

***Understanding Hispanic Electoral  
Empowerment:  
Hispanic Surnamed Voters in  
1996, 2000, 2004 and 2008  
General Elections in Harris County***

HECTOR DE LEON  
*[www.hectordeleon.com](http://www.hectordeleon.com)*

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# **Understanding Hispanic Electoral Empowerment: Hispanic Surnamed Voters in 1996, 2000, 2004 and 2008 General Elections in Harris County**

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**The objective of this presentation is to provide context to the discussion of Hispanic electoral empowerment by providing the following information:**

- An overview of Hispanic surnamed voters in Harris County;
- The 2008 total of Hispanic surname registered voters in an outside of Houston;
- 2008 Hispanic Surnamed registered voters by city Council District;
- Number of Hispanic surnamed voters by major political districts in 1996, 2000, 2004 and 2008;
  - Including 2008 Hispanic surname voters in Congressional District 29 and other key electoral variables;
- Hispanic surnamed registered voters by Houston council districts;
- The aggregate number of Hispanic Surnamed voters in Harris County by major political districts in 2008 General Election;
- The aggregate percentage increase of Hispanic surnamed voters in major political districts since 1996;
- 1996 vs. 2008 General Election: Comparison of number Hispanic surnamed voters by major political districts;
- The aggregate participation rate for Hispanic surnamed voter by major political districts in 2008 General Election;
- The estimated Harris County Population by major U.S Census categories;
- Estimated voters by major group in Harris County in 2008 General Election.

# NOTES about Methodology

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The Hispanic surnamed voter data was drawn from Harris County Clerk's Office match of Hispanic surname voters using a Census surname dictionary for the 1996, 2000, 2004 General Election and the Voter Registrar's match of Hispanic surname voters in the 2008 General Election;

The Hispanic surnamed data queries for 1996 and 2000 are based on 2004 precinct lines; This means that the precinct-by-precinct Hispanic surnamed vote totals for 1996 and 2000 are tied to more current precinct lines and political districts.

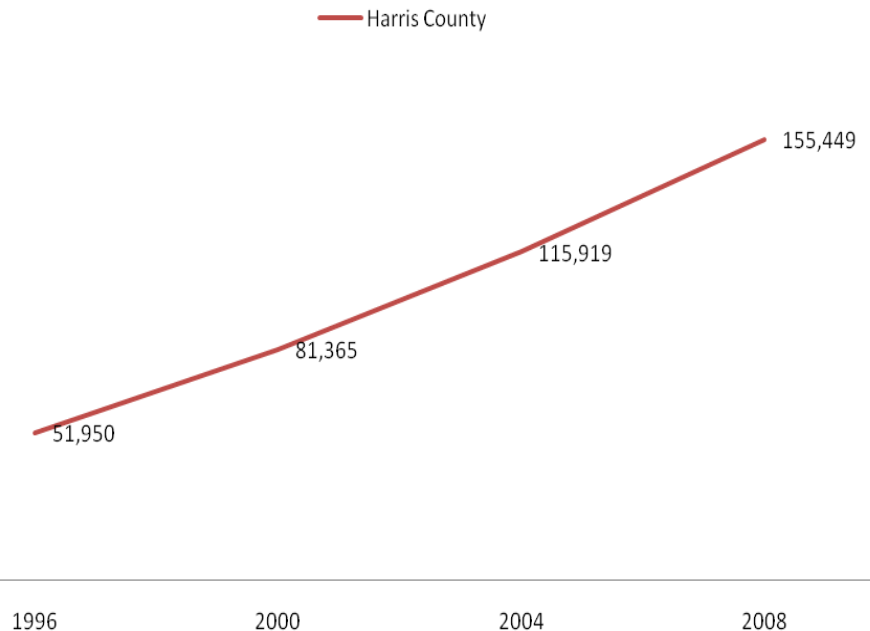
The goal of this effort was to find a way to measure the growth of the Hispanic surnamed vote across Harris County. And the use of the same precinct lines as the control variable made it possible.

# Hispanic surnamed voters in Harris County: Overview

The Hispanic surnamed vote in Presidential election years in Harris County increased by 199%:

	<u>From</u>	<u>Increased</u>
● 1996-2000:	29,415	
● 2000-2004:	34,554	
● 2004-2008:	39,530	

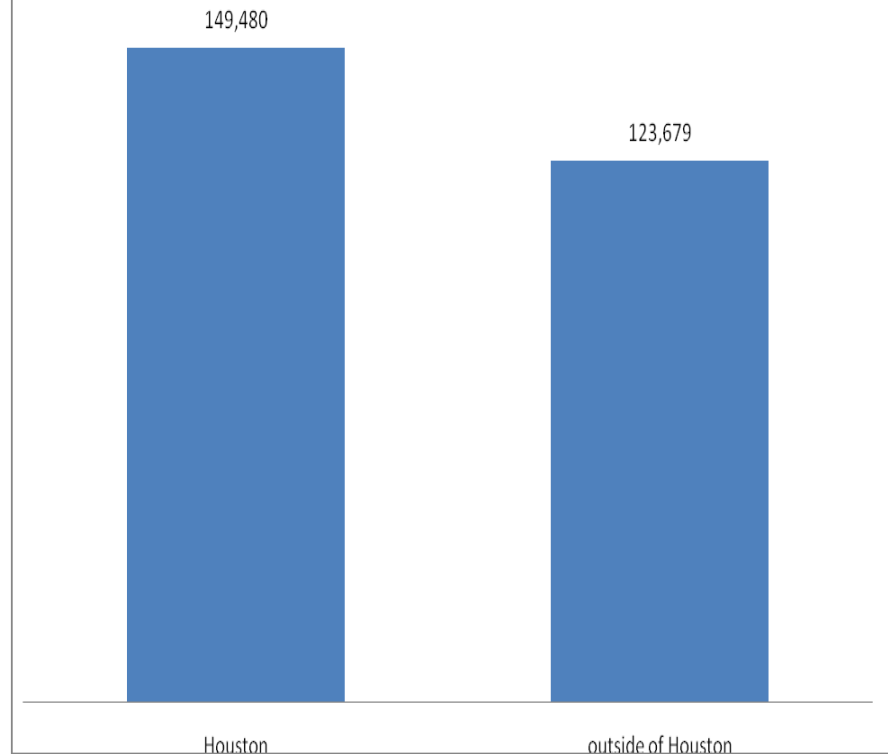
Hispanic surname vote in Harris county in  
Presidential elections according to match of  
Census surname dictionary



