

California Secretary of State

Supplementary Report:

UCLA Voter's Choice Act (VCA) Report on Race and  
Ethnicity in the 2021 Recall Election

University of California, Los Angeles  
Voting Rights Project

Utilizing Bayesian Improved Surname Geocoding (BISG) on the 2021 Recall  
Election Voter File

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# **California Voter's Choice Act:**

## Utilizing Bayesian Improved Surname Geocoding (BISG) on the 2021 Recall Election Voter File

BY UCLA VOTING RIGHTS PROJECT IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF  
STATE OFFICE

This report was written by the UCLA Voting Rights Project in partnership with the California Secretary of State.

### **About the UCLA VRP**

The UCLA Voting Rights Project (UCLA VRP) is a nonpartisan, educational project housed within the Latino Policy and Politics Initiative (LPPI) at the University of California, Los Angeles. The UCLA VRP educates undergraduate, graduate, and professional degree students through our flagship voting rights clinic. The UCLA VRP works with experts and election officials across the country to ensure equitable access to voting.

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## Executive Summary

The 2021 California Gubernatorial Recall Election statewide began in August 2021 and concluded on September 14, 2021. The result—California voters chose not to recall Governor Gavin Newsom.

This report provides a comprehensive analysis of voter registration and turnout in the 15 Voter’s Choice Act (VCA) counties<sup>1</sup> during the September 2021 Gubernatorial Recall Election. The purpose of this analysis is to report patterns by voter characteristics for all California voters. We evaluated the statewide voter file by race and ethnicity, age, primary language, and residence on a Native American reservation. Throughout our analysis, we divide race into five categories: White, Black, Latino, Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI), and Other. These racial groups are similar to those used in the 2020 U.S. Census data and self-reported race in the voter files.<sup>2</sup> The major difference is that American Indian/Alaska Native and multi-racial individuals are included with Other due to the very small size in most VCA counties.

Throughout this report, we discuss the difference in turnout between racial/ethnic groups, commonly referred to as “the racial turnout gap” by political science scholars.<sup>3</sup> Communities of color experience lower rates of registration and voting than white, non-Hispanics. This trend is attributed to a long-standing history of exclusion and discrimination, significant differences in socioeconomic status, and lower rates of voter outreach by candidates. The racial turnout gap is not unique to California’s electoral system. This phenomenon can also be observed in states such as Colorado. Colorado, where voters primarily cast their ballots via mail, reports a turnout gap between voters of different racial/ethnic groups. During the 2020 General Election in Colorado, there was an 18.8-point turnout gap between White non-Hispanic voters and voters who identified as Black, Latino, AAPI, and/or Indigenous.<sup>4</sup> In California there was a turnout gap of 9.8 points between White non-Hispanic voters and Latino voters. The voter turnout gaps between White non-Hispanic voters and Black and AAPI voters were 5.2 points and 4.3 points respectively.<sup>5</sup>

California is taking steps to make voting more accessible and equitable to increase voter participation for all Californians across race and ethnicity. To ensure voter equity across racial/ethnic groups, increased efforts and investments by the state and county elections officials, as well as electoral campaigns, must be prioritized.<sup>6</sup> Still, voters might choose to not cast a ballot because they are not interested, or do not feel closely aligned with any of the candidates. Other research indicates states that are not closely contested battleground states, such as

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<sup>1</sup> These were the 15 VCA counties during the Recall Election: Amador County, Butte County, Calaveras County, El Dorado County, Fresno County, Los Angeles County, Madera County, Mariposa County, Napa County, Nevada County, Orange County, Sacramento County, San Mateo County, Santa Clara County, and Tuolumne County.

<sup>2</sup> US Census Bureau, “About the Topic of Race,” Census.gov, March 1, 2022, <https://www.census.gov/topics/population/race/about.html>.

<sup>3</sup> Fraga, Bernard L. *The turnout gap: Race, ethnicity, and political inequality in a diversifying America*. Cambridge University Press, 2018.

<sup>4</sup> Woodruff C, “Colorado’s Racial voter-turnout gap persists, census data shows,” Colorado Newline, September 15, 2022, <https://coloradonewline.com/2022/09/15/colorado-racial-voter-turnout-gap/>.

<sup>5</sup> Weber, S.N., & Jordan, L. (2022). *Voter’s Choice Act Report. 2020 Primary and General Elections*. California Secretary of State. <https://elections.cdn.sos.ca.gov/vca/2020-vca-report/2020-vca-final-report.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> Barreto, Matt A. "The cycle of undermobilization of minority voters." *Journal of Race, Ethnicity, and Politics* 3, no. 1 (2018): 185-188.

California, often experience comparatively lower turnout, because would-be voters correctly predict that the big statewide election contests will not be close.

It is important to note that off-year elections or elections not occurring during a presidential or gubernatorial year are not necessarily accurate representations of the general patterns in voter participation. Turnout rates historically drop off between presidential and midterm elections, and we expect this effect to be amplified for special elections where voter interest and awareness is even lower.<sup>7</sup> While the 2021 Recall Election is not generalizable to all California voter trends, this special election still provides valuable insight into voter participation. For example, the turnout of eligible voters during the 2021 Recall Election was slightly higher than the 2018 General Election, with 51.9% of eligible voters casting ballots during the September 2021 Recall Election compared to 50.5% in November 2018.<sup>8</sup> This trend of higher turnout over time in California elections could result from changes in California’s election laws making voting more accessible. One such benchmark law is the California Voter’s Choice Act, which expanded in-person early voting and mailed every registered voter in a VCA county a ballot.<sup>9</sup>

Throughout this report, we provide aggregate summaries of vote counts for VCA counties. These aggregated statistics include all fifteen counties that adopted the VCA election model at the time of the Recall Election.

The major findings of this report are:

- 1. More than 10.8 million voters were registered in VCA counties at the time of the 2021 Gubernatorial Recall Election. Over 4.9 million, or approximately 45.8% of voters, were estimated to be white, and approximately 54.2%, or 5.9 million voters, were estimated to be from non-white, racial/ethnic communities.<sup>10</sup>**
  - Among non-whites, Latinos were the largest racial/ethnic group, representing over 3.2 million or 29.5% of registered voters.
  - The second largest ethnic group was estimated to be AAPI<sup>11</sup> voters, with 1.6 million registered or 14.7% of registered voters.
  - Black voters were estimated to represent 848,000 or 7.8% of registered voters.
  - Voters identified as Other<sup>12</sup> were estimated to represent 245,000 or 2.3% of registered voters.
- 2. There were changes in voter registration by race.**
  - Latino voter registrations across all VCA counties increased by 28,598 registered voters from the

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<sup>7</sup> Drew DeSilver, “Voter Turnout Always Drops off for Midterm Elections, but Why?,” Pew Research Center (Pew Research Center, May 30, 2020), <https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2014/07/24/voter-turnout-always-drops-off-for-midterm-elections-but-why/>.

<sup>8</sup> California Secretary of State, “Historical Voter Registration and Participation in Statewide General and Special Elections 1910-2021,” <https://elections.cdn.sos.ca.gov/sov/2021-recall/sov/04-historical-voter-reg-participation.pdf>.

<sup>9</sup> Cal. Elec. Code § 4005.

<sup>10</sup> Estimates on registered voters during the 2021 recall election are from the California voter file extracted on May 19, 2022.

<sup>11</sup> AAPI encompasses individuals categorized as Asian and/or Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander. The U.S. Census Bureau classifies AAPI as having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, or the Indian subcontinent including, for example, Cambodia, China, India, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, the Philippine Islands, Thailand, and Vietnam; or, having origins in any of the original peoples of Hawaii, Guam, Samoa, or other Pacific Islands.

<sup>12</sup> ‘Other’ races encompass multi-racial individuals and American Indian/Alaska Natives.

2020 General Election report to the 2021 Recall Election report<sup>13</sup>.

- i. In VCA counties excluding Los Angeles, Latino voter registrations increased by 5,674 registered voters from the General Election report to the 2021 Recall Election report.
  - AAPI voter registrations increased by 24,359 registered voters from the 2020 General Election report to the 2021 Recall Election report.
    - i. In VCA counties excluding Los Angeles, AAPI voter registrations increased by 17,071 registered voters from the General Election to the 2021 Recall Election.
  - White voter registrations across all VCA counties decreased by 43,511 registered voters from the 2020 General Election and 2021 Recall Election.
  - Black voter registrations across all VCA counties decreased by 8,326 registered voters from the 2020 General Election and 2021 Recall Election.
  - Other voter registrations across all VCA counties decreased by 1,570 registered voters from the 2020 General Election and 2021 Recall Election.
- 3. Over 94% of all registered voters in VCA counties recorded English as their primary language.**
- Spanish-speakers represented the largest percentage of language minority voters at approximately 3.2%.
  - Vietnamese-speakers represented the second largest percentage of language minority voters at approximately 0.83%.
  - Chinese-speakers represented the third largest percentage of language minority voters at approximately 0.74%.
  - Korean-speakers represented the third lowest percentage of language minority voters at approximately 0.83%.
  - Voters with languages categorized as “other” represent the second lowest percentage of language minority voters at approximately 0.18%.
  - Tagalog-speakers represent the lowest percentage of language minority voters at approximately 0.09%.
- 4. There was more than a 21-point decrease in voter turnout from the 2020 General Election to the 2021 Recall Election across all VCA counties.**
- Latino voters had the highest decrease in voter turnout, with a 27.3-point decrease between 2020 to 2021.
  - AAPI voters had a 25.2-point decline in voter turnout from 2020 to 2021.
  - Black voters had a 22.2-point decline in voter turnout from 2020 to 2021.
  - Other voters had a 19.9-point decline in voter turnout from 2020 to 2021.
  - White voters had a 17.3-point decline in voter turnout from 2020 to 2021.
- 5. More than 6.1 million ballots were cast across VCA counties.**
- Approximately 3.3 million, or 54.2%, were cast by voters estimated to be white.
  - Approximately 1.4 million, or 22.9%, were cast by voters estimated to be Latino.

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<sup>13</sup> Note – the data for each report was received from the state of California months after each election and should not be seen as a snapshot in time on election day, thus we refer to our previous *report* on the 2020 election. In future reports, we hope to be able to receive data from the close of election file which will allow for direct election-to-election comparisons.

- Approximately 842,720 thousand, or 13.7%, were cast by voters estimated to be AAPI.
- Approximately 415,712 thousand, or 6.8%, were cast by voters estimated to be Black.
- Approximately 147,902 thousand, or 2.4%, were cast by voters estimated to be Other.

**6. The average voter turnout was 56.3% across all VCA counties.**

- White voters had the highest turnout among any group, with a rate of 66.5%.
- Voters listed as Other had the second highest turnout at 60.2%.
- AAPI voters had the third-highest turnout at 52.6%.
- Black Voters had the second lower turnout rate at 49%.
- Latino voters had the lowest turnout rate at 43.8%.

**7. On average, voter turnout rates increase across all racial and ethnic groups as voters get older.**

**The racial turnout gaps, however, remain evident in voter turnout rates.**

- Turnout in VCA counties for voters aged 18 to 29 years was 37.6%. Compared to Latino voters at 29.8%, Black voters at 31.3%, AAPI voters at 40.0%, Other at 41.7%, and white voters at 46.8%.
- Turnout for voters aged 30 to 49 years was 50.6%. Compared to Black voters at 40.6%, Latino voters at 41.3%, AAPI voters at 49.2%, Other at 54.3%, and white voters at 59.4%.
- Turnout for voters aged 50 to 64 years was 65.9%. Compared to Latino voters at 56.4%, Black voters at 58.1%, and AAPI voters at 59.0%, Other at 68.6%, and white voters at 73.8%.
- Turnout for voters aged 65 years and older was 74.3%. Compared to Latino voters at 63.3%, AAPI voters at 63.9%, Black voters at 70.2%, Other voters 76.4%, and white voters at 81.4%.

**8. Voter participation for people living on Native American tribal grounds was measured for the 2021 Gubernatorial Recall Election.**

- People living on Native American tribal grounds comprised 2,186 or 0.02% of all registered voters in VCA counties.
- 1,852, or 84.7% of voters living on tribal grounds were from Butte County.
- Voters living on Native American tribal grounds had a voter turnout of 51.6% or 1,126 votes cast.



## Understanding Voter Turnout Gaps

Scholars of American electoral politics have sought to understand the reasons that individuals participate in elections and why turnout gaps exist between electorates of different races. These political scientists ultimately find that political campaigns often categorize racial/ethnic minorities as low-propensity voters unlikely to determine election outcomes.<sup>14</sup> Other research documents that many non-white voters feel disconnected from the political system and do not see politicians as responsive to their community needs, leading to lower turnout. Voters of color are frequently regarded as low-propensity voters due to various factors. For example, because of their relative youth and foreign-born status, each year, many Latino and AAPI voting-eligible citizens enter the electorate as first-time voters that have not previously participated in an election.

The resulting consequence is that numerous individuals of color are on the voter rolls, but with little-to-no vote history. As such, they are often overlooked by campaign outreach efforts.<sup>15</sup> In other words, when campaigns plan outreach strategies, they often direct fewer resources to less reliable voters with low vote history scores. This begins the cycle of "under mobilization", in which voters of color are less likely to be targeted for get-out-the-vote campaigns, further depressing minority voting.<sup>16</sup> While election rules and structural changes also constrain or encourage voter turnout, there has been a well-documented differential turnout rate by racial groups for the entire political history of America. Still, political scientists recommend election administrators do what they can to make voting more accessible to encourage increased turnout and equity across groups.

The persistent turnout gap<sup>17</sup> suggests that more than the removal of structural barriers may be required to eliminate the gap between the turnout of white voters and other groups. County election offices and candidates for office must increase outreach and contact with Black, Latino, and AAPI voters. If voters are not regularly contacted, they are less likely to vote. A Pew Research Center study found that during the 2020 Election, highly engaged voters reported they were frequently contacted by campaigns. Whereas some non-voters reported not receiving any sort of campaign communications or only one type of communication.<sup>18</sup> Furthermore, contact with minority voters needs to be culturally appropriate and should incorporate more racially diverse contact from Black, Latino, and AAPI staff to ensure this outcome. All voters are more likely to be persuaded from outreach that comes from other community members or people they can relate to, and it helps generate a sense of inclusion, especially for historically excluded groups. Outreach materials and activities should be designed and implemented to probe awareness of voting options, voting option preferences, and reactions to existing voter messaging materials.

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<sup>14</sup> Fraga, Bernard L. *The turnout gap: Race, ethnicity, and political inequality in a diversifying America*. Cambridge University Press, 2018.

<sup>15</sup> Fraga, Bernard L. *The turnout gap: Race, ethnicity, and political inequality in a diversifying America*. Cambridge University Press, 2018.

<sup>16</sup> Barreto, Matt A. "The cycle of undermobilization of minority voters." *Journal of Race, Ethnicity, and Politics* 3, no. 1 (2018): 185-188.

<sup>17</sup> Bureau, US Census. "Voting Rates by Race and Hispanic Origin." *Census.gov*, October 8, 2021. <https://www.census.gov/library/visualizations/2017/comm/voting-rates-race-hispanic.html>.

<sup>18</sup> Andrew Daniller and Hannah Gilberstadt, "Key findings about voter engagement in the 2020 election." Pew Research Center (Pew Research Center, December 14, 2020), <https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2020/12/14/key-findings-about-voter-engagement-in-the-2020-election/>

Whatever changes are implemented to the administration of California elections, including the widespread adoption of California's Voter's Choice Act (VCA), habitual voters and those voters most targeted by campaigns are likely to stay up-to-date and continue casting their ballots. By contrast, first-time and low-propensity voters are sometimes deterred by the complex and changing electoral process. Tufts University's Center for Information & Research on Civic Learning and Engagement released a poll that shows that young people need timely and relevant access to voting information, or they may not vote.<sup>19</sup> Even if changes are meant to encourage participation, documented research shows that voters with low awareness of political news may not understand the changes and may need more time and outreach to vote at higher rates.

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<sup>19</sup> Center for Information & Research on Civic Learning and Engagement. (2020). *Poll: Young People Believe they Can Lead Change in Unprecedented Election Cycle*. Accessed February 13, 2023.  
<https://circle.tufts.edu/latest-research/poll-young-people-believe-they-can-lead-change-unprecedented-election-cycle>

## Introduction

Signed into law in 2016, the California Voter's Choice Act (VCA) ushered in an election model used by fifteen counties during the 2021 special recall election: Amador; Butte; Calaveras; El Dorado; Fresno; Los Angeles, Madera; Mariposa; Napa; Nevada; Orange, Sacramento; San Mateo; Santa Clara; and Tuolumne. Designed to provide greater flexibility and convenience for voters, this new election model allows voters to choose how, when, and where to cast their ballot. This election model expanded early voting opportunities and methods for voters to return their ballots.

