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DEMOCRACY IN IMMIGRANT AMERICA **Changing Demographics and Political Participation**

By S. Karthick Ramakrishnan

“No question is more challenging to the understanding of the future of American democracy than the impact of immigration on our political and social life. Karthick Ramakrishnan's book is an important and sophisticated analysis of the subject. He brings new data and new understanding. It will be of value to all who want to know what the future of American civic life will be.” —Professor Sidney Verba, Government Department, Harvard University

“*Democracy in Immigrant America* presents a wealth of new insights into immigrant political incorporation, while persistently and profitably challenging existing models of political participation. Ramakrishnan's book should make an immediate impact in several disciplines and be of considerable interest to policy analysts, political consultants, interest group advocates, and party activists.” —Taeku Lee, Department of Political Science, University of California, Berkeley

“Karthick Ramakrishnan unifies the scholarship on Latino and Asian American voting behavior with the scholarship on immigrant voting behavior to present a theoretically and empirically rich analysis of ethnic voting in the United States. All scholars of American voting behavior who seek to understand the nation's future electorates should have this volume on their shelves.” —Louis DeSipio, School of Social Sciences, University of California, Irvine

In recent elections, both the Republican and Democratic parties have made a special effort to appeal to immigrant communities. As the immigrant population in the United States grows, and as their descendents integrate to varying degrees into all aspects of society, the political import of immigrants becomes of greater concern to the political

establishment. *Democracy in Immigrant America* is the first in-depth study of voter participation among first- and second-generation immigrants in the United States.

The growing number of immigrants to the United States is quickly changing the racial and ethnic makeup of the American electorate. Naturalized citizens today account for 6 percent of the adult citizen population in the United States, while second-generation immigrants make up 8 percent. In the next two decades, these two groups will account for more than 20 percent of the American electorate. Longer stay in the United States generally means higher turnout, so immigrants will account for a larger share of the voting population than they currently do today.

This book explores the voting participation of immigrants and the ways in which voter turnout can be increased. By bringing forth the pertinent questions and their surprising answers, *Democracy in Immigrant America* points the way towards a new research agenda in immigrant politics.

S. Karthick Ramakrishnan is a research fellow at the Public Policy Institute of California.

240 pp. 2004

\$45.00 (cloth)

0-8047-5044-0

To arrange an event or interview with the author, please call Puja Sangar at (650) 724-4211.