



District 8

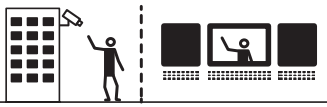
Council Member Melissa Mark-Viverito



Laptops for District 8 Schools




Technology Centers at YouthBuild and Carver Senior Center



Installation of Security Cameras at Johnson, East River, Douglass and Millbrook Houses



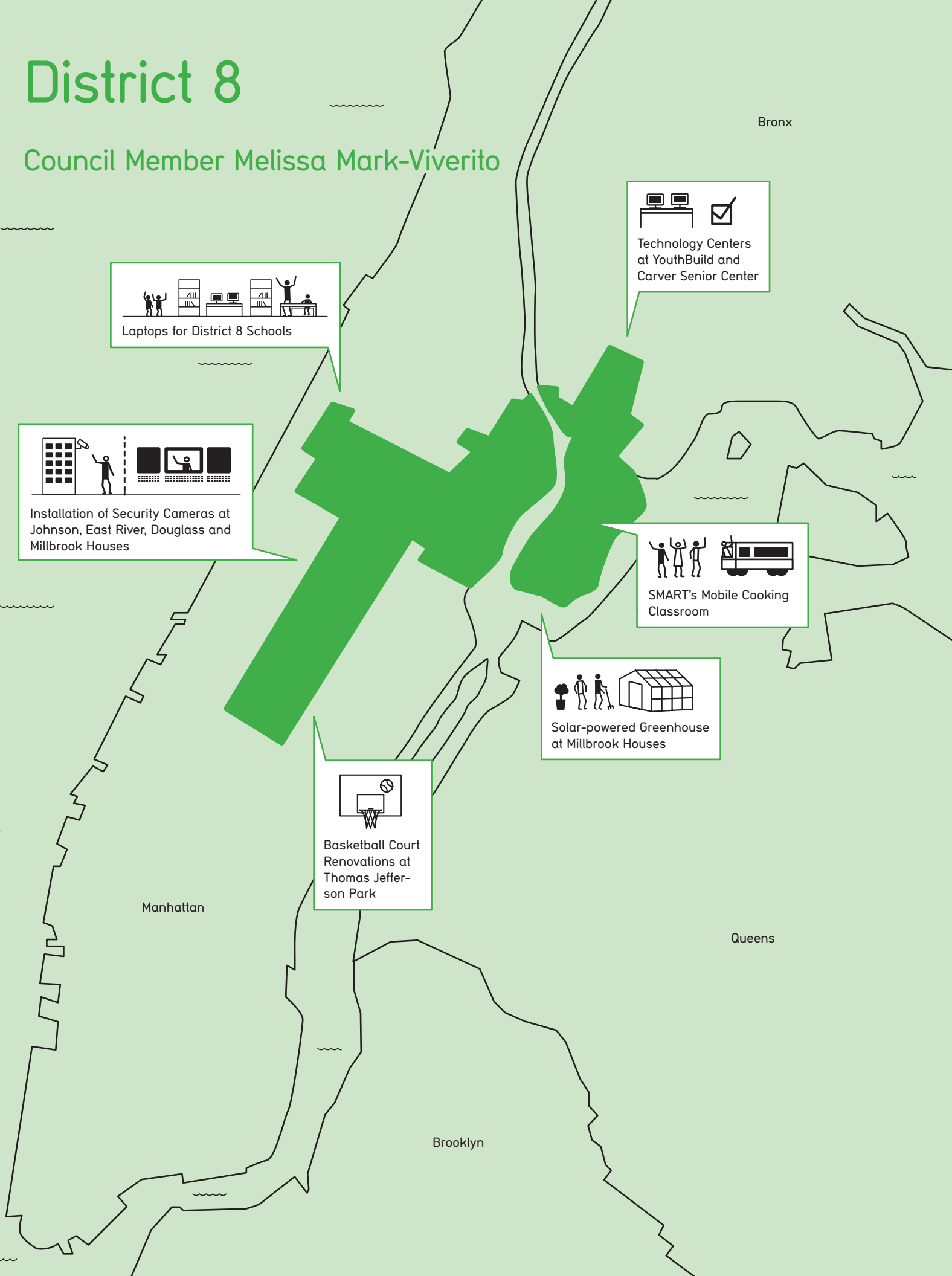
SMART's Mobile Cooking Classroom



Solar-powered Greenhouse at Millbrook Houses



Basketball Court Renovations at Thomas Jefferson Park



Bronx

Manhattan

Queens

Brooklyn

District 8

Council Member Melissa Mark-Viverito

Council Member Melissa Mark-Viverito's district encompasses three distinct neighborhoods: Manhattan Valley on the Upper West Side, El Barrio/East Harlem on the Upper East Side, part of Mott Haven in the South Bronx, Central Park and Randall's Island. Half of the residents in Council District 8 identify as Hispanic or Latino/a, with the largest concentration in Mott Haven. People who identify as Black or African American comprise 23% of the district, while people who identify as White make up 19% of the district.⁴⁵ The district is linguistically diverse with 42% of residents citing Spanish as their primary language and 11% indicating languages other than English and Spanish.⁴⁶