Under the VCA, each voter is mailed a ballot which they can then return by mail, to a secure drop box, or at a vote center. Voters may also cast a ballot at any vote center within their county or through other expanded in-person early voting options.

This report, commissioned by the California Secretary of State's office pursuant to California Elections Code, provides a comprehensive overview of voting in VCA counties during the 2021 special recall election. California Elections Code Section 4005(g)(1)(A) states that, within six months of each election, the Secretary of State will report voter statistics<sup>20</sup> across race, ethnicity, language preference, age, gender, disability, permanent vote-by-mail status, historical polling place voters, political party affiliation, and language minorities.

A petition to recall Governor Newsom was filed in February 2020, and signatures were collected from June 2020 to March 2021. If the recall had been successful, the replacement candidate with the most votes on the second part of the ballot would have assumed office through January 2023. When the ballots were counted following the special election, nearly 8 million, or 61.9% of the people who voted, voted against the recall.<sup>21</sup>

As outlined in the California State Constitution beginning in 1911, "recall is the power of the voters to remove elected officials before their terms expire."<sup>22</sup> A recall election is held following a petition drive collecting signatures amounting to at least 12% of voters in the previous election.<sup>23</sup> The election was the fourth gubernatorial recall election in American history and the second in state history after the 2003 recall election.

The 2021 gubernatorial recall election followed policies implemented for the November 2020 general election during the COVID-19 pandemic. In this model, county election offices sent mail ballots to the address of every registered voter, and voters were given the option to cast a mail ballot or vote in-person.<sup>24</sup>

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<sup>20</sup> To the extent possible, the California Secretary of State is required to report: voter turnout, voter registration, ballot rejection rates, reasons for ballot rejection, provisional ballot use, accessible vote-by-mail ballot use, the number of votes cast at each vote center, the number of ballots returned at ballot drop off locations, the number of ballots returned by mail, the number of persons who registered to vote at a vote center, instances of voter fraud, and any other problems that became known to the county elections official or the Secretary of State during the election or canvass.

<sup>21</sup> "California Gubernatorial Recall Election - Statement of Vote, September 14, 2021." California Gubernatorial Recall Election - Statement of Vote, September 14, 2021: California Secretary of State. Accessed September 13, 2022. <https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/prior-elections/statewide-election-results/2021-ca-gov-recall/statement-vote>.

<sup>22</sup> "Recalls." Recalls: California Secretary of State. Accessed September 13, 2022. <https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/recalls>.

<sup>23</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>24</sup> "California Gubernatorial Recall Election - September 14, 2021." California Gubernatorial Recall Election - September 14, 2021: California Secretary of State. Accessed September 19, 2022. <https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/prior-elections/statewide-election-results/2021-ca-gov-recall>.

This report evaluates voter registration and participation across essential characteristics to assess standards of equity in the special recall election held by VCA counties. The purpose of this analysis is to determine shortcomings in voter engagement and identify opportunities for targeted voter mobilization for future elections.

## Methodology

The purpose of this report is to provide a detailed analysis of voter registration and turnout rates for the 2021 Gubernatorial Recall Election in California's fifteen VCA counties. No state requirement exists to self-report race or ethnicity when registering to vote. As a result, the state's centralized voter registration database, VoteCal, does not capture comprehensive data on voters' racial and ethnic backgrounds. To provide a more accurate understanding of the electorate in California, we utilized Bayesian Improved Surname Geocoding (BISG) to improve report estimates on California voters' race and ethnicity.

BISG was developed by demographic experts and has been widely published and applied in the domain of public health.<sup>25</sup> Our BISG models are compared to self-reported race data included in the voter file to assess predictive accuracies and further improve techniques. The method relies on a combination of census surname analysis and census block-level racial demographics to provide an overall probability assessment of the voter's race or ethnicity.<sup>26</sup> Demographers and social scientists already utilize both of these methods separately; matching census data to geographic units is widely used for understanding racial demographics and density of an area,<sup>27</sup> and surname analysis is regularly used against the voter file to understand race and ethnicity.<sup>28</sup> Using both data sources makes it possible to gain a more precise understanding of voter demographics—two pieces of evidence, instead of just one, provides far more reliable estimates.<sup>29</sup>

BISG analysis begins by undertaking the surname analysis. Surname analysis in BISG starts by taking each last name in the voter file and checking it against the published directories created by the Census Bureau.<sup>30</sup> This list, assembled based on research by demographers at the Census Bureau, has created a racial/ethnic probability for each last name in the United States based on the official census records.<sup>31</sup> When a person fills out the census, they record their last name and their self-reported race and ethnicity.<sup>32</sup> The resulting probability estimate for each name can then be cross-referenced with the voter file. So, a surname database can assign a probability for nearly every last name found on a voter file.

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<sup>25</sup> Fiscella, Kevin, and Allen M. Fremont. "Use of geocoding and surname analysis to estimate race and ethnicity." *Health services research* 41, no. 4p1 (2006): 1482-1500.

<sup>26</sup> Imai, Kosuke, and Kabir Khanna. "Improving ecological inference by predicting individual ethnicity from voter registration records." *Political Analysis* 24, no. 2 (2016): 263-272.

<sup>27</sup> Jorge Chapa, Ana Henderson, Aggie Jooyoon Noah, Werner Schinkiv, & Robert Kengle, The Chief Justice Earl Warren Institute on Law and Social Policy, *Redistricting: Estimating Citizen Voting Age Population* (2011)

<sup>28</sup> Grofman, Bernard, and Jennifer R. Garcia. "Using Spanish Surname to Estimate Hispanic Voting Population in Voting Rights Litigation: A Model of Context Effects Using Bayes' Theorem." *Election Law Journal* 13, no. 3 (2014): 375-393.

<sup>29</sup> Barreto, Matt, Michael Cohen, Loren Collingwood, Chad Dunn, and Sonni Waknin. "A novel method for showing racially polarized voting: Bayesian improved surname geocoding." *New York University Review of Law & Social Change* (2021).

<sup>30</sup> Elliott, Marc N., Allen Fremont, Peter A. Morrison, Philip Pantoja, and Nicole Lurie. "A new method for estimating race/ethnicity and associated disparities where administrative records lack self reported race/ethnicity." *Health services research* 43, no. 5p1 (2008): 1722-1736.

<sup>31</sup> "Decennial Census Surname Files (2010, 2000)." Perma.cc. Accessed September 19, 2022. <https://perma.cc/9JLV-7NQJ>.

<sup>32</sup> Ibid.

The second step of BISG relies on the address of the voter from the publicly available voter file.<sup>33</sup> Using a procedure known as geocoding, this address information can be cross-referenced with the data from the decennial census at the block level.<sup>34</sup> The census data contains the self-reported race of residents, aggregated to the census block level. Using census statistics for the racial and ethnic composition for the block in which a voter resides, the block's racial demographic percentages can be used to refine the initial estimate of voter race by surname alone.<sup>35</sup> By using a smaller level of aggregation (i.e., census block), researchers have more precision in their racial estimates.<sup>36</sup>

BISG uses the two proxy sources of voter race information—a voter's name and where they live—to generate an estimate of their race. By employing the Who Are You (WRU) package in R<sup>37</sup> to estimate the probability that a voter is of a certain race, a more detailed analysis can be inferred from the combination of surname and geolocation data—as opposed to using just one or the other.

## Data Sources

**VoteCal Data:** This report utilizes voter data from VoteCal, California's single uniform, centralized voter registration database. This data includes information about voter registration, voter participation method, voter participation, and identifying voter characteristics.

**2020 Decennial Census P.L. 94-171 Redistricting Data:** We use 2020 Census data which contains the joint distribution of individual characteristics, including age, gender, and race, at the levels of various geographical units. The summary file contains raw counts of individuals, which we aggregate by various geographical units, including county, tract, block group, and block levels.

**2010 Census Surname List:** The Census Bureau provides data on the racial distribution of surnames in the United States. In 2016, the Census Bureau released the percent of individuals who are white, Black, Latino, Asian, and so on for each surname occurring at least 100 times in the 2010 Census. We supplement this list with Census's Spanish Surname List, which contains the most common Latino surnames expanded from the 2010 Census Surname List.

**Asian American Subethnic Surname List:** Using a modified surname list, we provide a model for identifying Asian American voters by major subethnic groups. The derivation of the lists is from academic literature on the topic, most prominently described in *Lauderdale DS, Kestenbaum B. Asian American ethnic identification by surname. Population Research and Policy Review. 2000;19:283-300.*

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<sup>33</sup> Amos, Brian, and Michael P. McDonald. "A Method to Audit the Assignment of Registered Voters to Districts and Precincts." *Political Analysis* 28, no. 3 (2020): 356-371.

<sup>34</sup> Ibid.

<sup>35</sup> Barreto, Matt, Michael Cohen, Loren Collingwood, Chad Dunn, and Sonni Waknin. "A novel method for showing racially polarized voting: Bayesian improved surname geocoding." *New York University Review of Law & Social Change, Forthcoming* (2021).

<sup>36</sup> Ibid.

<sup>37</sup> Khanna, Kabir, Kosuke Imai, and Maintainer Kabir Khanna. "Package 'wru'." (2019). The WRU package uses Bayes' Rule to compute the probability of each racial category for any given person.

**2020 Census Bureau American Indian/Alaska Native/Native Hawaiian (AIANNH) Areas:** In order to provide further analysis of voting patterns of Indigenous Americans, we used a spatial overlay technique that cross-referenced voter addresses with the U.S. Census Bureau TIGER/Line Shapefile, 2020, Nation, U.S., American Indian/Alaska Native/Native Hawaiian (AIANNH) Areas.

### **Additional Notes**

Throughout our analysis, we divide race into five categories: White, Black, Latino, AAPI, and Other. These racial groups are similar to the groups used in the Census data and self-reported race in the voter files. The major difference is that American Indian/Alaska Native and multi-racial individuals are included with Other. The groups categorized in Other jointly constitute less than 3% of records in the California voter file.

## Overview of the California Electorate

Throughout this report, we discuss how racial/ethnic groups make up a proportional “share” or “representation” of the registered electorate and ballots cast. This phrasing refers to the **percentage** each racial/ethnic group comprises of a total category—out of 100%. Analyzing the percentage that a racial/ethnic group represents allows for comparisons across categories. Theoretically, groups should maintain the same percentage across multiple groups if they are proportionally represented. We know maintaining the same percentages is not always the case.

For instance, if *group x* makes up 40.0% of the eligible voting population, it should represent 40.0% of the registered voters and 40.0% of the ballots cast. Suppose *group x* is 40.0% of the eligible voting population and represents 50% of the registered electorate. In that case, it is **overrepresented** by 10-points in the registered category. Suppose *group y* is 40.0% of the eligible voting population and represents 30% of the registered electorate. In that case, it is **underrepresented** by 10-points in the registered category.

This section will discuss the percentage that racial/ethnic groups comprise of California’s registered electorate and if they are equally represented in the percentage of ballots cast. Furthermore, we will discuss how voter turnout is differentiated from proportional share.

**Table 1: Voter Registration and Participation-by Race and Ethnicity**

Racial/Ethnic Group	Registered	Representation of Registered	Voted	Representation of Voted	Difference
Total	10,897,219	-	6,131,524	-	-
White	4,992,238	45.8%	3,320,660	54.2%	8.4
Latino	3,209,369	29.5%	1,404,530	22.9%	-6.4
Black	848,369	7.8%	415,712	6.8%	-1.0
AAPI	1,601,640	14.7%	842,720	13.7%	-1.0
Other	245,603	2.3%	147,902	2.4%	0.1

Table 1 above shows the number of those who registered and cast a ballot at the 2021 Recall Election by race/ethnicity. Voters estimated to be white represent the largest percentage of registered voters at 45.8%. Latino voters make up the second-largest percentage of registered voters, with 29.5%. The remaining percentages of registered voters is comprised of AAPI, Black, and Other voters, with 14.7%, 7.8%, and 2.3%, respectively.



Similarly, white voters also represent the largest percentage of those that voted at 54.2%. Latinos represent the second-largest percentage of those that voted, with 22.9%. The remaining percentage of those that voted, or ballots cast, is comprised of AAPI, Black, and other voters, with 13.7%, 6.8%, and 2.4%, respectively.

The ‘Difference’ column in Table 1 compares how each group of registered voters is represented in the voting population of those that voted compared to their percentage of the registered electorate.

As mentioned above, groups should be equally represented across categories, so this difference column *should* be 0.0. Values in black indicate that a group is overrepresented in their percentage of those that voted compared to their percentage of registered voters. Conversely, values with a dash in front of them indicate a negative value and mean that a group is underrepresented in their percentage of those that voted compared to their percentage of registered voters. White voters overrepresent those that voted, or ballots cast, by 8.4-points. Voters estimated as 'other' have near-equal representation across categories as they only overrepresent those who voted by 0.1-points. Latino, Black, and AAPI voters are all underrepresented in the proportion of those that voted by 6.4-, 1.0-, and 1.0-points, respectively.

**Figure 1: Voter Registration and Participation**

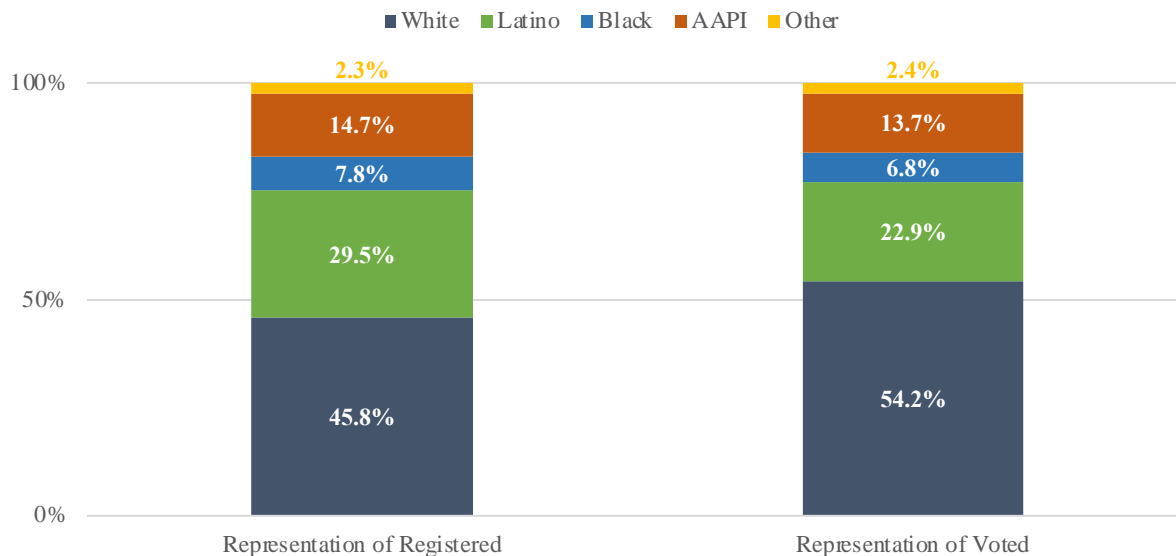


Figure 1 is a visual comparison of those registered voters and ballots cast by race and ethnicity data shown in Table 1. Voters estimated to be white are overrepresented in their percentage of those that voted compared to their percentage of registered voters. This finding suggests that, during the 2021 Recall Election, eligible voters of color are not mobilized to vote at the same rate that they are mobilized to register.

**Table 2: Voter Turnout by Race and Ethnicity Compared to the VCA Counties' Average Turnout Rate**

<b>Racial/Ethnic Group</b>	<b>Turnout Rate</b>	<b>Difference from VCA Average</b>
VCA Average	56.3%	-
White	66.5%	10.2
Latino	43.8%	-12.5
Black	49.0%	-7.3
AAPI	52.6%	-3.7
Other	60.2%	3.9

Turnout averages differ from the percentage of registered voters and percentage of ballots cast discussed above as a turnout rate is calculated to be compared across groups. These averages are calculated by dividing the number of ballots cast by a group by the number of registered voters estimated in that group. Table 2 above shows the average turnout rate across all fifteen VCA counties and divides the average turnout rate for each racial/ethnic group. In Table 2, we also compare each racial/ethnic group's turnout rate to the VCA counties' average turnout rate.

