
APPENDIX FOUR: Questionnaire for Members of Congress

Many scholars claim that Latinos in general and Mexican Americans in particular in Los Angeles County are “politically inactive,” and they suggest that this may be due to residential dispersion, high percentages of individuals 20 years of age or younger, as well as high percentages of individuals and families living under the poverty line. Do you agree or disagree with these statements? Please comment.

As a member of Congress representing a district with a significant percentage of Mexican American constituents, do you feel that this population in particular comprises a community with special needs? If so, what are they, and how do you address them? If not, please elaborate.

Please provide a brief description of the average constituent in your Congressional district. What qualities in a Congressional representative does this individual desire?

It is a widely accepted truth that the Mexican-American population in L.A. County is a highly diverse one, comprised of newly arrived immigrants, blue collar and white collar members of the labor force, low- and middle-class families, college students, entrepreneurs, etc. In your opinion, does this diversity hinder the political development of Mexican Americans in Los Angeles County? Or does this diversity provide opportunities for politically marginalized individuals to seek empowerment through “niche politics”?