



Rob Paral and Associates

Research and evaluation for family and community development

The “New American” Electorate:

The Growing Political Power of Immigrants And Their Children

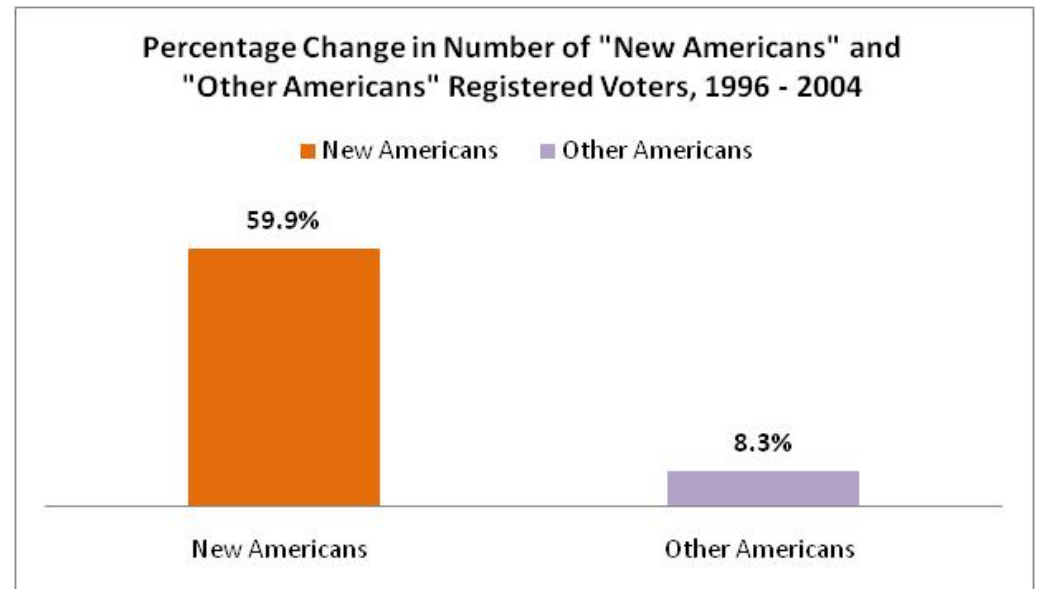
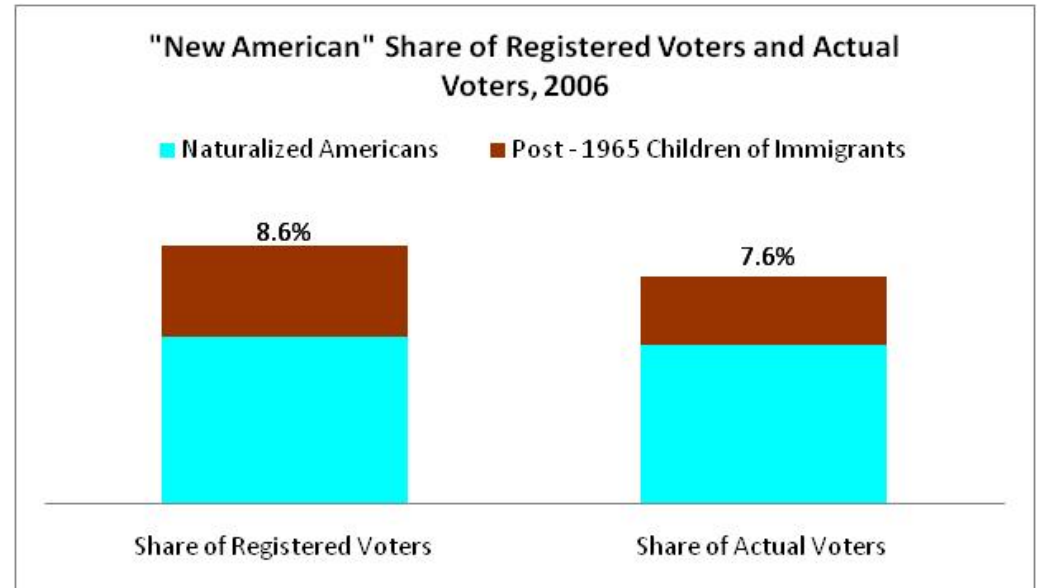
Rob Paral and Madura Wijewardena