The average turnout rate for voters across all VCA counties was 56.3%. Voters estimated to be white had the highest turnout rate of any group at 66.5%, which was 10.2 percentage points higher than the VCA counties average. 'Other' voters had the second highest turnout rate at 60.2%. They were the only other group with a higher turnout than the VCA average. AAPI voters had the third highest turnout at 52.6%, but AAPI turnout was 3.7-points lower than the VCA average. Black voters had a turnout rate of 49.0%, which was 7.3-points lower than the VCA counties' average turnout. Latinos had the lowest turnout during the 2021 Recall Election, with a 43.8% rate – 12.5-points lower than the VCA average.

Even though the data presented here does not speak to why voters of color are underrepresented in votes cast and have lower turnout rates, research has shown that having sustained and direct face-to-face voter engagement with voters is imperative to get them to the polls.<sup>38</sup> It is up to political parties, state and county election administrators, and community-based organizations to mobilize voters through deeper engagement.

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<sup>38</sup> Sinclair, Betsy, Margaret McConnell, and Melissa R. Michelson. "Local canvassing: The efficacy of grassroots voter mobilization." *Political Communication* 30, no. 1 (2013): 42-57.

## Characteristics and Patterns of Voters in VCA Counties

This section looks at registered voters and participation trends across VCA counties. We provide insight on the following:

- Registered voters by race and ethnicity, turnout by race and ethnicity;
- Registered voters by Asian ethnic origin group;
- Registered voters by residence on American Indian tribal lands;
- Registered voters by age and race and ethnicity;
- Voting methods by race and ethnicity;
  - Provisional ballot use; and,
  - Methods of mail ballot submission

All BISG estimates for registered voters were applied to the 2021 California recall election voter file extracted on May 19, 2022. Since the voter file was extracted several months after the September 14, 2021, election deadline, registered voters' estimates represent a point in time extract and do not present a direct representation of VCA counties' voter registrations during the recall election. Figures related to ballots cast are reflective of the ballots cast on Election day.

In the paragraphs for the subject tables below, we present findings for the aggregated VCA counties total, which includes all fifteen VCA counties. We also provide aggregated totals that exclude Los Angeles County because it had more registered voters than all other fourteen counties combined.

**Table 3: Registered Voters by Race and Ethnicity**

VCA Counties	Total Registered	White		Latino		Black		AAPI		Other	
All VCA Counties	10,897,219	4,992,238	45.8%	3,209,369	29.5%	848,369	7.8%	1,601,640	14.7%	245,603	2.3%
All VCA Counties (Excluding LA)	5,204,574	2,842,977	54.6%	1,052,578	20.2%	222,608	4.3%	951,383	18.3%	135,028	2.6%
Amador	26,295	23,838	90.7%	1,400	5.3%	195	0.7%	84	0.3%	778	3.0%
Butte	123,388	102,381	83.0%	11,530	9.3%	2,359	1.9%	3,144	2.5%	3,974	3.2%
Calaveras	31,957	28,599	89.5%	1,935	6.1%	332	1.0%	167	0.5%	924	2.9%
El Dorado	137,567	121,607	88.4%	7,680	5.6%	1,192	0.9%	3,405	2.5%	3,683	2.7%
Fresno	499,956	209,602	41.9%	207,324	41.5%	30,518	6.1%	41,407	8.3%	11,105	2.2%
Los Angeles	5,692,645	2,149,261	37.8%	2,156,791	37.9%	625,761	11.0%	650,257	11.4%	110,575	1.9%
Madera	71,872	36,269	50.5%	30,706	42.7%	1,864	2.6%	1,170	1.6%	1,863	2.6%
Mariposa	11,657	10,430	89.5%	635	5.4%	69	0.6%	51	0.4%	472	4.0%
Napa	84,170	57,946	68.8%	17,918	21.3%	2,139	2.5%	4,040	4.8%	2,127	2.5%
Nevada	75,347	70,417	93.5%	2,529	3.4%	334	0.4%	252	0.3%	1,815	2.4%
Orange	1,808,614	995,635	55.0%	392,727	21.7%	36,381	2.0%	343,993	19.0%	39,878	2.2%
Sacramento	864,225	491,176	56.8%	126,348	14.6%	105,892	12.3%	110,541	12.8%	30,268	3.5%
San Mateo	433,312	232,475	53.7%	71,512	16.5%	11,564	2.7%	104,724	24.2%	13,037	3.0%
Santa Clara	1,001,061	430,527	43.0%	178,664	17.8%	29,620	3.0%	338,278	33.8%	23,972	2.4%
Tuolumne	35,153	32,075	91.2%	1,670	4.7%	149	0.4%	127	0.4%	1,132	3.2%

As shown in Table 3, there were more than 10.8 million registered voters across VCA counties. Approximately 5 million, or 45.8% of all registered voters were estimated to be white. Latino voters were the second largest group of registered voters, representing 3.2 million or 29.5% of all VCA registered voters. The third largest group of registered voters was AAPI, representing approximately 1.6 million or 14.7% of registered voters. Black registered voters were the smallest single racial/ethnic group across the VCA counties, representing approximately 848 thousand or 7.8% of registered voters. Voters estimated in the ‘other’ category comprised the remaining 245 thousand or 2.3% of registered voters in the VCA counties.

When excluding Los Angeles County, the other 14 VCA counties had a combined 5.2 million registered voters. Across these VCA counties, approximately 2.8 million or 54.6% of all registered voters were estimated to be white. Latinos remain the second largest group of registered voters, comprising over 1.0 million or 20.2% of registered voters. AAPI voters were the third largest group representing approximately 951 thousand or 18.3% of registered voters. The smallest single racial/ethnic group across the fourteen VCA counties were Black

registered voters, representing over 222,000 or 4.3% of registered voters. Registered voters estimated as ‘other’ made up 135,000 or 2.6% of the registered electorate.

**Table 4: Votes Cast by Race and Ethnicity**

VCA Counties	Total Voted	White		Latino		Black		AAPI		Other	
All VCA Counties	6,131,524	3,320,660	54.2%	1,404,530	22.9%	415,712	6.8%	842,720	13.7%	147,902	2.4%
All VCA Counties (Excluding LA)	3,236,701	2,000,771	61.8%	500,587	15.5%	124,060	3.8%	524,680	16.2%	86,603	2.7%
Amador	19,692	18,051	91.7%	893	4.5%	142	0.7%	56	0.3%	550	2.8%
Butte	78,054	68,125	87.3%	5,076	6.5%	1,306	1.7%	1,171	1.5%	2,376	3.0%
Calaveras	23,158	20,969	90.5%	1,189	5.1%	232	1.0%	108	0.5%	660	2.8%
El Dorado	97,265	87,604	90.1%	4,134	4.3%	834	0.9%	2,135	2.2%	2,558	2.6%
Fresno	255,677	136,322	53.3%	83,080	32.5%	14,034	5.5%	16,101	6.3%	6,140	2.4%
Los Angeles	2,894,823	1,319,889	45.6%	903,943	31.2%	291,652	10.1%	318,040	11.0%	61,299	2.1%
Madera	41,676	25,942	62.2%	12,861	30.9%	1,118	2.7%	556	1.3%	1,199	2.9%
Mariposa	8,562	7,763	90.7%	378	4.4%	57	0.7%	30	0.4%	334	3.9%
Napa	56,547	42,555	75.3%	8,953	15.8%	1,317	2.3%	2,295	4.1%	1,427	2.5%
Nevada	54,306	51,246	94.4%	1,414	2.6%	218	0.4%	168	0.3%	1,260	2.3%
Orange	1,119,726	700,256	62.5%	186,304	16.6%	22,081	2.0%	185,335	16.6%	25,750	2.3%
Sacramento	544,527	342,386	62.9%	66,616	12.2%	58,494	10.7%	58,074	10.7%	18,957	3.5%
San Mateo	286,559	168,966	59.0%	38,286	13.4%	6,819	2.4%	63,737	22.2%	8,751	3.1%
Santa Clara	625,686	307,330	49.1%	90,371	14.4%	17,304	2.8%	194,824	31.1%	15,857	2.5%
Tuolumne	25,266	23,256	92.0%	1,032	4.1%	104	0.4%	90	0.4%	784	3.1%

As shown in Table 4, more than 6.1 million ballots were cast across all fifteen VCA counties. Approximately 3.3 million, or 54.2% of all ballots were cast by voters estimated to be white. Latino voters had the second largest percentage of ballots cast, representing 1.4 million or 22.9%. AAPI voters had the third most ballots cast by any group, with over 842,000 or 13.7%. Across all VCA counties, 415,000 ballots were cast by voters estimated to be Black. Voters estimated in the ‘other’ category comprised the remaining 147,000 or 2.4% of ballots cast in the VCA counties.

When excluding Los Angeles County, the other 14 VCA counties had a combined 3.2 million ballots cast in the 2021 Recall Election. Across these VCA counties, approximately 2.0 million or 61.8% of all ballots cast were from voters estimated to be white. AAPI voters had the second most ballots by any group, with over 524,000 or 16.2%. Latino voters had the third largest percentage of ballots cast, representing 500,000 or 15.5% across the

14 VCA counties. Black voters were estimated to have cast over 124,000 ballots in the election. ‘Other’ voters cast the remaining 86,000 or 2.7% of ballots in these counties.

**Table 5: Turnout Rate Among Registered by Race and Ethnicity**

VCA Counties	Total	White	Latino	Black	AAPI	Other
All VCA Counties	56.3%	66.5%	43.8%	49.0%	52.6%	60.2%
All VCA Counties (Excluding LA)	62.2%	70.4%	47.6%	55.7%	55.1%	64.1%
Amador	74.9%	75.7%	63.8%	72.8%	66.7%	70.7%
Butte	63.3%	66.5%	44.0%	55.4%	37.2%	59.8%
Calaveras	72.5%	73.3%	61.4%	69.9%	64.7%	71.4%
El Dorado	70.7%	72.0%	53.8%	70.0%	62.7%	69.5%
Fresno	51.1%	65.0%	40.1%	46.0%	38.9%	55.3%
Los Angeles	50.9%	61.4%	41.9%	46.6%	48.9%	55.4%
Madera	58.0%	71.5%	41.9%	60.0%	47.5%	64.4%
Mariposa	73.4%	74.4%	59.5%	82.6%	58.8%	70.8%
Napa	67.2%	73.4%	50.0%	61.6%	56.8%	67.1%
Nevada	72.1%	72.8%	55.9%	65.3%	66.7%	69.4%
Orange	61.9%	70.3%	47.4%	60.7%	53.9%	64.6%
Sacramento	63.0%	69.7%	52.7%	55.2%	52.5%	62.6%
San Mateo	66.1%	72.7%	53.5%	59.0%	60.9%	67.1%
Santa Clara	62.5%	71.4%	50.6%	58.4%	57.6%	66.1%
Tuolumne	71.9%	72.5%	61.8%	69.8%	70.9%	69.3%

Table 5 above shows the turnout rate by race and ethnicity for the 2021 Recall Election. The average turnout rate across all VCA counties was 56.3%. White voters had the highest turnout rate among any racial/ethnic group at 66.5%. Voters estimated as ‘other’ had the second highest turnout rate of 60.2%. AAPI voters had the third-highest turnout rate of 52.6%. Turnout among voters estimated to be Black was at 49.0%. Across all VCA counties, Latino voters had the lowest turnout of any group, with a rate of 43.8%.

Excluding Los Angeles County, the other 14 VCA counties had a combined turnout rate of 62.2%. Trends in turnout by race/ethnicity are similar to those with Los Angeles included. Among all groups, white voters had the highest turnout rate of 70.4%. ‘Other’ voters had the second highest turnout rate of 64.1%. When Los Angeles County is removed, Black voters have the third highest turnout rate of 55.7%, and AAPI voters have the fourth highest turnout of 55.1%. Latino voters had the lowest turnout rate of 47.6%.

It is important to note that counties primarily comprised of white voters have higher overall turnout since white voters historically have higher turnout rates than their non-white counterparts.<sup>39</sup>

**Table 6: Proportion of Registered Voters by Asian Ethnic-Origin**

VCA Counties	Total Asian	Asian Indian	Chinese	Filipino	Japanese	Korean	Vietnamese	Other
All VCA Counties	1,601,640	12.7%	31.2%	12.2%	5.1%	11.4%	20.7%	6.7%
All VCA Counties (Excluding LA)	951,383	15.7%	27.5%	10.7%	4.0%	8.2%	27.3%	6.5%
Amador	84	13.1%	23.8%	17.9%	3.6%	1.2%	8.3%	32.1%
Butte	3,144	15.8%	23.1%	7.2%	4.3%	4.5%	6.1%	38.9%
Calaveras	167	12.6%	28.1%	20.4%	9.0%	7.8%	4.2%	18.0%
El Dorado	3,405	29.8%	25.6%	13.4%	4.9%	8.2%	10.0%	8.2%
Fresno	41,407	31.6%	17.5%	7.9%	5.7%	2.9%	6.6%	27.8%
Los Angeles	650,257	8.1%	36.7%	14.3%	6.8%	16.1%	11.1%	6.9%
Madera	1,170	57.9%	11.3%	9.1%	3.7%	2.7%	4.4%	10.9%
Mariposa	51	15.7%	29.4%	2.0%	3.9%	21.6%	15.7%	11.8%
Napa	4,040	13.8%	12.0%	54.3%	3.0%	2.8%	8.0%	6.1%
Nevada	252	9.9%	31.0%	6.7%	7.5%	7.1%	8.7%	29.0%
Orange	343,993	9.0%	20.0%	6.4%	4.4%	14.7%	39.8%	5.6%
Sacramento	110,541	23.8%	23.9%	13.9%	4.8%	3.5%	19.6%	10.4%
San Mateo	104,724	10.8%	47.4%	24.9%	3.8%	4.6%	4.2%	4.2%
Santa Clara	338,278	19.3%	31.5%	9.6%	3.2%	5.1%	27.5%	3.9%
Tuolumne	127	11.8%	17.3%	23.6%	11.8%	3.9%	1.6%	29.9%

Table 6 above shows a detailed breakdown of AAPI voters by subethnic origin. Our estimates are limited to Asian Indian, Chinese, Filipino, Japanese, Korean, and Vietnamese because subethnic classification literature primarily focuses on these six major Asian American ethnic groups.<sup>40</sup> We provide this analysis since it is often more informative to study Asian American ethnic groups separately than just focusing on an aggregate Asian American category because of differences in immigration history, socioeconomic status, health, and culture.<sup>41</sup>

<sup>39</sup> Bureau, US Census. "Voting Rates by Race and Hispanic Origin." Census.gov, October 8, 2021. <https://www.census.gov/library/visualizations/2017/comm/voting-rates-race-hispanic.html>.

<sup>40</sup> Lauderdale, Diane S., and Bert Kestenbaum. "Asian American ethnic identification by surname." *Population Research and Policy Review* 19, no. 3 (2000): 283-300.

<sup>41</sup> Ibid.

Across all VCA counties, there were more than 1.6 million AAPI registered voters. More than half of AAPI voters were Chinese (31.2%) or Vietnamese (20.7%).<sup>42</sup>

The remaining AAPI electorate is comprised of Asian Indian (12.7%), Filipino (12.2%), Korean (11.4%), Other (6.7%), and Japanese (5.1%).<sup>43</sup> Excluding Los Angeles County, the remaining 14 VCA counties had over 951,000 AAPI voters. Individuals estimated to be Chinese (27.5%) narrowly represented most of the AAPI registered voters in these VCA counties. The remaining AAPI electorate is comprised of Vietnamese (27.3%), Asian Indian (15.7%), Filipino (10.7%), Korean (8.2%), Other (6.5%), and Japanese (4.0%).<sup>44</sup>

**Table 7: Registered Voters Living on American Indian Tribal Grounds<sup>45</sup>**

VCA Counties	Total Registered	Living on Tribal Grounds	
		Count	Percentage
All VCA Counties	10,897,219	2,186	0.02%
All VCA Counties (Excluding LA)	5,204,574	2,181	0.04%
Amador	26,295	15	0.06%
Butte	123,388	1,852	1.50%
Calaveras	31,957	0	0.00%
El Dorado	137,567	49	0.04%
Fresno	499,956	124	0.02%
Los Angeles	5,692,645	5	0.00%
Madera	71,872	29	0.04%
Mariposa	11,657	0	0.00%
Napa	84,170	0	0.00%
Nevada	75,347	0	0.00%
Orange	1,808,614	0	0.00%
Sacramento	864,225	0	0.00%
San Mateo	433,312	0	0.00%
Santa Clara	1,001,061	0	0.00%
Tuolumne	35,153	112	0.32%

<sup>42</sup> Estimated from modified BISG model that identified Asian American voters by major subethnic group using a modified surname list and Asian American counts from the 2020 Decennial Census P.L. 94-171 Redistricting Data files. The model also incorporates the voter's country of birth if listed on the voter file.

