Who Votes in California?

The active voting population in California is not a reflection of the general population demographics. Compared to their proportion of the population, white non-Latinos and older voters were overrepresented among active voters in the 2016 election. Despite the large size of the Latino population, they are a relatively small share of the electorate.

1. What do you think might account for the differences in turnout rates among different groups in California? Why is turnout among whites and blacks so much higher than among Latinos and Asians? Why is turnout among older voters higher than among young voters?

2. Looking ahead, what impact will the shifting electorate have on California politics, when the percentage of Latinos in the population increases and percentage of whites decreases, as described in Chapter 1?