

Non-Citizen Voting: Effects of Non-Citizen Voting in School Board Elections

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This thesis examines the correlation between non-citizen voting and its impact on school board policies. The United States is home to a majority of immigrant families who utilize the educational system on behalf of their children. One of the many hardships non-citizens face is their inability to vote in these cities that they live in to better their communities. In order to understand the correlation and impact that non-citizen voting has, I compared a city in California that allows such voting such as San Francisco and those that do not, such as Los Angeles and Santa Clara. I utilize three case studies, one that allows non-citizen voting, and two that do not. Comparing these policies would allow for a better understanding of non-citizen voting and whether representation of this community within school board policies based on the ability of them voting. The results of this thesis illustrates that even when non-citizens are allowed to vote there is no direct correlation to the policies being created. Therefore, the cities that don't allow non-citizen voting reflect a more representative school board through their policies when compared to the cities that do allow non-citizen voting.

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Introduction

The school board system was created to help bring representation to the communities that revolve around their schools. With the ability to vote and elect representatives that will reflect the value of communities around would help to implement policies that will be representative of them. Policies created in these school boards are working towards creating an environment where all students will succeed with any different types of programs and aid that helps them get there. The educational system is an important factor to the United States that gives every child the opportunity to pursue a career in any field they believe fits them the most. This is what the school board helps create is these opportunities for the children to succeed in their educational system. With the help of not only the representatives in these school boards but also the parents and communities that help reflect what their children need to succeed.

However, when looking at these school boards representatives are elected through the process of an election that could give people the opportunity to choose a person that best fits their needs. Non-citizens in many cities are not given the ability to vote since they don't have a documented status. In California there is a significant mix of non-citizen children and parents that are seeking to take advantage of this educational system being offered. Through the school board they put their children in the hands of the representatives to help create better programs and opportunities for their children. These children are oftentimes English Learners and need other aids to help them succeed in schools. The school board can help by passing policies that will ensure that all students will be included in the curriculum and ensure that they are being offered a fair chance at an education.

When trying to understand the non-citizen community as a whole there is a way to get an accurate perspective of how large this community actually is. Specifically, within California alone according to the Vera Institute of Justice there is a total 10.5 million non-citizens that reside within the state being a total of 27% of the overall population (Vera Institute of Justice).

This is a significant amount of the population that would reflect that within certain cities the population would be majority non-citizen. Now looking specifically at Los Angeles it would be indicated that there are a total 4.4 million non-citizens that reside within the city making up 33% of the population (Vera Institute of Justice). What this is showing is how large and impactful this community is in policy making not only at the state level but also as this paper further investigates within the school board. The school board works towards being able to reflect their values and policies based on the community that surrounds them.

This paper focuses on one main question which is, "Does non-citizen ability to vote in School Board elections affect the policies that are being created?" Non-citizens often migrate to the United States to take advantage of the educational opportunities for their children. School boards should allow non-citizens to vote in school board elections as they have exact ideas of what type of chances and programs that could help their children succeed. This would allow for important non-citizen representation within the school board that have a direct understanding of what their children need or the types of teaching that would best fit their children. Without being able to vote these parents will not have their voices heard as they have every right to want the best for their children and help them succeed in this country. Although there might be representatives that would understand the needs of the non-citizen community it would be difficult for them to adequately aid the needs of them without being given guidance from the non-citizens themselves. Non-citizens already live in fear of being taken out of the country having left everything in their home countries to give their families better chances in the United States. Giving them the opportunities to voice their opinions helps illustrate their ability to feel a sense of community with the documented population around them.

My question is important because there are a large majority of non-citizens that live within the United States and being undocumented they have little to no ability to practice any democratic

rights such as voting. There have been other studies on non-citizen representation in general, however this paper wants to focus more within the education system being the school board. With my addition I hope to raise awareness and also empower non-citizens to voice their opinions along with this being able to add to the literature of the non-citizen community is important. Furthermore, the ability to motivate others to continue this research and expand off the results I have collected. The major relationships are between the school boards lack of representations and how this translates negatively when non-citizens aren't allowed to vote in school board elections.

Literature Review

This literature review is being written to further understand the question, Does noncitizen ability to vote in school board elections affect the policies that are being created? Specifically, looking into the minority group of non-citizens that are not allowed to vote and how effective policies are being created within the school board to include their children. These school boards are created to help make decisions and policies that are going to benefit the educational system they are representing. Policies are being created and implemented within these schools that can overall effect the academic journey of many students. In Southern California it is indicated that non-citizens often make a large majority within communities that would require more accurate representations within these school boards. This literature review will be broken down into four sections that will understand the question. The first representation within both State and Local forms of government. Following this the second section will talk about participation for minority groups along with the effects that minorities have in elections. Third section dive into the representation and participation within school boards by non-citizens. Fourth section focuses on civic engagement for non-citizens within schools and outside of schools.