<sup>43</sup> The 'other' category can include Hmong, Cambodian, Pakistani, Laotian, Thai, or others.

<sup>44</sup> Other category can include Hmong, Cambodian, Pakistani, Laotian, Thai, or others.

<sup>45</sup> Counts Confined to Registered Voters Geocoded to Matching the U.S. Census Bureau TIGER/Line Shapefile, 2020, Nation, U.S., American Indian/Alaska Native/Native Hawaiian (AIANNH) Areas.



Table 7 above presents estimates of voters living in American Indian areas defined by the U.S. Census Bureau.<sup>46</sup> In order to provide further analysis of the voting patterns of Indigenous Americans, we used a spatial overlay technique that cross-referenced voter addresses with the U.S. Census Bureau American Indian/Alaska Native/Native Hawaiian (AIANNH) Areas. This area of research continues to evolve as more data becomes available.

Of the 10.8 million registered voters across VCA counties, approximately 2,186 or 0.02% live on American Indian Tribal Grounds. There were 1,852, or 84.9% of all registered voters on tribal grounds residing in Butte County. Butte is the only VCA county with over 1,000 registered voters living on tribal land.

When excluding Los Angeles County, the number of registered voters living on American Tribal grounds remained largely unchanged. Across the other 14 VCA counties, approximately 2,181 or 0.04% live on American Indian Tribal Grounds.

**Table 8: Turnout Rate of Voters Living on American Indian Tribal Grounds<sup>47</sup>**

VCA Counties	Registered Voters on Tribal Grounds	Ballots Cast	Turnout
All VCA Counties	2,186	1,126	51.6%
All VCA Counties (Excluding LA)	2,181	1,126	51.6%
Amador	15	13	86.7%
Butte	1,852	972	52.5%
Calaveras	0	0	-
El Dorado	49	25	51.0%
Fresno	124	49	39.5%
Los Angeles	5	0	0.0%
Madera	29	10	34.5%
Mariposa	0	0	-
Napa	0	0	-
Nevada	0	0	-
Orange	0	0	-

<sup>46</sup> There are both legal and statistical American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian areas (AIANNHAs) for which the Census Bureau provides data. The legal entities consist of federally recognized American Indian reservations and off-reservation trust land areas, the tribal subdivisions that can divide these entities, state-recognized American Indian reservations, Alaska Native Regional Corporations, and Hawaiian home lands. [https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/geography/about/glossary.html#par\\_textimage\\_1](https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/geography/about/glossary.html#par_textimage_1)

<sup>47</sup> Counts Confined to Registered Voters Geocoded to Matching the U.S. Census Bureau TIGER/Line Shapefile, 2020, Nation, U.S., American Indian/Alaska Native/Native Hawaiian (AIANNH) Areas

Sacramento	0	0	-
San Mateo	0	0	-
Santa Clara	0	0	-
Tuolumne	112	57	50.9%

Table 8 above provides further insight into the turnout of registered voters living on American Indian tribal land. We estimate that 1,126, or 51.6% of voters on tribal grounds, cast a ballot in the 2021 recall election. The turnout gap between the VCA counties' average and voters on tribal grounds was more than 10 percentage points. Compared to other racial/ethnic groups, voter turnout on American Indian tribal grounds was the second lowest, with only Latinos having a lower turnout rate.

When excluding Los Angeles County, the number of ballots cast and turnout rate of voters living on American Tribal did not change.

**Table 9: Registered Voters by Age and Race and Ethnicity**

Age Category	Total Registered	White		Latino		Black		AAPI		Other	
18 to 29	2,302,223	822,442	35.7%	955,454	41.5%	164,350	7.1%	314,961	13.7%	45,016	2.0%
30 to 49	3,596,955	1,555,980	43.3%	1,116,438	31.0%	294,669	8.2%	546,695	15.2%	83,173	2.3%
50 to 64	2,607,801	1,296,333	49.7%	644,071	24.7%	214,039	8.2%	391,729	15.0%	61,629	2.4%
65 and over	2,326,398	1,294,638	55.7%	467,161	20.1%	171,391	7.4%	338,453	14.6%	54,755	2.4%

Table 9 above shows the percentage of registered voters in different age categories by race and ethnicity. At the time of the 2021 recall election, the largest percentage of registered voters was between 30 to 49 years old. White voters experienced an increase in their percentage of the electorate as the age categories got older, meaning white voters are older, on average, than other racial/ethnic groups.

In contrast, Latinos, who had the second largest percentage of the registered electorate, are younger than voters of other races. Latino voters maintain their largest percentage of registered voters in the youngest age categorization of 18 to 29.

**Table 10: Turnout by Age and Race and Ethnicity**

Age Category	Total	White	Latino	Black	AAPI	Other
18 to 29	37.6%	46.8%	29.8%	31.3%	40.0%	41.7%
30 to 49	50.6%	59.4%	41.3%	40.6%	49.2%	54.3%
50 to 64	65.9%	73.8%	56.4%	58.1%	59.0%	68.6%
65 and over	74.3%	81.4%	63.3%	70.2%	63.9%	76.4%

Table 10 above presents the turnout rates by age and race and ethnicity for registered voters across VCA counties. As the table shows, turnout increases for all racial/ethnic groups as the age categories get older. Turnout was lowest among voters 18 to 29, with a rate of 37.6%. Conversely, voters 65 and over had a turnout rate of 74.3%.

**Table 11: Vote Method by Race and Ethnicity<sup>48</sup>**

Vote Method	Total	White	Latino	Black	AAPI	Other
Total Voted	6,131,524	3,320,659	1,404,528	415,712	842,721	147,904
Vote-by-Mail	5,475,087	2,985,204	1,208,141	369,413	778,823	133,506
	89.3%	89.9%	86.0%	88.9%	92.4%	90.3%
Vote Center	626,211	320,683	187,469	44,184	60,235	13,640
	10.2%	9.7%	13.3%	10.6%	7.1%	9.2%
Provisional	28,833	13,922	8,635	2,031	3,529	716
	0.5%	0.4%	0.6%	0.5%	0.4%	0.5%

Table 11 above shows how voting methods were utilized by race and ethnicity across all VCA counties (including LA). Voters across racial/ethnic groups preferred the vote-by-mail method, with an average utilization rate of 89.3%. Among Latinos who voted, approximately 86% of registered voters preferred the vote-

<sup>48</sup> Definitions for voting methods: **Vote by Mail** – return ballot by mail; **Vote Center** – physical locations that offer ballot drop off, replacement ballots, accessible voting machines, in-person voting, and same day voter registration; **Provisional** - ballots cast by voters who believe they are registered to vote even though their names are not on the official voter registration list at the polling place, or instead want to vote at their polling place or a vote center, but they did not receive their mail ballot or do not have their ballot with them; and, **Polling Place** - the location of the election day polling place is provided in the county Voter Information Guide mailed by county elections officials.

by-mail method. We estimate that only about 1,391 or less than 0.02% of the ballots were cast using the polling place method.

**Table 12: Provisional Ballot Use by Race and Ethnicity**

VCA Counties	Total	White		Latino		Black		AAPI		Other	
All VCA Counties	28,833	13,922	48.3%	8,635	29.9%	2,034	7.1%	3,527	12.2%	715	2.5%
All VCA Counties (Excluding LA)	14,384	7,831	54.4%	3,431	23.9%	724	5.0%	2,001	13.9%	397	2.8%
Amador	77	65	84.4%	6	7.8%	1	1.3%	0	0.0%	5	6.5%
Butte	239	182	76.2%	39	16.3%	7	2.9%	4	1.7%	7	2.9%
Calaveras	114	99	86.8%	12	10.5%	1	0.9%	0	0.0%	2	1.8%
El Dorado	497	436	87.7%	31	6.2%	5	1.0%	11	2.2%	14	2.8%
Fresno	1,831	763	41.7%	828	45.2%	107	5.8%	89	4.9%	44	2.4%
Los Angeles	14,449	6,091	42.2%	5,204	36.0%	1,310	9.1%	1,526	10.6%	318	2.2%
Madera	327	171	52.3%	137	41.9%	9	2.8%	2	0.6%	8	2.4%
Mariposa	0	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-
Napa	212	139	65.6%	55	25.9%	6	2.8%	6	2.8%	6	2.8%
Nevada	271	250	92.3%	10	3.7%	2	0.7%	2	0.7%	7	2.6%
Orange	4,748	2,620	55.2%	1,130	23.8%	127	2.7%	758	16.0%	113	2.4%
Sacramento	2,940	1,640	55.8%	558	19.0%	356	12.1%	285	9.7%	101	3.4%
San Mateo	997	518	52.0%	190	19.1%	27	2.7%	229	23.0%	33	3.3%
Santa Clara	2,046	870	42.5%	430	21.0%	76	3.7%	615	30.1%	55	2.7%
Tuolumne	85	78	91.8%	5	5.9%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	2	2.4%

Table 12 shows the use of provisional ballots in the 2021 Recall Election. Provisional ballots are ballots cast by voters who 1) believe they are registered to vote even though their names are not on the official voter registration list at the polling place, or 2) vote by mail and instead want to vote at their polling place or a vote center, but they did not receive their ballot or do not have their ballot with them. Provisional ballots are counted after elections officials confirm that the voter is registered in that county and did not already vote in that election.

As shown in Table 12 above, more than 28,000 provisional ballots were cast across the VCA counties. Voters estimated to be white cast nearly 14,000 or 48.3% of all provisional ballots. The second largest racial/ethnic group to utilize provisional voting was Latinos, with 8,635 or 29.9% of all provisional ballots cast. The

remaining provisional ballots were cast by AAPI (3,527 or 12.2%), Black (2,034 or 7.1%), and ‘other’ voters (715 or 2.5%).

Excluding Los Angeles, over 14,000 provisional ballots were cast across the other 14 VCA counties. White voters represented the largest percentage of provisional ballot use, casting nearly 7,831 or 54.4%. Latinos were the second largest racial/ethnic group to utilize provisional voting, with 3,431 or 23.9% of all provisional ballots cast. The remaining provisional ballots were cast by AAPI (2,001 or 13.9%), Black (724 or 5.0%), and ‘other’ voters (397 or 2.8%).

**Table 13: Conditional Voter Registration (CVR) by Race and Ethnicity**

VCA Counties	Total	White		Latino		Black		AAPI		Other	
All VCA Counties	25,814	12,352	47.9%	7,688	29.8%	1,878	7.3%	3,259	12.6%	637	2.5%
All VCA Counties (Excluding LA)	11,976	6,539	54.6%	2,677	22.4%	618	5.2%	1,807	15.1%	335	2.8%
Amador	4	3	75.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	25.0%
Butte	227	173	76.2%	38	16.7%	7	3.1%	3	1.3%	6	2.6%
Calaveras	3	3	100.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
El Dorado	260	231	88.8%	14	5.4%	3	1.2%	5	1.9%	7	2.7%
Fresno	619	248	40.1%	283	45.7%	35	5.7%	39	6.3%	14	2.3%
Los Angeles	13,838	5,813	42.0%	5,011	36.2%	1,260	9.1%	1,452	10.5%	302	2.2%
Madera	195	102	52.3%	81	41.5%	6	3.1%	1	0.5%	5	2.6%
Mariposa	0	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-	0	-
Napa	183	119	65.0%	50	27.3%	5	2.7%	5	2.7%	4	2.2%
Nevada	247	228	92.3%	10	4.0%	2	0.8%	1	0.4%	6	2.4%
Orange	4,484	2,487	55.5%	1,064	23.7%	117	2.6%	708	15.8%	108	2.4%
Sacramento	2,836	1,580	55.7%	543	19.1%	344	12.1%	271	9.6%	98	3.5%
San Mateo	933	486	52.1%	176	18.9%	27	2.9%	212	22.7%	32	3.4%
Santa Clara	1,905	806	42.3%	413	21.7%	72	3.8%	562	29.5%	52	2.7%
Tuolumne	80	73	91.3%	5	6.3%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	2	2.5%

Table 13 above shows the conditional voter registration (CVR) for racial/ethnic groups in VCA counties. CVR means a voter completed an affidavit of registration at their county elections office during the 14 days before an election or on election day. The voter is then conditionally registered to vote and given a CVR provisional ballot. Once the county elections office processes the affidavit of registration, determines the individual's

eligibility to register, and validates the individual's information, the registration becomes permanent, and the CVR provisional ballot will be counted.

As shown in Table 13 above, over 25,000 individuals used the CVR process to vote in the 2021 Recall Elections. Across all VCA counties, more than 12,000 white voters used CVR, representing 47.9% of all CVR ballots. Latinos were the second largest racial/ethnic group to utilize CVR, with 7,688 or 29.8% of all CVR ballots. The remaining CVR ballots were cast by AAPI (3,259 or 12.6%), Black (1,878 or 7.3%), and ‘other’ voters (637 or 2.5%).

Excluding Los Angeles County, the other 14 VCA counties had nearly 12,000 CVR ballots cast in the 2021 Recall Election. Across these VCA counties, 6,539 white voters used CVR, comprising 54.6% of all CVR ballots cast. Latinos were the second largest racial/ethnic group to utilize CVR, with 2,677 or 22.4% of all CVR ballots. The remaining CVR ballots were cast by AAPI (1,807 or 15.1%), Black (618 or 5.2%), and ‘other’ voters (335 or 2.8%).

**Table 14: Vote-by-Mail (VBM) Participation**

VCA Counties	Total Mail Ballots	Mail		Drop Box		Vote Center Drop Off		Drop Off Location		All Other	
		Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage
All VCA Counties	5,475,087	3,048,861	55.7%	1,850,969	33.8%	395,341	7.2%	35,904	0.7%	144,012	2.6%
All VCA Counties (Excluding LA)	2,994,429	1,696,793	56.7%	966,320	32.3%	210,732	7.0%	34,577	1.2%	86,007	2.9%
Amador	18,903	9,306	49.2%	8,850	46.8%	0	0.0%	3	0.0%	744	3.9%
Butte	77,273	43,059	55.7%	24,264	31.4%	3,494	4.5%	2,068	2.7%	4,388	5.7%
Calaveras	21,409	12,368	57.8%	6,994	32.7%	0	0.0%	1,168	5.5%	879	4.1%
El Dorado	91,491	48,110	52.6%	32,314	35.3%	4,760	5.2%	2,414	2.6%	3,893	4.3%
Fresno	230,709	118,141	51.2%	82,381	35.7%	23,395	10.1%	225	0.1%	6,567	2.8%
Los Angeles	2,480,658	1,352,068	54.5%	884,649	35.7%	184,609	7.4%	1,327	0.1%	58,005	2.3%
Madera	38,503	20,351	52.9%	12,774	33.2%	3,912	10.2%	212	0.6%	1,254	3.3%
Mariposa	8,538	3,640	42.6%	4,077	47.8%	454	5.3%	0	0.0%	367	4.3%
Napa	55,058	32,771	59.5%	13,556	24.6%	2,451	4.5%	4,529	8.2%	1,751	3.2%
Nevada	51,376	26,213	51.0%	10,076	19.6%	2,089	4.1%	10,813	21.0%	2,185	4.3%
Orange	987,423	569,244	57.6%	295,842	30.0%	99,670	10.1%	2,989	0.3%	19,678	2.0%
Sacramento	520,492	264,707	50.9%	203,469	39.1%	33,090	6.4%	2,835	0.5%	16,391	3.1%
San Mateo	273,435	183,388	67.1%	69,220	25.3%	10,473	3.8%	277	0.1%	10,077	3.7%
Santa Clara	595,287	350,747	58.9%	201,272	33.8%	26,410	4.4%	137	0.0%	16,721	2.8%
Tuolumne	24,532	14,748	60.1%	1,231	5.0%	534	2.2%	6,907	28.2%	1,112	4.5%

Table 14 above shows how voters submitted mail ballots in the 2021 recall election. Across all VCA counties, over 3 million or 55.7% of mail ballots were returned via mail. More than 1.8 million or 33.8% of mail ballots were returned to a county-issued drop box. The remaining mail ballots were submitted at a vote center (395,000), county-organized drop off location (35,000), and other methods (144,000).

