

Tomas Rivera Policy Institute 1996 Post-Election Survey in CA, FL, TX  
CA Survey 403 Interviews

Hello, my name is \_\_\_\_\_. I am calling from National Opinion Research Services and we are conducting a survey on issues of interest to Hispanic residents. I want to assure you that we are not selling anything. This survey will only take a few minutes and will be kept 100% confidential.

1. Do you consider yourself Latino or of Hispanic heritage?

- 100% 1. Yes (Continue)  
2. No (Terminate)  
3. Don't Know/No Answer (Terminate)

2. Are you 18 years of age or older?

- 100% 1. Yes (Continue)  
2. No (Terminate)  
3. Don't Know/No Answer (Terminate)

3. Are you a U.S. Citizen?

- 100% 1. Yes (Continue)  
2. No (Terminate)  
3. Don't Know/No Answer (Terminate)

4. How much attention do you pay to politics and public affairs? Is it a great deal, some, not very much, or not at all?

- 32% 1. A great deal  
33% 2. Some  
25% 3. Not very much  
10% 4. Not at all  
0% 5. Don't Know/No Answer

5. Are you currently registered to vote?

- 75% 1. Yes (GO TO Q6)  
25% 2. No (GO TO Q7)  
3. Don't Know/No Answer (GO TO Q7)

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de la Garza, Rodolfo and Harry Pachon. 1997. TRPI 1996 post-election validated survey of Latino voters in CA, FL, TX. Claremont, CA: Tomás Rivera Policy Institute.

6. Did you vote in the 1996 presidential election?

- 91% 1. Yes
- 9% 2. No
- 3. Don't Know/No Answer

7. Some people say that the act of voting, that is, going to the poll, signing in, and completing the ballot, is very simple, and some say it is very complicated. How about you: Do you think it is very simple, simple, complicated, or very complicated?

- 40% 1. Very simple
- 43% 2. Simple
- 7% 3. Complicated
- 2% 4. Very complicated
- 8% 5. Don't Know/No Answer

8. Do you participate in any church groups, social or sports clubs, groups involved with education issues, or any other type of clubs or organizations?

- 41% 1. Yes (GO TO Q9)
- 58% 2. No (GO TO Q10)
- 1% 3. Don't Know/No Answer (GO TO Q10)

9. Did any of these groups or candidates, political party representatives or representatives of other political organizations encourage you to participate in any way in the 1996 election?

- 22% 1. Yes
- 78% 2. No
- 3. Don't Know/No Answer

10. Did any Hispanic candidates, or representatives of Hispanic political organizations contact you and encourage you to register or to vote in 1996?

- 16% 1. Yes
- 82% 2. No
- 2% 3. Don't Know/No Answer

11. Would you say that government is run by a few big interests looking out for themselves or that it is run for the benefit of all of the people?

- 49% 1. A few big interests
- 35% 2. Benefit of all of the people
- 16% 3. Don't Know/No Answer

Now we want to know your reaction to several statements about politics. Please let us know whether you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree, or strongly disagree with each statement. Also, if you haven't thought much about the topic, feel free to tell us so.

12. The government in Washington doesn't care what people like me think.

- 25% 1. Strongly agree
- 28% 2. Somewhat agree
- 28% 3. Somewhat disagree
- 12% 4. Strongly disagree
- 7% 5. I haven't thought much about it/No Answer

13. Politics are too complicated for people like me.

- 20% 1. Strongly agree
- 26% 2. Somewhat agree
- 30% 3. Somewhat disagree
- 21% 4. Strongly disagree
- 3% 5. I haven't thought much about it/No Answer

14. I am more interested in elections where there are Hispanic candidates I can vote for.

- 40% 1. Strongly agree
- 22% 2. Somewhat agree
- 18% 3. Somewhat disagree
- 15% 4. Strongly disagree
- 5% 5. I haven't thought much about it/No Answer

15. Hispanics are best represented by Hispanic elected officials.

- 30% 1. Strongly agree
- 29% 2. Somewhat agree
- 21% 3. Somewhat disagree
- 12% 4. Strongly disagree
- 8% 5. I haven't thought much about it/No Answer

16. The 1996 general election involved issues and/or candidates that were especially important to Hispanics.

- 29% 1. Strongly agree
- 32% 2. Somewhat agree
- 17% 3. Somewhat disagree
- 8% 4. Strongly disagree
- 14% 5. I haven't thought much about it/No Answer

17. Hispanic elected officials have the power to make things better for Hispanic communities.

- 33% 1. Strongly agree
- 36% 2. Somewhat agree
- 20% 3. Somewhat disagree
- 8% 4. Strongly disagree
- 3% 5. I haven't thought much about it/No Answer

Now we want to ask you a few questions about your registration and/or voting experiences.

18. Have you ever encountered problems or any kind of hostile treatment when you attempted to registered to vote or when you went to vote?

- 2% 1. Yes (GO TO Q19)
- 90% 2. No (GO TO Q20)
- 8% 3. Don't Know/No Answer (GO TO Q20)

19. When did this occur?

- 50% 1. In the 1996 election
- 13% 2. 1 to 5 years ago
- 37% 3. More than 5 years ago
- 0% 4. Don't Know/No Answer

20. In general, which is you most important source of news about politics, elections and public affairs. Is it television, radio, or newspapers?