Participation in State and Local Government

Participation is indicated as a factor that reflects the values of a United States citizen. Allowing individuals to voice their opinions on the types

of policies they see will best fit. Results have illustrated that citizens are less likely to participate in government when state officials they do not associate with are in office (Flavin, 2013). It depicts that citizens will grow less confident in their state officials which causes them to vote against any policies that are being created or looking into not participating at all (Flavin, 2013). When looking at the outcome of this research it can be indicated the importance of having a person within office that is representative of their communities beliefs. This can translate into the possibility of having minorities not want to participate in school board elections or engagement when having representatives that are not aware of or addressing the problems non-citizen parents want to be addressed. Officials hold an important role whether it be within local or State government as they are making changes in policies that affect all the people within their area.

Furthermore, now being able to shift into participation within local government. With Local government, we see the structure created to have representation of the communities around them. For instance, looking into cities within Southern California, many are heavily populated with minority groups of all demographics. These Local governments are created to help establish policies that are beneficial to the communities and overall allow these individuals to participate within the government. Public opinion and engagement are factors in helping shape communities in ways that will benefit groups. A study has indicated that Local participation is a factor to citizens as it helps shape the legitimacy of local authorities to have inclusion (Lawton & Macaulay, 2014). These are ways that many of these local officials will seek tactics in gaining to pursue the community that they understand their needs. Looking into the research question, this can depict that with local participation, these officials will seek ways to gain the common interest of their constituents. Other literature talked about non-citizens and the perception of other cities that would reflect the need to create programs to help welcome these new members of society (Kimbrough, 2017). Emphasizing the impact that

non-citizens would help reflect within the local levels of government and their impacts on the communities that surround them.

Non-citizen Representation and Participation in elections

Voting in the United States is a right given to those that are citizens and hold documentation that proves this. Non-citizens would not qualify for this right as it is indicated that their country of birth is not in the United States. They not only are tax payers of the many cities that they live in but also support law enforcement and other utilities (Bird, 2012). However, this illustrates a challenge for voting in areas where the population of the communities is majority non-citizen. Non-citizens have their own ideas and beliefs of what changes they need to help their community succeed. Many of these non-citizens might not understand the process of policy making, but they have an understanding of what affects their communities in positive and negative ways. From this the ability to voice their opinion is crucial and should be taken into consideration in policy making. There are some cities and states within the U.S. that allow non-citizen voting. Then there are other cities and states that have these non-citizen groups fight for their rights. Other than this, petitions would be created within Massachusetts to legalize non-citizen voting specifically, officials in Amherst, Cambridge, and Newton (Walter, Jr., 2012). This depicts the importance that these officials feel that non-citizens should have the ability to vote as they participate within many communities the same as citizens. They pay taxes and contribute to the communities the same without the ability to vote.

San Francisco is within the first cities that would allow non-citizens to vote in local elections. In 2004 Matt Gonzales proposed a ballot initiative that would allow citizens and noncitizens to vote only in school board elections if they had children within San Francisco school (Kini, 2005). This is a common ideal that is followed by communities that have a non-citizen population that is significant. Moving from Massachusetts on the East coast we now see the same actions in the West with the ability to incorporate non-

citizens in voting elections. These are local and school elections that would help create policies that reflect representation of the non-citizen community. Non-citizens in the year 2004 would make 12% of the population which would roughly be around 122,000 individuals (Kini, 2005). Having this depiction many of these schools are taking in non-citizen children or children of non-citizen parents that are seeking the education system that is being offered.

In the past we can see the many negative laws and actions that were placed against non-citizen other minority groups. They often lived in a world where they would be discriminated against in their everyday lives. Not having a voice to state their opinions on problems they were facing or being able to have any input when elections would come around. However, individuals such as Carlos Pinedo were activists that would help bring the voice out for these non-citizens that were in fear for their lives. He would also be in favor of non-citizen voting rights as his parents were noncitizens that would often fear their ability to try to vote (Campos, 2012). Along with this, look into the effects that activism has on individuals that are unsure of actions they want to pursue. The 1965 Selma-Montgomery March was an event that would help empower minorities to face any fears they were having. From this Pinedo stated that his father would fear for voting prior to attending this march and after attending he felt empowered to fight for his right to vote (Compos, 2012).

Representation and Participation for Non-citizens in the School Board

Narrowing down to a more specific group we can look into Latino representation within the school boards. Often for West Coast states Latino non-citizens are very common and make up a great percentage of different cities. Specifically, from this we can look into Texas it would indicate that Latinos population within districts in Texas make up to 19.2% (Meire, Polinard, & Wrinkle, 2000). This study would also indicate that a large majority of the students and teachers within schools in Texas are Latinos. Another study conducted in New York would depict that 14% of elementary school classmates were foreign born

children (Schwartz & Stiefel, 2004). When looking at data of this sort we can come to the conclusion that representation within the School board for areas of this sort are very crucial. School boards will create policies that will help the education system in which all their schools entail which calls for the representation and need of the different communities. Non-citizens not being allowed to vote in these school board elections will leave it in the hands of those within the School board to create policies to help their children. These children might need programs or policies to make their educational journeys more attainable without any barriers. However, one study would come to the conclusion that the relationship between Latino population and Latino representation within school boards are nonlinear in their findings (Meire & Melton, 2012).