When excluding Los Angeles County and its 2.4 million mail ballots submitted, the other 14 VCA counties combined had largely similar mail ballot return trends.

**Table 15: Vote-by-Mail (VBM) Participation by Race and Ethnicity**

VBM Method	Total	White	Latino	Black	AAPI	Other
Total	5,475,087	2,985,204	1,208,141	369,413	778,823	133,506
Mail	3,048,861	1,692,998	609,010	210,659	460,929	75,265
	55.7%	56.7%	50.4%	57.0%	59.2%	56.4%
Drop Box	1,850,969	980,988	457,954	120,317	247,253	44,457
	33.8%	32.9%	37.9%	32.6%	31.7%	33.3%
Vote Center Drop Off	395,341	199,945	109,520	28,139	48,827	8,910
	7.2%	6.7%	9.1%	7.6%	6.3%	6.7%
Drop Off Location	35,904	29,252	3,607	1,067	1,055	923
	0.7%	1.0%	0.3%	0.3%	0.1%	0.7%
Other	144,012	82,021	28,050	9,231	20,759	3,951
	2.6%	2.7%	2.3%	2.5%	2.7%	3.0%

Table 15 above shows how mail ballots were submitted by race and ethnicity across all VCA counties (including LA). Most voters across racial/ethnic groups preferred returning their mail ballot via mail, with an average utilization rate of 55.7%. The next most preferred mail ballot return method for all groups was county-issued drop boxes. Latino voters returned their mail ballots via mail (50.4%) at lower rates than other groups, instead choosing a drop box or vote center drop off at higher rates.

## Registered Voters Trends from 2020 to 2021

Since the 2021 Gubernatorial Recall Election was held in an odd-number election year, we expect lower voter engagement and turnout rates compared to a presidential election.<sup>49</sup> Regardless, it is important to compare voter trends from the 2020 general election to the 2021 Gubernatorial Recall election to assess the magnitude of turnout rate decreases and determine if significant disparities exist amongst ethnic/racial groups.<sup>50</sup>

This section presents the change in registered voters and turnout rates by race and ethnicity. A decrease in the number of registered voters reflects voters moving or becoming deceased between elections. Evaluating the change in registered voters by race and ethnicity provides insight into the shifting demographics for VCA counties. Voter turnout rates compare the difference between the turnout in the September 2021 Gubernatorial Recall election and November 2020 election.

As anticipated from a nonpresidential election, all groups across all VCA counties experienced a decrease in voter turnout, but the magnitude of the drop in turnout shows which groups were least mobilized between the two elections.<sup>51</sup>

In the paragraphs for the subject tables below, we present findings for the aggregated VCA counties total, the county with the largest raw number or rate, the county with the smallest raw number or rate, and Los Angeles County.

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<sup>49</sup> US Elections Project - National-1789-PRESENT," US Elections Project - national-1789-present, accessed September 19, 2022, <https://www.electproject.org/national-1789-present>.

<sup>50</sup> Campbell, James E. "The revised theory of surge and decline." *American Journal of Political Science* (1987): 965-979.

<sup>51</sup> Ibid.



**Table 16: Change in Number of Registered Voters by Race and Ethnicity<sup>52</sup>**

VCA Counties	Total	White	Black	Latino	AAPI	Other
All VCA Counties	-453	-43,511	-8,326	28,598	24,359	-1,570
All VCA Counties (Excluding LA)	-20,832	-37,701	-4,763	5,674	17,071	-1,110
Amador	30	-16	-13	52	3	5
Butte	-2,049	-1,805	-88	-107	9	-58
Calaveras	-415	-423	-19	38	6	-16
El Dorado	-130	-285	-84	118	126	-5
Fresno	-6,795	-5,579	-1,206	75	200	-283
Los Angeles	20,379	-5,810	-3,563	22,924	7,288	-460-
Madera	2,019	516	10	1,334	44	115
Mariposa	-535	-498	-10	-6	-1	-20
Napa	-458	-613	-30	154	72	-41
Nevada	420	373	-21	54	-1	15
Orange	9,049	-4,678	-871	5,249	9,194	156
Sacramento	-2,990	-6,555	-1,048	1,242	3,388	-18
San Mateo	-7,171	-6,161	-461	-868	620	-301
Santa Clara	-11,492	-11,662	-910	-1,674	3,411	-658
Tuolumne	-315	-315	-12	13	0	1

Table 16 above shows the change in registered voters by race and ethnicity from the 2020 general election to the 2021 recall election. The numbers with a dash in front of them are negative values and signify a decrease in the number of registered voters resulting from voters moving or becoming deceased. Only five counties experienced an increase in voter registration - Los Angeles (20,379), Orange (9,049), Madera (2,019), Nevada (420), and Amador (30).

There was a net decrease of more than 20,000 registered voters across VCA counties. The decrease in voter registration was driven by white and Black voters, which experienced decreases of over 37,000 and 4,000, respectively.

<sup>52</sup> The 2020 General election voter file was extracted on July 19, 2021, and the 2021 Recall election voter file was extracted on May 19, 2022.

In contrast, the number of registered voters estimated to be AAPI and Latino increased between elections. The increase in registered voters could result from Latino and AAPI voters moving into VCA counties. As observed in Table 16, there is evidence that suggests many Latino and AAPI voters are younger voters more likely to be newly registered.

Of the VCA counties, Santa Clara County experienced the most significant decrease in voting registration, with a decrease of approximately 11,000 voters. Voters estimated to be white decreased by over 11,000 and were primarily responsible for the county's decrease. Only voters estimated to be AAPI increased in voter registration, with an estimated 3,000 newly registered voters between the elections.

Los Angeles County experienced a net increase of more than 20,000 registered voters. Considering white and Black voters experienced decreases in voter registration, the growth in registered voters came from AAPI and Latino voters, which saw more than 7,000 and 22,000 newly registered voters, respectively.

**Table 17: Point Differential in Voter Turnout by Race and Ethnicity**

VCA Counties	Total	White	Black	Latino	AAPI	Other
All VCA Counties	-21.9	-17.3	-22.2	-27.3	-25.2	-19.9
All VCA Counties (Excluding LA)	-20.3	-16.2	-21.9	-26.4	-25.2	-19.0
Amador	-10.8	-10.4	-14.0	-15.6	-14.3	-12.9
Butte	-18.0	-16.5	-20.9	-29.1	-24.2	-18.8
Calaveras	-12.3	-12.0	-13.0	-18.0	-18.0	-11.7
El Dorado	-14.6	-13.9	-14.5	-22.9	-20.9	-14.7
Fresno	-20.7	-15.8	-20.5	-24.6	-25.1	-18.7
Los Angeles	-23.3	-18.8	-22.3	-27.7	-25.2	-21.0
Madera	-19.0	-13.5	-17.5	-25.1	-27.1	-16.6
Mariposa	-12.0	-11.6	-6.3	-18.5	-12.3	-12.4
Napa	-17.6	-14.3	-19.5	-26.9	-23.9	-16.2
Nevada	-13.8	-13.5	-17.1	-21.8	-17.9	-14.3
Orange	-22.3	-17.9	-22.4	-28.9	-27.3	-21.0
Sacramento	-19.8	-16.5	-22.8	-24.9	-25.3	-19.8
San Mateo	-18.1	-14.6	-19.8	-24.4	-21.0	-17.2
Santa Clara	-20.7	-15.8	-22.0	-25.6	-24.3	-18.3
Tuolumne	-13.4	-13.1	-13.2	-19.9	-12.1	-14.7

Table 17 above shows the difference in voter turnout by race and ethnicity between the 2020 general election and the 2021 recall election. The difference in turnout rates is measured in percentage points, and numbers with a dash in front of them are negative and denote a decrease between the elections. As anticipated, turnout rates decreased across counties across all racial/ethnic groups. Turnout rates historically drop off between presidential and midterm elections, and we expect this effect to be amplified for special elections.<sup>53</sup>

Across VCA counties, turnout decreased by an average of 21.9 percentage points between the 2020 general and 2021 recall elections. The decrease in turnout was most significantly experienced by Latino and AAPI voters, with decreases of 27.3 and 25.2 percentage points, respectively.

Voter turnout in Amador County decreased by 10.8 percentage points, the smallest decrease in turnout among VCA counties. As stated above, Amador County had the highest turnout rate of any VCA County at 74.9%, so only a slight turnout drop would have been predicted.

Orange County had the largest decrease in voting turnout, with a decrease of 22.3 percentage points. While turnout decreased across all groups in the county, Latino and AAPI voters experienced significant decreases of 28.9 and 27.3 percentage points, respectively. The point differentials for all racial/ethnic groups were larger than their VCA counties' averages.

Los Angeles County experienced a 23.3 percentage point decrease in voter turnout between the 2020 general and 2021 recall elections. It is important to note that the county had an 18.8 percentage point decrease in turnout for voters estimated to be white, the largest decrease experienced by white voters compared to the other fourteen counties.

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<sup>53</sup> Drew DeSilver, "Voter Turnout Always Drops off for Midterm Elections, but Why?," Pew Research Center (Pew Research Center, May 30, 2020), <https://www.pewresearch.org/fact-tank/2014/07/24/voter-turnout-always-drops-off-for-midterm-elections-but-why/>.

## Language Access During the 2021 Recall Election

The Federal Voting Rights Act (VRA) prohibits literacy and language-based voting qualifications or prerequisites. Section 203 of the federal VRA further requires the provision of minority language materials and assistance related to the electoral process.<sup>54</sup> Spanish is covered for the entire state of California, and at least five Asian ethnic languages are covered based on county.<sup>55</sup> Furthermore, the California Elections Code section 14201 requires “that county elections officials provide a translated facsimile ballot and related instructions in a conspicuous location in precincts where 3% or more of the voting-age residents are members of a single language minority and lack sufficient skills in English to vote without assistance”.<sup>56</sup>

The following section discusses language accessibility and the voting patterns of language minority voters, including those with limited English proficiency (LEP). Estimates are retrieved from the voter file section in which voters can self-report their primary language and receive voting materials in a language other than English. The estimates below should be considered conservative as we expect that there will be additional non-English-speaking voters who did not list their language preference on their registration application.

In the paragraphs for the subject tables below, we present findings for the aggregated VCA counties total, the county with the largest raw number or rate, the county with the smallest raw number or rate, and Los Angeles County.

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<sup>54</sup> “About Language Minority Voting Rights,” The United States Department of Justice, January 4, 2022, <https://www.justice.gov/crt/about-language-minority-voting-rights#coveredjuris>.

<sup>55</sup> Ibid.

<sup>56</sup> “Language Requirements for Election Materials,” Language Requirements for Election Materials: California Secretary of State, accessed September 20, 2022, <https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/voting-resources/language-requirements>.

**Table 18: Registered Voters by Primary Language**

VCA Counties	English		Spanish		Chinese		Vietnamese		Tagalog		Korean		Other	
	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage
All VCA Counties	10,291,936	94.45%	345,947	3.17%	80,814	0.74%	90,577	0.83%	9,911	0.09%	58,031	0.53%	20,003	0.18%
All VCA Counties (Excluding LA)	4,967,864	95.45%	94,347	1.81%	32,780	0.63%	77,799	1.49%	3,976	0.08%	20,595	0.40%	7,213	0.14%
Amador	26,226	99.74%	45	0.17%	4	0.02%	5	0.02%	2	0.01%	2	0.01%	11	0.04%
Butte	123,020	99.70%	281	0.23%	22	0.02%	19	0.02%	3	0.00%	9	0.01%	34	0.03%
Calaveras	31,887	99.78%	59	0.18%	5	0.02%	1	0.00%	0	0.00%	1	0.00%	4	0.01%
El Dorado	136,961	99.56%	376	0.27%	77	0.06%	32	0.02%	19	0.01%	54	0.04%	48	0.03%
Fresno	484,682	96.94%	13,397	2.68%	281	0.06%	380	0.08%	65	0.01%	121	0.02%	1,030	0.21%
Los Angeles	5,324,072	93.53%	251,600	4.42%	48,034	0.84%	12,778	0.22%	5,935	0.10%	37,436	0.66%	12,790	0.22%
Madera	69,152	96.22%	2,621	3.65%	19	0.03%	11	0.02%	3	0.00%	9	0.01%	57	0.08%
Mariposa	11,619	99.67%	30	0.26%	1	0.01%	1	0.01%	0	0.00%	6	0.05%	0	0.00%
Napa	81,355	96.66%	2,645	3.14%	33	0.04%	49	0.06%	40	0.05%	20	0.02%	28	0.03%
Nevada	75,193	99.80%	124	0.16%	15	0.02%	5	0.01%	1	0.00%	1	0.00%	8	0.01%
Orange	1,699,339	93.96%	39,698	2.19%	7,990	0.44%	42,861	2.37%	524	0.03%	16,383	0.91%	1,819	0.10%
Sacramento	844,550	97.72%	9,246	1.07%	3,160	0.37%	3,805	0.44%	576	0.07%	816	0.09%	2,072	0.24%
San Mateo	418,293	96.53%	7,861	1.81%	5,590	1.29%	237	0.05%	586	0.14%	386	0.09%	359	0.08%
Santa Clara	930,489	92.95%	17,919	1.79%	15,580	1.56%	30,392	3.04%	2,156	0.22%	2,784	0.28%	1,741	0.17%
Tuolumne	35,098	99.84%	45	0.13%	3	0.01%	1	0.00%	1	0.00%	3	0.01%	2	0.01%

Table 18 shows the percentage of registered voters by primary language across VCA counties. An overwhelming majority of registered voters listed their primary language as English, with an approximate rate of 94.5%. Of the non-English speaking registered voters, the two largest groups are Spanish and Vietnamese speaking voters, who comprise 3.17% and less than 1% of registered voters.

Of the VCA counties, Orange County has the largest percentage of non-English speaking voters, with more than 109,000 or 6.00% language minority voters. The language minority electorate comprises Vietnamese and Spanish speakers, constituting 2.37% and 2.19% of registered voters, respectively.

In Los Angeles County, more than 355,000 or 6.5% of registered voters speak a primary language other than English. Spanish-speaking voters made up 251,600 or 4.42% of the registered electorate and are the only language minority group with a percentage over one percent.

**Table 19: Registered Voters by Primary Language and Age Across VCA Counties**

Language	18 to 29		30 to 49		50 to 64		65 and over	
Total Registered	2,302,223	-	3,596,955	-	2,607,801	-	2,326,398	-
English	2,281,937	99.1%	3,503,936	97.4%	2,380,461	91.3%	2,062,381	88.7%
Spanish	15,248	0.7%	52,364	1.5%	140,742	5.4%	137,062	5.9%
Vietnamese	1,796	0.1%	14,773	0.4%	32,255	1.2%	41,721	1.8%
Chinese	1,913	0.1%	14,537	0.4%	27,143	1.0%	37,192	1.6%
Korean	597	0.0%	6,236	0.2%	18,678	0.7%	32,503	1.4%
Tagalog	203	0.0%	1,166	0.0%	2,672	0.1%	5,870	0.3%
Other	529	0.0%	3,943	0.1%	5,850	0.2%	9,669	0.4%

Table 19 above shows the percentage of registered voters by age by primary language. It is important to note that as people age English proficiency decreases. This suggests that the youngest voters are more likely to speak English as a primary language, while approximately 11.3% of voters 65 and over speak a primary language other than English.

**Table 20: Turnout Rate by Primary Language Across VCA Counties<sup>57</sup>**

Language	Total Registered	Voted	Turnout
Total Registered	10,897,219	6,131,524	56.3%
Total Registered (Excluding LA)	5,204,574	3,236,701	62.2%
English	10,291,108	5,839,271	56.7%
Spanish	345,939	164,861	47.7%
Vietnamese	90,517	48,095	53.1%
Chinese	80,799	38,126	47.2%
Korean	58,031	26,473	45.6%
Tagalog	9,911	5,083	51.3%
Other	20,914	9,615	46.0%

<sup>57</sup> Ibid.

Table 20 above presents the aggregate turnout rate across VCA counties by primary language. English-speaking voters had a turnout rate of 56.7%, which was slightly higher than average across VCA counties. Spanish and Korean, and Chinese speakers had turnout rates of 47.7%, 45.6%, and 47.2%, respectively—the only turnout rates under 50%.

