



GRANTMAKERS CONCERNED WITH
IMMIGRANTS AND REFUGEES

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Major Electoral Potential of California's Immigrants and Their Children

New Estimates of Potential New Voters Prove That Immigrants Will Play a Greater Role in California's Future

San Francisco, CA – A new, first-of-its-kind study examines the potential electoral impact of key populations in California: naturalized adult immigrants, immigrants eligible to naturalize, and U.S.-citizen children of immigrants who will soon become adults. The study provides never-before-published estimates of these potential new voters for every county and state legislative district in California. Some of the key findings include:

- More than 2 out of 3 foreign-born California residents (6.5 million) are either U.S. citizens or are eligible to naturalize and vote.
- More than 1.2 million U.S.-citizen children of immigrants will become eligible to vote by 2012.
- Immigrant voters and their children could represent 29% of all future potential voters by 2012.
- Potential voters from an immigrant background are a substantial electoral voice in both Republican and Democratic districts, representing more than 250,000 voters in seven California counties and more than 100,000 in fifteen counties.

Grantmakers Concerned with Immigrants and Refugees (GCIR), a national foundation network, commissioned this first-ever report to call attention to immigrants' expanding role in our democracy and civil society.

"California is unique in terms of the diversity and sheer number of immigrants and their children," said Rob Paral of Rob Paral and Associates, lead researcher for this report. "The immigration debate should be about these 7.7 million potential new voters and how best to engage them in civic life."

"This report underscores the fact that every sector of California society—from government to business to philanthropy—has a stake in the timely integration of immigrants," said Daranee Petsod, executive director of Grantmakers Concerned with Immigrants and Refugees (GCIR). "By promoting naturalization and civic participation efforts, we can strengthen our social fabric and invigorate our democracy for the benefit of all Californians."

About Grantmakers Concerned with Immigrants and Refugees:

Founded in 1990, Grantmakers Concerned with Immigrants and Refugees (GCIR) provides resources that foundations need to address the challenges facing newcomers and their host communities and to strengthen society as a whole. Its mission is to influence the philanthropic field to advance the contributions and address the needs of the country's growing and increasingly diverse immigrant and refugee populations. To view the full study, go to www.gcir.org/about/ciii. For more information on GCIR, go to www.gcir.org.

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