As students at younger ages might not have ideas of ways to help improve their educational journey as their parents do. Non-citizen parents often come into the United States in hopes that their children will effectively be taken in by the schools and help them figure out their future goals along with professions. Parent involvement in general has been a central factor to bettering their childrens education (Carreon, Drake, & Barton, 2005). It would also be depicted that parent involvement can show correlations to students passing classes and performing well.

Furthermore, now being able to look into the perspective of a non-citizen parent they often do not understand the structure of an educational system within the United States and now have to develop new understandings about a new world. Those who often do not understand this new

structure of educational systems will not know how to voice their opinions on what their children need. This can bring the importance of representation within any form to understand what many

of these non-citizens are facing. Non-citizens being part of a minority would reflect that there would be better chances voting when there are representatives from these minority groups

holding these higher positions (2010). Whether

it be from individuals that are associated with this group or those who have worked hand in hand with them to better understand the struggles and problems they might face within schools.

Looking into other forms of participation other than voting meetings are other factors within school boards that can help establish a more interactive form of participation. In a study it would look at the different structure that meetings have that could possibly cause more or less deliberation (Collins, 2021). Structure to meeting styles could indicate great importance as individuals want to look for topics that are affecting them personally that will cause more people to attend. When there are problems or topics being talked about within these meetings that affect a large majority of the community there will be a large turnout. As voting is something unseeable to non-citizen attending meetings and deliberating problems is a form of participation that they can practice. Being able to voice their own opinion within these local meetings or school board meetings to give officials a general understanding of where they should focus their policy making.

This will be one of the more crucial components to add to the literature as this paper will focus on the importance of non-citizens ability to vote in the school board elections. Being able to implement this in their ability to participate would create a direct form of representation coming from the non-citizen community. Adding to the ability to empower these non-citizens to use their voice to their best ability and obtain the changes they need to help live in a better environment not only for themselves but also for their children. Especially, when making changes and adding programs within the school board that will help their children receive aid they need to succeed as all the other students around them. Some students might need extra programs to help them achieve academic success and this is something that is not out of the ordinary. However, non-citizen parents are the main source to communicate this and without being able to vote on these changes it will become difficult for children to receive the aid they need. Other literature would indicate

that participating in these school boards would be reflectant of the populations around them along with the belief that schools in larger cities tend to alienate the general public (Milton, 1983). Moving into the reasons why there is a lack of representation within these communities when large cities have moved away from hearing the public's needs. Non-citizens already live in an environment where they often feel alienated without the abilities to freely utilize their voices; this then adds supporting problems and needs for representations in these school boards.

Civic engagement for Non-citizens

Non-citizens would often fear their abilities to voice their opinions on certain topics within their communities. They live in the fear that if they state any opinions this would target them and fear of their deportation out of the country. However, a study that was conducted on High School non-citizen students would indicate important factors. Non-citizen students that had good social studies teachers would indicate stronger civic engagement patterns (Callahan & Obenchain, 2012). When having the ability to learn about history and the past with social injustice these students can formulate their own understandings which could influence their ability to participate in civic actions. Being able to put forth their ability to speak freely on any topics that could help better their communities. The overarching factor to why non-citizen civic engagement is important is their large presence within the populations. It would be indicated that one in ten individuals within the United States is foreign born which has increased since 1910 (Mody, 2008). With the numbers continuing to grow throughout the years it would grow important for non-citizens to participate and practice their abilities to speak their opinions to the public. We can see this type of civic engagement in the protest and being outspoken when D.A.C.A was going to be taken away by President Trump. These are actions that allow these groups to voice their opinions on events of this sort that would negatively affect them. Literature would also focus on the many times that non-citizens have been allowed to vote in states Maryland and cities such as Chicago (Hyduk, 2006). These actions would often be

stuck down by the state governments but would reflect that many of the communities would try to reinstate these actions.

Adding to this literature would help establish the importance of civil engagement for all not only to those who are legally allowed to vote. With the ability to incorporate and empower the non-citizen community would help establish more civic engagement. Not only this but the sense of community that they might often shy away from based on their undocumented status. They would often feel the need to alienate themselves from the large community as they are in fear of being taken out of the country. By adding to this literature it would reflect the importance of why non-citizens should be given the opportunities to vote in school boards as they are part of the community and shouldn't be left out of the picture when creating policies that involve their children.

Methodology

The methodology that is being conducted in my research is centered around case studies in order to understand the different impacts that noncitizen voting has on school board policies. Specifically, I am comparing the single city in California that allows noncitizens to vote in school board elections, namely San Francisco, to those that do not, such as Los Angeles along with Santa Clara.

This study looked at important factors between these three cities which were the overall population, demographic differences, non-citizen demographic, and voting in the school board. These factors are found within the school board policies for each of these cities which reflect the representation that the undocumented population has in each city. Additionally, not only looking at the representation but looking at the effects on allowing the undocumented population to vote in the school board elections along with representation of policies when voting isn't allowed. Determining this by looking at the types of language being utilized to identify the population and incorporation of the undocumented population as one of the groups being talked about within these policies. It is important to look at different

cities with two different minority populations as this could be a factor that would play a role in policies being passed. Los Angeles being home to a majority Latin American/ Hispanic community and San Francisco being home to a more Asian community. The third city is Santa Clara has an established demographic that is similar to the population in San Francisco more dominantly Asian population. This can offer an understanding on whether representation in the state's population can explain differences in inclusive and equitable policies adopted by school boards.

