[Ms-0087.007.013.008]

PARTICIPATION OF MEXICAN AMERICANS IN CALIFORNIA GOVERNMENT

Background

In 1960 the U. S. Census reported that of California's total population of 15,717,204, the Spanish surnamed population was 1,426,583 or 9%. In July, 1967 the California State Department of Finance estimated that of a total 1967 population of 19,478,000, the Spanish surnamed population was 2,162,100 or 10.9%. Since the Spanish surnamed population increased 1.9% in the seven years 1960-1967, projected growth for the years 1968-1970 would be .8%. In other words, we can estimate that for 1970, Spanish surnamed people comprise 11.7% of the state's population. /1

Also in 1967 the State Department of Education issued by counties the percent of Spanish surnamed enrollment in the public schools. /2 By correlating this data with the state's estimates of each county's population in 1970, it can be estimated that over 80% of the Spanish surnamed population is concentrated in twelve of the 58 counties. These counties, each of which has total populations of over 100,000 persons, are Fresno, Kern, Los Angeles, Merced, Monterey, Riverside, San Bernardino, San Joaquin, Santa Barbara, Santa Clara, Tulare, and Ventura.

Six additional counties (Colusa, Imperial, Kings, Madera, San Benito and Yolo) although relatively low in population, have high percentages of Spanish surnamed public school populations. By estimating the 1970 Spanish surnamed

population of these counties and adding them to the above twelve counties, we can account for over 90% of the Spanish surnamed population.

Three additional counties should be noted. In 1967, San Francisco, Santa Cruz, and San Diego Counties' Spanish surnamed school populations were 14%, 13% and 11% respectively; the 1960 U. S. Census Report suggests that many of the remaining Spanish surnamed population, as estimated by the state, can be accounted for in these counties.

Selected 18 Counties With Mexican American Populations /3

County	State Dept. of Finance Total 1970 pop. estimates	1967 Public School % Spanish Surname
Colusa	12,200	15.42
Fresno	420,500	28.58
Imperial	83,300	44.54
Kern	343,700	16.05
Kings	68,900	22.25
Los Angeles	7,061,700	15.82
Madera	45,400	27.98
Merced	108,400	18.28
Monterey	247,700	18.48
Riverside	451,500	17.53
San Benito	19,100	51.38
San Bernardino	703,600	15.59
San Joaquin	298,200	16.45
Santa Barbara	264,100	16.46
Santa Clara	1,065,600	15.04
Tulare	196,100	27.79
Ventura	382,500	17.11
Yolo	88,400	15.21

Shaded Area - Counties with high concentration of Mexican American population.

Mexican Americans in Federal, State and Local Elected and Appointed Offices[4]

Each year the Secretary of State of California issues a book entitled California Roster of Federal, State, County and City Officials.[5] This book includes the names and locations of every major elected and appointed official of the state at all levels of government; it is compiled with the "cooperation of Federal, State, County, and City and other agencies".[6] State civil service employees are included only when their positions rely directly or indirectly on appointment by the Governor's office, other executive office officials and/or the State Legislature; city and county officials are included only when their positions rely directly or indirectly on appointments by elected officials.[7]

The 1970 Roster lists 15,650 positions at all government levels; only 310 or 1.98% were held by Mexican Americans.[8] The majority of these (241) were officials in city and county offices; 1.2% of California's Federal and State offices were held by Mexican Americans, although they comprise nearly 12% of the state population.

