

## *El Voto Remoto and Binational Civic Life*

James A. McCann,  
Purdue University

Wayne Cornelius,  
University of California-San Diego

David Leal,  
University of Texas-Austin

Survey locations: Dallas, San Diego, north-central Indiana

Samples size: 750 telephone and 200 face-to-face interviews

Dates: June 11 – July 1, 2006; initial pilot work conducted in Indiana, February 15 - May 1, 2006.

Support: Carnegie Corporation of New York; Public Policy Institute, University of Texas-Austin; College of Liberal Arts, Purdue University

### English Version

1. To begin, which of the following phrases would you use to describe yourself? [Read and note all those that apply.]

	Yes	No	NA/DK
a. Mexican American	1	2	9
b. American	1	2	9
c. Hispanic	1	2	9
d. Latino	1	2	9
e. Mexican	1	2	9
f. Chicano	1	2	9

2. How many years have you lived in this state? \_\_\_\_\_ NA/DK = 99

3. How old are you (years) \_\_\_\_\_ NA/DK = 99

4. In which Mexican state were you born?

- 1 Aguascalientes
- 2 Baja California
- 3 Baja California Sur
- 4 Campeche
- 5 Coahuila De Zaragoza
- 6 Colima
- 7 Chiapas
- 8 Chihuahua
- 9 Distrito Federal
- 10 Durango
- 11 Guanajuato
- 12 Guerrero
- 13 Hidalgo
- 14 Jalisco
- 15 Estado De Mexico

- 16 Michoacan
- 17 Morelos
- 18 Nayarit
- 19 Nuevo Leon
- 20 Oaxaca
- 21 Puebla
- 22 Queretaro
- 23 Quintana Roo
- 24 San Luis Potosi
- 25 Sinaloa
- 26 Sonora
- 27 Tabasco
- 28 Tamaulipas
- 29 Tlaxcala
- 30 Veracruz
- 31 Yucatan
- 32 Zacatecas

5. In general, how interested are you in Mexican politics?

1. Much
2. Somewhat
- 3 Little
4. None
9. NA/DK

6. And how closely are you following the Mexican presidential campaigns?

1. Much
2. Somewhat
3. Little
4. None
9. NA/DK

7. How often do you talk about Mexican politics with other people?

1. Daily
2. Few times a week
3. Few times a month
4. Rarely
5. Never
9. NA/DK

8. Do you have a current Mexican voting registration credential?

1. Yes
2. No
9. NA/DK

9. Did you request a ballot to vote by mail in Mexico's 2006 presidential election?

- 1. Yes
- 2. No
- 9. NA/DK

[If no to 9] Why didn't you request this ballot? For each phrase, please tell me if it applies or not:

	Yes	No	NA/DK
a. I didn't know it was possible to vote from the US	1	2	9
b. The costs of voting seemed pretty high	1	2	9
c. I don't like to send personal information through the mail	1	2	9
d. I would like to participate, but I don't have the time	1	2	9
e. It's hard to follow the Mexican elections from the US	1	2	9
f. Votes from regular citizens don't really change anything	1	2	9

10. To all: Would you be more disposed to participate in Mexico's elections while remaining in the United States if . . . ?

	Definitely			
	Yes	Perhaps	No	DK
a. There were absentee voting precincts set up in the Mexican consulate	1	2	3	9
b. You could vote via computer	1	2	3	9
c. There were absentee voting precincts set up in churches, schools and other public buildings in the United States	1	2	3	9

11. If today were the presidential election in Mexico and you were going to vote, for whom would you vote – Felipe Calderón of the Partido Acción Nacional, o PAN; Roberto Madrazo of the Partido Revolucionario Institucional, o PRI; Andrés Manuel López Obrador of the Partido de la Revolución Democrática, o PRD; or some other candidate?

- 1 Felipe Calderón [Partido Acción Nacional, PAN]
- 2 Roberto Madrazo [Partido Revolucionario Institucional, PRI]
- 3 Andrés Manuel López Obrador [Partido de la Revolución Democrática, PRD]
- 4 Other
- 5 Wouldn't vote
- 9 NA/DK

12. I am going to read two phrases from the Mexican presidential campaign. For each one, please tell me which candidate has adopted the phrase for his campaign [READ THE CANDIDATE NAMES AND THEN THE PHRASES]:

	Andrés Manuel López Obrador	Roberto Madrazo	Felipe Calderón	NA DK
a. "Para que las cosas se hagan"	1	2	3	9
b. "Primero los pobres"	1	2	3	9

13. Were you able to vote in the Mexican presidential elections of 2000?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 9 NA/DK

[If yes to 13] For whom did you vote?