Looking back at my research question I want to figure out if there is a pattern when noncitizens are allowed to vote or not and how this will overall impact the policies that are being created within the school board. The school board creates policies that are supposed to be inclusive and understanding of their communities and to understand if there is a correlation when noncitizens are allowed to vote and if they are not. The results will help further understandings of these policies and the effects of these decisions within school board elections. California is home to a large majority of the noncitizen population, many that have established families and have children enrolled in schools throughout the state. Thus, it is important to see and understand how effective noncitizen voting will be in school boards compared to the cities that don't allow this voting process. Furthermore, school board elections are one of the very few opportunities we have to observe the effect that non-citizen voting has on the adoption of policies, as non-citizens are constitutionally not allowed to vote in the majority of other types of elections held in the United States.

San Francisco

When looking at the diversity in San Francisco through the U.S Census Bureau website it is illustrated to be a majority White 51.1% and Asian 37.2% population (www.census.gov). This is an important factor to understand when looking at the policies that are being created, as board policies are supposed to reflect the community around the city. Along with this San Francisco is a city that allows the non-citizen population to vote

in school board elections which gives them the direct actions to influence the types of policies that are created along with individuals that can help represent the community. When identifying the non-citizen population in San Francisco we can look at VERA Institute of Justice San Francisco that illustrates there to be an estimate of 628,600 nonresidents within California alone non-citizens which make up 27% of the population (vera.org). Additionally, it would also be indicated that roughly 462,000 children home to San Francisco that have at least one parent that is not a citizen. Specifically, the demographic for the non-citizen population according to the Migrant Policy Institute the majority of the Regions of Birth of this population is 38% Mexico and Central America along with 46% from Asia (<https://www.migrationpolicy.org/>). This being a major factor when analyzing the policies that are being passed within the school board along with the representation of the population. What this further indicates is that non-citizens do make up a large portion of the city, but many of these people have children and these children are taking in the opportunities to attend schools within the city. With the school board holding a great importance in the schools that are taking in many of these non-citizens children it would be indicated that they might have opinions on changes that could help their children succeed. Within this I looked into the specific policies that are being created within this city along with its correlation to those non-citizens that are being allowed to vote.

Los Angeles

Now moving into the cities that do not allow non-citizens to vote we can look at Los Angeles and the demographics that influence these policies. When comparing the size of population Los Angeles is similarly in size of population to San Francisco which would deem to be important to having an accurate analysis. According to the U.S Census Bureau it is illustrated that Los Angeles is estimated to be home to 3.8 million individuals. From these individuals the races that hold the majority are Hispanic/Latino with 48% and White with 44.9% of the population (www.census.gov). This is important data to understand

when looking at demographics as when comparing this population to San Francisco they are opposites when it comes to the majority which illustrated to have a majority Asian population and Los Angeles to have a majority Hispanic/Latino population. Moving into the demographic of the non-citizen population in Los Angeles alone make up 33% of the population; this is around 4.4 million (vera.org). Specifically, when looking at the breakdown on the different demographics in Los Angeles the Regions of birth of non-citizen population migrate majorly from Mexico and Central America being 79% (www.migrationpolicy.org). When looking back at San Francisco it was indicated within this city that there is a split between the majority of the non-citizen population between regions of Asia, Mexico, and Central America. However, the majority group that migrates to Los Angeles is a high percentage of people from Mexico and Central America compared to other regions. This can indicate the significant number of individuals within the city that are not given the opportunities to vote in school board elections. Now from this there is an estimate of 1.6 million children that have at least one non-citizen parent in their families. What this research and case study helps provide is an understanding as to the effect of not allowing this large population within the city to vote in school board elections along with how policies are being created in favor of them. This being a significant chunk of the population could indicate some concerns on why these individuals are not given the proper ability to vote or at least have policies that will help their children succeed within the educational system.

Santa Clara

Moving from these two we now look at the city of Santa Clara, a city that doesn't allow noncitizen voting, but with the same demographics as San Francisco. It is important to look at a city with the same demographics as San Francisco to account for the effect that demographics can have on the policies that school boards adopt. According to the United States Census Bureau it would illustrate that since 2021 it would be recorded that the population in Santa Clara would be 127,151 individuals

that reside within the city (<https://www.census.gov/>). From this population the majority races that reside within the city are White 36.4% and Asian 45.9% which will indicate the resemblance with the overall population of San Francisco (<https://www.census.gov/>). Now moving into the population of the non-citizen community it is recorded that from the 2021 Annual Report Office of Immigrant Relations that there are approximately 140,000 non-citizens that reside within the city of Santa Clara (<https://oir.sccgov.org/>). To break this down even more, the regions of birth of the non-citizen population are the majority from Mexico, Central America 51%, and Asia 41% (<https://www.migrationpolicy.org/>). The important takeaway from this analysis of demographics is that the Asian non-citizen population is majority in both Santa Clara and San Francisco which will illustrate why the police are only as representative as San Francisco. The major difference between San Francisco and Santa Clara is that there are no non-citizens voting within the school boards as this is not allowed, but in San Francisco this is allowed. What this report also illustrated was 60% of the children within the city have at least 1 parent that identifies as a non-citizen. These statistics help to identify the importance that school boards must play to become representative of these communities when not allowing them to vote in school boards. The ability to establish programs and policies that aid these communities that have disadvantages compared to those around them.