September 23, 2008

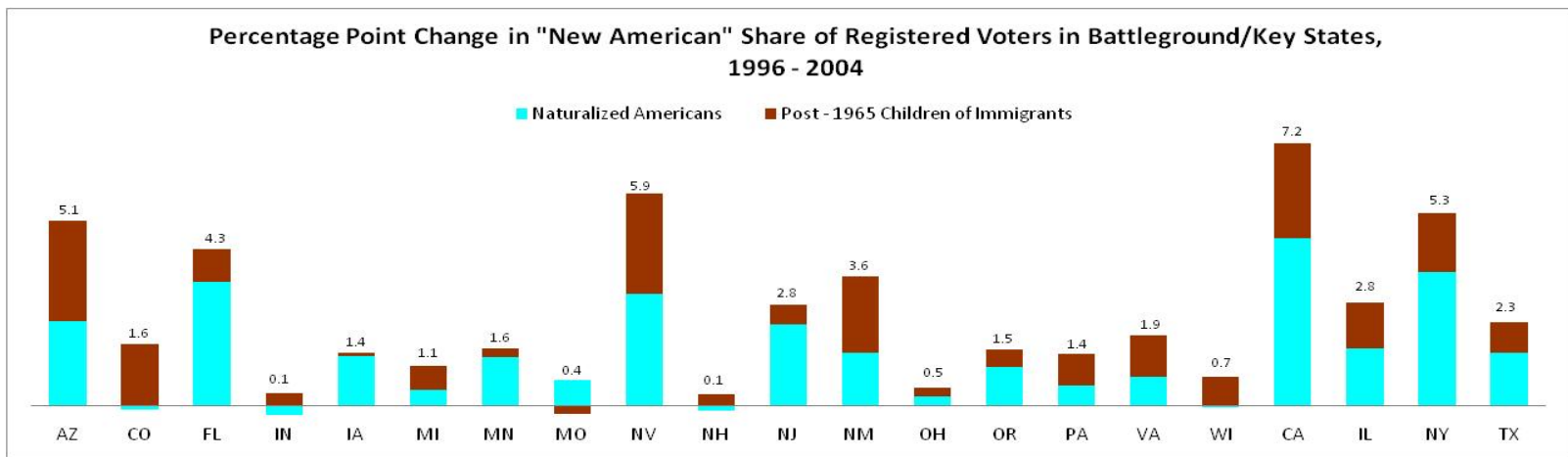
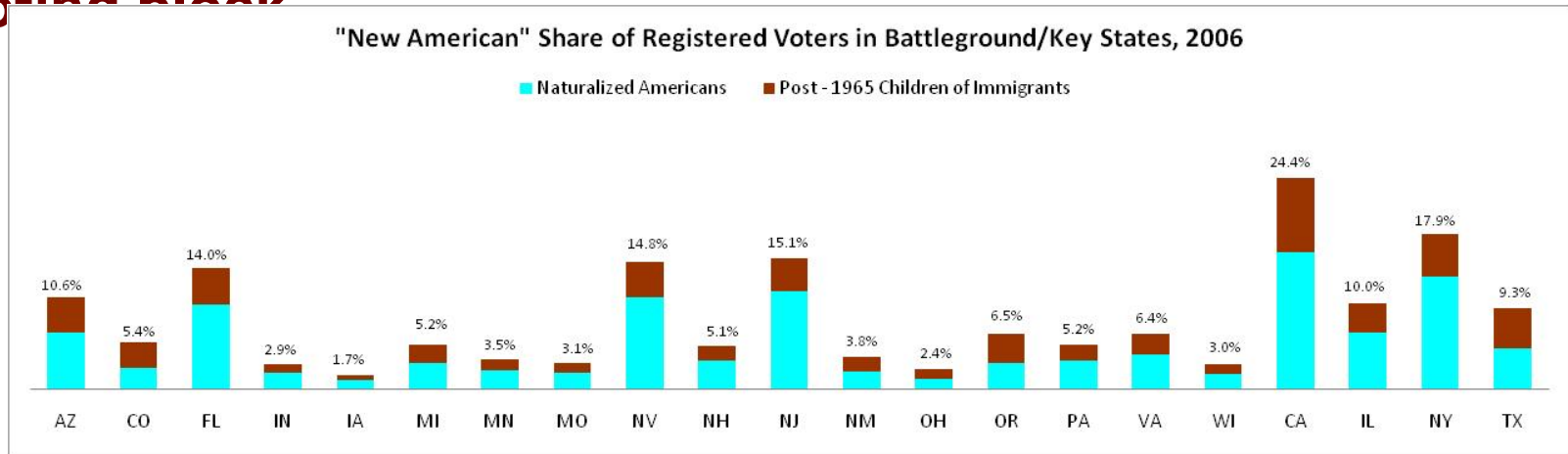
Washington, DC

National: Electoral power of New Americans is significant and growing

- Unique study of “New Americans”:
 - Naturalized immigrants (“Naturalized Americans”)
 - U.S.- born children of immigrants who were born in 1965 or later (Post-1965 Children of Immigrants”)
- 2006: Close to one in 10 registered voters was a New American
- Between Presidential elections: New American registered voters grew by 60 percent