1970 California Roster of Federal, State, County and City Officials

Category of Office	Total # in Office	Total # Mexican American
Federal Elected and Appointed	525	7 (1.3%)
State Legislators and Advisors	195	2 (1%)
Executive Offices of State	2,291	13 (Less than 1%)
State Boards, Commissions and Advisories	1,732	47 (2.7%)
City and County Government Officials	10,907	241 (2.2%)
TOTALS - Gov't all levels	15,650	310 (1.98%)

In the Roster, there is a listing of the top officials for each state in the Union. California's list includes 40 top state offices: Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Treasurer, Controller, Attorney General, Superintendent of Public Instruction, Chief Justice of Supreme Court, Director of Finance, Director of Public Works, Director of Water Resources, Director of Motor Vehicles, Director of Public Health, Director of Mental Hygiene, Director of Agriculture, Director of Industrial Relations, Director of Social Welfare, Director of Conservation, Director of Professional and Vocational Standards, Director of Veterans Affairs, Director of Corrections, Director of Human Resources Development, Director of Youth Authority, Director of General Services, Director of Rehabilitation, Director of Disaster Office, Director of Fish and Game, Director of Alcoholic Beverage Control, Director of Parks and Recreation, Director of Housing and Community Development,

Director of Commerce, Director of Health Care Services, Commissioner of Savings and Loan, Commissioner of Corporations, Commissioner of Real Estate, Commissioner of Insurance, Commissioner of Highway Patrol, Superintendent of Banks, State Fire Marshal, Commanding General of the State Military Forces. None of these offices are filled by Mexican Americans. /9

Mexican Americans in Offices of the Federal Government

Few Mexican Americans are found in elected and appointed positions of the Federal Government specifically serving Californians. In the national legislature (Senate and House of Representatives) there is only one Mexican American. /10 In the U. S. Court of Appeals and the U. S. District Courts (which include U. S. judges, referees, probation officers, commissioners and marshals) there are 262 positions; only six are Mexican American (2%). None of these six are judges or referees. In California there are four U. S. Attorneys and 87 Assistant U. S. Attorneys; none of these are Mexican American. /11

Mexican Americans in Offices of the State Government

Legislature. In the California State Legislature there are 120 seats, and one of these is held by a Mexican American. /12 When combined legislative staff is examined (including the Senate and Assembly Attaches, the Office of the Auditor General, the Joint Legislative Budget Committee technical staff and the Legislative Counsel) out of nearly 75 staff advisors, only one is Mexican American (1.3%).

Judiciary. At the state level in the courts there are 132 positions

including the seven Supreme Court Justices, the Judicial Council, the Administrative Office of the Courts, the Commission on Judicial Qualifications and the State Court of Appeals.[13] No Mexican Americans hold any of these high offices.

Executive. In California there are seven elected officials responsible for the administration and enforcement of state laws and regulations: the Governor, the Lt. Governor, the Secretary of State, the State Controller, the State Treasurer, the Attorney General, and the State Superintendent of Instruction. These seven officials, none of whom are Mexican American, and the State Legislature, select and appoint all State Boards, Advisories, and Commissions.

The Roster lists 28 advisors in the Governor's office none of whom are Mexican American. One hundred officials are listed in the Lt. Governor's office; two are Mexican American. In the Secretary of State's, Treasurer's, and Superintendent of Instruction's offices there are 31 staff advisors; none of whom are Mexican American.[14] There are no Mexican Americans among the State Controller's 12 assistants although there are three Mexican Americans who are among the 144 Tax Appraisers, a position appointed by the Controller. In the Attorney General's office there are 283 deputies, representatives and assistant attorney generals; one assistant attorney general is Mexican American.

The 135 boards, commissions and advisories at the state level in California provide a continuous feedback to the state officials on the needs and concerns

of the population. Some of these boards set policy and make budget decisions which broadly affect the entire state. These include the State Board of Education, State Board of Equalization, Public Employment Retirement System, Regents of the University of California, Commission on Housing and Community Development, and the Governor's Cabinet. Of the 69 persons on these boards, only two (2.8%) are Mexican American.

Other boards and commissions advise and regulate specific aspects of life and culture in the state. These include the Highway Commission, Pacific Marine Fisheries Commission, Heritage Preservation Commission, Youth Authority Board, and Air Resources Board. Of the 59 persons on these boards and commissions, only one (1.7%) is Mexican American. Throughout the state there are 1,732 persons who serve full time or in an advisory capacity on the state's 135 boards, commissions and advisories; according to the Roster, 47 (2.7%) of these persons are Mexican American.

