Southwest Voter Research Institute, Inc.

1988-1989
BIENNIAL REPORT
The Southwest Voter Research Institute is a tax-exempt, non-profit, non-partisan organization chartered in 1984 to conduct research aimed at improving the level of political participation in Hispanic communities. This report covers the activities of the Institute in 1988 and 1989.

The photographic art included in this report comes from Alan Pogue's vast collection of objective looks into the truths of human suffering, human dignity, and human hope. SVRI is proud to include Pogue's work as he successfully combines art with a deep concern for humanity.
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America is changing. A new generation of Americans will literally change the face of our nation. The America at the end of this century and at the beginning of the next will be more Hispanic than it has ever been in its history.

The dramatic growth of the Hispanic population in the United States is fueling this demographic transformation of American life. Hispanics are the second largest and fastest growing minority in the country, numbering more than 22 million. Hispanics have increased five times as fast as the rest of the population since 1980.

As America becomes more Hispanic, much of its future will be determined by the extent to which its Hispanic population is integrated into the nation’s economic, social, and civic life. A large and growing population that remains on the margins of society cannot contribute to the economic and social progress of that community. Furthermore, it is inconceivable that democracy can remain vital and effective without Hispanic participation.

The challenge of integrating Hispanics into the civic life of the nation requires a systematic, resourced, and research-based effort to improve the level and quality of Hispanic political participation.

This challenge serves as the focal point of the Southwest Voter Research Institute’s work. The Institute is the only Hispanic re-

Andrew Hernandez was the first employee William Velásquez hired when he founded the Southwest Voter Registration Education Project. Upon the death of Velásquez, Hernandez was appointed President of both the Project and the Southwest Voter Research Institute.
Executive Director's Report

There was a time when a politician wanted to win an election, he or she would simply hit the pavement and shake as many hands and kiss as many babies as possible prior to election day. For good or ill, the information systems revolution which has taken place in the last three decades has completely altered the traditional approach to grassroots politics in this country.

Polls taken overnight by large marketing firms guide candidates' decisions about where they stand on particular issues. Huge computerized databases store information about the demographic characteristics of likely voters for targeting get-out-the-vote drives. Before the ballot boxes close in California, a presidential winner is identified from election-day exit polls. Television ads have taken the place of personal contact in campaigns.

All of the advances in information processing have made today's politics a more costly game in which not all the players are participating with the same equipment on the same level field.

For minorities who have never been fully integrated into the election system, the cost of participating is often prohibitive. Furthermore, minority voters are often frustrated with their attempts to elect candidates of their choice because of racially polarized voting in the context of at-large elections.

When the Southwest Voter Registration Education Project (SVREP) began in 1974, there was no full-time, year-round voter registration effort directed at the Mexican American population. As SVREP began its work, it became evident that a research component was needed to study the assumptions on which voter registration efforts were conducted. The first employee hired by SVREP founder Willie Velásquez was a research director. Southwest Voter Research Institute began its work in July of 1986 as a spin-off of SVREP's research department.

Usually, research institutes associate themselves with a large academic institution in order to utilize its faculty expertise and computer facilities. SVRI is unique in this respect. While it draws upon faculty and student interns from a variety of schools, the Institute has operated under the assumption that Mexican Americans should develop their own institutions based on the needs of their communities. Thus, the Institute has remained independent.

The 10 programs described in this biennial report demonstrate the wide breadth of subjects that must be addressed by an institute which is designed to produce action research. The production of quality primary and secondary research used to improve the political participation of Mexican Americans has become the touchstone for measuring the success of the Institute's work. Ultimately, the success of the Institute will be judged by the extent to which its research translates into progress toward political empowerment and the proper exercise of this power.

Robert Brischetto, Ph.D., was hired by the Southwest Voter Registration Education Project in 1982. When the Registration Project's Research Department was incorporated as a separate entity in 1986, forming the Southwest Voter Research Institute, Brischetto was appointed as its executive director.

William C. Velásquez, the president and founder of the Southwest Voter Research Institute and its sister organization, the Southwest Voter Registration Education Project, died on June 15, 1988, of complications of kidney cancer. Velásquez is survived by his wife Jane, daughters Carmen and Catarina, son Guillermo, parents Mary Louise and William C. Velásquez, sister Stella Cortez, and brothers George, Ralph, and David Velásquez.

