

## Mapping California's Politically Vulnerable Communities: Putting Data Tools to Work

The UC Davis California Civic Engagement Project (CCEP), in partnership with the Office of the California Secretary of State, presents an [innovative visualization](#) of political participation in California's communities. Using multi-layered geographic information system (GIS) technology, the CCEP has created a new, public interactive web platform that maps the relationship between low voter turnout and the economic, educational and health challenges faced by communities in our state.

For an overview of the "Mapping California's Politically Vulnerable Communities project," please see the CCEP's website. <http://ccep.ucdavis.edu/mapping-california-overview/>

The CCEP's new mapping platform offers myriad ways for community leaders to educate and empower their residents, and encourage their engagement with the political process. Here are some possible uses of these data tools.

### For Everyone

- Learn more about communities you are considering working in or moving to.
- Enhance your understanding of barriers to civic participation.

### For Community Leaders and Activists

- Hold a community meeting to collaboratively examine the factors that make your community politically vulnerable, and strategize about ways to bring about change.
- Determine areas of priority for voter registration efforts.
- Determine which risk factors are most strongly associated with low voter turnout.
- Help identify priority areas for political campaigns and community revitalization efforts.
- Visually tell a story linking voter turnout and risk factors.

### For Nonprofit Organizations and Foundations

- Understand the relationship between specific risk factors and civic disengagement, providing information to potential funders of targeted nonprofit work.
- Illustrate the importance of working to strengthen civic engagement in specific areas and/or specific populations.

### For Schools and Teachers

- Teach students about civic engagement and barriers to participation.
- Help students learn about GIS mapping and how it can be used to understand and strengthen their own communities.

### For Public Officials

- Provide county registrars with data about where election outreach might be needed.
- Inform political redistricting efforts.
- Inform dialogue/discussions on electoral reform policy.

### For Media

- Use as a reference for journalists reporting on elections in California.
- Provide a visual representation of California's obstacles to voter participation.
- Encourage election coverage that highlights the needs of politically vulnerable communities.