**Table 21: Votes Cast by Method and Primary Language Across VCA Counties<sup>58</sup>**

Language	Total Voted	Voted-by-Mail		Vote Center		CVR / NCVR		Polling Place	
Total Registered	6,131,524	5,475,087	89.3%	626,211	10.2%	28,833	0.47%	1,391	0.02%
Total Registered (Excluding LA)	3,236,701	2,994,429	92.5%	226,980	7.0%	14,384	0.44%	906	0.03%
English	5,839,271	5,209,734	89.2%	600,333	10.3%	27,832	0.48%	1,371	0.02%
Spanish	164,861	146,025	88.6%	18,139	11.0%	686	0.42%	10	0.01%
Vietnamese	48,095	44,891	93.3%	3,105	6.5%	95	0.20%	4	0.01%
Chinese	38,126	35,316	92.6%	2,695	7.1%	113	0.30%	2	0.01%
Korean	26,473	25,343	95.7%	1,078	4.1%	50	0.19%	2	0.01%
Tagalog	5,083	4,770	93.8%	296	5.8%	16	0.31%	1	0.02%
Other	9,615	9,008	93.7%	565	5.9%	41	0.43%	1	0.01%

Table 21 above shows the preferred voting method by primary language during the 2021 recall election. While voting by mail was the preferred method across languages, all minority language groups had higher vote-by-mail utilization rates than the VCA counties' average of 89.3%.

<sup>58</sup> Ibid.

## Detailed Characteristics of Voters by VCA County

To this point in our report, findings have mainly been aggregated and presented across all VCA counties. This section provides more detailed information on the intersectionality of voter characteristics within each county. We analyze voter registration and turnout by race/ethnicity and age and voting method by race/ethnicity. Each county section includes topline results from the tables in the previous sections of this report.

The tables in the following section will provide more detailed insight into voters in each VCA county and include:

- Registered voters by age and race and ethnicity;
- Ballots cast by age and race and ethnicity; and
- Ballots cast by method and race and ethnicity.

### Amador

Amador County was home to more than 26,000 registered voters, making it the 14th largest electorate among VCA counties. About 90.7% of all registered voters were white, and 91.7% of all ballots cast were from white voters. The county is overwhelmingly English speaking, with 99.7% of all registered voters putting English as their primary language. Approximately 19,000 voters participated in the 2021 recall election at an average turnout rate of 74.9%.

**Table 22: Registered Voters by Age and Race and Ethnicity in Amador**

Age Category	Total Registered	White		Latino		Black		AAPI		Other	
18 to 29	3,075	2,661	86.6%	278	9.0%	20	0.7%	13	0.4%	103	3.3%
30 to 49	6,374	5,681	89.1%	408	6.4%	54	0.8%	33	0.5%	198	3.1%
50 to 64	7,141	6,504	91.1%	360	5.0%	46	0.6%	20	0.3%	211	3.0%
65 and over	9,605	8,902	92.7%	346	3.6%	75	0.8%	18	0.2%	264	2.7%

As shown in Table 22, among the age categories, voters 65 and over had the most registered voters, with more than 9,000. Of the voters that were 65 and over, 92.7% were white. It is important to note that the percentage of white registered voters increases as the age categories get older. In contrast, Latinos, who make up 5.3% of all registered voters, experience an increase in their percentage of the electorate as the age categories get younger.



**Table 23: Votes Cast by Age and Race and Ethnicity in Amador**

Age Category	Total Voted	White	Latino	Black	AAPI	Other
18 to 29	1,343	1,196	91	8	7	40
30 to 49	4,138	3,728	236	34	19	121
50 to 64	5,666	5,185	268	35	17	161
65 and over	8,544	7,941	297	64	13	228

Table 23 shows that the largest group of voters participating in the 2021 recall were 65 and over, with more than 8,000 ballots cast. Furthermore, the table reveals that the number of ballots cast generally increases as voters get older.

**Table 24: Votes Cast by Method and Race and Ethnicity in Amador**

Vote Method	Total	White	Latino	Black	AAPI	Other
Voted	19,692	18,051	893	142	56	550
Vote-by-Mail	18,903	17,350	839	137	54	523
	96.0%	96.1%	94.0%	96.5%	96.4%	95.1%
Vote Center	703	627	48	4	2	22
	3.6%	3.5%	5.4%	2.8%	3.6%	4.0%
Provisional	77	65	6	1	0	5
	0.4%	0.4%	0.7%	0.7%	0.0%	0.9%

Table 24 above presents the number of ballots cast by voting method in the 2021 recall election. Amador voters preferred casting their ballot by mail and utilized the method at a rate of 96.0%. The second preferred method of participation was in-person vote centers, with 3.6% of all voters selecting this option. Compared to the county average, Latino voters slightly preferred to vote in-person at vote centers, with a rate of 5.4%.

## **Butte**

Butte County had more than 123,000 total registered voters, making it the eighth largest electorate among VCA counties. Approximately 83.0% of registered voters were white, and 87.3% of all ballots were from white voters. Most registered voters were English-speaking, with 99.7% listing English as their primary language. About 78,000 voters participated in the 2021 recall election at a turnout rate of 63.3%.

**Table 25: Registered Voters by Age and Race and Ethnicity in Butte**

Age Category	Total Registered	White		Latino		Black		AAPI		Other	
		Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage
18 to 29	24,820	18,146	73.1%	4,258	17.2%	571	2.3%	1,060	4.3%	785	3.2%
30 to 49	37,182	30,236	81.3%	3,782	10.2%	729	2.0%	1,177	3.2%	1,258	3.4%
50 to 64	28,174	24,245	86.1%	1,938	6.9%	514	1.8%	540	1.9%	937	3.3%
65 and over	32,659	29,343	89.8%	1,468	4.5%	535	1.6%	340	1.0%	973	3.0%

As shown in Table 25, most of the county’s registered voters were between the ages of 30 to 49, with over 37,000 coming from this age category. In this age group, 81.3% were white voters, and 10.2% were Latino. Similar to the VCA counties’ aggregate, white voters experience an increase in their percentage of registered voters as the age categories get older.

All non-white groups represent a larger percentage of the registered electorate as the age categories get younger. This trend could suggest a shift in the county’s electorate and should be watched in future elections.

**Table 26: Votes Cast by Age and Race and Ethnicity in Butte**

Age Category	Total Voted	White	Latino	Black	AAPI	Other
18 to 29	9,015	7,149	1,165	179	250	273
30 to 49	21,125	18,004	1,677	356	426	661
50 to 64	20,341	17,928	1,161	337	273	642
65 and over	27,567	25,038	1,073	433	222	800

Table 26 reveals that while voters 65 and over were the second largest electorate, they cast the most ballots in the 2021 recall. The largest group of registered voters participating in the 2021 recall were 65 and over, with a total of 27,567.

**Table 27: Votes Cast by Method and Race and Ethnicity in Butte**

<b>Vote Method</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>White</b>	<b>Latino</b>	<b>Black</b>	<b>AAPI</b>	<b>Other</b>
Voted	78,054	68,125	5,076	1,306	1,171	2,376
Vote-by-Mail	77,273	67,524	4,950	1,290	1,159	2,350
	99.0%	99.1%	97.5%	98.8%	99.0%	98.9%
Vote Center	505	389	83	8	8	17
	0.6%	0.6%	1.6%	0.6%	0.7%	0.7%
Provisional	239	182	39	7	4	7
	0.3%	0.3%	0.8%	0.5%	0.3%	0.3%

Table 27 shows that county voters overwhelmingly preferred to vote by mail at a rate of 99.0%. The second preferred method was in-person at vote centers, with 0.6% of all voters selecting this option. Latino voters slightly preferred to vote in-person, with a rate of 1.6% – one percentage point higher than the county average.

## **Calaveras**

Calaveras County had more than 31,000 registered voters, making it the thirteenth largest electorate among VCA counties. Approximately 89.5% of registered voters were white, and 90.5% of ballots cast were from white voters. Nearly all registered voters in the county listed English as their primary language, with an overall rate of 99.8%. About 23,000 voters participated in the 2021 recall, at a turnout rate of 72.5%.

**Table 28: Registered Voters by Age and Race and Ethnicity in Calaveras**

Age Category	Total Registered	White		Latino		Black		AAPI		Other	
		Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage
18 to 29	3,816	3,254	85.3%	384	10.1%	40	1.10%	23	0.6%	115	3.0%
30 to 49	7,881	6,935	88.0%	576	7.3%	83	1.00%	49	0.6%	238	3.0%
50 to 64	8,996	8,089	89.9%	502	5.6%	99	1.10%	45	0.5%	261	2.9%
65 and over	11,150	10,225	91.7%	460	4.1%	110	1.0%	50	0.4%	305	2.7%

Table 28 shows that the county was mainly comprised of voters ages 65 and over, with over 11,000 registered voters. White voters made up the majority of each age category and saw an increase in their percentage as the categories got older.

Conversely, Latino voters, the county's second largest electorate, represented larger percentages of the age categories as they got younger. In fact, Latinos represent 6.1% of the county's total registered voters, but comprised 10.1% of the county's registered voters aged 18 to 29.

**Table 29: Votes Cast by Age and Race and Ethnicity in Calaveras**

Age Category	Total Voted	White	Latino	Black	AAPI	Other
18 to 29	1,659	1,432	148	16	11	51
30 to 49	4,636	4,143	291	44	21	136
50 to 64	7,032	6,360	356	76	33	207
65 and over	9,827	9,030	394	96	43	266

Table 29 above shows that the number of ballots cast increased as the age categories got older. This trend is true across each racial/ethnic group.

**Table 30: Votes Cast by Method and Race and Ethnicity in Calaveras**

<b>Vote Method</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>White</b>	<b>Latino</b>	<b>Black</b>	<b>AAPI</b>	<b>Other</b>
Voted	23,158	20,969	1,189	232	108	660
Vote-by-Mail	21,409	19,417	1,068	213	102	609
	92.4%	92.6%	89.8%	91.8%	94.4%	92.3%
Vote Center	1,616	1,436	108	18	6	48
	7.0%	6.8%	9.1%	7.8%	5.6%	7.3%
Provisional	114	99	12	1	0	2
	0.5%	0.5%	1.0%	0.4%	0.0%	0.3%

Table 30 shows county voters preferred voting by mail, with a utilization rate of 92.4%. The second preferred method was in-person at vote centers, with 7.0% of all voters choosing this option. Latino voters slightly preferred to vote in-person at a vote center, with a rate of 9.1% – two percentage points higher than the county average.

## **El Dorado**

El Dorado County had over 137,000 registered voters at the time of the recall election, making it the seventh largest electorate among VCA counties. About 88.4% of all registered voters were white, and 90.1% of ballots cast were from white voters. El Dorado was largely an English-speaking county, with 99.6% of registered voters selecting English as their primary language. The county had 23,000 voters participate in the 2021 recall election, with a turnout rate of 70.7%.

**Table 31: Registered Voters by Age and Race and Ethnicity in El Dorado**

Age Category	Total Registered	White		Latino		Black		AAPI		Other	
		Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage
18 to 29	19,374	16,307	84.2%	1,734	8.9%	178	0.9%	628	3.2%	527	2.7%
30 to 49	39,316	34,049	86.6%	2,639	6.7%	357	0.9%	1,173	3.0%	1,098	2.8%
50 to 64	38,787	34,560	89.1%	1,832	4.7%	336	0.9%	1,013	2.6%	1,046	2.7%
65 and over	39,386	36,104	91.7%	1,414	3.6%	315	0.8%	560	1.4%	993	2.5%

Table 31 above shows that age categories 30 to 49 and 65 and over have more than 39,000 registered voters.

Similar to the VCA counties' aggregate, white voters experience an increase in their percentage of registered voters as the age categories get older. In contrast, Latino voters represent a larger percentage of the registered electorate as the age categories get younger.

**Table 32: Votes Cast by Age and Race and Ethnicity in El Dorado**

Age Category	Total Voted	White	Latino	Black	AAPI	Other
18 to 29	8,671	7,540	533	77	285	236
30 to 49	24,650	21,718	1,317	231	713	670
50 to 64	30,250	27,267	1,206	252	715	810
65 and over	33,686	31,072	1,078	272	421	843

Table 32 demonstrates that although age categories 30 to 49 and 65 and over have a similar number of registered voters, over 9,000 additional voters aged 65 and over participated in the recall election.

**Table 33: Votes Cast by Method and Race and Ethnicity in El Dorado**

<b>Vote Method</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>White</b>	<b>Latino</b>	<b>Black</b>	<b>AAPI</b>	<b>Other</b>
Voted	97,265	87,604	4,134	834	2,135	2,558
Vote-by-Mail	91,491	82,446	3,830	783	2,015	2,417
	94.1%	94.1%	92.6%	93.9%	94.4%	94.5%
Vote Center	5,235	4,684	268	45	108	130
	5.4%	5.3%	6.5%	5.4%	5.1%	5.1%
Provisional	497	436	31	5	11	14
	0.5%	0.5%	0.7%	0.6%	0.5%	0.5%

Table 33 shows that county voters preferred casting a mail ballot by a rate of 94.1%. The second preferred method was in-person at vote centers, with 7.0% of all voters selecting this option. Similar to the VCA counties' aggregate, Latino voters showed a slight preference for voting in-person at a vote center, with a utilization rate of 6.5% – one percentage point higher than the county average.

## **Fresno**

Fresno County had more than 499,000 registered voters, making it the fifth largest electorate among VCA counties. White and Latino voters each comprised over 41.0% of the county’s registered voters.

Although white and Latino voters have very similar percentages of the county’s registered electorate, 53.3% of the ballots cast came from white voters, and 32.5% came from Latino voters. About 96.9% of registered voters selected English as their primary language, and 2.68% listed Spanish as their preferred language. The county had approximately 255,000 voters participate in the 2021 recall election, with a turnout rate of 51.1%.

**Table 34: Registered Voters by Age and Race and Ethnicity in Fresno**

Age Category	Total Registered	White		Latino		Black		AAPI		Other	
18 to 29	116,925	35,179	30.1%	62,515	53.5%	6,399	5.5%	10,642	9.1%	2,190	1.9%
30 to 49	170,522	64,412	37.8%	75,105	44.0%	10,594	6.2%	16,664	9.8%	3,747	2.2%
50 to 64	107,298	51,092	47.6%	38,588	36.0%	7,216	6.7%	7,824	7.3%	2,578	2.4%
65 and over	101,690	57,889	56.9%	29,106	28.6%	6,129	6.0%	6,037	5.9%	2,529	2.5%

Table 34 demonstrates that most of the electorate in Fresno was between the ages of 30 to 49, with over 170 thousand registered voters. Latino voters comprised 44.0% of those registered aged 30 to 49. While white and Latino voters had similar percentages of registered voters, the percentage of white voters increased as the age categories got older, and Latino voters represented a larger percentage of the registered electorate as the age categories got younger.

**Table 35: Votes Cast by Age and Race and Ethnicity in Fresno**

Age Category	Total Voted	White	Latino	Black	AAPI	Other
18 to 29	35,169	14,382	15,596	1,657	2,798	737
30 to 49	75,213	36,611	27,060	3,954	5,820	1,768
50 to 64	68,454	37,588	21,135	4,079	3,948	1,705
65 and over	76,821	47,731	19,284	4,343	3,533	1,931

Table 35 reveals that while voters between the ages of 30 to 49 comprise the largest percentage of the registered electorate, the most ballots cast came from voters aged 65 and over. This was not the case for all groups, however, as most Latino and AAPI voters were 30 to 49 years old.



**Table 36: Votes Cast by Method and Race and Ethnicity in Fresno**

<b>Vote Method</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>White</b>	<b>Latino</b>	<b>Black</b>	<b>AAPI</b>	<b>Other</b>
Voted	255,677	136,322	83,080	14,034	16,101	6,140
Vote-by-Mail	230,709	123,078	74,162	12,820	15,091	5,558
	90.2%	90.3%	89.3%	91.3%	93.7%	90.5%
Vote Center	23,062	12,441	8,061	1,103	918	539
	9.0%	9.1%	9.7%	7.9%	5.7%	8.8%
Provisional	1,831	763	828	107	89	44
	0.7%	0.6%	1.0%	0.8%	0.6%	0.7%

Table 36 shows that county voters utilized voting by mail at a rate of 90.2%. The second preferred method was in-person at vote centers, at 9.0% – two percentage points higher than the VCA counties' average. All voters preferred to vote-by-mail, but AAPI voters returned ballots by mail at a rate of 93.7% – three percentage points higher than the Fresno countywide average.

## **Los Angeles**

Los Angeles County had more than 5.69 million registered voters at the time of the recall election, making it the largest electorate among any VCA county. The county was one of three VCA counties comprised of more non-white than white voters. White and Latino voters each comprised over 37.0% of the county’s registered voters.