## 2008 total number of Hispanic surnamed registered voters in and outside Harris County's largest political entity

- Of all the political entities in Harris County, the city of Houston has the largest number of Hispanic surname registered voters (HSRV);
- The percentage of HSRV in Houston vs. outside of Houston is 55% to 45%;
- According to the voter registrar, as of Sept. 2008, the HSRV count in Harris County was 273,953 .

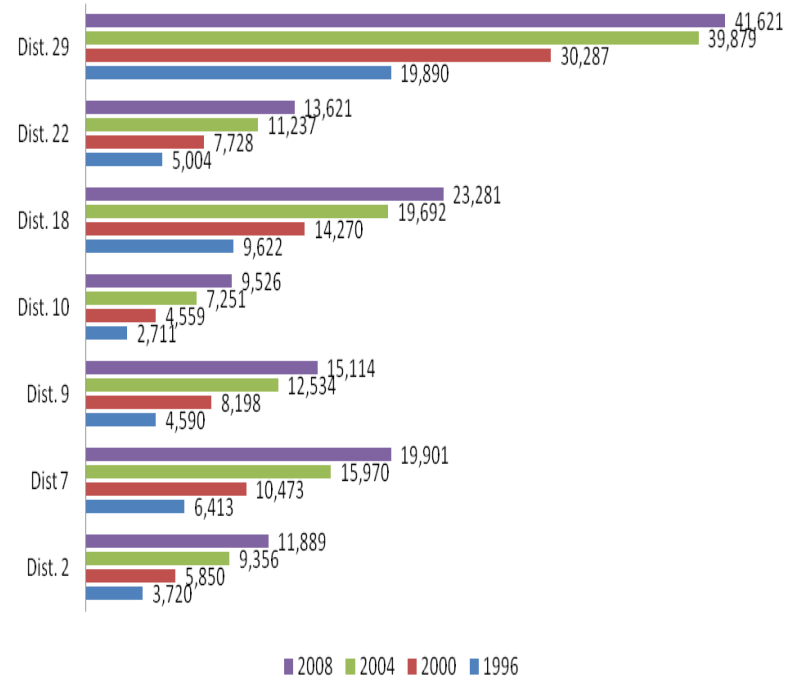
Estimated Hispanic surname registered voters in and outside of Houston as of the fall of 2008



## Number of Hispanic surnamed voters by Congressional Districts in 1996, 2000, 2004 and 2008 General Election in Harris County

- Since 1996, in total numbers, Congressional districts currently held by Democrats experienced the largest increases in Hispanic surnamed voters (HSV);
- However, in most instances, while the HSV doubled in districts held by Democrats, it tripled in districts currently held by Republicans.

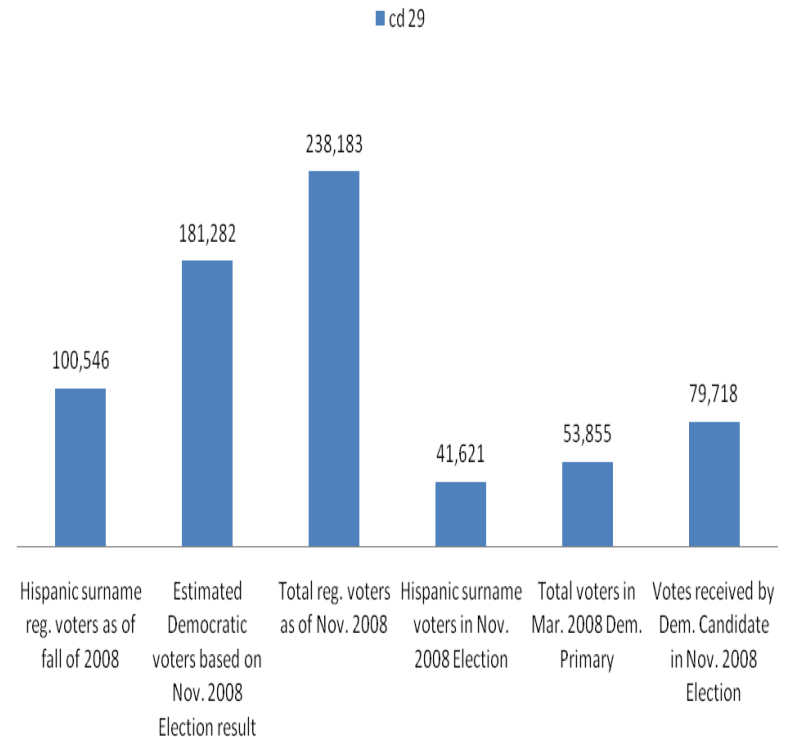
Comparison of Hispanic surname votes in Congressional Districts in Harris County in last 4 Presidential Elections