- 1. Francisco Labastida
- 2. Vicente Fox
- 3. Cuauhtémoc Cárdenas
- 4. Otro
- 9. NA/DK

14. In the last two years, have you:

a. Volunteered in community organizations dedicated to resolving some problem within your community in Mexico?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 9 NA/DK

b. Contacted a member of the Mexican government by mail, email, telephone, or in person in order to express an opinión?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 9 NA/DK

15. Did you participate this year in marches, protest, or a demonstration for immigrants – for example, the May 1 demonstration?

- 1. Yes
- 2. No
- 9. NA/DK

[If no to 15]: Do you have close friends or family members who participated in any marches or protests this year for immigrants?

- 1 Yes
- 2. No
- 9. NA/DK

16. Here in the US, do you take part in any social or sports clubs for Mexicans?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 9 NA/DK

17. In general, how interested are you in American politics?

- 1 Much
- 2 Somewhat
- 3 Little
- 4 Not at all
- 9 NA/DK

18. And how closely are you following the congressional election campaigns?

- 1 Much
- 2 Somewhat
- 3 Little
- 4 Not at all
- 9 NA/DK

19. Could you tell me the month of these elections? [DO NOT READ THE RESPONSE OPTIONS]

- 1. November
- 2. other month
- 9. NA/DK

20. And could you tell me which political party in the US has the most members of the House of Representatives in Washington DC? [DO NOT READ THE RESPONSE OPTIONS]

- 1. Republican
- 2. Other
- 9. NA/DK

21. Are you a naturalized American citizen?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 9 NA/DK

[If yes to 21] Since becoming naturalized in the US, have you participated regularly in the major national elections?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 9 NA/DK

[If no to 21] Are you thinking of becoming a citizen

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 9 NA/DK

[If no to 21] If people who aren't US citizens were given the right to vote in American elections, how likely is it that you would take part?

- 1 Totally sure
- 2 Highly likely
- 3 Somewhat likely
- 4 Not very likely
- 5 Would not vote
- 9 NA/DK

22. To all: in the last two years have you?

- a. Volunteered in community organizations dedicated to resolving some problems in your community in the United States?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 9 NA/DK

- b. Contacted a member of the U.S. government by mail, email, telephone, or in person in order to express an opinion?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 9 NA/DK

23. How frequently do you talk about American politics with other people?

- 1 Daily
- 2 Few times each week
- 3 Few times a month
- 4 Not too often
- 5 Never

24. In the last six months, have you or someone in your family

	Yes	No	NA/DK
a. Checked a book out of the public library	1	2	9
b. Used public buses and/or trains in the area	1	2	9
c. Visited local parks	1	2	9
d. Visited state or national parks	1	2	9

25. In the last two years, have you visited the emergency room of a hospital?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 9 NA/DK

If so, how did you pay the medical costs?

- 1. insurance paid everything

2. insurance paid some, R paid remainder
3. R did not have insurance, paid everything
4. the payment has not been settled yet
9. NA/DK

26. Have you or a family member received

	Yes	No	NA/DK
a. food stamps	1	2	9
b. welfare	1	2	9
c. Social Security	1	2	9
d. unemployment insurance	1	2	9

27. I'm going to ask your opinion about various people, groups, and institutions. Using a scale from 0 to 10, where zero means that your opinion is very bad and 10 means that it is very good, what is your opinion of . . . “ NA/DK=99

- a. Vicente Fox \_\_\_\_\_
- b. George W. Bush \_\_\_\_\_
- c. Roberto Madrazo \_\_\_\_\_
- d. Andrés Manuel López Obrador \_\_\_\_\_
- e. Felipe Calderón \_\_\_\_\_
- f. Partido Revolucionario Institucional (PRI) \_\_\_\_\_
- g. Partido Acción Nacional (PAN) \_\_\_\_\_
- h. Partido de la Revolución Democrática (PRD) \_\_\_\_\_
- i. Mexicans \_\_\_\_\_
- j. Republican Party \_\_\_\_\_
- k. Democratic Party \_\_\_\_\_
- l. The local police \_\_\_\_\_
- m. Local schools \_\_\_\_\_
- n. US Citizenship and Immigration Service (USCIS) \_\_\_\_\_
- o. Americans \_\_\_\_\_

28. Generally, when thinking of Mexican politics, do you consider yourself panista, priista, perredista, independent, or something different?