While white and Latino voters represent similar percentages of the county’s registered electorate, 45.6% of the ballots cast came from white voters, and 31.2% came from Latino voters. More than 360,000 or 6.5% of all voters selected a language other than English on their registration application. Among language minority voters, Spanish speakers were the largest group, comprising 4.42% of all registered voters. Approximately 2.89 million voters participated in the 2021 recall election, at a turnout rate of 50.9%.

**Table 37: Registered Voters by Age and Race and Ethnicity in Los Angeles**

Age Category	Total Registered	White		Latino		Black		AAPI		Other	
		Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage
18 to 29	1,245,650	356,714	28.6%	629,358	50.5%	118,356	9.5%	121,024	9.7%	20,198	1.6%
30 to 49	1,962,766	727,981	37.1%	757,928	38.6%	218,571	11.1%	218,870	11.2%	39,416	2.0%
50 to 64	1,309,366	537,841	41.1%	432,077	33.0%	158,988	12.1%	153,505	11.7%	26,955	2.1%
65 and over	1,143,799	518,247	45.3%	320,965	28.1%	127,211	11.1%	153,630	13.4%	23,746	2.1%

Table 37 shows that most of the Los Angeles electorate was between the ages of 30 to 49, with over 1.96 million registered voters. Latino voters comprised 38.6% of those registered aged 30 to 49. While white and Latino voters had similar percentages of registered voters, the percentage of white voters increased as the age categories got older. Latino voters represented a larger percentage of the registered electorate as the age categories got younger. Notably, non-white voters are a young electorate and make up over 71% of the registered voters aged 18 to 29.

**Table 40: Votes Cast by Age and Race and Ethnicity in Los Angeles**

Age Category	Total Voted	White	Latino	Black	AAPI	Other
18 to 29	433,036	161,731	182,221	35,380	45,787	7,917
30 to 49	906,143	403,993	298,598	82,940	100,756	19,856
50 to 64	785,722	366,826	231,714	87,707	82,494	16,980
65 and over	769,762	387,268	191,362	85,609	88,980	16,543

Table 40 above demonstrates that most of the ballots cast during the 2021 recall election came from voters aged 30 to 49, with 906,000 votes. Only Black voters had a larger percentage of ballots cast from an age category other than 30 to 49 years old. Most ballots cast by Black voters were from those aged 50 to 64, followed by Black voters 65 and over. These estimates suggest that the Black electorate in Los Angeles County is an aging electorate with fewer young voters than other groups.

**Table 41: Votes Cast by Method and Race and Ethnicity in Los Angeles**

Vote Method	Total	White	Latino	Black	AAPI	Other
Voted	2,894,823	1,319,889	903,943	291,652	318,040	61,299
Vote-by-Mail	2,480,658	1,136,902	753,105	253,515	284,148	52,988
	85.7%	86.1%	83.3%	86.9%	89.3%	86.4%
Vote Center	399,231	176,660	145,489	36,781	32,321	7,980
	13.8%	13.4%	16.1%	12.6%	10.2%	13.0%
Provisional	14,449	6,091	5,204	1,310	1,526	318
	0.5%	0.5%	0.6%	0.4%	0.5%	0.5%

Table 41 shows county voters preferred casting ballots by mail, with a utilization rate of 85.7%. All ethnic groups preferred to vote-by-mail, but AAPI voters utilized it at a rate of 89.3% – more than any other group and three percentage points higher than the county average. Los Angeles voters voted by mail at a lower rate than the other 14 VCA counties, which cast 92.5% of their ballots by mail. The county had a higher utilization rate of in-person vote centers, with a rate of 13.8%. Latino voters cast ballots at vote centers at a rate of 16.1% --- two percentage points higher than the county average.

## **Madera**

Madera County had more than 71,000 registered voters at the time of the 2021 recall election, making it the 11th largest electorate among VCA counties. Approximately 50.2% of registered voters were white, and Latinos made up 47.2% of all registered voters. White voters comprised 62.2% of all ballots cast, and Latinos accounted for 30.9% of all votes.

Most county voters spoke English, with 96.2% of all registered voters selecting English as their primary language. Spanish speakers were the largest language minority group, representing 3.65% of all registered voters. The county had 41,000 voters participate in the 2021 recall election, at a turnout rate of 58.0%.

**Table 42: Registered Voters by Age and Race and Ethnicity in Madera**

Age Category	Total Registered	White		Latino		Black		AAPI		Other	
		Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage
18 to 29	16,513	5,271	31.9%	10,306	62.4%	351	2.1%	274	1.7%	311	1.9%
30 to 49	21,513	9,555	44.4%	10,435	48.5%	554	2.6%	411	1.9%	558	2.6%
50 to 64	16,076	9,469	58.9%	5,422	33.7%	449	2.8%	267	1.7%	469	2.9%
65 and over	17,176	11,797	68.7%	4,167	24.3%	493	2.9%	207	1.2%	512	3.0%

Table 42 reveals that voters aged 30 to 49 comprise the largest percentage of the registered electorate, with over 21,000 registered voters. The age category of 30 to 49 is mostly made up of Latino registered voters at 48.5%. The percentage of white voters increases as the age categories get older. In contrast, Latino voters represent a larger percentage of the registered electorate as the age categories get younger. The table estimates suggest that Latino voters are younger, on average than white voters.

**Table 43: Votes Cast by Age and Race and Ethnicity in Madera**

Age Category	Total Voted	White	Latino	Black	AAPI	Other
18 to 29	5,153	2,297	2,537	117	85	117
30 to 49	10,846	5,927	4,144	283	174	318
50 to 64	11,431	7,407	3,222	315	150	337
65 and over	14,244	10,310	2,957	403	147	427

Table 43 shows that while voters between the ages of 30 to 49 comprise the largest percentage of the registered electorate, the most ballots cast came from voters aged 65 and over. This was not the case for all groups, as most ballots cast by Latinos came from voters aged 30 to 49.

**Table 44: Votes Cast by Method and Race and Ethnicity in Madera**

<b>Vote Method</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>White</b>	<b>Latino</b>	<b>Black</b>	<b>AAPI</b>	<b>Other</b>
Voted	41,676	25,942	12,861	1,118	556	1,199
Vote-by-Mail	38,503	24,055	11,764	1,044	528	1,112
	92.4%	92.7%	91.5%	93.4%	95.0%	92.7%
Vote Center	2,840	1,714	957	66	26	77
	6.8%	6.6%	7.4%	5.9%	4.7%	6.4%
Provisional	327	171	137	9	2	8
	0.8%	0.7%	1.1%	0.8%	0.4%	0.7%

Table 44 demonstrates that county voters utilized voting by mail at a rate of 92.4%. The second preferred method was in-person at vote centers, at 6.8%. All voters preferred to vote-by-mail, but AAPI voters returned ballots by mail at a rate of 95.0% – two percentage points higher than the county average.

## Mariposa

Mariposa County had over 11,000 registered voters at the time of the 2021 recall election, making it the smallest electorate of any VCA county. The county is predominately white, with 89.5% of all registered voters estimated to be white and 90.7% of ballots cast by white voters. Approximately 99.7% of all registered voters selected English as their primary language. The county had more than 8 thousand voters participate in the election at a turnout rate of 73.4%.

**Table 45: Registered Voters by Age and Race and Ethnicity in Mariposa**

Age Category	Total Registered	White		Latino		Black		AAPI		Other	
		Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage
18 to 29	1,381	1,192	86.3%	121	8.8%	10	0.7%	5	0.3%	53	3.8%
30 to 49	2,849	2,497	87.6%	193	6.8%	16	0.5%	18	0.6%	125	4.4%
50 to 64	3,291	2,959	89.9%	168	5.1%	20	0.6%	14	0.4%	130	4.0%
65 and over	4,092	3,745	91.5%	149	3.6%	23	0.6%	14	0.3%	161	3.9%

Table 45 shows that most registered voters in the county are aged 65 and over. White voters make up 91.5% of voters 65 years and older.

**Table 46: Votes Cast by Age and Race and Ethnicity in Mariposa**

Age Category	Total Voted	White	Latino	Black	AAPI	Other
18 to 29	601	529	41	7	1	24
30 to 49	1,746	1,554	103	11	9	70
50 to 64	2,594	2,358	109	18	8	101
65 and over	3,618	3,319	125	21	12	141

Table 46 above demonstrates that the number of ballots cast increased as the age categories got older.

**Table 47: Votes Cast by Method and Race and Ethnicity in Mariposa**

<b>Vote Method</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>White</b>	<b>Latino</b>	<b>Black</b>	<b>AAPI</b>	<b>Other</b>
Voted	8,562	7,763	378	57	30	334
Vote-by-Mail	8,538	7,742	377	57	28	334
	99.7%	99.7%	99.7%	100.0%	93.3%	100.0%
Vote Center	22	19	1	0	1	1
	0.3%	0.2%	0.3%	0.0%	3.3%	0.3%
Provisional	0	0	0	0	0	0
	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

Table 47 shows that Mariposa voters almost entirely selected to cast their ballot by mail, with a utilization rate of 99.7%.

## **Napa**

Napa County had more than 84,000 registered voters at the time of the 2021 recall election, making it the ninth largest electorate of the VCA counties. Approximately 73.4% of registered voters in the county were estimated to be white.

Most of Napa’s electorate was English speaking, with 96.7% selecting English as their primary language. The second largest language group was Spanish speakers, constituting 3.14% of all registered voters. The county had over 56,000 registered voters participate in the 2021 California recall election, averaging a countywide turnout rate of 67.2%.

**Table 48: Registered Voters by Age and Race and Ethnicity in Napa**

Age Category	Total Registered	White		Latino		Black		AAPI		Other	
		Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage
18 to 29	14,758	7,876	53.4%	5,269	35.7%	406	2.8%	900	6.1%	307	2.1%
30 to 49	24,168	15,594	64.5%	6,006	24.8%	659	2.7%	1,363	5.6%	546	2.3%
50 to 64	20,994	15,204	72.4%	3,710	17.7%	584	2.8%	986	4.7%	510	2.4%
65 and over	23,786	19,033	80.0%	2,763	11.6%	473	2.0%	760	3.2%	757	3.2%

Table 48 shows that voters aged 30 to 49 comprised the largest percentage of the registered electorate, with over 24,000 registered voters. The age category of 30 to 49 is primarily made up of white registered voters, who make up 64.5% of registered voters. The percentage of white voters increases as the age categories get older. Latino and AAPI voters represent a larger percentage of the registered electorate as the age categories get younger.

**Table 49: Votes Cast by Age and Race and Ethnicity in Napa**

Age Category	Total Voted	White	Latino	Black	AAPI	Other
18 to 29	6,331	3,844	1,812	168	372	135
30 to 49	14,319	10,015	2,917	354	705	329
50 to 64	15,860	12,068	2,324	420	674	374
65 and over	20,035	16,626	1,900	375	544	589

Table 49 reveals that while voters between the ages of 30 to 49 comprise the largest percentage of the registered electorate, the most ballots cast came from voters aged 65 and over. This was not the case for all groups, most ballots cast by Latinos came from voters aged 30 to 49.



**Table 50: Votes Cast by Method and Race and Ethnicity in Napa**

<b>Vote Method</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>White</b>	<b>Latino</b>	<b>Black</b>	<b>AAPI</b>	<b>Other</b>
Voted	56,547	42,555	8,953	1,317	2,295	1,427
Vote-by-Mail	55,058	41,535	8,645	1,274	2,216	1,388
	97.4%	97.6%	96.6%	96.7%	96.6%	97.3%
Vote Center	1,247	861	248	36	71	31
	2.2%	2.0%	2.8%	2.7%	3.1%	2.2%
Provisional	212	139	55	6	6	6
	0.4%	0.3%	0.6%	0.5%	0.3%	0.4%

Table 50 demonstrates that county voters preferred to cast a mail ballot by a margin of 97.4%. The second preferred method was in-person at vote centers, at 2.2%.

## **Nevada**

Nevada County had more than 75,000 registered voters at the time of the 2021 recall election, making it the tenth largest electorate among VCA counties. With 94.4% of the registered voters estimated to be white, most of the county’s registered voters are white.

Nevada was comprised almost entirely of English-speaking voters, with 99.8% selecting English as their primary language. Approximately 56,000 voters participated in the 2021 recall election, at a turnout rate of 72.1%.

**Table 51: Registered Voters by Age and Race and Ethnicity in Nevada**

Age Category	Total Registered	White		Latino		Black		AAPI		Other	
		Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage	Count	Percentage
18 to 29	8,903	8,025	90.1%	591	6.6%	38	0.4%	35	0.4%	214	2.4%
30 to 49	21,421	19,887	92.8%	796	3.7%	108	0.5%	83	0.4%	547	2.6%
50 to 64	18,933	17,737	93.7%	590	3.1%	82	0.4%	65	0.3%	459	2.4%
65 and over	25,837	24,542	95.0%	533	2.1%	105	0.4%	68	0.3%	589	2.3%

Table 51 shows that those aged 65 and over comprised the largest percentage of registered voters, with over 25 thousand registered voters. The age category of 30 to 49 is primarily made up of white registered voters, who make up 64.5% of those registered. The percentage of white voters increases as the age categories get older, meaning that the White electorate is older than other groups, on average.

**Table 52: Votes Cast by Age and Race and Ethnicity in Nevada**

Age Category	Total Voted	White	Latino	Black	AAPI	Other
18 to 29	3,714	3,447	150	14	15	88
30 to 49	12,926	12,097	407	59	49	314
50 to 64	14,869	14,015	410	55	48	342
65 and over	22,791	21,681	447	90	57	516

Table 52 above shows that the number of ballots cast increased as the age categories got older.

**Table 53: Votes Cast by Method and Race and Ethnicity in Nevada**

<b>Vote Method</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>White</b>	<b>Latino</b>	<b>Black</b>	<b>AAPI</b>	<b>Other</b>
Voted	54,306	51,246	1,414	218	168	1,260
Vote-by-Mail	51,376	48,506	1,313	209	160	1,188
	94.6%	94.7%	92.9%	95.9%	95.2%	94.3%
Vote Center	2,631	2,463	90	8	7	63
	4.8%	4.8%	6.4%	3.7%	4.2%	5.0%
Provisional	271	250	10	2	2	7
	0.5%	0.5%	0.7%	0.9%	1.2%	0.6%

Table 53 reveals that county voters preferred casting a mail ballot by a rate of 94.6%. The second preferred method was in-person at vote centers, with 4.8% of all voters selecting this option. Latino voters, compared to other voters, showed a slight preference for voting in-person at a vote center, with a utilization rate of 6.4% – one percentage point higher than the county average.

## **Orange**

Orange County had more than 1.80 million registered voters at the time of the 2021 recall election, making it the second largest electorate among VCA counties. At 55%, most of the county’s registered voters were estimated to be white.

Approximately 6.0% of county voters selected a language other than English as their primary language. The largest language minority group was Vietnamese-speaking voters, who represented 2.37% of all registered voters. Orange had over 1.11 million ballots cast in the recall election, with an average turnout rate of 61.0% for the county.

**Table 54: Registered Voters by Age and Race and Ethnicity in Orange**

Age Category	Total Registered	White		Latino		Black		AAPI		Other	
18 to 29	388,144	171,599	44.2%	132,982	34.3%	7,689	2.0%	68,237	17.6%	7,637	2.0%
30 to 49	549,106	281,845	51.3%	129,454	23.6%	11,873	2.2%	113,267	20.6%	12,667	2.3%
50 to 64	455,501	272,197	59.8%	77,700	17.1%	9,162	2.0%	85,917	18.9%	10,525	2.3%
65 and over	404,399	265,029	65.5%	48,726	12.0%	7,468	1.8%	74,319	18.4%	8,857	2.2%

Table 54 shows that those aged 30 to 49 comprised the largest percentage of the registered electorate, with over 549,000 registered voters. Voters aged 30 to 49 are primarily estimated to be white with a percentage of 51.3%. The percentage of white voters increases as the age categories get older, meaning that the white electorate is older than other groups, on average.

**Table 55: Votes Cast by Age and Race and Ethnicity in Orange**

Age Category	Total Voted	White	Latino	Black	AAPI	Other
18 to 29	160,135	84,027	42,056	3,118	27,477	3,457
30 to 49	307,848	177,103	60,711	6,396	56,231	7,407
50 to 64	325,726	211,667	48,695	6,501	51,157	7,706
65 and over	325,943	227,408	34,830	6,063	50,462	7,179

Table 55 reveals that while voters between the ages of 30 to 49 comprise the largest percentage of the registered electorate, the most ballots cast came from voters aged 65 and over. The most ballots cast by Latinos came from voters aged 30 to 49, while the most ballots cast by Asian voters came from voters aged 30 to 49 as well.