Data Used

All the policies that were utilized within my research were found on the websites of each respecting city that had all their school board policies. From this the way that all policies were being understood were going through each category on the website and understanding the different language that was being utilized to address the different groups in the communities. There are 9 different categories that reside within these websites, but my research only focused on a select few that would focus on identifying representation for the undocumented population. This entailed any extra programs or aid that was being illustrated for the

undocumented population which for example would be interpreters, programs for Non-English speakers, or nondiscrimination policies protecting immigration status.

Resolution

In this section of the thesis I establish the results of the findings from the case studies. This is divided into three different sections that help explain the importance of what was found and how it connects to the argument. The way that representation is being monitored or identified in these policies was not only by the titles, but the language being utilized to define the policy. First section identifies the relevant policies that are crucial to understanding the findings which overall helped establish the resolution. Second section will compare the policies between all case studies and explain whether non-citizen voting or demographics have a major impact on the result. With the third section this establishes the limitations with conducting this research to help future studying on this same topic.

Understanding Policies in the School Boards

School boards are important aspects that go into making the experiences for the children much more successful and inclusive of the surrounding communities. One of the major importances of these school boards is being able to elect representatives that would represent the community around them. When elected there is this notion that they will help create policies that would reflect the needs of the communities to help the children succeed (csba.org). Policies that affect the success of all students and help to expand the education system to everyone. This shows the public interest when creating policies that would aid programs that would help specific groups of students. Each school board has a set of policies that all public schools within the city will follow that set rules and regulations that have an overall effect on the students academic journeys. In California each of the school board policies has 9 different sections that are categorized in specific ways to help establish the different policies within these 9 major sections. The section titles would have a general meaning for instance, Students and within these sections would have a set of policies that would specifically

illustrate general information and requirements that students need to succeed in school.

San Francisco

The main source to understanding these different case studies and to the research would revolve around the school board policies and their representation. When looking at San Francisco we have policies created to represent the non-citizen population within the school board. Specifically, one instance where representation for non-citizens was prevalent was in “Board Policy 0500- Accountability”. One of the major highlighted points of this policy was to focus on the achievement of all different “subgroups” and within these groups they established “english learners” to be part of them (San Francisco Unified School District). With the creation of this policy it would indicate the importance that the School District has when having an overall achievement plan for their students that also includes these other groups. What this policy provides is a better understanding of the inclusion of non-citizens when making policies and the ability to combat any foreseeable problems that non-citizens would face within schools.

Now moving onto another policy we can take a look at “Board Policy 6175- Migrant Education Program”. The policy would indicate the importance of creating programs that would help eliminate any educational barriers for students dealing with “language differences, health problems, and social isolation” (San Francisco Unified School District). To further what consisted in the policy it would also be indicated that there would also be cooperation with a regional migrant education services center to help identify the migrant students. This policy can reflect the values and importance that the school board holds in helping aid migrant students when they are in difficult situations. The ability to create programs of this sort to specifically focus on migrant students would illustrate the significant impact that they have within the community.

Los Angeles

Moving into the other case study being Los Angeles there will also be a look into a few of the policies they have within their school board.

In this school board we can take a look at “Board Policy 6141(a)- Curriculum Development Evaluation” to move into the other case study and understand the types of representation being reflected from the school board in Los Angeles. This policy states to focus on the creation of a curriculum that will help students develop basic skills that would bring them academic achievements. There will be written objectives written in the curriculum for each subject area along with the different grade levels. The policy then shifts into making the curriculum also by looking at the needs of schools within Los Angeles and reflecting the same opportunities to gain success through the curriculum for all students. It is stated in the policy that this curriculum will be accessible for “all students” including “English Learners” (Los Angeles County Office of Education). When reading the policy it was reflecting that there is a strong need for reflecting values in this curriculum that will help all students. Being able to include and specifically narrow down to “English Learners” can reflect how significant this population is within Los Angeles and how the school board knows the community that surrounds them.

Now looking at another policy within the Los Angeles school board there is “Board Policy 6164.5(a)- Student Planning Teams”. This policy is created to help students that are dealing with “academic, attendance, social, emotional, or behavior issues” (Los Angeles County Office of Education). It is then further explained that with these students that are having difficulties in school they will create programs that may assist these students and this will be determined by these Student Planning Teams working with both students along with their parents. When establishing the structure of the teams it would be listed that an important aspect to add to these groups are “speech and language specialist, social worker, and community resource representative” (Los Angeles County Office of Education). This policy can reflect the understanding once again of the community surrounding the schools taking into consideration that not all students will speak the same language. Having a language specialist will ensure that will ensure that no families and

their students will miss this aid being provided by the school board to help their students get extra help they need. Additionally, the community resource representative would help connect both schools and parents together as they can reflect what the community needs that would ultimately get the attention of these teams. no families and their students will miss this aid being provided by the school board to help their students get extra help they need. Additionally, the community resource representative would help connect both schools and parents together as they can reflect what the community needs that would ultimately get the attention of these teams.