Finally, the Roster itemizes high level civil service staff which provide advisory assistance to the elected officials and to the appointed boards and commissions. Many of these positions are personally selected by elected officials and are responsible for day to day policy and planning. There are 1686 offices in the Roster, seven of which are occupied by Mexican Americans, or less than one percent.

Mexican Americans in Offices of County and City Government

Statewide Participation. The Roster lists a total of 10,907 officials in the county and city governments; 241 (2.2%) of these are Mexican Americans.

Governing the 58 counties in California are 296 County supervisors and 1402 other elected and appointed officials. There are nine Mexican American supervisors (3.4%) and 13 Mexican Americans who occupy other official offices (less than one percent). Not included in the above tabulation are the superior court judges, municipal court judges, justice court judges, and county constables. There are 1179 such offices in the state, 21 of which are Mexican American. Specifically, there are 407 Superior Judges in California, three of whom are Mexican American, and all of whom work in Los Angeles County. There are 315 Municipal judges and 240 justice court judges; nine of these are Mexican Americans. Finally, there are 217 constables; nine of these are Mexican Americans. In other words, Mexican Americans represent about 1.7% of the county and city judiciary process.

In 1970 there were 403 incorporated cities in the state. There were 181 cities with populations under 10,000; 155 cities with populations from 10,000 to 50,000; 64 cities with populations from 50,000 to 500,000; and three cities with populations over 500,000 (Los Angeles, San Diego, and San Francisco).[45]

Participation of Mexican Americans in Local Government - By Size of City

Population	Mayors Non MA/MA	Councilmen Non MA/MA	Others* Non MA/MA
0-10,000	175/6	680/44	3059/39
10,000 to 50,000	151/4	600/33	1772/42
50,000 to 500,000	63/1	312/20	911/15
Over 500,000	3/0	32/1	66/0

*First number is total non Mexican American; 2nd number is Mexican American.

In cities with under 10,000 population, there are 181 mayors, six (3%) of whom are Mexican American; 724 councilmen, 44 (6%) of whom are Mexican American; and 3098 other officials, 39 (1%) of whom are Mexican American. In summary, Mexican Americans are in 2% of the county and city governments' decision making positions in cities of this size.

In cities with 10,000 to 50,000 population, there are 155 mayors, four (3%) of whom are Mexican American; 633 councilmen, 33 (5%) of whom are Mexican American; and 1815 other officials, 42 (2%) of whom are Mexican American. Mexican Americans occupy 3% of the decision making positions in these cities.

In cities with 50,000 to 500,000 population, there are 64 mayors, one (1%) of whom is Mexican American; 332 councilmen, 20 (6%) of whom are Mexican American; and 926 other officials, 15(1%) of whom are Mexican American. Within these city governments, Mexican Americans represent 2.7% of the officials.

Finally, in California's three largest cities, there are 99 mayors, councilmen and other officials, only one of whom is Mexican American.

Participation of Mexican Americans in 18 selected counties. As mentioned above, most of the Mexican American population reside in 18 of California's 58 counties. A review of the participation of Mexican Americans in local govenment, specifically in these counties and cities, will perhaps give a more realistic assessment of the Mexican American representation at the local level.[16]

Participation of Mexican Americans in 18 Selected Counties /17
(City and County Government Officials)

County	Total # Officials	Total # MA	% MA
Fresno	256	17	7
Kern	181	1	-
Los Angeles	1247	41	3
Merced	140	6	4
Monterey	205	3	1
Riverside	295	13	4
San Bernardino	254	7	3
San Joaquin	75	-	-
Santa Barbara	124	3	2
Santa Clara	271	11	4
Tulare	144	3	2
Ventura	192	6	3
Colusa	32	-	-
Imperial	118	9	7
Kings	79	3	4
Madera	60	-	-
San Benito	51	1	2
Yolo	80	1	1
TOTAL	3,806	125	3.2%

