

Metodología y fuentes de información

La información utilizada en esta investigación proviene de diversas fuentes. Una de las principales fue el censo de población de Estados Unidos (1990 y 2000), mismo que se utilizó para exponer las variables socioeconómicas y demográficas del estado de California y particularmente las que corresponden a nuestro caso de estudio: el distrito federal electoral No.34 del estado referido. Aunque éste presentó cambios poblacionales tras el censo de 2000, convirtiéndose del distrito No.33 al 34, se utilizó el censo de 2000 para el análisis de esta investigación. Esto, debido a que dicho proceso engloba un periodo crucial de la historia del distrito: desde su creación en 1992 hasta el año 2000, antes del proceso de redistribución. Aunque las diferencias en cuanto a las características demográficas y socioeconómicas que presentó el distrito tras el censo de 2000 no fueron muy dramáticas, se exponen algunos datos modificados del censo (del Congreso No.108) para presentar los cambios surgidos del proceso de redistribución al interior del distrito y mostrar el contexto actual de éste; así como también para comprobar que los factores demográficos y socioeconómicos del distrito no han variado significativamente.

Debido a que la mayoría de los datos socioeconómicos y demográficos del censo poblacional de EUA sólo proporcionan información de la población hispana en general, la mayoría de los datos utilizados para el análisis de esta investigación—enfocada a la comunidad mexicano-americana—se sustentan en dicha población. De la población hispana en nuestro caso de estudio (86 por ciento de la población total del distrito), el 73.7 por ciento es de origen mexicano. En este estudio, se incluyen algunos datos socioeconómicos de dicho grupo étnico, los cuales fueron proporcionados por Tim Fitzgerald de la División de Población del Censo. Esto se logró a través de la oficina del la congresista Roybal-Allard en Washington DC. Cabe la pena señalar que la tabulación de las gráficas que marcan al censo como fuente, fue efectuada por la autora de esta tesis.

El Almanaque Político de Estados Unidos de 2004, fue otra fuente de información en la que se sustenta esta investigación. Éste se utilizó en la obtención de porcentajes de población hispana en cada uno de los distritos federales (435) de la unión americana, para de esta manera obtener el total de distritos de mayoría-hispana nacionalmente y en el estado de California. Dicho documento también sirvió de referencia para obtener datos fundamentales de los distritos federales y sus representantes. Éstos incluyen factores geográficos, socioeconómicos, demográficos, porcentajes electorales e históricos, entre otros.

Para el análisis de la tendencia de voto (*roll call voting*) de Lucille Roybal-Allard y la evaluación de la representación sustantiva de ésta, nos basamos en los estudios que proporciona *The National Hispanic Leadership Agenda* (NHLA) al público en general vía electrónica. Dicha organización monitorea los votos de los legisladores nacionales, con base en asuntos claves relacionados a la comunidad hispana, los cuales son determinados por una serie de organizaciones latinas en EUA. Dichos asuntos incluyen: derechos civiles, medio ambiente, presupuesto, migración, servicios públicos y derechos electorales, principalmente. Así, NHLA evalúa la tendencia de cada legislador según la postura que fue establecida por la misma institución. Los periodos analizados por NHLA datan del Congreso No. 105 (1997-1998) hasta el No.107 (2001-2002), mismos que se incluyen en esta investigación.

Los diversos porcentajes de empadronamiento electoral y votos obtenidos por Lucille Roybal-Allard (LRA) y sus opositores fueron obtenidos de dos fuentes principales. En cuanto a la primera, se obtuvo información vía electrónica del registro oficial de empadronamiento que proporciona la Secretaría del Estado de California. Con relación a los porcentajes de votos, se acudió a la *Office of the Clerk: House of Representatives*; fuente oficial del Congreso, accesible vía electrónica. Por lo que respecta a las cifras que corresponden al voto y tendencias electorales de los

latinos y mexicano-americanos, éstas se sustentan en investigaciones realizadas por reconocidas organizaciones no gubernamentales (ONGs) en su mayoría latinas, enfocadas principalmente al estado de California. Tales como: *The Tomás Rivera Policy Institute*, *Latinos Issues Forum*, *Public Policy Institute of California*, *Southwest Voter Registration Education Project* y *The William C. Velásquez Institute*, entre las principales.

En cuanto a la literatura referida en este análisis, la mayoría fue obtenida a través de los servicios que ofrece la Biblioteca del Congreso de EUA: acceso a bases electrónicas, ProQuest por ejemplo y consulta de bibliografía en general, entre otros. Asimismo, se realizaron diversas entrevistas a personajes que de alguna manera están involucrados en la temática que aborda esta investigación.

La estancia en la oficina de la congresista Roybal-Allard en Washington DC, como becaria en el verano de 2003, facilitó la obtención de datos particulares referentes al distrito como: la publicidad e información de las campañas de reelección de la congresista en cuestión, talleres de ciudadanía y servicios en general. Éstos fueron proporcionados por personal de las oficinas de la legisladora Royball-Allard, tanto en la ciudad de Los Ángeles como en Washington DC.

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