Santa Clara

The Final case study was conducted on the school board Policies of Santa Clara and again being able to identify the policies representation of non-citizens. Specifically, one of the policies in this school board is, “Board Policy 5145.13- Response To Immigrant Enforcement”. This policy wants to ensure that the environment of these schools in Santa Clara will reflect a welcoming and safe place for “all students and their families irrespective of their immigration status” (Santa Clara Unified School District). This policy ensures that the school district will keep the information of immigration status private and not share this with any forms of immigration enforcement. This also comes with the ability to provide all students with equal opportunities and rights that will prevent any discrimination within the schools. What this policy reflects is the ability to protect non-citizens and give them the safety they need to have their children in schools. Creating an environment that will not be hostile to the children nor the parents as this policy is being implemented to eliminate any notions that they could be turned into any immigration enforcement.

A final policy that will be depicted is the “Board Policy 5020- Parent Rights and Responsibilities”. This policy wants to focus on the relationship that the Superintendent and the parents have in the success of their students in these schools. It is specifically stated in this bill that they will aid “parents/guardians of English Learners”, to help determine different roles and responsibilities

that these parents/guardians have. Along with this the policy established that it's the schools responsibility to provide programs that are supportive of the environment that allows students to meet academic expectations (Santa Clara Unified School District). What this bill provides non-citizens with is the ability to become included directly in their childrens success. Building a relationship with the community with these programs that would focus on non-citizen children or children of non-citizens. This focuses more on being able to communicate with the schools and help their children thrive within the academic system with these built relationships.

The figure below will illustrate a table chart that illustrates the number of policies that I found with representation within the school board of each case study. Being able to establish the amount of representative policies within each school board is important to the results in this research. To further explain this the rest of the paper expands and will refer back to this figure to help understand the case studies:

FIGURE ONE

| Case study | Number of Representative Policies |
|---------------|-----------------------------------|
| San Francisco | 18 |
| Los Angeles | 10 |
| Santa Clara | 10 |

Comparing School Board Policies

A crucial aspect to this research would revolve around seeing which cities had more representative policies. In this section there would be a comparing and contrasting aspect of the policies between the case studies which will help understand whether non-citizen voting is an important aspect to the number of policies that are created in the San Francisco case study. Along with this being able to understand the demographic differences between all case studies and seeing if this might be a major effect on the policies that are being created. When conducting

this research it would be important to have accurate results thus being the reason why having two large cities such as San Francisco and Los Angeles was crucial. Not only looking at the largeness of the cities but also being able to identify that these two cities have a significantly large non-citizen population. Then looking into the final case study Santa Clara this would not be compared to the same sizes of these two cities, but looking more at the demographic similarities in the non-citizen population.

It is crucial to this paper that looking at major differences in policies be made clear. Being able to identify the difference in ability to explain ways to help the non-citizen community. Representation is the major key here when looking at these policies which not only looks at the Board policy title but also the language they use to describe the different policieS they are creating. Thorough descriptions about what is being done within these policies was also important to understand.

San Francisco and Los Angeles

San Francisco is the case study that allows

non-citizen voting to vote in the school board elections. This was passed back in the year 2016 as Proposition N which was created to allow non-citizens that were at the legal age to vote in school board Elections (spurg.org). This was important to my research as my argument would focus on the fact that San Francisco would reflect more representative policies on behalf of the non-citizen community with their ability to vote. Los Angeles does not allow non-citizens to vote in the school board Elections which would give the implications that these policies would

be less representative Overall. To this research and the argument it is identified that there should be more representation in policies within San Francisco because of the ability to have non-citizen voting but this is not the case when comparing it to Los Angeles reflects otherwise.

When starting to compare both cities and policies there were immediate differences that illustrate that San Francisco did not have the most representative policies. With the table in the previous section it would be indicated that San Francisco only had ten representative policies in their school board. Then being able to look at Los Angeles they had eighteen policies that would reflect the disapproval of the overall argument. Not only was it the representations within the policies but Los Angeles Board policies would be extensive and descriptive to what they wanted to expand on referring to non-citizens help or aid. For instance, when looking at policies within Los Angeles there were descriptions that state “English Learners, Immigrants, unduplicated students, etc...”. The Language that was being used in San Francisco was general and was not using descriptive terms to identify the non-citizen groups. Not only this but Los Angeles also would establish policies that were not identified within the San Francisco School Board. However, this was also another observation when looking into the San Francisco School Board policies but there would still remain less than Los Angeles. Which ultimately would establish that although non-citizens have the ability to vote in San Francisco the policies have reflected to be more representative in Los Angeles.

What this would not illustrate would be the fact or to this being more representative within Los Angeles which is demographics. Los Angeles would illustrate that a large portion of the demographic resides with the Hispanic/Latino community which is a total of 48.4% of the overall population (United States Census Bureau). Along with this below illustrates the demographic breakdown of most commonly migrated regions from both San Francisco and Los Angeles. What this now adds to the results

of the research is taking a look into the possible demographic effect of Los Angeles that has been reflected to be more representative in the school board policies. In the pie charts below this illustrates the differences in demographics between San Francisco and Los Angeles along with being able to establish the main regions in which the most people migrate from..