**Table 56: Votes Cast by Method and Race and Ethnicity in Orange**

<b>Vote Method</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>White</b>	<b>Latino</b>	<b>Black</b>	<b>AAPI</b>	<b>Other</b>
Voted	1,119,698	700,255	186,304	22,081	185,309	25,749
Vote-by-Mail	987,402	611,927	163,210	19,289	170,290	22,686
	88.2%	87.4%	87.4%	87.6%	91.9%	88.2%
Vote Center	127,350	85,566	21,935	2,661	14,244	2,944
	11.4%	12.2%	12.1%	11.8%	7.7%	11.4%
Provisional	4,748	2,620	127	1,130	758	113
	0.4%	0.4%	0.6%	0.6%	0.4%	0.4%

Table 56 shows county voters cast their ballots by mail, with a utilization rate of 88.2%. The second preferred method was in-person at vote centers, with 11.4% of all voters selecting this option. AAPI voters slightly preferred voting by mail, with a utilization rate of 91.9% – three percentage points higher than the county average.

## **Sacramento**

Sacramento County had more than 864,000 registered voters at the time of the 2021 recall election, making it the fourth largest electorate among VCA counties. Most of the county’s registered voters were estimated to be White, with a percentage of 56.8%.

The county was comprised almost entirely of English-speaking voters, with 97.5% selecting English as their primary language. The largest language minority group was Spanish-speaking voters, who made up 1.81% of all registered voters. Approximately 544,000 voters participated in the 2021 recall election, at a turnout rate of 63.0%.

**Table 57: Registered Voters by Age and Race and Ethnicity in Sacramento**

Age Category	Total Registered	White		Latino		Black		AAPI		Other	
18 to 29	172,941	82,803	47.9%	36,828	21.3%	22,105	12.8%	25,413	14.7%	5,792	3.3%
30 to 49	291,700	157,125	53.9%	45,167	15.5%	37,198	12.8%	41,658	14.3%	10,552	3.6%
50 to 64	209,094	125,620	60.1%	25,859	12.4%	26,161	12.5%	24,039	11.5%	7,415	3.5%
65 and over	185,423	123,230	66.5%	17,446	9.4%	19,787	10.7%	18,625	10.0%	6,335	3.4%

Table 57 shows that those aged 30 to 49 comprised the largest percentage of the registered electorate, with over 291,000 registered voters. Voters aged 30 to 49 are primarily estimated to be white, with a percentage of 53.9% of those registered. The percentage of white voters increases as the age categories get older, meaning that the white electorate is older than other groups, on average.

In contrast, Latino and AAPI voters represent a larger percentage of the registered electorate as the age categories get younger. It is important to note that Black voters are relatively uniform across the age categories, representing more than ten percent of registered voters in each group.

**Table 58: Votes Cast by Age and Race and Ethnicity in Sacramento**

Age Category	Total Voted	White	Latino	Black	AAPI	Other
18 to 29	70,828	38,347	13,004	7,489	9,600	2,387
30 to 49	166,697	99,642	22,939	17,636	20,491	5,989
50 to 64	152,652	97,641	17,233	17,479	14,952	5,347
65 and over	154,318	106,735	13,438	15,885	13,029	5,232

Table 58 above reveals that most of the ballots cast during the 2021 recall election came from voters aged 30 to 49, with over 166,000 votes. Only white voters had a larger percentage of ballots cast from an age category other than 30 to 49 years old.

Most ballots cast by white voters were from those aged 65 and over. These estimates suggest that the white electorate in Sacramento County is an aging electorate with fewer young voters than other groups.

**Table 59: Votes Cast by Method and Race and Ethnicity in Sacramento**

<b>Vote Method</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>White</b>	<b>Latino</b>	<b>Black</b>	<b>AAPI</b>	<b>Other</b>
Voted	544,527	342,386	66,616	58,494	58,074	18,957
Vote-by-Mail	520,492	327,347	63,061	55,866	56,089	18,129
	95.6%	95.6%	94.7%	95.5%	96.6%	95.6%
Vote Center	20,882	13,250	2,974	2,253	1,688	717
	3.8%	3.9%	4.5%	3.9%	2.9%	3.8%
Provisional	2,940	1,640	558	356	285	101
	0.5%	0.5%	0.8%	0.6%	0.5%	0.5%

Table 59 shows that county voters preferred to vote by mail at a rate of 95.6%. The second preferred method was in-person at vote centers, with 3.8% of all voters selecting this option. AAPI voters, compared to other voters, showed a slight preference for voting by mail, with a utilization rate of 96.6% – one percentage point higher than the county average.

## **San Mateo**

San Mateo County had more than 433,000 registered voters at the time of the 2021 recall election, making it the sixth largest electorate among VCA counties. At 53.7%, most of the county’s registered voters were estimated to be white.

Approximately 4.0% of registered voters listed a language other than English as their primary language. The largest language minority group was Chinese-speaking voters, who comprised 1.29% of all registered voters. San Mateo had 286,000 voters participate in the 2021 recall election, at a turnout rate of 59.0%.

**Table 60: Registered Voters by Age and Race and Ethnicity in San Mateo**

Age Category	Total Registered	White		Latino		Black		AAPI		Other	
18 to 29	76,222	35,263	46.3%	18,420	24.2%	2,082	2.7%	18,333	24.1%	2,124	2.8%
30 to 49	139,496	68,847	49.4%	23,270	16.7%	3,699	2.7%	39,363	28.2%	4,317	3.1%
50 to 64	110,854	63,066	56.9%	16,385	14.8%	2,840	2.6%	25,170	22.7%	3,393	3.1%
65 and over	104,040	63,884	61.4%	12,866	12.4%	2,884	2.8%	21,286	20.5%	3,120	3.0%

Table 60 shows that those aged 30 to 49 comprised the largest percentage of the registered electorate, with over 139,000 registered voters. Voters aged 30 to 49 are primarily estimated to be non-white with 50.6% of those registered being AAPI, Latino, Other, and Black. The percentage of white voters increases as the age categories get older, while Latino voters represent a larger percentage of the registered electorate as the age categories get younger.

**Table 61: Votes Cast by Age and Race and Ethnicity in San Mateo**

Age Category	Total Voted	White	Latino	Black	AAPI	Other
18 to 29	36,027	18,748	6,869	811	8,555	1,044
30 to 49	85,310	45,715	11,777	1,946	23,194	2,678
50 to 64	81,992	50,014	10,648	1,876	16,930	2,524
65 and over	83,220	54,482	8,991	2,185	15,057	2,505

Table 61 above demonstrates that most of the ballots cast during the 2021 recall election came from voters aged 30 to 49, with over 85,000 votes. Both white and Black voters had a larger percentage of ballots cast from an age category other than 30 to 49 years old. Most ballots cast by white and Black voters were from those aged 65 and over. The most ballots cast from AAPI voters were those aged 30 to 49, keeping with countywide trends.



**Table 62: Votes Cast by Method and Race and Ethnicity in San Mateo**

<b>Vote Method</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>White</b>	<b>Latino</b>	<b>Black</b>	<b>AAPI</b>	<b>Other</b>
Voted	286,559	168,966	38,286	6,819	63,737	8,751
Vote-by-Mail	273,435	161,296	36,065	6,470	61,260	8,344
	95.4%	95.5%	94.2%	94.9%	96.1%	95.3%
Vote Center	11,996	7,078	2,007	319	2,221	371
	4.2%	4.2%	5.2%	4.7%	3.5%	4.2%
Provisional	997	518	190	27	229	33
	0.3%	0.3%	0.5%	0.4%	0.4%	0.4%

Table 62 shows that county voters preferred casting a mail ballot by a rate of 95.4%. The second preferred method was in-person at vote centers, with 4.2% of all voters selecting this option. Latino voters, compared to other voters, showed a slight preference for voting in-person at a vote center, with a utilization rate of 5.2% – one percentage point higher than the county average. AAPI voters were more likely to return a mail ballot than other groups.

## **Santa Clara**

Santa Clara County had more than 1 million registered voters at the time of the 2021 recall election, making it the third largest electorate among VCA counties. Most of the county’s registered voters were estimated to be non-white, with a 57.0% registered identified as Latino, Black, AAPI, and Other. The largest non-white group was AAPI voters, who comprised 33.8% of all registered voters.

Approximately 7.0% of all registered voters listed their primary language as a minority language. The largest non-English speaking group was Vietnamese, with 3.04% of all registered voters. Santa Clara had 625,000 voters participate in the 2021 recall election, at a turnout rate of 62.5%.

**Table 63: Registered Voters by Age and Race and Ethnicity in Santa Clara**

Age Category	Total Registered	White		Latino		Black		AAPI		Other	
18 to 29	205,429	74,339	36.2%	52,137	25.4%	6,084	3.0%	68,340	33.3%	4,529	2.2%
30 to 49	313,763	123,320	39.3%	60,156	19.2%	10,133	3.2%	112,519	35.9%	7,635	2.4%
50 to 64	264,209	119,447	45.2%	38,534	14.6%	7,505	2.8%	92,292	34.9%	6,431	2.4%
65 and over	210,593	110,841	52.6%	26,296	12.5%	5,731	2.7%	62,502	29.7%	5,223	2.5%

Table 63 shows that those aged 30 to 49 comprised the largest percentage of the registered electorate, with over 313,000 registered voters. Voters aged 30 to 49 are primarily estimated to be white, with 39.3% of the registered voters. The percentage of white voters increases as the age categories get older, meaning that the white electorate is older than other groups, on average. In contrast, Latino and AAPI voters represent a larger percentage of the registered electorate as the age categories get younger. The largest percentage of Black voters were those aged 30 to 49.

**Table 64: Votes Cast by Age and Race and Ethnicity in Santa Clara**

Age Category	Total Voted	White	Latino	Black	AAPI	Other
18 to 29	91,569	38,225	17,951	2,386	30,846	2,161
30 to 49	179,127	79,830	28,942	5,330	60,426	4,598
50 to 64	188,213	94,266	24,338	5,096	59,710	4,803
65 and over	166,735	94,990	19,133	4,492	43,826	4,294

Table 64 reveals that while voters between the ages of 30 to 49 comprise the largest percentage of the registered electorate, the most ballots cast came from voters aged 50 to 64. Most ballots cast by Latino, Black, and AAPI voters, however, came from those aged 30 to 49.

**Table 65: Votes Cast by Method and Race and Ethnicity in Santa Clara**

<b>Vote Method</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>White</b>	<b>Latino</b>	<b>Black</b>	<b>AAPI</b>	<b>Other</b>
Voted	625,686	307,330	90,371	17,304	194,824	15,857
Vote-by-Mail	595,287	293,479	84,763	16,346	185,575	15,124
	95.1%	95.5%	93.8%	94.5%	95.3%	95.4%
Vote Center	28,260	12,931	5,162	879	8,613	675
	4.5%	4.2%	5.7%	5.1%	4.4%	4.3%
Provisional	2,046	870	430	76	615	55
	0.3%	0.3%	0.5%	0.4%	0.3%	0.3%

Table 65 shows that county voters preferred casting a mail ballot by a rate of 95.1%. The second preferred method was in-person at vote centers, with 4.5% of all voters selecting this option. Similar to the VCA counties' aggregate, Latino voters in comparison to other voters, showed a slight preference for voting in-person at a vote center, with a utilization rate of 5.7% – one percentage point higher than the county average.

## **Tuolumne**

Tuolumne County had more than 35,000 registered voters at the time of the 2021 recall election, making it the 12th largest electorate among VCA counties. Most of the county’s registered voters were estimated to be white, with a 91.2% of registered voters identified as white. Tuolumne was comprised almost entirely of English-speaking voters, with 99.8% selecting English as their primary language. Approximately 25 thousand voters participated in the 2021 Recall Election, at a turnout rate of 71.9%.

**Table 66: Registered Voters by Age and Race and Ethnicity in Tuolumne**

Age Category	Total Registered	White		Latino		Black		AAPI		Other	
18 to 29	4,272	3,812	89.2%	275	6.4%	21	0.5%	20	0.5%	144	3.4%
30 to 49	8,898	8,015	90.1%	522	5.9%	41	0.5%	36	0.4%	284	3.2%
50 to 64	9,087	8,302	91.4%	406	4.5%	36	0.4%	33	0.4%	310	3.4%
65 and over	12,763	11,828	92.7%	459	3.6%	50	0.4%	38	0.3%	388	3.0%

Table 66 shows that the county was mainly comprised of voters ages 65 and over, with over 12,000 registered voters. White voters made up the majority of each age category and saw an increase in their percentage as the categories got older. Conversely, Latino voters, the county's second largest electorate, represented larger percentages of the age categories as they got younger. The Black and AAPI registered voter populations in the county are both small.

**Table 67: Votes Cast by Age and Race and Ethnicity in Tuolumne**

Age Category	Total Voted	White	Latino	Black	AAPI	Other
18 to 29	1,816	1,644	96	8	11	58
30 to 49	5,347	4,849	282	24	21	170
50 to 64	6,899	6,346	273	27	26	227
65 and over	11,202	10,415	380	45	32	331

Table 67 above shows that the number of ballots cast increased as the age categories got older. This is true across all racial groups, in contrast to other counties where Latino and AAPI active voters tended to be younger.

**Table 68: Votes Cast by Method and Race and Ethnicity in Tuolumne**

<b>Vote Method</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>White</b>	<b>Latino</b>	<b>Black</b>	<b>AAPI</b>	<b>Other</b>
Voted	25,266	23,256	1,032	104	90	784
Vote-by-Mail	24,532	22,599	990	100	88	755
	97.1%	97.2%	95.9%	96.2%	97.8%	96.3%
Vote Center	631	564	36	3	1	27
	2.5%	2.4%	3.5%	2.9%	1.1%	3.4%
Provisional	85	78	5	0	0	2
	0.3%	0.3%	0.5%	0.0%	0.0%	0.3%

Table 68 shows that county voters preferred casting a mail ballot by a rate of 97.1%. The second preferred method was in-person at vote centers, with 2.5% of all voters selecting this option. Latino voters, in comparison to other voters, showed a slight preference for voting in-person at a vote center, with a utilization rate of 3.5% – one percentage point higher than the county average.

## Conclusion

This report has shown patterns in voter registration and participation across important characteristics of voters in the 2021 Gubernatorial Recall Election. The analysis in our report is important for identifying potential deficiencies in voter engagement to better understand how to mobilize under-engaged populations in future elections.

Findings from this report suggest that the electorate within VCA counties are becoming increasingly more diverse. The youth electorate mainly consists of young voters of color who are registering to vote for the first time. In fact, three of the fifteen VCA counties comprised a majority of non-white voters, including Los Angeles (62.2%), Fresno (58.1%), and Santa Clara (57.0%). White voters represented the highest percentage of ballots cast in comparison to their percentage of the registered electorate. Across VCA counties, approximately 5 million or 45.8% of all registered voters were white. Latinos were the least mobilized among any racial/ethnic group and had the lowest turnout rate.

Our novel subethnic analysis provided insights into Asian American voters by separating the electorate into major subethnic categories. We estimated that 51.9% of the 1.6 million AAPI voters were of Chinese (31.2%) and Vietnamese (20.7%) origin. Furthermore, we estimate that 83.2% of all AAPI voters lived in Orange, Santa Clara, or Los Angeles County during the 2021 Recall Election.

In addition to our Asian American subethnic analysis, this report examined voters living on Native American tribal grounds for the first time. American Indian and Alaska Native voters have been historically disenfranchised and frequently overlooked as they only represent 210,000 or 0.8% of the eligible voters in California.<sup>59</sup> Our analysis showed that 1,852, or 84.7% of the 2,186 voters living on tribal grounds, reside in Butte County. Furthermore, if we evaluate voters living on American Indian tribal grounds as their own racial/ethnic group, they have the second lowest turnout in the recall, with a rate of 51.6%

The Bayesian Improved Surname Geocoding used in this report is a valuable tool for improving our understanding of the race and ethnicity of California's electorate. This report should be utilized by county election offices to better understand their electorate and implement voter mobilization strategies to ensure equity is upheld in California elections.

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<sup>59</sup> American Community Survey (ACS) 2016-2020 (5-Year Estimates). Sex By Age By Nativity And Citizenship Status & Sex By Age By Nativity And Citizenship Status (American Indian And Alaska Native Alone). The total citizen voting-age population is 25,774,911, and the AIAN citizen voting-age population is 210,879.