Battlegrounds: New Americans are pivotal and growing voting block



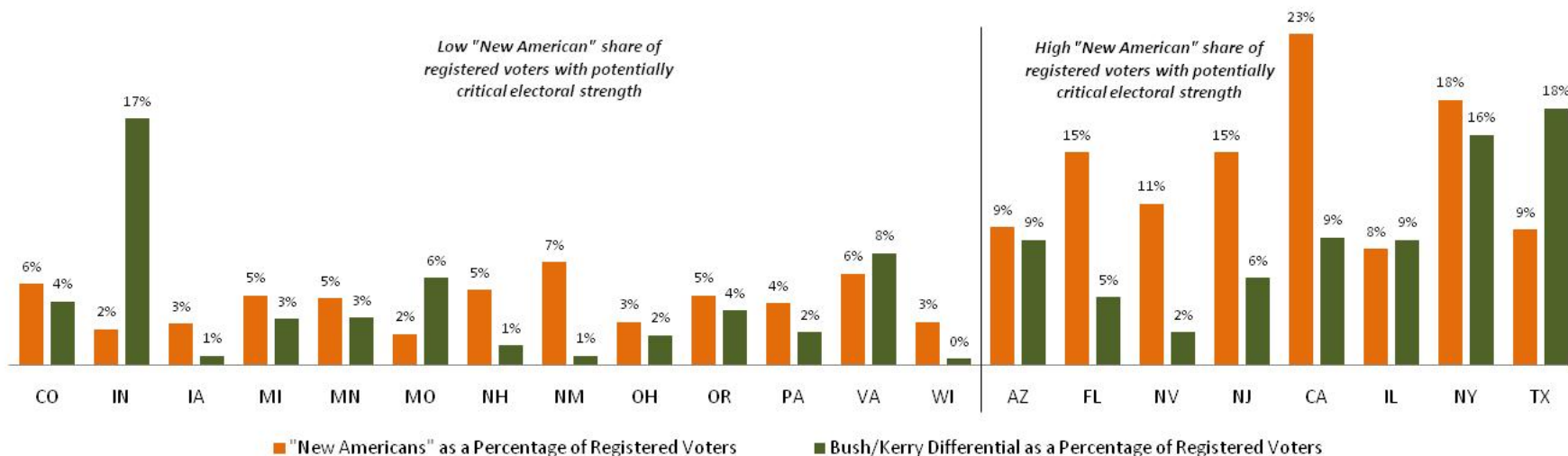
- 2006: New American share is well above the national average in some battleground states
- Between Presidential elections: New American share of registered voters grew in every battleground state

Battlegrounds: New American electoral power is greater than their numbers suggest

Electoral Strength of "New Americans" in Battleground/Key States, 2004

Low "New American" share of registered voters with potentially critical electoral strength

High "New American" share of registered voters with potentially critical electoral strength



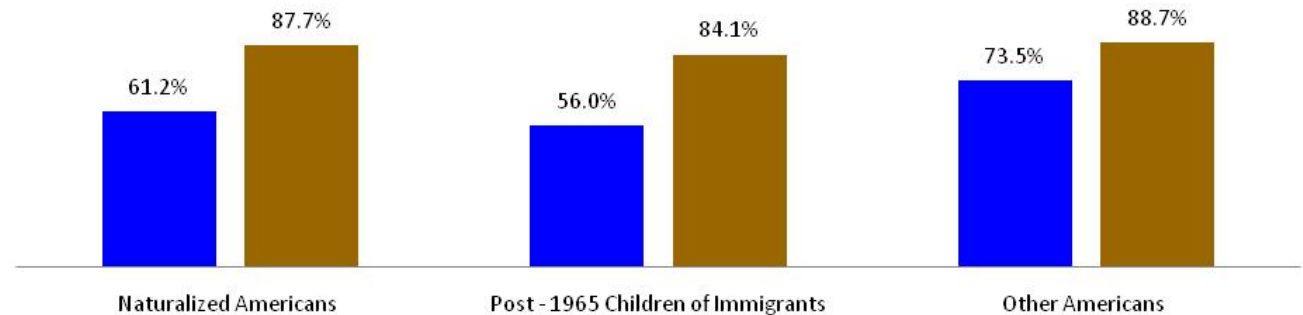
- Small number of New Americans can tip critical battleground states:
 - In OH, New Americans are 3 percent of registered voters -- 177 000 persons -- and yet in 2004, OH was won by 2 percent of registered voters – 119 000 persons
- Small number of New Americans in a handful of states can have critical electoral power

Electoral power of New Americans will continue to grow

- Turnout is not the issue
- Registration is the issue
- Once registration reaches that of other groups, electoral power of New Americans will be even greater

Voter Registration & Turnout Rates of Naturalized Americans, Post - 1965 Children of Immigrants & Other Americans, 2004

■ Share of voting age citizens who are registered to vote ■ Share of registered voters who actually voted



Voter Registration & Turnout Rates by Race/Ethnicity, 2004

■ Share of voting age citizens who are registered to vote ■ Share of registered voters who actually voted