Figure 2 (San Francisco)

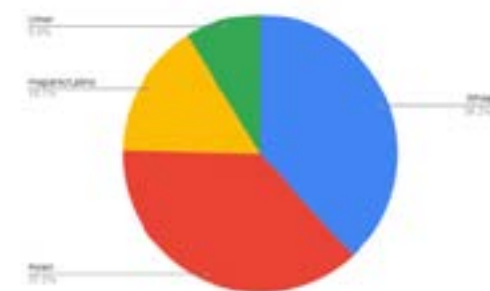


Figure 3 (Los Angeles)



Figure 4 (San Francisco)

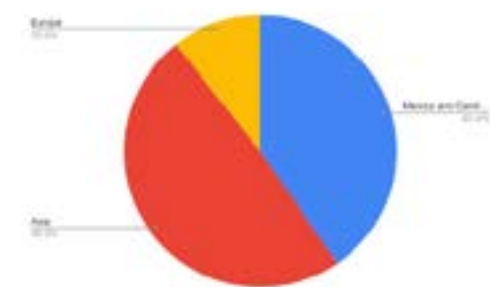
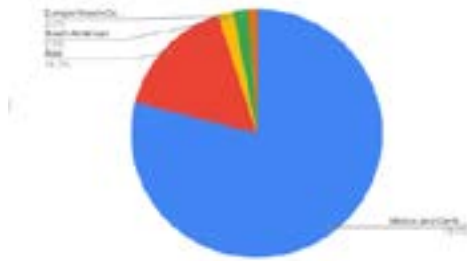


Figure 5 (Los Angeles)



San Francisco and Santa Clara

Now having understood the policies and demographics for San Francisco I compared them to those of Santa Clara. Santa Clara is another city that doesn't allow non-citizen voting in school board Elections and looking at the demographic size it is indicated to be much smaller. However, the reason why Santa Clara was an important case to look at was it shared the same demographic characteristics within the non-citizen population which helped further the understanding of why non-citizen voting was less representative in the board policies. San Francisco would already illustrate to have less representative school board policies compared to Los Angeles now comparing these policies to another city such as Santa Clara that doesn't have non-citizen voting helps to further the understanding on why this is the outcome.

Looking back at the graph within Section 1 it would be illustrated that both San Francisco and Santa Clara have the same amount of representative policies in the school board. When looking at these two case studies once again there was a focus on the language that was being utilized to describe the policies along with how descriptive they are. Many of the policies had the same amounts of descriptions when talking about non-citizens along with having some policies that were the same that Los Angeles didn't have. Specifically, when looking at one policy that these two cases had would be the Migrant Education Policy which used similar language to describe the way that this policy would aid migrants.

To have an overall outcome of being the same representation would indicate that there is another outlying factor to the amounts of representation within the school boards. From this there would be another focus on the demographics that separate or compare these two case studies. When looking at the demographic breakdown of these two cities it indicated that Santa Clara and San Francisco have the same type of demographic characteristics. Specifically, San Francisco has a majority Asian population at 37.2% and the Hispanic/Latino population is 15.7% (Migration Policy Institute). Now looking at Santa Clara the population breakdown is similar to San Francisco as this city has a majority Asian population at 45.9% and a Hispanic/Latino 15.8% (Migration Policy Institute). This could help reflect the similarities in demographic breakdown which is important to the comparison between case studies. To have the most effective results when comparing these two case studies, having to find a city that is similar in demographics. The figures below would illustrate the overall demographic breakdown of Santa Clara in a pie graph and the data this was collected from was the United States Census Bureau:

Figure 6 (Santa Clara)



Figure 7 (Santa Clara)



Santa Clara and Los Angeles

When looking at these two case studies it is important to understand that they both didn't allow non-citizens the ability to vote in school board Elections. When referring back to Figure 1 it would be illustrated that Los Angeles has more representative policies within their school board compared to Santa Clara. Being able to look at these policies illustrated the same comparisons that were being made with San Francisco. From looking at the way that policies were being represented in Los Angeles a new notion was brought to mind that was going to have Santa Clara show the same amount of policies as Los Angeles due to this action of not having non-citizen voting. This was something that is also disproved as having the same amount of policies that are representatives as San Francisco would indicate that Los Angeles still remains higher in their representation. Not only is Santa Clara less representative compared to Los Angeles but there is the same lack of thorough description in the policies that is only found in Los Angeles policies. Many of the policies would remain brief and don't expand thoroughly within Santa Clara.

The results within these two case studies are similar to the San Francisco case study, but the major outlying factor within these two is the difference in demographic breakdown. Santa Clara has a majority Asian population at 45.9% and when looking at the Hispanic/Latino population it is 15.8% (United States Census Bureau). Now looking at how this compares to Los Angeles the city's demographic breakdown has an Asian population of 11.7% and a

Hispanic/Latino population that makes up 48.4% (United States Census Bureau). Within Santa Clara the main regions of migration are almost split between Asia 41.8%(Migrant Policy Institute), then looking at the Mexico and Central America region being 52%. This would help understand the factor of demographics and how this could possibly be the factor that is influencing the school board policies since these two cities don't allow non-citizens to vote.