- 1 Panista
- 2 Priista
- 3 Perredista
- 4 Independent
- 5 Other
- 9 NA/DK

29. Generally, when thinking about American politics, do you consider yourself a Democrat, a Republican, an Independent, or something else?

- 1 Democrat
- 2 Republican
- 3 Independent

- 4 Other
- 9 NA/DK

30. In politics, do you consider yourself to be on the Left, the Right, or in the Center?

- 1 Left
- 2 Right
- 3 Center
- 4 Other
- 9 NA/DK

31. In your opinion, should abortion be legal in cases of rape?

- 1. legal
- 2. illegal
- 3 DK/NA

32. In general, which do you prefer?

- 1. Fewer services from government, and fewer taxes
- 2. More services from government, and more taxes
- 9. DK/NA

33. Do you consider Mexico today to be a democracy or not?

- 1. Yes, is a democracy
- 2. Not a democracy
- 9. NA/DK

34. In your neighborhood, are the majority of residents Mexicans, or is there a mix of Mexicans and people who aren't Mexican?

- 1 Majority Mexican
- 2 Mix of people
- 3 Mostly American
- 9 NA/DK

35. How often do you attend religious services?

- 1 More than once a week
- 2 Once a week
- 3 Once a month
- 4 Only on special occasions
- 5 Never
- 9 DK/NA

[If 1, 2, 3, or 4 to 35] Do you go to services in Spanish or English usually?

- 1 Spanish

- 2 English
- 9 DK/NA

36. Do you work outside of the house?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 9 DK/NA

[If yes to 36] In what area or industry do you presently work in the US?

- 1. agriculture
- 2. hotels, bare, restaurants
- 3. construction
- 4. industrial factory
- 5. cleaning service
- 6. domestic service
- 7. sales
- 8. installation and maintenance service
- 9. transportation, delivery
- 10. financial establishment, insurance
- 11. services of education, health
- 12. mining
- 13. utility worker (water, power)
- 14. professional service
- 15. government worker: state, federal, local
- 16. other
- 99. NA/DK

[If yes to 36] In general at work, do you speak Spanish, English, or both?

- 1. Spanish
- 2. English
- 3. Both
- 9. DK/NA

37. Do you pay US federal taxes through payroll deduction or annual tax statements?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 9 DK/NA

38. How much formal schooling have you had?

- 1. No education
- 2. Incomplete Primary
- 3. Incomplete Primary
- 4. Secondary / Technical Incomplete
- 5. Secondary/ Technical Complete

- 6. Preparatory / Equiv. Incomplete
- 7. Preparatory / Equiv. Complete
- 8. University Incomplete
- 9. University Complete
- 99. DK/NA

39. Do you agree or disagree with the following phrases? Strongly or not so strongly?

- 1. Strong agreement
  - 2. Agree
  - 3. Disagree
  - 4. Strong disagreement
  - 9. DK/NA
- 
- a. English should be the official language of the US
  - b. American government offices should offer services in Spanish
  - c. Public school classes should be taught only in English
  - d. Immigrants who can vote in the US should be allowed to cast voting ballots in Spanish
  - e. The National Anthem should be sung only in English

40. How many family members and friends still live in Mexico?

- 1 Nearly all
- 2. Many
- 3. Some
- 4. None
- 9. NA/DK

[If 1, 2, or 3 to 40] How frequently do you communicate with them by phone or email?

- 1 Daily
- 2 Few times a week
- 3 Few times a month
- 4 Less than this
- 9 NA/DK

41. How many close friends and family members live in the US?

- 1 Nearly all
- 2. Many
- 3. Some
- 4. None
- 9. NA/DK

42. For how many years have you lived in the US? \_\_\_\_\_ NA/DK = 99

43. In the last three years, have you visited Mexico?

- 1 Yes

2 No  
9 NA/DK

[If yes to 43] Why? [Read and mark]

	Yes	No	NA/DK
Family events	1	2	9
Business	1	2	9
Vacations	1	2	9

44. Do you send money to Mexico?

1 Yes  
2 No  
9 NA/DK

[If yes to 44] How frequently?