Velásquez was born in Orlando, Florida, on May 9, 1944. He attended Edgewood public schools and graduated from Holy Rosary Catholic School and Central Catholic High School in San Antonio. He received his bachelor's degree in economics from St. Mary's University in 1966.

While Velásquez pursued graduate studies in economics at St. Mary's, he was appointed assistant to the Executive Director of the Bishop's Committee for the Spanish Speaking of the United States Catholic Conference.

During his tenure with the Bishop's Committee, Velásquez was one of the founders and charter members of the Mexican American Youth Organization (MAYO), a Chicano youth organization aimed at social action. His active involvement in MAYO soon led to his becoming Texas' first Statewide Coordinator of El Movimiento Social de La Raza Unida, the forerunner of La Raza Unida Party. Velásquez organized the first Raza Unida conference in Texas on January 6, 1968. In February 1968, while in his last semester of graduate school, Velásquez was recruited by the United Farm Workers to assist in organizing a strike in the Rio Grande Valley of Texas. His activities with the UFW increased and Velásquez never returned to graduate school. He instead became the UFW's Boycott Coordinator for the San Antonio area.

Soon after leaving the United Farm Workers, Velásquez became the founder and first Director of the Mexican American Unity Council (MAUC) in San Antonio, Texas. In June of 1970, Velásquez was named Field Director of the Phoenix office of the National Council of La Raza, the parent organization of the Mexican American Unity Council. One year later, he became Assistant Director of Field Organizing and Fund Raising for the national office in Washington, D.C.

From October 1972 to July 1974, Velásquez concentrated his efforts on building the Southwest Voter Registration Education Project. Granted tax-exempt status in 1974, the Project operated in five southwestern states and Velásquez was appointed Executive Director.

Despite the heavy workload, Velásquez found time to pursue other goals as well. Among them was teaching a study group in Southwestern politics at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard College in 1981.

The legacy of Velásquez is demonstrated in the work he accomplished. Under Velásquez' leader-
ship, SVREP conducted nearly 1,000 voter registration education campaigns in over 200 cities and Native American reservations in the South.

In addition, SVREP has won more than 85 voting-rights lawsuits, continuing its tradition of protecting the political rights of minorities throughout the Southwest area. The work of the Project has been instrumental in the significant increase in Latino political participation in recent years.

The successes of Velásquez and his organization were based not only on effective organizing and political savvy, but on a vision. His vision was one of Hispanic empowerment. It involved more than just getting Hispanics to the ballot box on election day, though. Velásquez sought to bring into the democratic process an active and informed Hispanic electorate. That is the basis for SVREP’s original founding and also the reason it has continually stressed voter education as well as registration.

The Institute was chartered by Velásquez in 1984 to seek the opinions of the Hispanic electorate and make these known.

Velásquez’ vision of empowerment went beyond the Hispanic electorate to those Hispanics who would win elected offices. He felt Hispanic leaders should not become complacent in their victories, but be held accountable to their constituencies. He sought more than the election of Hispanics. He sought a new generation of responsible and responsive Hispanic leaders.

Velásquez didn’t stop there; he went on to address the very public policy issues which those leaders would be facing. As part of the Institute’s charter, Velásquez set out to collect and distribute information on public policy issues ranging from income and poverty to relations between the United States and Latin America. With this information, Velásquez sought to inform not only Hispanic elected officials, but also Hispanic community leaders and the Hispanic electorate, allowing them to become more involved in public policy questions of their nation and their communities.

When Velásquez died, he left a full agenda and an unfulfilled vision. The activities of the Institute, detailed in this biennial report, serve as proof of the continued strength and merit of Velásquez’ vision.
The Polling Program of the Institute is designed to provide quantitative data on public opinion and political behavior for Hispanic leaders and other Institute constituents. In addition, it is an essential tool in collecting data for studies in public policy conducted by the Institute.

The Polling Program is designed to allow the Institute to both conduct its own surveys and analyze the data sets collected by other polling organizations. It has the capability to conduct all aspects of survey research, including survey design, sampling, data collection, and reduction and analysis. Institute surveys can take several forms, including telephone polls, election-day exit polls, personal interviews, and mailed surveys.

The surveys conducted by the Institute have the potential to cover the entire Southwest, a specific state, metropolitan area, rural area, congressional district, county, town, or precinct.