- 63% 1. Television
- 5% 2. Radio
- 29% 3. Newspapers
- 3% 4. (Other)
- 0% 5. Don't follow the news/Don't Know/No Answer

*Handwritten notes:*  
4 (combos/50%)  
10% (radio/news)  
7% (newspapers)  
3% (other)  
0% (don't follow news)

21. Overall, are your news sources all in English, mostly in English, equally in English and Spanish, mostly in Spanish, or all in Spanish?

- 24% 1. All in English
- 21% 2. Mostly in English
- 36% 3. Equally in English and Spanish
- 11% 4. Mostly in Spanish
- 8% 5. All in Spanish
- 6. Don't Know/No Answer

22. Do you generally consider yourself a Democrat, a Republican, an Independent, or don't you consider yourself in this way?

- 62% 1. Democrat (GO TO Q23)
- 14% 2. Republican (GO TO Q23)
- 13% 3. Independent/Other (GO TO Q24)
- 11% 4. Don't Know/No Answer (GO TO Q24)

23. Would you say that you are a strong or weak (Answer to Q22)?

- 26% 1. Strong (GO TO Q25)
- 69% 2. Weak (GO TO Q25)
- 5% 3. Don't Know/No Answer (GO TO Q25)

24. Would you say that you generally lean toward the Democrats, the Republicans, or don't you lean either way?

- 29% 1. Democrats (GO TO Q26)
- 7% 2. Republicans (GO TO Q26)
- 64% 3. Neither Way/Don't Know/No Answer (GO TO Q27)

25. Have you always been a (ANSWER TO Q22) Democrat/Republican?

- 87% 1. Always considered yourself a Democrat/Republican
- 10% 2. Identified with the other party in the past
- 3% 3. Don't Know/No Answer

26. Which of the following describes how your feelings about the parties have changed in recent years: (READ List)

- 3% 1. I feel much closer to the Republicans than I used to
- 8% 2. I feel somewhat closer to the Republicans than I used to
- 12% 3. I feel somewhat closer to the Democrats than I used to
- 15% 4. I feel much closer to the Democrats than I used to
- 58% 5. My feelings haven't changed
- 4% 6. Don't Know/No Answer

27. What do you think is the most important problem facing the nation today? (Pre-codes for the open-ended responses)

- 24% 1. The economy
- 10% 2. Unemployment/jobs
- 12% 3. Crime
- 8% 4. Drugs
- 0% 5. Health care/AIDS
- 9% 6. Race/race relations/racism
- 2% 7. The budget deficit
- 5% 8. Social security/medicare/medicaid/care for the elderly
- 10% 9. Illegal immigration
- 2% 10. Affirmative action
- 1% 11. Welfare/welfare reform
- 4% 12. Education/public schools
- 0% 13. The environment/pollution/growth
- 2% 14. Values/family values/religion/morality
- 1% 15. The political system/corruption/scandal/the parties
- 0% 16. Foreign policy/international terrorism
- 0% 17. National defense/domestic terrorism/militia
- 5% 18. (other) only if doesn't fit anything else
- 5% 19. Don't Know/No Answer

28. Which party do you think has the better approach to solving this problem, the Democrats, or the Republicans, or is neither party better than the other?

- 10% 1. Republicans
- 23% 2. Democrats
- 51% 3. Neither party is better than the other
- 16% 4. Don't Know/No Answer

29. What do you think is the most important problem facing the Hispanic community today? (Pre-coded for the open-ended responses)

- |     |     |  |
|-----|-----|--|
| 16% | 1.  | The economy  |
| 16% | 2.  | Unemployment/jobs                                      |
| 5%  | 3.  | Crime  |
| 4%  | 4.  | Drugs  |
| 0%  | 5.  | Health care/AIDS                                       |
| 13% | 6.  | Race/race relations/racism                             |
| 0%  | 7.  | The budget deficit                                     |
| 1%  | 8.  | Social security/medicare/medicaid/care for the elderly |
| 16% | 9.  | Illegal immigration                                    |
| 3%  | 10. | Affirmative action                                     |
| 0%  | 11. | Welfare/welfare reform                                 |
| 9%  | 12. | Education/public schools                               |
| 0%  | 13. | The environment/pollution/growth                       |
| 0%  | 14. | Values/family values/religion/morality                 |
| 0%  | 15. | The political system/corruption/scandal/the parties    |
| 0%  | 16. | Foreign policy/international terrorism                 |
| 0%  | 17. | National defense/domestic terrorism/militia            |
| 9%  | 18. | (other) only if doesn't fit anything else              |
| 5%  | 19. | Don't Know/No Answer                                   |

30. Which party do you think has the better approach to solving this problem, the Democrats or the Republicans, or is neither party better than the other?

- |     |    |  |
|-----|----|--|
| 8%  | 1. | Republicans                            |
| 30% | 2. | Democrats                              |
| 49% | 3. | Neither party is better than the other |
| 13% | 4. | Don't Know/No Answer                   |

Now we'd like to ask you a few factual questions about politics.