This case study would illustrate an interesting way of preserving these results as Los Angeles was more representative when not allowing non-citizen voting. Santa Clara also falling under this category implied that it would possibly be more representative when being compared to San Francisco but this was not the case. Santa Clara did have a major split in non-citizen population compared to Los Angeles. With the time doing this research there was not enough time to further the understanding on the possible changes that demographics would have in the representation of non-citizens in school boards.

Limitations

The limitations to this research was that there were no direct sources that would illustrate the amount of non-citizens that were voting nor was this information that would be available to the public. Having the ability to show statistics about how many non-citizens were voting would have helped to strengthen the understanding of this research. It would have helped to further understand the overall effects of non-citizen voting as the number of how many of them are voting in these school board elections is important to note. Reports are something that were scarce when looking at the possible numbers. There was general numbers and data on non-citizens within all case studies but it was difficult to narrow down to this specific research. This would have been something tedious to find as non-citizens would not want to have their information identified to the public as they often want their identities to be protected.

Prior to this when dealing with the literature review there were difficulties finding literature on this topic of non-citizen voting.

This was not a topic that was widely spread throughout the country and not all states would allow this. Then moving into the scholarly article for this research this was something that was also difficult to identify. Being such a specific topic within the non-citizens, much literature was not written focusing on the school boards. The literature that was found was general and didn't focus on the topic of individuals but more of a general understanding on non-citizens effects "if allowed to vote". The topic wasn't something that was easy to research on being that the non-citizen topic itself is very large and falls into many categories.

One final limitation was being able to further the understanding of what the demographic effect was. Due to time constrictions this was something I was unable to further look into. This would be very interesting to understand as having different groups of non-citizen populations between all three cities could help indicate why policies in cities that don't allow the non-citizen voting to become more understood. Along with this not having the ability to understand if the effect of the elected representatives played a major role based on their own personal demographic and how this could impact their. There were also time limitations with being able to understand what effect this might have had on the representation and this could possibly illustrate a major effect when looking at Los Angeles.

Conclusion

Going back to the main argument that non-citizen voting would reflect more representations in the school board policies, it has been proven that this is not the case. This research has allowed for the comparison of policies within three case studies in which one does allow non-citizen voting to illustrate that this was not the outcome. The Policies that were more representative would side with the city that doesn't allow non-citizen voting which was Los Angeles. San Francisco and Santa Clara illustrated the same amount of representative policies as each other and dealt with the same problem that was identified in not having descriptive policies compared to Los Angeles. Specifically, being

able to identify the different language that was being utilized in these policies to identify the community along with having the non-citizen community directly stated within the policies. Representation is the major factor in this research that has helped understand where the non-citizen community impacts the school board. This then illustrates the major finding that non-citizen voting might not be the only major factor that is contributing to these policies being created. Rather the large community of non-citizens that surround these school boards which would help specific individuals to obtain the ability to represent the communities of non-citizens with direct understanding of their needs.

School boards hold the importance of success for the future of the country and being able to make this more accessible to all the students is something that influenced this paper. Working towards the importance of how being able to involve a community that cannot directly change their environment through votes but by their presence. Being able to expand off this with this research would help to identify not only the importance of the school board and its success towards all their students but also the impacts of their community. Having a large demographic community around these cities has identified that this would amount to the large amounts of representation in the school board. These school board members are being elected to help voice the opinions and wants for the individuals that are there in the communities they want to advise for. Especially, when dealing with large communities such as the non-citizens one that is found within California. These three case studies were chosen due to their large non-citizen population that helped obtain accurate findings as this state homes the large portion of non-citizens that work and attend the educational system that is implemented within the many cities.

Having this all in mind it would be indicated that even though non-citizens are allowed to vote in school board elections this does not reflect on the number of representation they see within the policies. This research has reflected that voting is not the catalyst that reflects these

policies for the non-citizen rather the size of their population and demographic characteristics. However, this research has yet to be concluded as being able to understand these demographic influences is crucial to further expand upon. As previously state demographics did start to illustrate a great importance in the amounts of representation that these cities would illustrate in the polices but one major aspect is that this paper did not cover. The demographic background of the elected representative would be something important to start to look at rather than the demographic as a whole. This would help expand on whether they are the result of more representative policies or less representative policies. Along with this the ability to understand why having different representatives of the opposite demographic could be the result of the lack of description and thoroughness within the policies in San Francisco and Santa Clara. Not only being able to further the demographic understanding but also being able to understand this in the perspective of other states that fit the same category of these cities that would help obtain accurate findings. There were other cities in the east coast that did allow non-citizen voting but they did not have school boards instead the school policies were being created by the city directly.

Finally, being able to move into other major aspects that would create these representative policies would help further this research. Specifically, looking at the relationship between non-citizens and citizens that surround each other and whether this has an impact on the way the citizens are voting. This being another possible major factor that could help influence other effects that might be contributing to the amounts of representation in school board policies in general. Being able to identify more aspects that have major impacts would help to understand the importance of voting and advocacy for non-citizens.

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