# 2008 Hispanic surnamed voters in Congressional District 29 and other key electoral variables

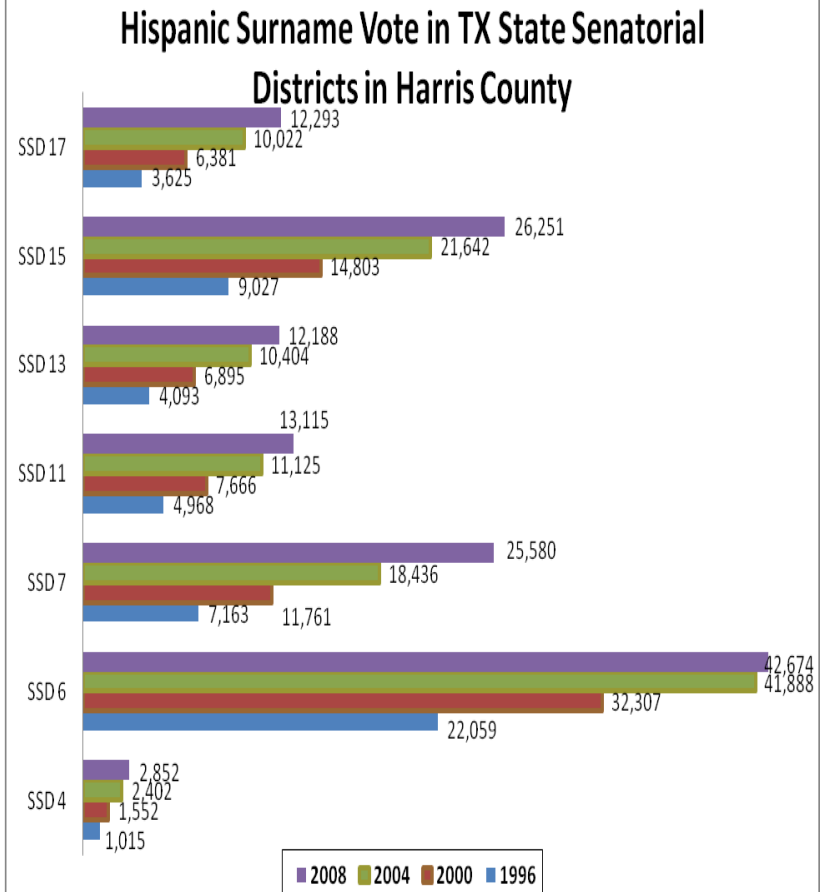
- From 1996 to 2008 ,the Hispanic surname vote (HSV) in CD 29 jumped from 19,890 to 41,621;
- In 12 years the HSV in CD 29 increased of by 110%;
- There are now 100,546 HSRV in CD 29;
- Only 53,855 voters participated in the 2008 March Democratic Primary in CD 29.

Electoral Variables for Texas Congressional  
District 29



# Number of Hispanic surname voters in State Senate Districts in Harris County in 1996, 2000, 2004 and 2008 General Elections

- In 1996, 22,059 Hispanic surnamed votes were cast in SSD 6; In 2008 43,888;
- In 1996, 9,027 Hispanic surnamed votes were cast in SSD 15; In 2008 26,251;
- In 1996, 7,163 Hispanic surnamed votes were cast in SSD 7; In 2008 25,580;
- In 2008, SSD 15 only had 670 more HSV than SSD 7;
- Senate District 4 is the only SSD in which less than 10,000 HSV were cast in 2008 General Election.

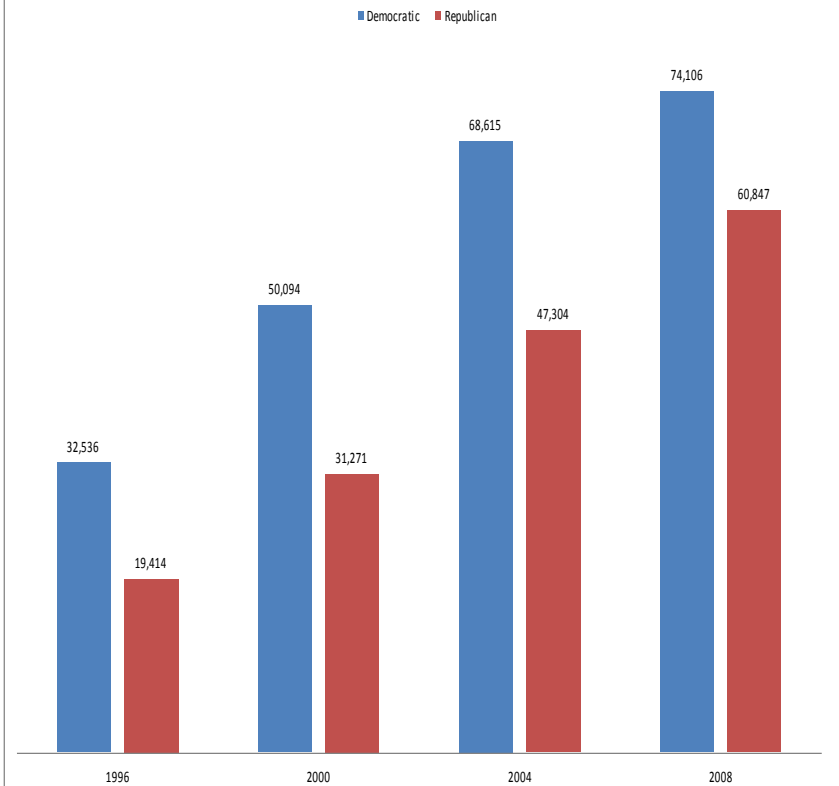




## Aggregate Number of Hispanic surname voters in State Representative Districts in Harris County in 1996, 2000, 2004 and 2008 General Election

- Since 1996, in total numbers, in the 14 State Representative Districts (SRDs) currently held by Democrats the Hispanic surnamed voters (HSV) increased by 41,570;
- In the 11 SRDs currently held by Republicans HSV increased by 41,433.

