

New report shows wide variation in Valley for Latino voter registration

By Andrea Castillo

While 52% of Fresno County residents are Latino, the area's congressional districts show varying shares of Latino eligible voters.

Latinos now make up 10.7% of eligible voters nationwide, according to a [Pew Research Center report](#) released Thursday. In California, some 27% of eligible voters are Latino, the third-largest voter share in the nation. But the state has 6.4 million Latino eligible voters, which is the largest of any statewide voter population in the country.

Among the 435 congressional districts, the report states, eligible Latino voters are concentrated in relatively few districts. California's 40th District in the Los Angeles area has the highest share of Latino eligible voters nationwide, with 77.6%.

Those in the central San Joaquin Valley include Districts 4, 16 and 21 and 23.

In the 21st district, represented by Rep. David Valadao, R-Hanford, 55.4% of eligible voters are Latino — the highest share among the Valley's congressional districts. The 4th district, represented by Rep. Tom McClintock, R-Elk Grove, and encompassing the Sierra from Truckee to the Sequoia National Forest, has 8.4% — the lowest share of Latino voters in the state.

Samuel Molina, Fresno coordinator for [Mi Familia Vota](#), said more Latinos vote now than ever before but Thursday's report shows there is more work to be done.

"It means we have our work cut out for us in trying to get them registered to vote and educated on why it's important to vote," he said.

Mi Familia Vota has registered more than 4,700 new Latino voters in Fresno County since April [under a statewide campaign](#). The nonprofit civic engagement organization helps legal permanent residents obtain citizenship, registers new voters and pushes those already registered to cast ballots.

The Pew report stated that Latino voter turnout at midterm and presidential elections has lagged other racial and ethnic groups. But Molina said he expects to see an 8% increase in Fresno County Latino participation during the November election. He said the May primary saw a 4% increase in Latino voters.

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