Similar to Year 1, District 8 saw a high level of participation by various community-based organizations which mobilized populations that usually do not participate in politics. Community organizations and the Council Member's office conducted specific outreach to public housing residents, people of color, low-income people, seniors, youth and the formerly incarcerated. These outreach efforts were displayed in the high levels of participation by many of these groups, including: low-income people, people of color, seniors and non-English speakers. District 8 saw many proposals for projects related to parks and public spaces, public housing and community center improvements and programs.

"PB allows us to give decision making power to disenfranchised residents. We learn a great deal from them through the process, as they provide us with a more accurate assessment of community needs and ultimately we all develop a collective vision for the community. This allows us to build social change together."

— **Andrew King**, Director of Community Affairs,
Office of Melissa Mark-Viverito, District 8

District 8 Overall

Population:

162,734⁴⁷

Number of PB

Participants:

2,063

Neighborhoods:

Manhattan Valley

El Barrio

East Harlem

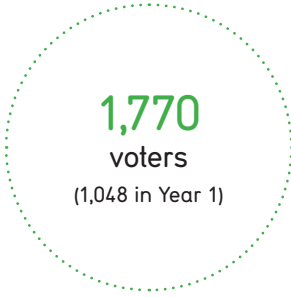
Mott Haven

Central Park

Randall's Island

Who Participated in District 8?

In District 8, PB Engaged 2,063 people, including: 349 neighborhood assembly participants, 60 budget delegates and 1,770 voters. Demographic information collected at key points during the process points towards several trends in participation, including the following:



Race/Ethnicity

- A higher percentage of Black or African Americans participated in all stages of PB (Neighborhood Assemblies: 50%; Budget Delegates: 42%; Voters: 31%) compared to the overall population of the district (23%).
- People who identify as Hispanic or Latino/as made up a larger share of Year 2 PB voters (54%) compared to Year 1 PB voters (50%) and 2009 local election voters (39%).^{4,8}
- A higher percentage of Black or African Americans were neighborhood assembly participants in Year 2 of PB (50%) compared to Year 1 of PB (41%).



Language and Country of Birth

- 38% of Year 2 PB voters reported that they were born outside of the U.S. compared to 28% of Year 1 PB voters and 24% of the overall district population. Countries of origin included Puerto Rico (145 voters), Mexico (78) and the Dominican Republic (50).
- 30% of PB voters in Year 2 reported Spanish as their primary language compared to 13% of Year 1 PB voters and 42% in the district overall.
- 10% of neighborhood assembly surveys and 24% of voter surveys were completed in Spanish.



Gender

- Women were more likely than men to participate in all phases of PB; Neighborhood assemblies (71%), Budget delegates (67%) and Voting (68%).

Latino/as in District 8 made up 54% of PB voters in Year 2

(Compared to 50% in Year 1 and 39% in 2009 local elections)

- A larger share of women voted in PB (68%) compared to the 2009 local elections (60%).⁴⁹



Income

- A higher percentage of people with incomes under \$15,000 participated in all phases of the PB process compared to the overall population of the district.
- A higher percentage of people with incomes under \$35,000 voted in Year 2 of PB (68%) compared to Year 1 of PB (61%).
- 41% of PB voters had household incomes under \$15,000 compared to 27% of voters in the 2009 local elections.⁵⁰

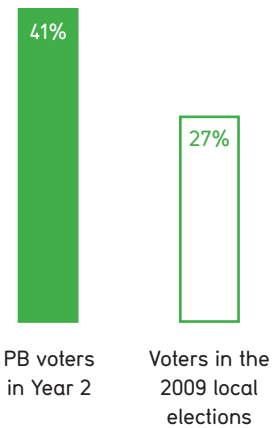


Age

- A higher percentage of people over the age of 65 were neighborhood assembly participants (25%) and PB voters (19%) compared to the overall population of the district (11%).
- Young people (ages 15 to 24) participated in PB at levels consistent with the overall population of the district.

38% of PB voters in Year 2 reported that they were born outside of the U.S.

Voters reporting household incomes under \$15,000



Residents of District 8 decide how to cast their votes in the second year of PB in NYC.

Formerly Incarcerated in the 8th district

Formerly incarcerated people and those still on parole are often disenfranchised politically, economically, and educationally. This combined with social ostracization impede the formerly incarcerated from fully taking part in community life. To more fully engage this population in District 8, the Council Member's office and District Committee worked with Getting Out, Staying Out (GOSO), an organization that works directly with the formerly incarcerated.