Aggregate number of Hispanic Surnamed Voters in St. Representative Districts in Harris County in 1996, 2000, 2004 and 2008 in General Election

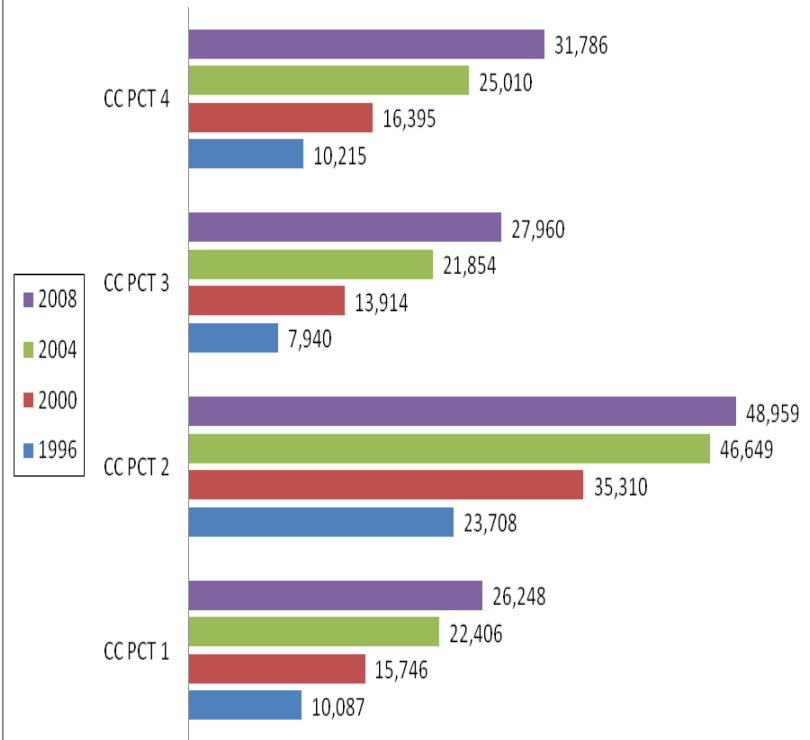


# Number of Hispanic surnamed voters in Harris County Commissioner's Precincts in 1996, 2000, 2004 and 2008 General Election

Since 1996:

- The Hispanic surname vote in Comm. Pct 2 grew by 25,251;
- In Comm. Pct 4 the HSV grew by 21,571;
- In Comm. Pct 3 the HSV grew by 20,020;
- In Comm. Pct 1 the HSV grew by 16,161.

Hispanic Surname Voters by  
Harris County Commissioners Precinct

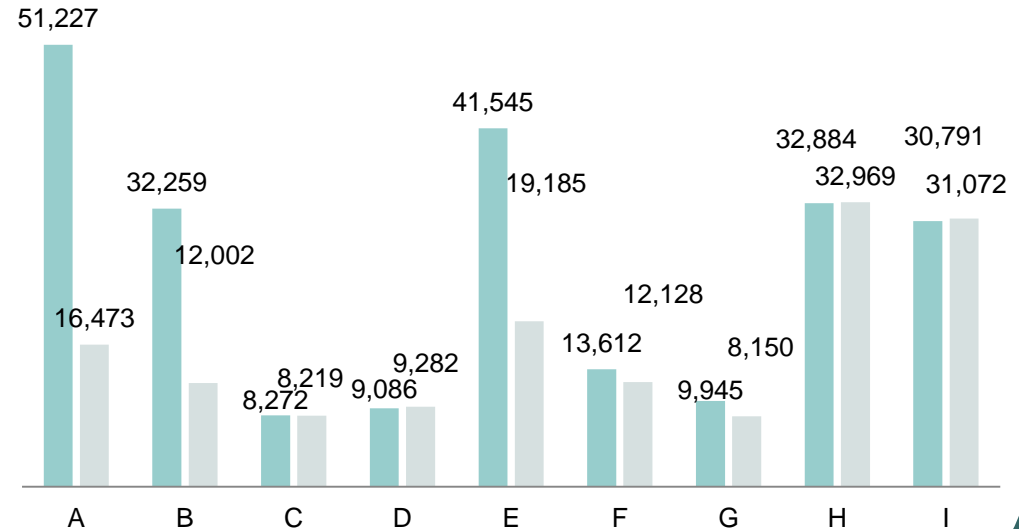


# 2008 Hispanic surnamed registered voters by Houston Council District

- As of 2008, Houston Council Districts H, 32,969, and I, 31,072, had the largest number of Hispanic surnamed registered voters (HSRV);
- 2008 Hispanic surnamed registered voter data indicates that districts A, B and E have precincts in which the commercial but not the residential area is in the city. And that, if those precincts were fully in the city of Houston, the total number of HSRV in districts A, B, and E would equal or surpass the total of HSRV in district H or I.

## Hispanic Surnamed Registered Voters in the City of Houston by Council District

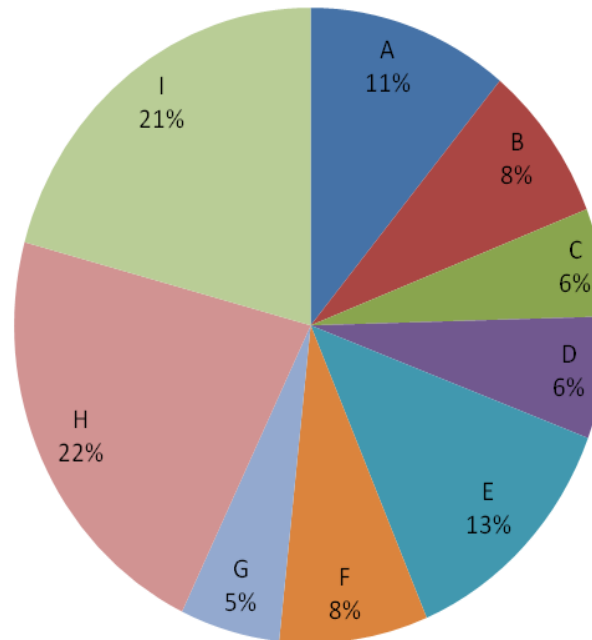
- 08 Hispanic surnamed registered voters including all HSV of precincts which are split
- Actual 2008 Hispanic surnamed registered voters in the city of Houston



# 2008 percentage of Hispanic surnamed registered voters in Houston Council Districts

- Currently, the largest share of Hispanic surnamed registered voters are in Houston Council Districts H, 22% and I 21%;
- 57% of all Hispanic surnamed voters reside outside the 'Hispanic precincts.