In 16 of the 18 counties, less than 5% of the city and county officials are Mexican American; four of the counties have less than 1% or zero percent participation of Mexican Americans (Kern, San Joaquin, Colusa, and Madera Counties). Five additional counties have less than 3% participation of Mexican Americans in local government (Monterey, Santa Barbara, Tulare, San Benito and Yolo Counties). The largest number of Mexican Americans in the state reside in Los Angeles County; yet there are no Mexican Americans in county government decision making positions. In the 78 cities within L. A. County, there are only 41 (3%) Mexican American officials out of 1247 offices.

In two of the 18 counties, Fresno and Imperial, 7% of the city and county officials are Mexican American. Although these counties have the highest percentage of participation in the state, they also have very high percentages of Mexican Americans in their populations. Fresno's Spanish surnamed school population is 29% and Imperial's is 45%.

In conclusion, the majority of Mexican Americans reside in 18 counties; yet, out of 3804 offices in these county and city governments, Mexican Americans occupy only 125 or 3%.

FOOTNOTES

/1 U. S. Census figures for 1970 on the Spanish surnamed are not yet available. Therefore, we have used State 1967 figures, to estimate 1970 Spanish surnamed percent of total population.

/2 See State Department of Education Report, Racial and Ethnic Survey of California Public Schools, Part One, Sacramento, 1967 Appendix E.

/3 Every effort was made to obtain the number of Mexican American and/or Spanish surname registered voters. However, figures were not available for either the state as a whole or for individual counties. A standard formula for estimating registered voters (the average of total number registered for both primary and general elections multiplied by the percent of Spanish surname in the population) suggests that there were over 900,000 Spanish surnamed registered voters in 1970. However, there is no information available on exact location and density of these potential voters. Those contacted for possible numbers of Spanish surname registered included both the Democrat and Republican Central Committees, the Secretary of State, Los Angeles County Registrar of Voters and the Los Angeles County Planning Commission.

/4 In tabulating the number of Mexican American officials in the California Roster, an effort was made to eliminate those Spanish surname individuals whose ethnic heritage is other than Mexican. Commission staff attempted to verify as many names as possible by letter or telephone, but staff and time limitations prevented verification of all 15,000 plus names. In some cases names of individuals of Mexican American heritage with non-Spanish surnames were added to the totals. Therefore, the remainder of the paper refers to Mexican American specifically rather than the larger Spanish surname group.

/5 All the data is derived from the California Roster unless specifically noted otherwise, 1970 California Roster of Federal, State, County and City Officials compiled by the Secretary of State, Office of Procurement, Documents, Sacramento, California.

/6 California Roster, Inside Front Cover.

/7 Not all city and county officials are included, but in general most major elected and appointed officials with decision making powers are recorded. A typical entry for a city would include mayor, councilmen, city clerk, district attorney, police chief, fire chief, treasurer, city manager, parks and recreation director, public service department manager, superintendent of buildings, planning director and school superintendent.

/8 Some individuals occupy more than one office. In that case they are counted twice, or as many different times as their names appear in a new capacity.

/9 California Roster, pp 186-187.

/10 In addition to the one Mexican American from California, there are two Congressmen from Texas, one Congressman and one Senator from New Mexico.

/11 The Roster does not include all Federal appointments in 1970 such as Manuel Ruiz, U. S. Commission on Civil Rights or Martin Castillo, former Chairman, Cabinet Committee for the Spanish Speaking.

/12 In November 1970 one additional Mexican American was elected to the State Assembly.

/13 Some of the judges are in several capacities within this category and are counted twice in those cases.

/14 See below for civil service employees with policy and decision making powers.

/15 San Francisco is both a city and a county and is tabulated in both categories.

/16 None of California's unincorporated areas are included in these tabulations.

/17 Judiciary is not included here. Mexican American representation in local judiciary is discussed elsewhere in the paper.