The surveys are conducted among registered voters, the Hispanic electorate, elected officials, community leaders, and the general public. The subject matter may include such topics as voting behavior, opinions on major public policy issues affecting the Hispanic community, political awareness, and media use.

In addition to surveys which are designed and implemented by the Polling Program, the Southwest Voter Research Institute compiles and stores relevant ancillary data sets from the Current Population Survey of the Census Bureau and polling data on Hispanics from other sources such as the Roper Center and the Institute for Social Research at the University of Michigan.

In 1988 the Polling Program of the Southwest Voter Research Institute completed three major polls. In early March, the Institute conducted a study of the 1988 presidential election with an election exit poll throughout Texas covering the voters in both the Democratic and Republican party primaries. A total of 4,086 voters were polled, including 1,939 Hispanic voters.

In July and August, the Institute cooperated with the Los Angeles Times in a survey of the delegates to the national conventions of the Democratic and Republican parties. Ninety-seven percent of the delegates to the Democratic National Convention and 95 percent of the delegates to the Republican National Convention were interviewed. The interviews were conducted by mail with a follow-up by telephone. In

The larger number of Hispanics interviewed and attention to the distribution of the Hispanic population in sampling by SVRI made its poll a more accurate representation of the views of Hispanic voters than polls conducted by the media.

**EXIT POLLS OF HISPANIC VOTERS: 1988**
addition, focus groups among a sample of the delegates were conducted at each of the conventions.

On November 8, the Institute conducted an election-day exit poll of more than 10,000 voters in Texas, California, and New Mexico. More than 5,500 Hispanics were interviewed for the poll. This gave the Institute a Hispanic sampling 10 times larger than the three national television network polls combined.

1989

In 1989, the Institute conducted a nationwide survey of Hispanic state legislators. The poll asked Hispanic representatives how they would have voted on important public policy questions that came before the 100th Congress the previous year.

The positions of the Hispanic legislators on 15 key issues on which they agreed were compared with the votes of all members of the House and Senate.

In 1989, the Institute received commitment from the Digital Equipment Corporation to donate computer equipment which will enhance the Institute's polling capacity. The equipment will allow the Institute to employ Computer Assisted Telephone Interviewing (CATI) in its future telephone polls.

The advantages to using the CATI system include ease of training pollsters, more accurate recording of responses, and a quicker analysis of the responses.

In December, three members of the Institute staff traveled to Berkeley, California, for training in the use of the CATI system.
The Litigation Support Program of the Southwest Voter Research Institute uses the Institute's database of Hispanic registration and voting rates to analyze the extent of racially polarized voting in particular jurisdictions.

The analysis of the data allows the Institute to provide expert testimony in suits filed by the Southwest Voter Registration Education Project, the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Texas Rural Legal Aid, and other voting rights litigation groups in the Southwest.

Under the Voting Rights Act, these suits challenge election systems which dilute the votes of racial and ethnic minorities, preventing them from electing the candidates of their choice.

In Villalobos v. Lockhart Independent School District a settlement was reached which changed the election system from seven members elected at-large to one in which four were elected in single-member districts and three others were elected by cumulative voting.

The case of Ruiz v. Cuero Independent School District was also settled. A plan was approved in which five school board members were elected in single-member districts while two were elected at large.

Analysis was performed on the case of Ruiz v. City of Cuero, which challenged the at-large election of the city council.

In California, the case of Armenta et al. v. City of Salinas was settled when a plan was developed which created an election system in which six single-member districts were drawn and the mayor was elected at-large. As a result of the redistricting, three Hispanics were elected to the city council.

Work was performed on the case of Garza v. Los Angeles County which charged the county with intentionally gerrymandering county supervisor lines so as to dilute the Mexican American vote.

The case of Rangel v. Mattox challenged the at-large election of judges to 13th District Court of Appeals in Texas. In September, a U.S. District Court ruled the at-large election system was discriminatory and ordered a single-member district plan be implemented.

The case of LULAC v. Mattox

Lawsuits filed under the Voting Rights Act often result in the change of election systems to include single-member districts. This change offers greater opportunities to minority candidates.
challenged the at-large system of electing state district judges in seven Texas counties. In October 1989, a federal judge ruled the election system was discriminatory.

The case of *Williams v. the City of Dallas*, which challenged the at-large portion of a mixed system of electing members of the Dallas City Council, went to trial in late 1989. 