Hispanic Surname Registered Voters in the City of Houston by Council District

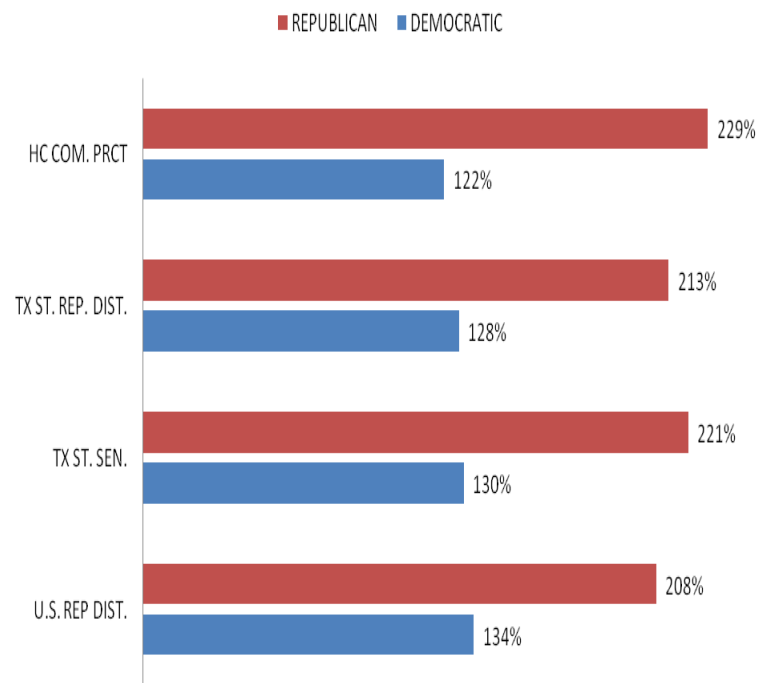


# Aggregate percentage increase of Hispanic surnamed voters by major political districts in Harris County since Nov. 1996

Since 1996, the aggregate percentage increase in the Hispanic surnamed vote has been greater in political districts which are currently held by Republicans than in districts held by Democrats.

	<u>Rep.</u>	<u>Dem.</u>
Comm. Pcts	229%	122%
SRDs	213%	128%
SSD	221%	130%
CD	208%	134%

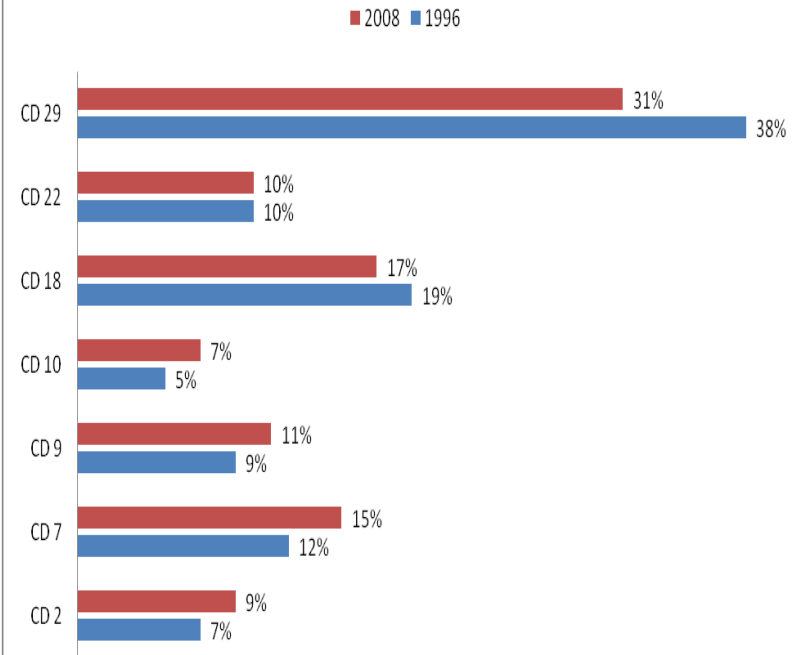
Aggregate increase of Hispanic surname voters in precincts in major political districts in Harris County in last 12 years



## 1996 vs. 2008 General Election: Comparison of Hispanic surnamed voters in Congressional Districts in Harris County

- The percentage share of the Hispanic surnamed voters increased in every Congressional district except districts 18 and 29;
- Congressional districts 2, 7 and 10, currently held by Republicans, saw their percentage of the Hispanic surnamed vote increase by a combined 7%.

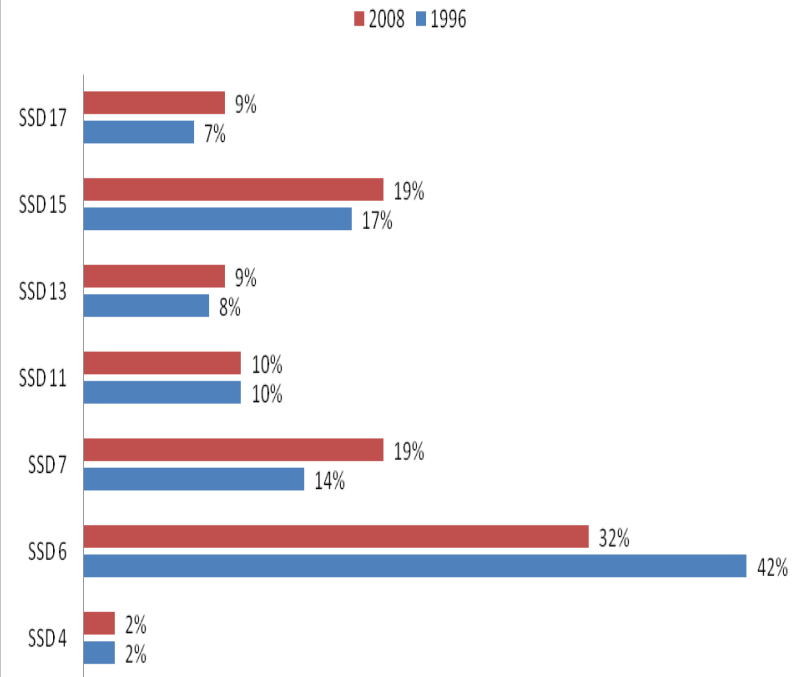
Comparison of Hispanic surname voters in  
Congressional Districts in 1996 and 2008 Nov.  
Elections in Harris County



## 1996 vs. 2008 General Election: Comparison of Hispanic surnamed voters in TX State Senate Districts in Harris County

- Compared to the 1996 General Election, in 2008 the percentage share of the Hispanic surnamed vote (HSV) increased in every State Senate District except SSD 6 which experienced a 10% drop;
- SSD 7 experienced the biggest percentage increase in HSV, 5%.

