A Voting Rights Minute!

Becerra Elected Governor



Congratulations to Xavier Becerra, Senior Advisor and Voting Rights Counsel at the UCLA Voting Rights Project (VRP) on his historic election as Governor of California! He will become the state's first directly elected Latino governor and the first Latino to hold the office since Romualdo Pacheco more than 150 years ago.

The VRP has been fortunate to work alongside Governor-elect Becerra in protecting and safeguarding voting rights. We are proud to celebrate this tremendous accomplishment and wish him every success as he begins this next chapter of public service.

VRP and CHIRLA Secure Court Victory Against DHS, Protecting California Voters

A federal judge granted a preliminary injunction blocking the federal government from forcing California election officials to segregate ballots or change election procedures based on lists of suspected noncitizens. The ruling comes in a lawsuit brought by the Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights (CHIRLA) and California voter Pedro Trujillo, represented by attorneys from CHIRLA and the VRP, including Senior Advisor and Voting Rights Counsel Xavier Becerra.

Chief Judge James E. Boasberg found that the government's demands likely violate the Constitution's Elections Clause because the Executive Branch lacks the authority to dictate how states verify voter citizenship and count ballots. The court also found that eligible voters had been wrongly included on the government's lists, putting their voting rights at risk.

Read more here.

VRP Files Lawsuit Challenging Blaine County, Montana's Voting Districts

On November 4, three voters filed a federal lawsuit challenging Blaine County's commissioner district map for violating the U.S. Constitution's one-person, one-vote principle, which requires electoral districts to have roughly equal populations. The county's three districts have significant population disparities, diluting the voting power of Native American residents. The VRP and Helena-based Upper Seven Law represent the plaintiffs.

Read more here.

Did you know? 💡

- In the time between the 2025 Special Election and the 2026 Primary Election, California's registered electorate grew by 66,749 voters. However, while counties participating in the VCA (Voter's Choice Act) had their registered electorates grow by 158,010 voters, non-VCA county electorates shrunk by 91,261 voters.
    - The county with the largest numerical growth in registered electorate was Los Angeles County (44,263), while the county with the largest numerical decline was Kern County (-3,802).
    - The county with the most drastic percentage growth in registered electorate was Trinity County (2.83%), while the county with the most drastic percentage decline was Plumas County (-3.06%).

Source: (Utilizing BISG on the 2025 Special Election Voter File, Utilizing BISG on the 2026 Primary Election Voter File)

Post-Litigation Success!

- San Juan, NM jurisdictions that VRP advocated for had an increase in Native American representation. Two Navajo candidates of choice were elected to the County Commission!

- The redrawn 14th Legislative District in Washington, which was a result of the VRP's Soto Palmer v. Hobbs litigation, elected two Latino candidates of choice.

VRP in the News

“If you’re a voter in California you have to wonder if you’re on this list; will you ever be on this list?” said Chad Dunn, VRP Legal Director, during a federal court hearing in Washington D.C. for the *CHIRLA and Trujillo v. DHS* case.

Katie Daquino, VRP legal fellow, told the Daily Bruin: “Our right to vote is central to our democracy. It is our ability to have a voice. Eroding this right effectively silences whole communities. The VRP helps to amplify our voices by protecting and enriching the right to vote.”

VRP Faculty Director and Senior Data Scientist find dozens of confirmed naturalized citizens on the DHS's list of ineligible voters

"When there are stricter voter ID laws, participation in elections tends to drop, with a disproportionate impact on people of color." said Emily Woo, VRP Senior Fellow.

"More than 4 in 10 names flagged as possible noncitizen voters in California by the Trump administration cannot be found on the state's voter rolls..."

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

A huge congratulations to two of our former VRP fellows, Grayson Rost and Matthew Cooke, on passing the California Bar exam! Both served as legal fellows with the UCLA Voting Rights Project for a year, contributing legal research and writing in support of litigation in state and federal courts. We're proud of their accomplishments and wish them all the best as they embark on their legal careers!





💼Employment Opportunities - Come work with the VRP!🚨

Staff Attorney

The UCLA Voting Rights Project (VRP) seeks an experienced litigation, trial, and appellate attorney to work on a new project focused on California county, city, school, and state redistricting plans and election policies. Reporting to the Legal Director, the staff attorney/California Voting Rights Counsel will play a critical role in the VRP, developing a new program along with data scientists, to track and analyze redistricting plans and proposed changes within local jurisdictions throughout the state of California. See the full job description here.

Paralegal 2

The UCLA Voting Rights Project (VRP) seeks an experienced paralegal to provide legal support to our attorneys. The paralegal will: assemble, proof, and edit documents, such as notice letters, complaints, discovery requests, subpoenas, pleadings and appellate briefs; prepare and file legal documents with appropriate entities; maintain case files and accurate calendar of deadlines; act as a liaison with clients, outside counsel, and external organizations; compile data from various sources, legal digests, and practice manuals; conduct research on projects as directed by attorneys; assist with trial and deposition preparation and assistance, analyze and redact documents, and prepare chronologies, litigation holds, e-Discovery, counseling on progress of cases, and more. See the full job description here.

How else can I support the VRP?

We will be sure to update you on community events, opportunities, or individual actions you can take that support our mission. If you are interested in collaborating or sponsoring our work on a larger scale, please reach out to us at info@uclavrp.org.

If you would like to support research, policy advocacy, and impact litigation to promote equal access to voting for all Americans, please donate here. We appreciate your support!

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