1 Each week or more  
2 Few times a month  
3 Once in a while  
4 Only on special occasions  
9 DK/NA

45. Do you want to return to Mexico permanently to live one day, or are you planning to remain in the US?

1 Return  
2 Stay in US  
9 DK/NA

[If "Return" to 45] How likely is it that you will return to Mexico?

1. Not very likely  
2. Somewhat likely  
3. Very likely  
9. DK / NA / depends

46. In general, do you watch any news programs on TV?

1 Yes  
2 No  
9 DK/NA

[If yes to 46] How frequently do you watch these programs?

1 Daily  
2 Few times a week  
3 Once a week  
4 Once in a while

9 DK/NA

[If yes to 46] Are these programs in English or Spanish?

1 Spanish  
2 English  
9 DK/NA

47. Do you read any newspapers or news magazines?

1 Yes  
2 No  
9 DK/NA

[If yes to 47] How frequently?

1 Daily  
2 Few times a week  
3 Few times a month  
4 Not too often  
9 DK/NA

[If yes to 47] Are they in Spanish or English?

1 Spanish  
2 English  
9 DK/NA

48. What is your marital status?

1 Single  
2 Married  
3 Partner, not married  
4 Divorced  
5 Separated  
6 Widowed  
9 DK/NA

49. What religion are you?

1 Catholic  
2 Christian but not Catholic / Protestant  
3 other  
4 none  
9 DK/NA

50. Do you consider yourself

Yes No DK/NA

a. Born again Christian	1	2	9
b. Evangelical Christian	1	2	9
c. Fundamentalist Christian	1	2	9
d. Charismatic Christian	1	2	9

51. When you were a child, how often did you and your family attend religious services?

1. More than once a week
2. Once a week
3. Once a month
4. Only on special occasions
5. Never
9. DK/NA

52. And when you were a child, how often did your parents and family talk about Mexican politics?

1. Frequently
2. Once in a while
3. Rarely
4. Never
9. DK/NA

53. In the place where you are living, is there [read and mark all that apply]

	Yes	No	DK/NA
TV	1	2	9
Washing machine	1	2	9
Oven with stove	1	2	9
Computer	1	2	9
Own car or truck	1	2	9

54. Are there children under 18 living at this residence?

1. yes
2. no
9. DK/NA

55. Have you been badly treated in the US because of being an immigrant

1. yes
2. no
9. DK/NA

[If yes to 55] How? [Read and mark all that apply]

	Yes	No	DK/NA
1. at work, or when looking for work	1	2	9
2. obtaining housing	1	2	9
3. in stores	1	2	9

- |                                |   |   |   |
|--------------------------------|---|---|---|
| 4. in the street               | 1 | 2 | 9 |
| 5. when receiving medical care | 1 | 2 | 9 |

56. At home do you generally speak Spanish, English, or both?

- 1 Spanish
- 2 English
- 3 Both
- 9 DK/NA

57. Do you have working papers in the US?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No
- 9 DK

58. We would very much like to get in touch with you again in September or October to do another survey, which will be quite a lot shorter than this one. Would you be willing to take part in this survey then?

- 1 Yes
- 2 No

[If yes to 58] The survey would be by telephone. What would be the best number for us to call in September or October?

Area Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

[If yes to 58] Is there another number that you use occasionally?

Area Code: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

[If yes to 58] And what is your name? I need only your first name or nickname, not your last name \_\_\_\_\_

Post-interview information:

---

Date of the survey

Starting time of the survey

Ending time of the survey

Overall, how great was the respondent's interest in the interview?

1. very high
2. above average
3. average
4. below average
5. poor

Sex of the respondent                    1 F                    2 M

Sex of the interviewer                1 F                    2 M

Age of the interviewer                \_\_\_\_\_

Language of the interview            1 Spanish            2 English

Native language of the interviewer 1 Spanish            2 English

Background of interviewer           1 Mexican immigrant  
2 Mexican-American  
3 Not of Mexican heritage

Was survey incentive given        1 Yes                2 No

Did the respondent seem fully sincere in his / her answers? 1 yes                2 no

Region of the interview            1 Dallas            2 San Diego        3 Indiana

If Indiana, city of interview

1. Frankfort
2. Crawfordsville
3. Lafayette
4. Logansport
5. Delphi

Approximate street address \_\_\_\_\_