The Policy Studies Program of the Institute is designed to analyze those public policy issues which directly affect Hispanic communities. The purpose of the studies is to determine how Hispanics are specifically impacted by policy decisions and how well their views are being represented when elected officials make decisions on public policy.

The Institute’s research into public policy issues takes many forms. Policy study centers, such as the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, the Tomás Rivera Center, and the Urban Institute, are tapped for information on areas of importance to Hispanics. In addition, the Institute collects data from the Census Bureau and academics to be integrated into the Institute’s studies. These data are supplemented with Institute-sponsored surveys and policy studies.

In 1988, the Institute completed joint research with the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities into the effectiveness of governmental anti-poverty programs for Hispanics. The report showed governmental relief programs declined in their ability to lift Hispanics from poverty over the period from 1979 to 1986. The study is detailed in a report entitled *Falling Through the Safety Net: Latinos and the Declining Effectiveness of Anti-Poverty Programs in the 1980s*.

In cooperation with an anthropologist from the University of Texas at Austin, the Institute conducted a study, with funding from the Rockefeller Foundation, of the social services available in the Alazan-Apache Courts, a public housing project in San Antonio, Texas. The study was designed to work with both the residents of the housing project and those organizations working in the area to allow them to modify their policies and programs for families with children, making them more effective.

An Institute study in 1988 showed a growing gap in income and poverty rates between whites and minorities, despite the attempts of government aid programs to relieve poverty.
of the 100th Congress voted. Their opinions were then compared with the actual voting records of the members of Congress to determine how well the views of Hispanic legislators were being represented in Washington. 

Photo © by Alan Pogue
The Political Participation Program is designed to track the level of political activity by Hispanics and analyze those factors which affect their turnout at the polls.

The Institute analyzes official registration polls and election returns to generate an accurate picture of Hispanic participation rates. The results show Hispanics are the fastest growing ethnic group in registration and voting. While their turnout rate lags behind that of non-Hispanics in general elections, Hispanic participation in Texas Democratic primaries has often exceeded non-Hispanics participation in the 1980s.

The Institute also studies the factors which affect participation rates by Hispanics. These factors include the registration and election laws as well as the socio-economic conditions of the Hispanic community itself.

The Institute's studies of the effects of election systems at work within communities tries to determine if they tend to encourage or suppress political activity by Hispanic voters. The Institute is studying the effects on Hispanic political participation when communities change from at-large systems of election to single-member district elections or to a mixed system which combines elements of both.

The study has already shown the change from at-large to single-member district elections more than doubles minority representation on city councils and school boards in Texas. The continuation of these studies will indicate if the change of election systems has any long term effects upon participation rates by Hispanics.

Also included in the Institute's studies are the effects of socio-economic conditions and other similar factors in influencing political participation. Factors such as income, employment, class, gender, and national origin are studied to determine the extent to which they influence a Hispanic citizen's decision to become politically active.

The Institute also conducts evaluations of different approaches to voter mobilization used by non-governmental entities such as the Southwest Voter Registration Education Project. These studies are conducted primarily through the use of experimental and quasi-experimental methods. With the cooperation of field organizers in SVREP and other non-profit organizations, the Institute can devise field experiments in selected sites, evaluate the organizing efforts, and feed back critiques to the organizers in the field.

The work of the Institute and Southwest Voter Registration Education Project has resulted in a large increase in the number of Hispanics registered to vote.

Hispanic Voter Registration in Texas: 1976-1988
In 1988, the Institute compiled the results of its and SVREP Research Department's previous political mobilization studies. The result was a summary of fifteen years of research on Mexican American voter turnout and voting patterns in Texas. The findings were published in a booklet entitled *The Political Empowerment of Texas Mexicans: 1974-1988*.

In 1988, the Institute began its most in-depth study of Texas election systems and the effect of the change of election systems from at-large elections to single-member districts. Texas cities and school districts were surveyed to measure the changes in Hispanic representation before and after district forms of election were adopted.

The Institute analyzed election returns from the 1988 primary and general elections to measure the level of political participation by Hispanics and the effects of their vote on the results of key races.

In 1989, a control group was added to cities and school districts which did not change their election systems. This helped determine if an increase in minority representation after a change in the election system is simply due to the more rapid growth of the Hispanic population.

