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**Will Foreign-born Voters Be a Significant Force in Statewide Elections?
*Naturalized Immigrants Who Vote Number in the Millions***

Los Angeles, CA- According to an analysis released today by the Tomás Rivera Policy Institute (TRPI) of census data on the 2004 election, foreign-born voters in states with significant electoral votes such as California, Florida, and New York can make a statewide electoral vote outcome difference if as few as 3-4% of foreign-born voters shift their partisanship or candidate preferences. (See Table 1 below.)

“Few realize how large the foreign-born vote has become in selected states,” stated Harry P. Pachon, president of the Tomás Rivera Policy Institute and professor of public policy at the University of Southern California. “In six states alone they number over four million voters,” continued Pachon.

Further analysis from the 2004 election examines the impact of Latino foreign-born voters in important electoral states. Again, in states with significant electoral votes such as Florida and California, Latino foreign-born voters can make a statewide electoral vote outcome difference if 7-9% of Latino foreign-born voters change their partisanship or candidate preferences. In the other four states it would take a significant percentage (14-35%) of the Latino foreign-born vote to cause a 1% shift in the statewide electoral vote outcome. (See Table 2 below.) Given the large number of legal permanent residents who are not yet citizens in the United States, there is a potential for the foreign-born vote to grow and to become even more significant over time.

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TRPI is an independent 501 (c) (3) organization

About TRPI

Founded in 1985, the Tomás Rivera Policy Institute (TRPI) advances informed policy on key issues affecting Latino communities through objective and timely research contributing to the betterment of the nation. TRPI is an affiliated research unit of the University of Southern California School of Policy, Planning, and Development, and is associated with the Institute for Social and Economic Research and Policy at Columbia University. To learn more about the Tomás Rivera Policy Institute, visit www.trpi.org.

Table 1. Percent of All Foreign-born Latino Voters Needed to Make a 1% Shift in Statewide Elections in 2004

State	Total Votes Cast (in thousands) ¹	Total Foreign- Born Votes Cast (in thousands) ²	% of Foreign-born Votes Required for 1% shift ³
California	12,797	1,850	3.46%
Florida	7,371	857	4.30%
Illinois	5,657	277	10.20%
New Jersey	3,688	395	4.67%
New York	7,697	1,040	3.70%
Texas	7,944	405	9.82%

Table 2. Percent of All Foreign-born Latino Voters Needed to Make a 1% Shift in Statewide Elections in 2004

State	Total Votes Cast (in thousands) ⁴	Total Foreign-born Latino Votes Cast (in thousands) ⁵	Total Foreign-born Latino Votes Cast (in thousands) ⁶	% of Foreign-Born Latino Votes Required for 1% shift ⁷
California	12,797	1,850	656	9.75%
Florida	7,371	857	462	7.98%
Illinois	5,657	277	80	35.22%
New Jersey	3,688	395	126	14.63%
New York	7,697	1,040	206	18.65%
Texas	7,944	405	206	19.25%

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¹ Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2004. Also, all numbers are rounded to the nearest thousand.

² Ibid.

³ TRPI calculations based on 2004 Current Population Survey. This calculation is based upon the following formula, where Total Votes Cast =TVC and Total Foreign-Born Votes Cast=TFB. $((1\%*TVC/TFB)/2)$.

⁴ Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau, Current Population Survey, 2004.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ TRPI calculation based on 2004 Current Population Survey. This calculation is based upon the following formula, where Total Votes Cast =TVC and Total Foreign-Born Latino Votes Cast=TFBL. $((1\%*TVC/TFBL)/2)$.