Comparison of Hispanic surname voters in TX St.  
Sen. Dists. in 1996 and 2008 Nov. Elections in  
Harris County

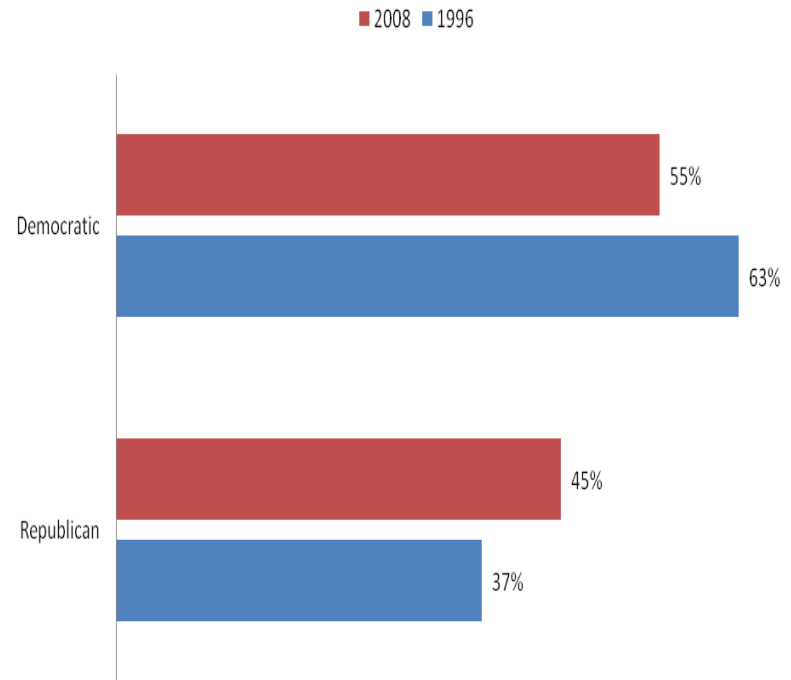


# **1996 vs. 2008 General Election: Comparison of aggregate percentage of Hispanic surnamed vote in TX State Representative Districts in Harris County by Political Party**

Since 1996, the aggregate percentage of Hispanic surnamed vote in State Representative Districts currently held by Republican increased by 8%.

	<u>Rep.</u>	<u>Dem.</u>
1996	63%	37%
2008	55%	45%

Comparison of share of Hispanic surname voters  
in St. Rep. Dists. in 1996 and 2008 Nov. Elections  
in Harris County

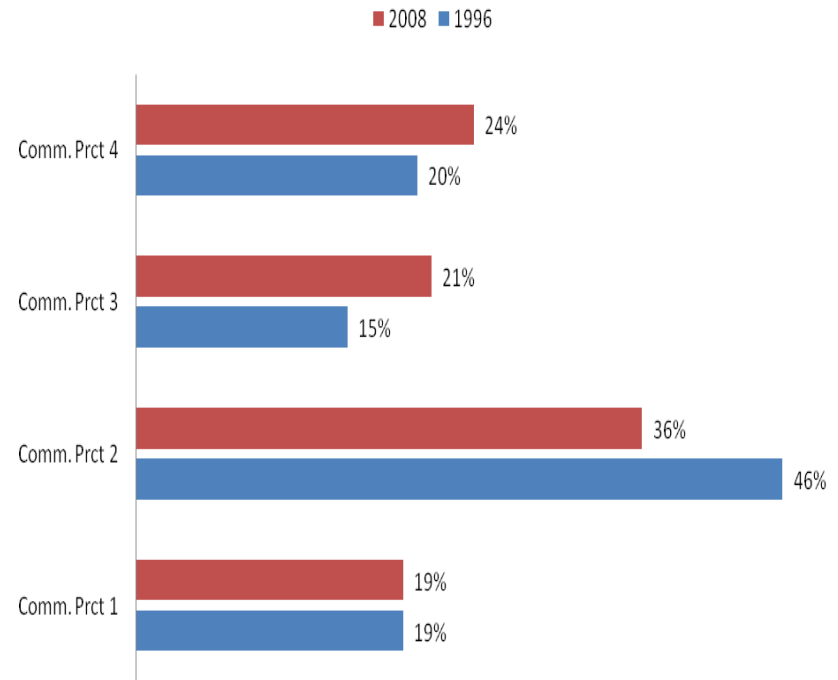




## 1996 vs. 2008 General Election: Comparison of Hispanic surnamed voters in Harris County Commissioner Precincts:

- Since Nov. 1996 Commissioner's Precinct 2 percentage share of the Hispanic surnamed vote decreased by 10%;
- During the same time the HSV increased by 10% in Republican held Commissioners Precincts 3 and 4.