In early 1989, the Institute reviewed election returns in its analysis of Hispanic turnout in a municipal election in San Antonio, Texas, where voters decided to levy a tax to support the construction of a domed stadium.

Maria Antonia Calvo and Steven J. Rosenstone conducted an analysis of political participation among Hispanic subgroups on a national scale. Their study analyzed the factors that may be associated with differences in voter turnout in the November 1984 election among Hispanic national origin groups by age, gender, and class.

The report is especially important as it defines its results in terms of strategies that might work for mobilizing specific Hispanic subgroups to increased political participation. Their findings and strategies were published in an Institute booklet entitled *Hispanic Political Participation*.
The goal of the Latin America Project is to develop, through a program of training sessions, delegations, seminars, polls, and publications, a large group of Hispanic leaders articulate in the key issues of U.S.-Latin American relations.

A substantial number of Hispanics hold elected and appointed offices in the U.S. and especially in the Southwest. The geographic proximity of Latin America to those southwestern states and the cultural and economic ties which bind the two regions make relations between the U.S. and Latin America the paramount foreign relations issue facing Hispanic leaders.

Southwest Voter Research Institute, and Antonio González, Latin America Project Coordinator, accompanied the delegation.

The six-day itinerary included over two dozen meetings with church, government, and opposition leaders as well as campesinos and laborers in both countries.

Upon their return to the U.S., four of the six Hispanic leaders in the delegation traveled to Washington, D.C. for a roundtable discussion and debriefing. Anaya, Velásquez, Obledo, and Cavazos participated in a focus group which was facilitated by Dr. Richard Nuccio of the Roosevelt Center for American Policy Studies.

The leaders also reported their experiences to the Congressional Hispanic Caucus and held a joint press conference with U.S. Congressional Representatives Albert Bustamante of San Antonio, Robert Garcia of New York City, and

An unidentified girl at a refugee camp on Lake Ilopango in La Paz Province, El Salvador. The Latin America Project visited the camp in August of 1989.
Esteban Torres and Matthew Martínez of Los Angeles, to publicly announce their findings.

In 1989, the Southwest Voter Research Institute produced its first report on Latin America based on the findings and experiences of the 1988 delegation of Hispanic leaders.

The Institute also sponsored its first seminar on Latin America, allowing the Institute to distribute current views from its polls on U.S.-Latin America relations to a large audience of Hispanic leaders.

A second delegation of Hispanic leaders was sent to Latin America in September. The 10-day trip took the seven leaders to Mexico, El Salvador, and Nicaragua.

Rebecca Vigil Giron, Secretary of State of New Mexico; Sharyl Teneyuca, Magistrate in San Antonio, Texas; Ciro Rodriguez, Texas State Representative from San Antonio; Mike Hernández, East Los Angeles businessman; Sylvia Arriola, aide to U.S. Representative Albert Bustamante; Ed Pastor, County Supervisor from Phoenix, Arizona; and Dr. Gil Cardenas from the University of Texas at Austin made up the delegation.

The delegation met with government, opposition, and church leaders in each country they visited.
POLITICAL EDUCATION PROGRAM

The Political Education Program is designed to provide Hispanic leaders, including elected officials at every level of government and community leaders across the Southwest, with the most accurate and timely research available.

The Institute sponsors seminars in which Latino leaders are briefed on the results of current Institute research into important Hispanic voting patterns and attitudes on key public policy issues. The seminars are useful in disseminating research findings and also in generating debate and discussion among the leaders.

The goal of the seminars is to help the Latino leadership become better informed and to assist them in creating more formal associations with one another as well as to work together to formulate their own policy agendas.

The Institute produces several series of publications which keep the leaders, as well as the media and public at-large, informed of the Institute's most recent research findings. The Institute's in-house publishing department produces a newsletter as well as several series of monographs, each concentrating on a different program.

Southwest Voter Research Notes, the Institute's newsletter, summarizes current Institute research and activities. Research Notes provides information on the results of Institute studies and short synopses of the Institute's more in-depth reports.

Public Policy Reports summarizes the results of Institute research into important public policy issues facing Hispanic leaders and their constituents.

The Latino Electorates Series profiles the Hispanic electorate in the Southwest and nationally. It includes analyses of Hispanic registration and voting rates and investigations of the factors which influence Hispanic voter participation.

