A Voting Rights Minute!



***CHIRLA v. DHS:* VRP Legal Team Heads to D.C. to Seek Emergency Court Order**

Following two weeks of legal briefings, UCLA Voting Rights Project Legal Director Chad Dunn will appear this morning before the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia to argue on behalf of plaintiff Pedro Trujillo and CHIRLA. The legal team is seeking a temporary restraining order (TRO) to prevent the federal government from interfering with California's ongoing election by pressuring state and county election officials to use what the plaintiffs argue are highly inaccurate lists of alleged noncitizens to determine voter eligibility.

Matt Barreto and Sonni Waknin Join Brennan Center's Kevin Morris for Voting Rights Discussions in Sacramento



On October 27, VRP Faculty Director Matt Barreto and Senior Staff Attorney Sonni Waknin joined Brennan Center Senior Research Fellow Kevin Morris and other voting rights experts and advocates in Sacramento for two panel discussions examining the past, present, and future of voting rights. The first panel of the program explored the history of the Voting Rights Act and the legal challenges it has faced. The second one focused on the changing legal landscape and the role of attorneys in protecting voting rights and access to the democratic process.

Bernadette Reyes leads panel discussion at Luskin School of Public Affairs on election 2026 voting rights election issues

Yesterday, convened by the UCLA Luskin Institute on Inequality and Democracy and the Luskin Public Policy Department, the Institute on Inequality and Democracy hosted a panel of scholars from departments across UCLA. Panelists, including: Bernadette Reyes, UCLA Voting Rights Project; Jasmine Hill, UCLA Dept. of Public Policy; Ananya Roy, UCLA Dept. of Urban Planning; Daniel Thompson, UCLA Dept. of Political Science; Lynn Vavreck, UCLA Dept. of Political Science; Zev Yaroslavsky, UCLA Dept. of Public Policy, shared reflections on the key races, election protection, voter turnout, redistricting, polling and prediction markets, and the factors shaping voters' decisions in these critical elections.

Did you know? 💡

Of the 435 seats in the U.S. House of Representatives, only 50 are considered competitive in the 2026 elections, according to the Cook Political Report's House

Race Ratings. Of those, 16 districts have a minority citizen voting-age population of at least 35%, according to the 2024 five-year American Community Survey (ACS).

Congressional District:	Minority CVAP %:	Congressional District:	Minority CVAP %:
FL-27	68.1%	AL-02	44.1%
CA-22	59.9%	FL-22	41.6%
TX-34	56.1%	FL-25	39.2%
TX-15	54.4%	NC-01	38.5%
NM-02	52.1%	FL-14	38.4%
TX-23	50.4%	VA-02	38.2%
TX-35	49.0%	AK-AL	35.4%
CA-48	44.4%	AZ-02	35.2%

With the cost of living being the top issue on voters' minds (Marist October 2026 Poll), it is important to note that on average, these 16 congressional districts have a median household income of $71,865, about $9k less than the national average of $80,734.

Source: 2024 5-year ACS, 2026 CPR House Race Ratings, U.S. Midterm Elections, October 2026

VRP in the News

CA Federal Court blocks DOJ election interference citing Dr. Kassra Oskooii expert report

NPR highlighted the work of Dr. Kassra Oskooii, a VRP research collaborator and voting rights expert, whose analysis raised concerns about the reliability of the federal government's methods for identifying alleged noncitizens on California's voter rolls.

UCLA Voting Rights Project Senior Data Scientist Michael Rios talks with The Daily Californian, explains that Proposition 39 would require in-person voters to present government-issued IDs at the polls

VRP Senior Research Analyst Michael Rios was featured in The Daily Californian's coverage of concerns surrounding ICE enforcement and mail-in voting ahead of the 2026 midterm elections, offering expert insight into election security and voter participation.

💼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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