

FilCEP: The Filipino Civic Engagement Project

A project of Filipino Advocates for Justice

The growing foreign-born population is poised to become a significant political force in California in the next 5 to 10 years. According to a recent report from Grantmakers Concerned with Immigrant and Refugees (GCIR) more than 2 of 3 foreign-born California residents (6.5 million) are either citizens or eligible to naturalize¹. GCIR emphasized that as new citizens and children of immigrants become voters, they become more active in community life.

This presents an opportunity to organize immigrant communities into local, state and national efforts to defend the rights of immigrants and to mobilize immigrant communities into broader political campaigns to shape positive public policy.

The GCIR report reveals that over 90% of Asian children in California ages 12-17 have an immigrant parent, and asserts, "As a result, young Asian-American voters are likely to have interest in policies that address the challenges of the immigrant experience."

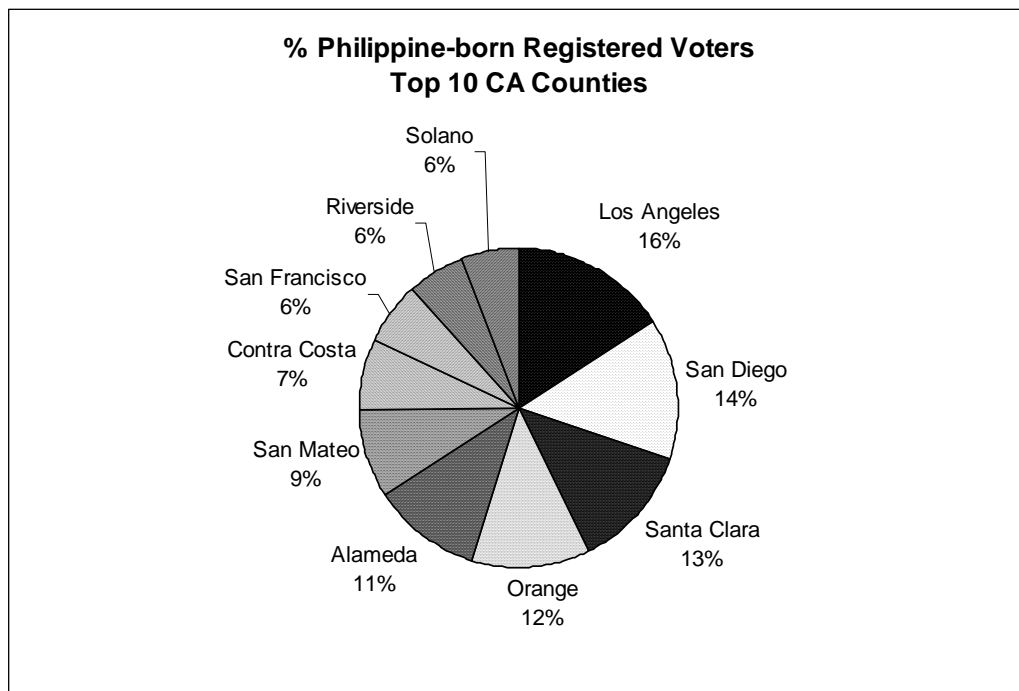


Union City youth and city officials show their support for Measure UU, a local measure to increase violence prevention services, at a "Rock the Vote" night at Paddy's Cafe.

¹ "Integration Potential of California's Immigrants and Their Children," GCIR, April 2008.

Opportunity: Increasing Filipino voter engagement and influence

Filipinos, who number over 1.1 million in California, are predominantly foreign-born and have the 2nd highest rate of naturalization after Mexicans. They have the potential to influence public policy through increased voter engagement.



2

Top 10 Counties	Philippine-Born Voters	% of total Phil-born voters in CA
Los Angeles	30,718	13.20%
San Diego	27,518	11.05%
Santa Clara	24,335	9.77%
Orange	23,073	9.27%
Alameda	21,418	8.60%
San Mateo	16,763	6.73%
Contra Costa	13,991	5.62%
San Francisco	12,420	4.99%
Riverside	11,053	4.54%
Solano	10,735	4.44%
CA total:	248,986	