Latin America Reports concentrates on the findings of current research into relations between the U.S. and Central and South America. The collection of reports also summarizes the findings of delegations of Hispanic leaders sent to Central and South America under the Institute's Latin America Project.

The Institute tracks Hispanic opinion on issues for Hispanic leaders. Official English is an issue on which Latino voters throughout the Southwest have expressed their opposition in Institute election exit polls.

1988

Reports published by the Institute in 1988 include:

• Nine issues of Southwest Voter Research Notes.
• The Political Empowerment of Texas Mexicans: 1974-1988, the second edition in the Latino Electorates Series of publications.
• Falling Through the Safety
Net: Latinos and the Declining Effectiveness of Anti-Poverty Programs in the 1980s, the first edition of the Public Policy Report series.

1989

Reports published by the Institute in 1989 include:
- Two issues of Southwest Voter Research Notes.
- Hispanic Political Participation, the third publication of the Latino Electorates Series.
- Views of Latino Leaders: A Roundtable Discussion on U.S. Policy in Nicaragua and the Central America Peace Plan, the first edition of the Latin America Reports series of publications.
The Latinos in the 1990 Redistricting Project is a joint effort by the Southwest Voter Research Institute, the Southwest Voter Registration Education Project (SVREP), and the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund (MALDEF) to involve Latino community leaders in the redistricting process. The project focuses primarily on state legislative and local redistricting in California, Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, Colorado, and Illinois. The project has three main stages.

The first stage is community awareness. A series of statewide meetings with Hispanic community leaders in the Southwest provides information on the redistricting process within the framework of the Voting Rights Act. Out of the statewide meetings, leaders will form local committees in 150 towns and cities throughout the Southwest.

The second stage concentrates on technical assistance. Local leaders are trained by staff organizers and legal and technical experts on redistricting in the interest of Hispanics. Throughout the redistricting period, in day-long regional training seminars, the Institute provides technical assistance to local committees as they develop redistricting plans within their communities.

The final stage of the project is litigation. After redistricting plans have been adopted by state and local governments, the Institute, SVREP, MALDEF, and other voting rights litigation groups prepare lawsuits challenging those plans which dilute minority voting strength.

The Institute began preparing for redistricting with planning meetings held jointly with MALDEF and SVREP in April of 1989. A day-long planning retreat was held in August of 1989 with MALDEF and SVREP in Castroville, Texas.

The Institute, in cooperation with SVREP and MALDEF, is monitoring the changes brought by the 1990 Census in order to impact the redistricting process and ensure equitable representation for Hispanics.
The Political Database Program is essential to the Institute and its constituencies. The program allows the Institute to pinpoint areas in the Southwest where voter registration, education, and mobilization campaigns are necessary to improve the rates of political participation by Hispanics and other ethnic groups.

The database can be used to produce reports on Hispanic registration and voting by state, county, city, congressional district, state legislative district, city council district, county precinct, or school district.

These reports are used by the Southwest Voter Registration Education Project (SVREP) to assist in targeting and planning voter registration and education campaigns. The reports allow SVREP to find the areas where its assistance is most needed and thus where they can work the most efficiently and effectively. The reports identify resources, such as media organizations and Hispanic leaders, available for voter registration and education efforts by SVREP.

In 1988, the Institute completed political profile reports to assist SVREP in many of its 139 voter registration and education campaigns. Databases of precinct-level voter registration counts by Spanish surname were built on all counties in Arizona, California, Texas, New Mexico, and Colorado.

In 1989, the Institute used its political database to draft profile reports for the 150 voter registration and education campaigns which the SVREP conducted.

The Institute tracks the growth of the Hispanic population across the Southwest as part of its program of targeting Hispanic population centers for voter registration and get-out-the-vote campaigns.
INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

In cooperation with several colleges and universities, the Southwest Voter Research Institute offers opportunities for those still pursuing their education to gain practical experience in conducting applied research. The Internship Program brings students from both the graduate and undergraduate levels into the Institute to work in and learn about its various programs.

Contracts have been executed between the Institute and several universities for recruiting interns to staff Institute programs. Harvard College has been providing interns through its John F. Kennedy School of Government since 1983. An Institute practicum course is a regular listing at the St. Mary’s University School of Law in San Antonio, and the National Lawyers Guild has promoted a summer internship at the Institute for voting-rights litigation research.