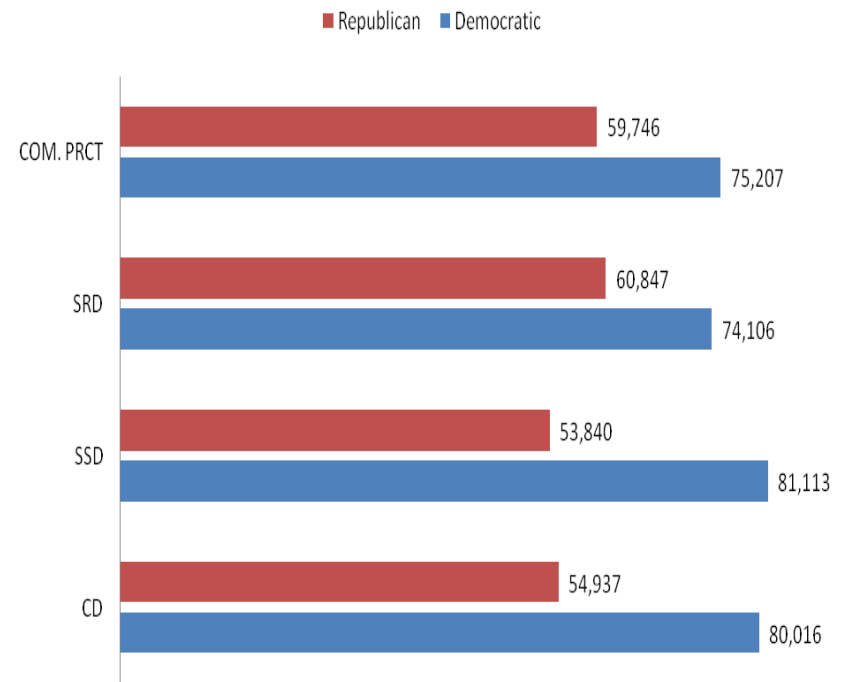
Comparison of Hispanic surname voters in  
Comm. Prcts in 1996 and 2008 Nov. Elections in  
Harris County



# Aggregate number Hispanic surnamed voters in Harris County by major political districts in 2008 General Election

- The aggregate average of total Hispanic surnamed votes cast in districts currently held by Democrats in 2008 General Election was 77,610;
- For districts held by Republicans the aggregate average of HSV was 57,342.

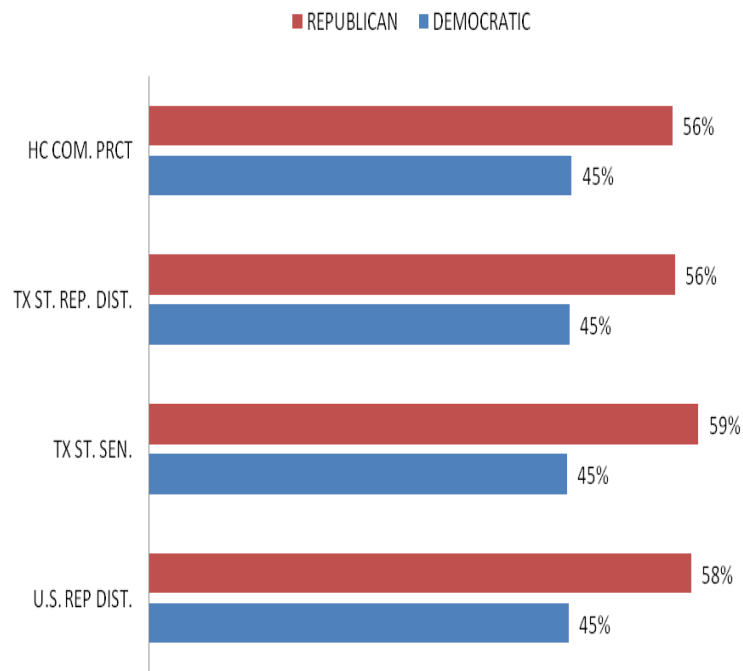
Hispanic surname voters in precincts in major political districts in Harris County in Nov 2008 Election



# Aggregate participation rates for Hispanic surnamed voters in Harris County by major political districts in 2008 General Election

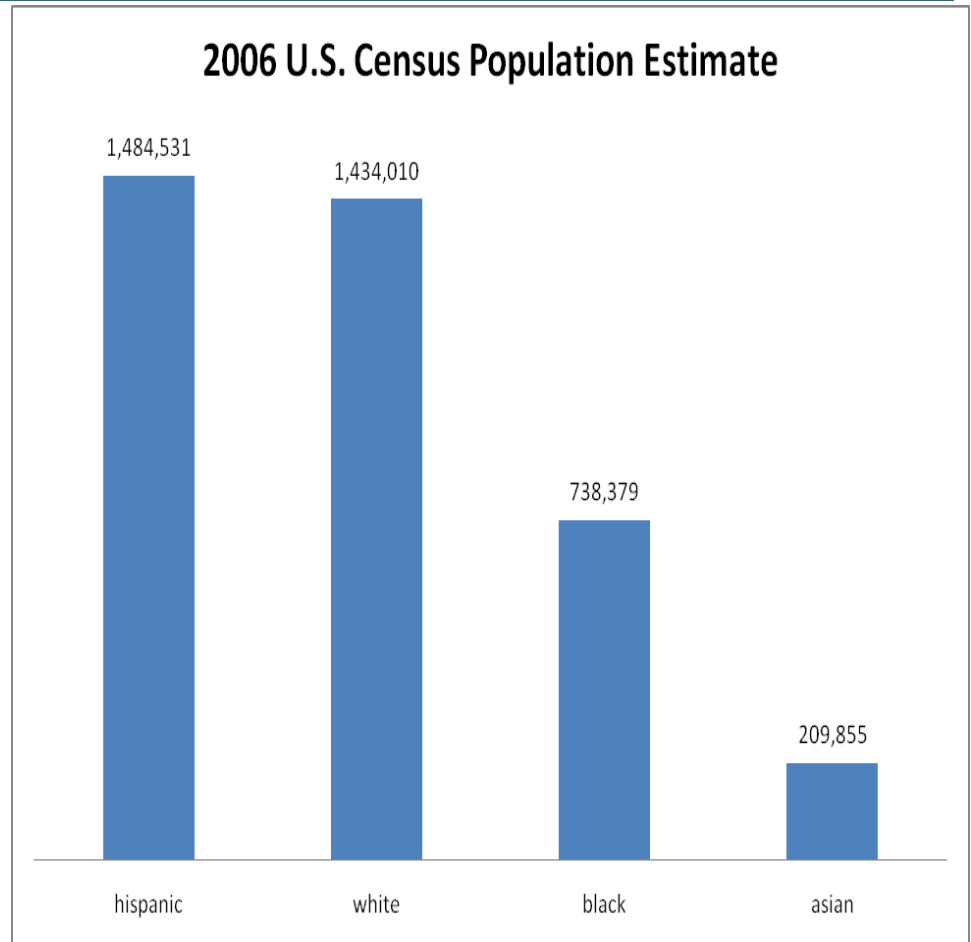
- In 2008 General Election, the aggregate participation rate for Hispanic surnamed voter (HSV) in districts which are currently held by Democrats was 45%;
- The aggregate participation rate for districts held by Republicans was 57%;
- The lowest HSV participation rate was 38% in SRD 143.
- The highest HSV participation rate was 69% in SRD 130.
- Of the 11 SRDs held by Republicans 9 experience a HSV participation rate of over 50%. In 5 of those SRDs the HSV participation rate was over 60%;
- In 11 of 14 SRDs currently held by Democrats the HSV participation rate was below 50%;

