



Loyola Marymount
University

Latina/o Civic Engagement in Los Angeles County

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**StudyLA advocates for a better,
more equitable Los Angeles**
through research, student
mentorship, and engagement
with residents and leaders.

Research Question

- Civic engagement has long been a topic of interest for researchers, politicians, and policy makers. For purposes of this presentation, **civic engagement** is defined and measured by the voting process.
- The objective is to address the question of **whether, and to what extent, Latinas/os are civically engaged in Los Angeles County.**

Civic Engagement Scorecard

Background Information

Successful engagement can, and should, lead to being well-represented:

- Descriptive representation
- Substantive representation

Both types of representation are wanted and needed for a community to thrive and be civically engaged.

Methods of Analysis

- Latina/o demographics where, most notably, we document the change in demographics and voter eligibility in three major elections (2012, 2016, and 2020 presidential general elections).
- Latina/o participation in these elections by looking at the turnout of Latina/o registered voters and eligible voters, comparing both to the participation of non-Latina/o voters throughout the county
- StudyLA's "Top 100 Running Roster"

Indicators

- Voter turnout, registration, and eligibility
- Reaching proportional representation in the Top 100

Grading Rubric

“A+” if Latinas/os **outperform** relative to other county residents

“A” or “B” if Latinas/os **are on par** with the rest of the county,
or within a close range

“C, ”“D,” or “F” if Latinas/os **underperform** relative to other county residents, with
the grade depending on the differential in the statistics

Population Data

	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2010	2019
White	82%	68%	54%	41%	31%	28%	26%
Latina/o	9%	18%	28%	38%	45%	47%	48%
Asian	2%	3%	6%	10%	12%	14%	14%
Black	7%	11%	13%	11%	9%	8%	8%
Other	0%	0%	0%	1%	3%	2%	3%

Voter Eligibility, Registration, and Participation Data

		2012	2016	2020
Total Population	Overall	9,962,789	10,137,915	10,039,107
	Latina/o	4,802,133	4,918,830	4,881,970
Adult Population	Overall	7,602,535	7,884,800	7,894,558
	Latina/o	3,329,011	3,529,648	3,566,542
Adult Citizen Population	Overall	5,913,067	6,272,903	6,389,353
	Latina/o	2,149,304	2,408,927	2,525,880
Registered Voters	Overall	3,344,766	4,203,669	5,787,626
	Latina/o	1,078,941	1,434,202	2,032,923
Actual Voters	Overall	2,407,757	3,004,591	4,243,538
	Latina/o	747,678	1,014,586	1,422,310

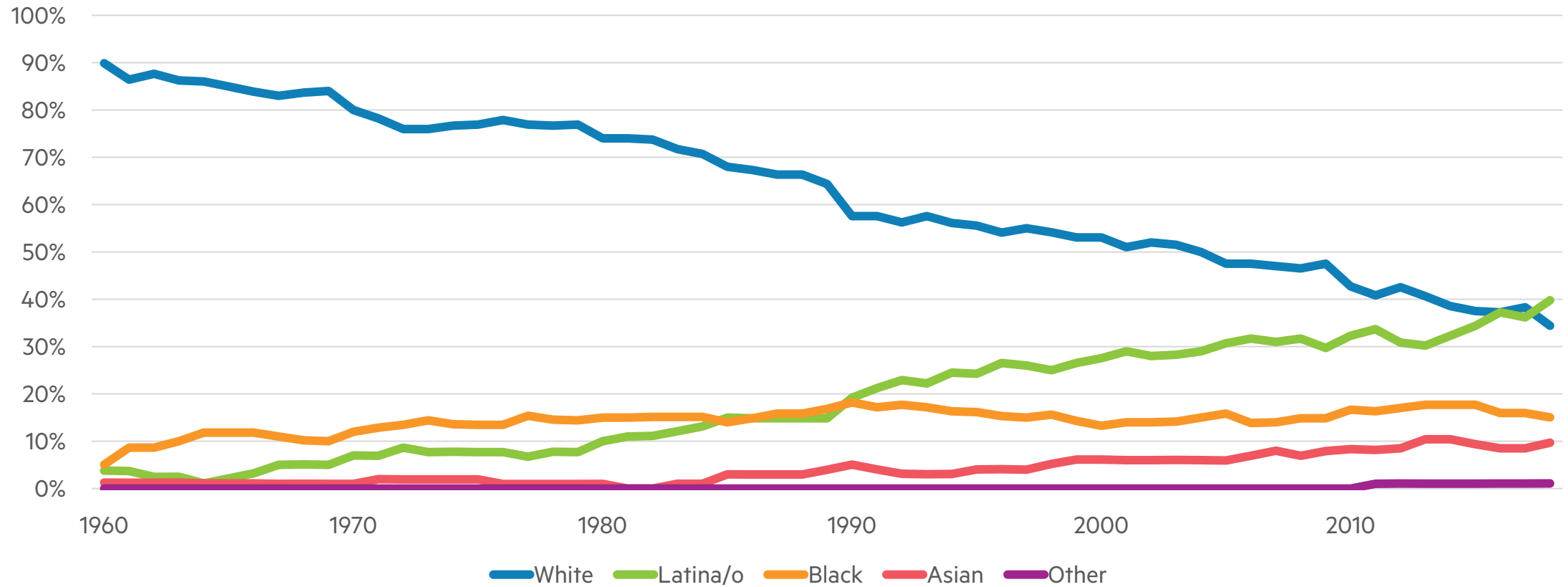
Voter Eligibility, Registration, and Participation Data

		2012	2016	2020
% registered voters of adult citizen population	Overall	57%	67%	91%
	Latina/o	50%	60%	80%
	Rest of the county	60%	72%	97%
% actual voters of adult citizen population	Overall	41%	48%	66%
	Latina/o	35%	42%	56%
	Rest of the county	44%	52%	73%
% actual voters of those registered	Overall	72%	71%	73%
	Latina/o	69%	71%	70%
	Rest of the county	73%	72%	75%

Voter Eligibility, Registration, and Participation Data

		2012	2016	2020
% registered voters of adult citizen population	Overall	57%	67%	91%
	Latina/o	50%	60%	80%
	Rest of the county	60%	72%	97%
% actual voters of adult citizen population	Overall	41%	48%	66%
	Latina/o	35%	42%	56%
	Rest of the county	44%	52%	73%
% actual voters of those registered	Overall	72%	71%	73%
	Latina/o	69%	71%	70%
	Rest of the county	73%	72%	75%

Top 100 Running Roster of LA County Elected Officials



Grades

- Grade for turnout of registered voters: **C-**
- Grade for proportional representation in the Top 100: **B**
 - + Bonus points for female representation in the Top 100
- **Overall Grade: C+**

2017 SURVEY – LOS ANGELES COUNTY RESIDENTS

Of the following groups, which do you think most understands the experience of your racial group in Los Angeles?

	Black	Asian	White	Latina/o
Black residents understand my racial group		8%	15%	65%
Asian residents understand my racial group	5%		57%	15%
Latina/o residents understand my racial group	83%	57%	28%	
White residents understand my racial group	12%	35%		20%