During the regular semesters, students may earn course credit for part-time work on research projects at the Institute. During the summer, stipends are usually available for students to work full-time.

Interns are chosen on the basis of proven scholarship, interest, and ability. Once with the Institute, the interns are allowed to work in the area in which they are most interested and best qualified. Opportunities for interns exist in the polling, litigation, policy analysis, and political education programs.

1988

In 1988, five interns joined the Institute staff. Two were legal interns working on voting rights cases under the supervision of Rolando Rios, Legal Director for the Southwest Voter Registration Education Project, and Susan Finkelstein of Texas Rural Legal Aid. Two other interns worked on litigation research within the Institute while the fifth researched minority representation on school boards in Texas.

1989

Five interns worked with the Institute in 1989. One intern worked with the Institute’s publications program through the spring semester from January to May.

Four interns joined the Institute during the summer. One worked with the Institute’s study of the Alazan-Apache Courts Housing Project in San Antonio, while two others conducted a poll of minority representation in Texas city councils and school districts. The fourth intern worked as a research assistant to the Institute’s Scholar-in-Residence.

Interns have been at the forefront of Institute studies on the effects of election systems on minority representation. One study showed that even mixed systems are unfair to minorities as they are under-represented in the at-large components.

MINORITY REPRESENTATION WITHIN MIXED SYSTEMS: 1989
A unique opportunity for integrating academic and applied research interests at the Institute is the Scholar-in-Residence Program. It is designed to give an individual the facilities and support necessary to pursue full-time research in Hispanic politics or public policy.

Juan Sepulveda, SVRI's first Scholar-in-Residence, is researching a book that will detail the life and struggles of Willie Velásquez, the founder of the Southwest Voter Registration Education Project.

Sepulveda first met Velásquez in 1981 at Harvard College. Sepulveda was an undergraduate student and Velásquez was teaching a course in Southwest politics at the John F. Kennedy School of Government. Sepulveda spent two summers living in Velásquez's home and working with the Southwest Voter Registration Education Project.

After his graduation from Harvard, Sepulveda attended Oxford University as a Rhodes Scholar and began his studies at Stanford Law School.

Shortly before his death, Velásquez signed a contract with a publisher to write a biography of Velásquez and his struggles. The Institute brought him on as Scholar-in-Residence. The position allows him to use Institute facilities and makes all contributions to the book tax-deductible. Proceeds from the book project will go toward establishing an educational trust for Velásquez's three children—Carmen, Catarina, and Guillermo.

Sepulveda began the project in June of 1988 by reviewing Velásquez's personal papers. These provided a framework for the rest of Sepulveda's research. In addition to the research, Sepulveda also began fund raising for $150,000 needed to complete the project.

In early 1989, Sepulveda began interviews with those who knew and worked with Velásquez. He estimates it will take two years and 150 to 200 interviews to complete the research for the book.
### 1988 Balance Sheet

**December 31, 1988**

**ASSETS**
- Current Assets
  - Cash in Bank  $17,406
  - Receivables  $147,152
  - Total Current Assets  $164,558
- Other Assets
  - Office Equipment  $4,335
  - Total Assets  $168,893

**LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE**
- Current Liabilities
  - Accounts Payable  $8,072
  - Accrued Liabilities/Other  $3,982
  - Deferred Revenues  $146,552
  - Total Liabilities  $158,606

**FUND BALANCE**
- Fund Balance  $5,952
- Investment in Fixed Assets  $4,335
- Total Fund Balance  $10,287

**TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE**  $168,893
### 1988 Statement of Revenues & Expenses

**Year ending December 31, 1988**

#### REVENUES
- Grants: $177,767
- Litigation Revenues: 29,213
- Other Revenues: 4,154
- **Total Revenues**: $211,134

#### EXPENSES
- Personnel
  - Salaries: $63,629
  - Fringe: 12,192
  - Other Consultants: 24,630
- Rent: 6,785
- Travel: 28,314
- Phone: 17,034
- Computer and Office Equipment: 1,220
- Accounting: 5,550
- Supplies/Mailing: 4,845
- Publishing: 8,367
- Polling: 25,896
- Memberships/Subscriptions: 401
- Research Materials: 6,462
- Other Expenses: 167
- **Total Expenses**: $205,492

**EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES**: $5,642
1989 Balance Sheet

December 31, 1989

**ASSETS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash in Bank</td>
<td>$26,716</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Receivables</td>
<td>$150,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Current Assets</strong></td>
<td>$177,316</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Assets</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Office Equipment &lt;Net of Depreciation&gt;</td>
<td>$3,468</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
<td>$180,784</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Current Liabilities</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accounts Payable</td>
<td>$2,959</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accrued Liabilities/Other</td>
<td>2,934</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deferred Revenues</td>
<td>167,374</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Liabilities</strong></td>
<td>$173,267</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**FUND BALANCE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fund Balance</td>
<td>$4,049</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment in Fixed Assets</td>
<td>3,468</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Fund Balance</strong></td>
<td>$7,517</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL LIABILITIES AND FUND BALANCE** $180,784
# 1989 Statement of Revenues & Expenses

**Year ending December 31, 1989**

## REVENUES
- Grants: $162,728
- Litigation Revenues: 33,565
- Publication Revenue: 1,228
- Contributions/Fundraisers: 12,974
- Other Revenues: 3,779
- **Total Revenues**: $214,274

## EXPENSES
- Personnel
  - Salaries: $85,313
  - Fringe: 16,424
  - Other Consultants: 26,856
- Rent: 10,794
- Travel: 37,000
- Phone: 9,110
- Computer and Office Equipment: 1,747
- Accounting: 4,500
- Supplies/Mailing: 7,506
- Publishing: 11,755
- Polling: 813
- Memberships/Subscriptions: 328
- Depreciation: 867
- Research Materials: 458
- Legal Fees: 2,003
- Other Expenses: 1,570
- **Total Expenses**: $217,044

## EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES
- **$ (2,770)**
THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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University of Michigan

Robert Santos
Institute for Survey Research
Temple University
Andrew Hernandez
President
Unanimously voted president of both the Southwest Voter Research Institute and the Southwest Voter Registration Project by their respective boards in August of 1988, Andrew "Andy" Hernandez has been with each organization since its founding. Hired as Willie Velásquez' first employee with SVREP's beginning in 1974, Hernandez directed the Research Department before becoming the Project's first Deputy Director. Following the 1986 promotion of Velásquez to the position of president of SVREP and the newly formed SVRI, Hernandez became Executive Director of SVREP. Subsequently, the death of Velásquez in 1988 brought Hernandez to the position of president he holds today. Hernandez received his political science degree from Trinity University and his master's in theology from Southern Methodist University.

Robert Brischetto
Executive Director
Joining the SVREP in 1982 after teaching on the university level for 12 years, Robert Brischetto came on as the Research Director for the Project. Although SVREP's sister organization SVRI was chartered in 1984, insufficient funding delayed the start until 1986 and Brischetto was appointed as the first Executive Director. Acting as supervisor of all Institute activity, Brischetto came to SVREP/SVRI with a B.A. from St. Mary's and an M.A. and Ph.D. from the University of Texas at Austin.
Annette Aviña
Research Associate

Annette Aviña joined the SVREP staff in 1980 while still pursuing her education at Trinity University. Upon receipt of her bachelor’s in sociology in 1985, Aviña continued with the Project as the Research Assistant until the official start of the SVRI in 1986. Promoted to Research Associate in 1985, Aviña works to coordinate all research projects, prepare survey materials, and review survey results.

Sam Lerma
Research Assistant

Coming into the Institute in August 1987 while still working on his bachelor's in history and politics at Incarnate Word College, Research Assistant Sam Lerma researches the bulk of litigation support including data, collection, input, and analysis. Second to this responsibility includes Lerma's maintenance of computerized mailing lists which facilitate his coordinating all mass mailing and publication distribution.

Marivel Davila
Survey Supervisor

Marivel Davila came to SVRI as a part-time employee following her graduation from UT Austin in 1988. Having earned her bachelor’s in economics and computer science, Davila eventually worked full time as the Survey Supervisor. In this position Davila oversaw the majority of the polling at the Institute.

Allen Moy
Publications Editor

Allen Moy joined the Institute staff as an intern in 1988 and came on full time in 1989 when he completed his B.A. from Trinity University. As Publications Editor, Moy researches, writes, edits, and produces all Institute publications, including newsletters, research notes, and press releases. SVRI’s non-profit status makes it necessary for Moy to research various fundraising efforts as well.