31. Which party has a majority in the US House of Representatives? (pre-coded open end response)

- |     |    |                      |
|-----|----|----------------------|
| 54% | 1. | The Republican Party |
| 15% | 2. | The Democratic Party |
| 31% | 3. | Don't Know           |

California survey

32. What office does Cruz Bustamante hold? (Pre-coded open end responses)

- 8% 1. Speaker of the House
- 1% 2. Other
- 91% 3. Don't Know

33. Would you rate Henry Cisneros as a liberal or a conservative?

- 34% 1. Liberal
- 24% 2. Conservative
- 42% 3. Don't Know

34. Would you rate Newt Gingrich as a liberal or a conservative?

- 20% 1. Liberal
- 40% 2. Conservative
- 40% 3. Don't Know

Finally, we have a few questions for statistical purposes.

35. What is your date of birth? (Month/Date/Year)

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36. Hispanics include people of many nationalities such as Mexican, Cuban, Salvadoran, or Puerto Rican. What is your nationality?

- 78% 1. Mexican
- 7% 2. Salvadoran
- 2% 3. Cuban
- 2% 4. Puerto Rican
- 3% 5. Guatemalan
- 1% 6. Colombian
- 6% 7. Other \_\_\_\_\_
- 1% 8. Don't Know/No Answer

*9/1/01*  
*at 11:30*

37. Were you born in the United States or in another country?

- 44% 1. United States (GO TO Q39)
- 1% 2. Puerto Rico (GO TO Q39)
- 55% 3. Another Country (GO TO Q38)
- 4. Don't Know/No Answer (GO TO Q39)



38. In what year did you naturalize and become a US citizen?

19\_\_ (GO TO Q40)

39. Were either or both of your parents born outside of the US or Puerto Rico?

- |     |    |                      |
|-----|----|----------------------|
| 30% | 1. | No                   |
| 55% | 2. | Yes, both            |
| 9%  | 3. | Yes, father          |
| 5%  | 4. | Yes, mother          |
| 2%  | 5. | Don't Know/No Answer |

40. What is the last grade of school you completed?

- |     |    |                                   |
|-----|----|-----------------------------------|
| 12% | 1. | Grade school or less              |
| 17% | 2. | Some High School                  |
| 33% | 3. | High School                       |
| 25% | 4. | Some College or vocational school |
| 10% | 5. | College Graduate                  |
| 2%  | 6, | Post-Graduate (MA,MS,LLD,PhD, MD) |
| 0%  | 7. | Don't Know/No Answer              |

41. How often do you attend church?

- |     |    |                         |
|-----|----|-------------------------|
| 50% | 1. | Just about every week   |
| 20% | 2. | Once or twice per month |
| 15% | 3. | A few times per year    |
| 7%  | 4. | Almost never            |
| 7%  | 5. | Never                   |
| 1%  | 6. | Don't Know/No Answer    |

42. What was your total family income for 1996, from all sources, before taxes?  
(JUST STOP ME WHEN I READ THE CORRECT CATEGORY):

- 18% 1. Up to \$15,000
- 23% 2. \$15,000 to \$30,000
- 16% 3. \$30,000 to \$45,000
- 9% 4. \$45,000 to \$60,000
- 3% 5. \$60,000 to \$75,000
- 7% 6. \$75,000 and above
- 22% 7. Don't Know/No Answer

43. Are you or is any member of your household a member of a union?

- 17% 1. Yes
- 83% 2. No
- 3. Don't Know/No Answer

44. Are you single never married, married, separated, widowed, or divorced?

- 25% 1. Single never married
- 61% 2. Married
- 5% 3. Separated
- 3% 4. Widowed
- 5% 5. Divorced
- 1% 6. Don't Know/No Answer

45. Do you have children living with you?

- 58% 1. Yes
- 41% 2. No
- 1% 3. Don't Know/No Answer

46. Do you rent your home or own your home?

- 35% 1. Rent your home
- 63% 2. Own your home
- 2% 3. Don't Know/No Answer

47. How long have you lived at your current address?

- 4% 1. six months or less
- 4% 2. Six months to 1 year
- 8% 3. 1 to 2 years
- 19% 4. 2 to 5 years
- 22% 5. 5 to 10 years
- 42% 6. 10 or more years
- 1% 7. Don't Know/No Answer

48. (BY OBSERVATION) What was the gender of the respondent?

- 48% 1. Male
- 52% 2. Female

49. INTERVIEWED IN ENGLISH or SPANISH (DON'T ASK JUST MARK)

- 28% 1. English
- 72% 2. Spanish

For references to academic articles using the 1996 post-election data, please see:

Shaw, Daron, Rodolfo de la Garza, and Jongho Lee. 2000. "Examining Latino turnout in 1996: a three-state, validated survey approach." *American Journal of Political Science*. 44(April): 338-346.

Pantoja, Adrian D., Ricardo Ramirez, and Gary M. Segura. 2001. "Citizens by Choice, Voters by Necessity: Patterns in Political Mobilization by Naturalized Latinos." *Political Research Quarterly*. 54(December): 729-750.