Project Title
“The California Latino Legislative Caucus: A political study of its establishment, development and influence on the quality of life for Latinos and all California residents”

Background
The Civil Rights movement of the 1960s played a significant role in empowering Latinos to get involved in the political process. Latinos were able to reap the benefits of their political organizing by helping elect the first two Latinos in modern history to the State Assembly in 1962; Phil Soto (D-La Puente) and John Moreno (D-Los Angeles). Although Soto and Moreno served prior to the formation of what is now known as the California Latino Legislative Caucus, they provided a precedent for the numerous Latino Legislators that have since been elected to the Legislature.

In 1973, five Latino Legislators came together to form the Chicano Legislative Caucus as a means to organize themselves, establish legislative priorities and develop a political agenda to protect and preserve the rights of Latinos throughout California. In the 42 years since its inception, the California Latino Legislative Caucus has grown significantly and is now comprised of twenty-two members: five Senators and seventeen Assembly Members. However, little research has been conducted to document the growth of the Caucus and its impact on California residents, particularly the well-being of our Latino residents.

Research Themes
Question 1. What factors led to the establishment and growth of the California Latino Legislative Caucus? (i.e. Several factors may have influenced the growth of the Caucus, including population growth, term-limits, redistricting, and the anti-Latino and anti-Immigrant legislation and Propositions in the 1990s including Prop. 187 in 1994 and Prop. 209 in 1996)

Question 2. Over the course of its 40+ year existence how has the Caucus influenced public policy and political affairs in California and beyond? From empowering immigrants to fighting anti-civil rights initiatives to leading the nation on landmark legislation, Latino Caucus Members have played a vital role. For example, AB 540 in 2001 authored by Assembly Member Marco A. Firebaugh allowed undocumented immigrants who met certain criteria to pay in-state tuition at California’s colleges and Universities. Additionally, Speaker Fabian Nuñez authored AB 32, the Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006,
which created the nation's first cap on greenhouse gas emissions and positioned California as a leader in fighting climate change. These are only a few examples of wide-ranging issues Caucus Members have addressed.

**Scope of Research**
Trace the development of the California Latino Legislative Caucus from the original Caucus members to the present.

Interview Caucus Members who will provide a key narrative of their experiences and their initiatives, successful and not, during the growth of the Caucus and who will elaborate on obstacles they faced while attempting to protect and preserve the rights of Latinos in California.

Examine the effects of the California Latino Legislative Caucus’ increased influence on public policy towards its stated mission to identify, promote and advocate on behalf of the professional, educational, social, political and cultural interests of the Latino community.

**Deliverables and Timelines**
1. Provide a preliminary draft report by May 1, 2016.

2. Audio/Video recordings of interviews conducted of current and former CA Latino Legislative Caucus Members, along with transcripts.

3. Provide a final written report to the Center for California Studies by September 1, 2016. The report should summarize the methods, data, analysis and findings of the study, including any resulting relevant policy considerations.

4. Present research in Sacramento by December 1, 2016.

**Budget**
$15,000 is available for this project.

**Who May Apply**
Faculty and staff at any California State University campus may submit proposals. Preference is given to principal investigators who are full-time faculty or staff but part-time faculty may also apply. Part-time faculty and students can be included as secondary investigators and assistants.

**How to Apply**
Proposals are due February 1, 2016 by 5:00 p.m.

Submit proposals by email (preferably in a single Word or pdf file) to David Pacheco, Director, Faculty Research Fellows Program, Center for California Studies, dpacheco@csus.edu. Subject line: RFP-ASM1213
Notification of awards will occur by February 15, 2016.

Proposals should be no longer than five single spaced pages (excluding a list of cited works, curriculum vitae, and evidence of approval from applicant’s campus office of research). The proposal should include the following:

1. An introductory statement that demonstrates an understanding of the subject matter.

2. Explanation of the research design including the source(s) of data and methods of analysis.

3. A specific timeline for completing the project in the allotted period.

4. A proposed budget including the portion to be devoted to faculty time (including incidental expenses) and travel to Sacramento for presentation of the research.

5. Description of qualifications of the researcher(s) performing the study.

6. Contact information for two references who can comment on the quality and timeliness of the principal researcher’s work.

7. Telephone numbers and e-mail addresses for the principal researcher(s).

8. A resume or vitae for each person funded under the project.

9. Evidence that the proposal has been approved by the principal investigator’s campus office of research and sponsored programs.\(^1\)

Questions about this RFP may be directed to:

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Center for California Studies
California State University, Sacramento
Sacramento, CA 95819-6081
(916) 278-5408
dpacheco@csus.edu

\(^1\) Sign-off by the principal researcher’s(s’) home campus research office is required as is conformance with Chancellor’s Office Executive Order Number 890 (http://www.calstate.edu/EO/EO-89.pdf).