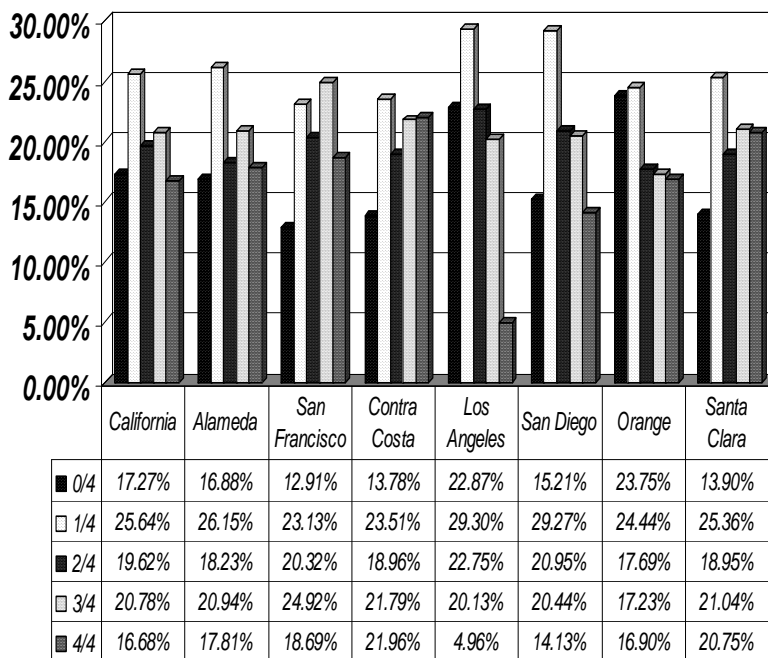
Nearly 40% of registered Philippine-born voters in California reside in 5 Bay Area counties: Santa Clara, Alameda, San Mateo, Contra Costa & San Francisco.

Note: We believe that 248,000 is a conservative estimate of Filipino voters in California. The number is based on “place of birth” to identify “Filipino” registered voters. This count does not include US-born Filipinos. When better methods for voter identification are developed, we will see the number of Filipino voters in California is significantly larger than 248,000.

² All voter data has been obtained from the VAN voter database in June 2010 (www.pepvan.com).

Challenge: While Filipinos are registered to vote in significant numbers, we have yet to maximize the use of that vote

Voting Propensities from last 4 General Elections



*Despite historic voter turn-out in 2008, nearly 43% of Philippine-born registered voters in California have voted **once or never** in the last 4 general elections. Less than 17 out of every 100 voters in our community have voted in all 4 prior general elections.*

(FilCEP) Goals & Objectives

In 2009, FAA launched FilCEP to build a state-wide network of Filipino organizations in California that conduct voter mobilization, data collection and analysis, and engage Filipinos in the development of positive social policy. FilCEP has recently been funded by Zero Divide, and will connect what we are learning about the Filipino electorate with the power of technology to increase opportunities for political engagement.

Our overarching goal is to increase the political influence of Filipinos in California. Our project goal is to increase voter participation and civic engagement of Filipinos in California through a state-wide network using technology-centered best practices.

FilCEP's main objective aims to build a state-wide voter mobilization infrastructure and Filipino voter database.

Distribution of Filipino Registered Voters in Alameda County



Selected City in Alameda County	Total Registered Voters by City	Philippine- born Registered Voters by city	Phil-born Electorate by city
Union City	28,765	3,811	13.25%
Hayward	63,833	4,140	6.49%
San Lorenzo	12,421	723	5.82%
Newark	17,716	1,024	5.78%
San Leandro	44,476	2,208	4.96%
Fremont	88,907	3,579	4.03%
Alameda	38,506	1,544	4.01%
Dublin	18,671	576	3.08%
Oakland	177,664	1,707	0.96%
Alameda County Total	702,828	21,418	3.05%

Sorted based on total # of
Philippine-born Registered Voters
by Selected City in Alameda County

Filipino Advocates for Justice has sought to improve civic participation by helping our community organize at the local, state and federal levels, nurturing leadership among youth, immigrants and low-wage workers, and through get-out-the-vote campaigns for major state and local elections.

MIV featured Filipino Advocates for Justice in their report to foundations, "2009 Success Stories in Immigrant Integrated Voter Engagement" highlighting our youth volunteers and organizing. To read the full report, visit: <http://mivcalifornia.org/blog/36>

Thank You to the following who supported our civic engagement work:

Mobilize the Immigrant Vote; APIAVote;
California Voter Connect/Voter Activation Network; Mitchell Kapor Foundation;
The San Francisco Foundation; The Omnia Foundation;
The Evelyn & Walter Haas, Jr. Fund; ZeroDivide



**To learn more about Filipino Advocates for Justice,
please join our on-line community at www.filipinos4justice.org.**

To learn more about the FilCEP project, please contact us at
310 8th St. Ste. 306 Oakland, CA 94607 (510) 465-9876
Or at 31080 Union City Blvd. Ste. 104 Union City, CA 94587 (510) 487-8552

Since 1973, Filipino Advocates for Justice, formerly Filipinos for Affirmative Action, has provided services and advocated for immigrant and civil rights in the SF Bay Area. Our mission is to build a strong and empowered Filipino community by organizing constituents, developing leaders, providing services and advocating for policies that promote social and economic justice and equity.