Aggregate turnout for Hispanic surname voters in precincts in major political districts in Harris County in Nov. 4th 2008 Election



## Estimated Harris County Population by major groups

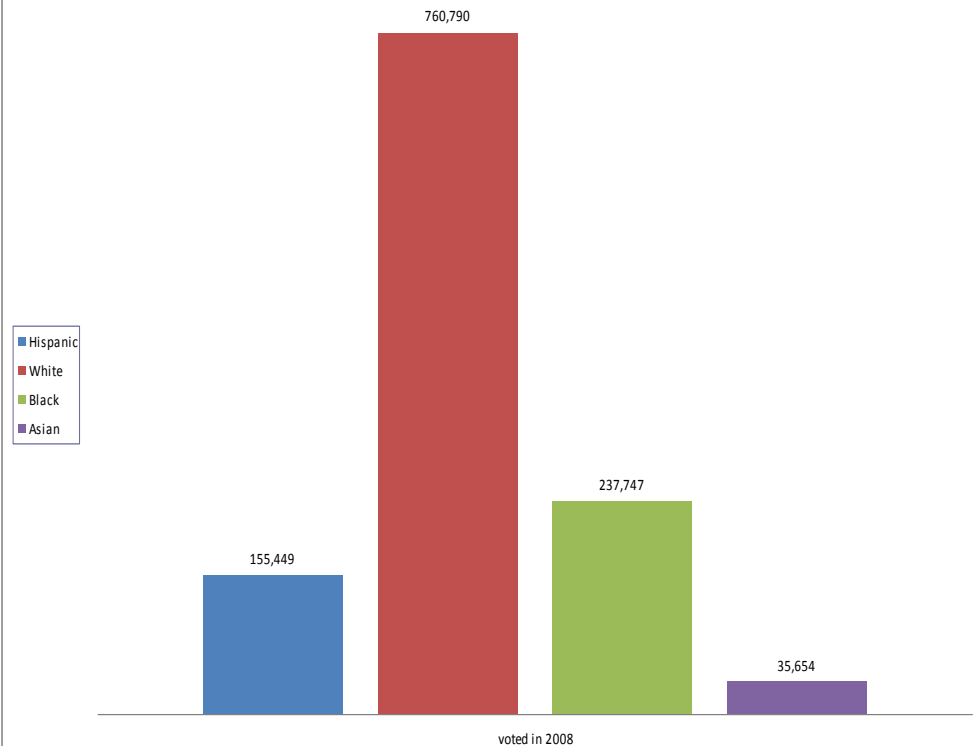
- In 2006 the U.S. Census Bureau reported that Hispanics are now the largest population group in Harris County;
- According to the Pew Hispanic Center's report "Hispanics and the 2004 Election" only 39% of the Hispanic population is eligible to vote.



## Estimated voters by major group in Harris County in 2008 General Election

In the 2008 General Election, Hispanics constituted an estimated 13% of the total voters in Harris County.

Voter turnout in 2008 Presidential Election in Harris County based on U.S. Census and Hispanic Pew Center voting variables for each major population group



# SUMMARY

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- The Hispanic surnamed vote data for 1996, 2000, 2004 and 2008 shows that the Hispanic vote has increased significantly;
- The increase of the Hispanic surname vote in political districts which are held by Republicans indicate that as the Hispanic vote matures, it will have an impact all over the county. As it may have already impacted election results in SRD's 133, 140 and 149; And as it impacted the Nov. 2008 countywide results;
- The ratio of Hispanic surnamed voters in and outside of Houston suggest that in the future the Hispanic vote will have a greater impact in countywide elections than city election, unless the city annexes the residential areas of precincts in which only the commercial areas are in the city;
- The doubling of Hispanic surnamed voters in Congressional district 29 could provide an opportunity for the Hispanic community to elect a Hispanic to Congress;

# Summary Continued

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- The high Hispanic surname voter participation rate outside traditional Hispanic enclaves in the 2008 General Election suggests that variables like education and socioeconomic status also dictate Hispanic's voter participation rates;
- The low Hispanic surname voter participation rate in political districts currently held by Democrats show that there is a need for a plan of action to improve the abysmal Hispanic voter turnout rate in those districts;
- The 2006 estimated population for Harris County juxtaposed with the estimated voter turnout for Hispanics in the 2008 General Election provides notice that the public should not confuse the Hispanic's population impact on the political reapportionment process for real electoral power;
- The 2006 estimated population for Harris County juxtaposed with the estimated voter turnout for Hispanics in the 2008 General Election also shows that it is time to stop perpetuating the myth of "The Sleeping Giant". The cliché suggests that Hispanics could become the preeminent electoral power in the county overnight. It fails to recognize that that cannot happen because of issues related to voter eligibility and other factors;
- The Hispanic surnamed data and the population estimates serve as reminders that it will take a lot of work and serious investment of resources from the business community and political establishment to ensure that the Hispanic community's voting strength is commensurate to its population.