- The average age of the lawmakers is higher than the population average. Minorities and immigrants are younger, on average, than the white and U.S. born population.
- It is also likely that the lawmakers have a higher income level than the minority and immigrant populations.

The profile of a typical lawmaker as older, better educated, white collar and wealthier contrasts with the average profile of a member of an ethnic minority or an immigrant. Another factor that comes into play may be language proficiency and confidence. Politicians are in the word business, and many immigrants (new citizens) may feel nervous about not measuring up in an environment where eloquent speaking abilities and solid penmanship are at a premium. Indeed, the voters may feel apprehensive about casting their vote for somebody whose linguistic skills seem to be lacking, even though the candidate may have a superior political platform and conviction.

To summarize, new citizens (and to a certain extent ethnic minorities) have several potential handicaps that put them at a disadvantage in either running for office or being elected. Among them may be real or perceived educational deficiencies (e.g. a law degree from Yale sounds more impressive than a similar degree from the University of Guadalajara), the age, the wealth level (e.g. poorer people can ill afford to take a part time job as a legislator or even afford to start a campaign), and the challenges of having an accent and English as a second language.

Minority and Foreign Born Representation in the Washington State Legislature

<u>Racial heritage:</u>	<u>No. of Members:</u>	<u>% of Total:</u>	<u>% of overall population(*)</u>
White	136	92.5%	83.4%
Black	2	1.4%	4.3%
Native American	2	1.4%	2.7%
Latino	2	1.4%	9.1%
Asian	5	3.4%	7.8%
Foreign born	2	1.4%	12.4%

I identified the following representatives as a member of a minority group or foreign born:

<u>Name:</u>	<u>Minority Group:</u>
Sen. Rosa Franklin	Black
Sen. Claudia Kauffman	Native American
Sen. Chris Marr	Asian
Sen. Margarita Prentice	Latino
Sen. Paull Shin	Asian and Foreign Born (Korea)
Rep. Bob Hasegawa	Asian
Rep. Steve Hobbs	Asian
Rep. Phyllis Gutierrez Kenney	Latino
Rep. John McCoy	Native American
Rep. Joyce McDonald	Foreign Born (Scotland)
Rep. Eric Pettigrew	Black
Rep. Sharon Tomiko Santos	Asian

(*): Race alone or in combination with one or more other races (which means the total will be more than 100%)

Suggestions for outreach activities (as summarized and tabulated in the main body of the report):

Provide civics courses and training, in addition to course on how to register and vote.

More translated materials needed (for example, Vietnamese and Russian)

Deliberate and long term effort needed.

Radio is important to reach Latino community, and some TV

Can combine civics training with citizenship/naturalization classes

Attend and address ethnic events as a resource person

Offer to be speaker at various events and seminars (Asians tend to like attending social events)

Better distributed information on where and how to vote. Mail address and time to voters.

Advertise in ethnic press

Write editorials, op-eds and articles for the ethnic press

Be interviewed on radio and TV

Recruit leaders within ethnic community to be role models/spokespersons (so that it is not construed as people from the white establishment just lecturing)

Outreach needs access to the community, not just the leaders

Minority candidates must be encouraged and supported to run for office

Outreach must take time to understand the nature of the community (not just scratch the surface) This may require hiring people with Asian and Latino background

South Asians (Indians) tend to prefer written information, as their reading/English skills are good

Elections may want to develop an expanded, multilingual website

The parties need to take a more active role in reaching out to minorities (not just when they need their votes) and developing candidates

Make sure Outreach is represented at CIS naturalization ceremonies

Recruit, hire and train student interns to help with outreach in various communities (work-study or for credit, etc.)

Try to recruit new citizens and young minority people as poll workers

Russians best reached through churches

Outreach needs to identify trusted individuals and sources (community organizations, churches, chambers, business, non-profit or religious leaders)

Partner with and leverage relationships with established community organizations

CENTER FOR CIVIC PARTICIPATION'S VOTER PARTICIPATION MATRIX										
Organization	Contact	Phone	Email	Voter Participation Constituency	County/City	Registering Voters	Target # of Registrations	GOTV Program/can absorb extra GOTV?	Provide training/resources (what type?)	Would like resources/training (what type?)
ACORN	Jenny Lawson	206-723-5845	waacorn@acorn.org	low-income		yes	25,000	yes/yes	voter reg training	
Asian Pacific Islander Coalition	Carina Del Rosario	206-774-2403	carinad@acrs.org	Asian Pacific Islanders	statewide	yes		no	naturalization, voter reg., GOTV	resources for translating info
Chinese Information and Service Center	Debbie Hsu	206-624-5633	debbie@cisc-seattle.org	Asian community	King County	yes		no		legal, voter reg, gotv
Community Coalition for Environmental Justice	Kate Villarreal	206-720-0285	katev@ccej.org	low-income, people of color, Yesler Terrace tenants	Seattle/King	no, but forms in office	want to register a low income housing project with 600 residents	not yet	voter reg. training	seek partners for low income voter reg
Democracy Project	Michael Goodnow	360-373-6150	michael@outkitsap.org	GLBT				Gill Foundation voter file match		
EnviroCitizen	Crystal Leaver	206-256-6429	crystal@envirocitizen.org	college campuses		yes		yes	Planning a GOTV campaign, Volunteer Recruitment and Retention, Event Organizing	
Federation of State Leagues of Conservation Voters	Ed Zuckerman	206-935-8183	edz@fscvl.org	environmental voters						
Feminist Women's Health Center	Joan Schrammeck	360-387-9589	Joan_Schrammeck@fwhc.org	Young women	Tacoma, S. King County, Yakima	not yet	300	yes/no	no	Need 501c3 voter education materials about WA candidates and federal candidates as well as voter education materials about what happens after you register to vote, how do you actually vote.
Hate Free Zone Washington/CAIR-Seattle	Sindhu Srinath	206-723-2203	sindhu@hatefreezone.org	Puget Sound Muslim Community	Puget Sound area	yes	10,000	yes/no	voter reg training	

Labor Council for Latin American Advancement	Rebecca Saldana	206-448-7348 ext 335	rsaldana@seiu6.org	Latino		yes, at events		no		
League of Education Voters	George Scarola	206-728-6448	george@educationvoters.org	community college campuses, preschool parents		not yet, would like to tie to passing their education initiative				voter reg training, set up a voter reg program
League of Women Voters	Katie Bethell	206-650-1333	katbet@u.washington.edu			yes, at libraries and other's events		no		Voter Ed materials, reg training
Mercer Island Peacemakers	Annie Phillips	206-275-1393	felicity@nwlinc.com			yes				
National Council of Jewish Women	Sandy Kraus	425-558-1894	ncjw@ncjwseattle.org	Jewish young voters	Seattle	yes, synagogues, high holidays in the fall			GOTV postcard, ads in Jewish newspaper	
Native Action Network	Iris Friday	360-471-2741	iris@nwnativeinfo.com	Native youth and women		yes	2,500	yes, at events		voter reg, voter mobilization
Northwest Urban Indian Community	Lois Chichinoff Thadei		nwurbanindians@comcast.net	Urban Indians in So Puget Sound area	Thurston and SE Mason (Olympia, Shelton, Yelm, Lacey, etc.	Not yet, but soon we hope.	500			Setting up a voter registration program. Voter packets.
Plymouth Housing Group	Laura Kramer	206-448-4472	lkramer@plymouthhousing.org					no		
ProChoice Washington/NARAL	Karen Cooper	206-624-1990	karencooper@wanaral.org			yes, September				
Real Change	Rachael Myers	206-441-3247 x201	organizer@realchangewebs.org	homeless, low-income				no		
Spokane Tribe of Indians	Charlene Sijohn	509-258-6732	fsj@spokanetribe.com							
Statewide Poverty Action Network	Kim Justice	206-694-6794	vote@povertyaction.org	Low-income	South King County	yes		yes/no		voter reg info packet for groups, some public mtgs/training
United Indians	Michelle Sanidad		msanidad@unitedindians.com							
Urban League of Metropolitan Seattle	Sarah Hiller	206-461-3792	shiller@urbanleague.org	none at this time		no		no		setting up a voter reg program

WA State NOW	Lonnie Johns-Brown		lonniejb@comcast.net							
Washington Association of Churches	Tom Quigley	206-625-9790	quigley@thewac.org							no
Washington Ceasefire	Natalie Reber	206-322-7564	natalie@washingtonceasefire.org							not yet
Washington Citizen Action Education Fund	Bill Monto	206-389-0050 ext 101	bill@wacitizenaction.org	low-income	Everett, Tacoma, Seattle			60,000	yes/yes	voter reg training
Washington PIRG	Aisling Kerins	206-568-2850 x 103	aisling@washpirg.org	Young voters						yes, using a canvass
WEAVE	Zach Silk	206-374-0760 x 107	zach@wcvoters.org	environmental voters						
Get Out the Vote Coalition	Rachael Myers	206-441-3247 x 201	organizer@realchangene.ws.org	human service client-based voter registration/education						
Youth Vote Coalition	Debbie Hsu	206-624-5633	debbie@cisc-seattle.org	Young voters						
Every Child Matters (coalition)	Jenny Lawson	206-723-5845	waacom@acorn.org	Headstart parents						
Section 203 Voting Coalition				Asian Pacific Islanders-Americans						
Discrimination Free Washington	Lisa Arnold		linaquil@aol.com	LGBT voters	Bellingham, King County east, Olympia, Seattle, Spokane, Tacoma, Vancouver					