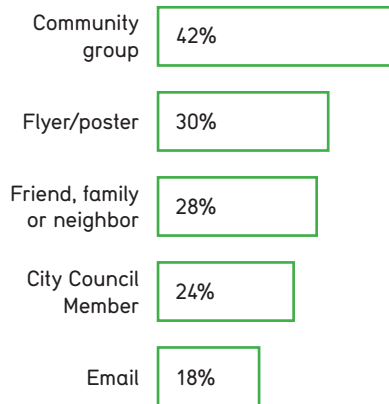
Through this partnership, four formerly incarcerated individuals became absorbed in the process and volunteered to be budget delegates on the education committee. Part of the motivation behind volunteering was a desire to give back: "In my high school we didn't have computers...to keep me focused and I ended up dropping out of school...The biggest part is just giving back."⁵¹ This experience was then used to develop a project for laptops for eight schools throughout District 8. After many meetings and hours of work with the other budget delegates on the education committee, they were able to put this project on the ballot. On voting day, this project received 857 votes, the second most in District 8 and will receive funding this fiscal year.

PB has served as a way for formerly incarcerated individuals to take part in the life of their communities and provides participants with important social skills and ties, job-like experience, and confidence. It has even led to sustained ties between the formerly incarcerated and their Council Member: "A couple of the guys (GOSO members) have started to stop by the office more often, using it as a community hub, even after PB, showing a continued engagement with City government."⁵²

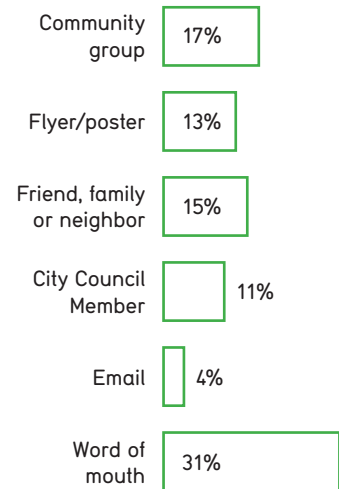
How did people hear about participatory budgeting in District 8?

Almost mirroring Year 1, people in District 8 were most likely to hear about the neighborhood assemblies through community organizations and were most likely to hear about the vote through word of mouth. Throughout the process, community groups played a significant role in getting the word out about participatory budgeting.

How People Learned About Neighborhood Assemblies in District 8



How People Learned About The PB Vote in District 8



PB volunteer does outreach for the vote in District 8.



What projects were proposed in District 8, what made it on to the ballot and what won the vote?

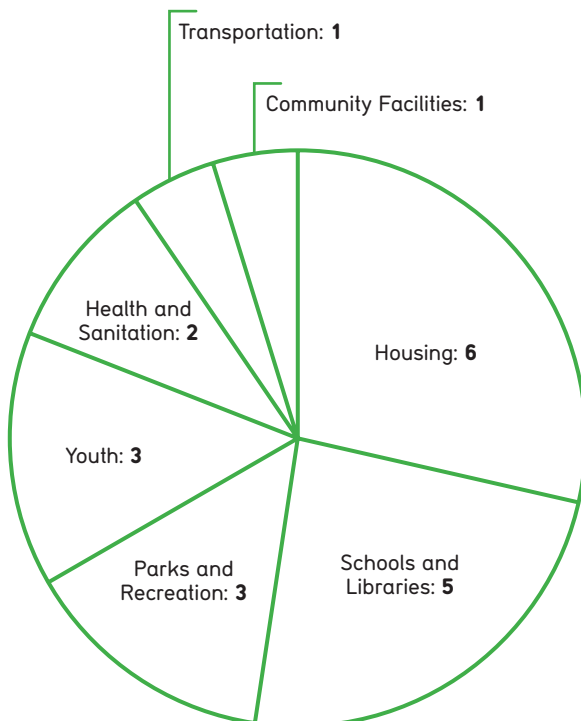
In September and October of 2012, District 8 held neighborhood assemblies that allowed community residents and stakeholders to propose projects to improve their neighborhoods. This process produced 287 project ideas, of which 109 were ultimately deemed eligible for PB. Ideas around street lights and security cameras, community centers/programs and park improvements were the most common types of projects proposed.

Following the neighborhood assemblies, participants volunteered to be budget delegates and formed committees to develop specific projects from the ideas proposed at the neighborhood assemblies. During this process, which included months of research, consultation with government agencies and deliberation, the 287 ideas were whittled down to 21 projects that were put on the ballot. The graph below shows the categories of projects that ended up on the ballot in District 8.



Projects on District 8 Ballot

Total Number: 21
Total Cost: \$6,331,000
Average Cost: \$301,476





Winning Project

Solar Powered Greenhouse in Millbrook Houses
 \$300,000
 533 out of 1,770 votes

The most local “farm to table” dining imaginable will be enjoyed by the residents of Millbrook Houses, once their PB-funded solar powered greenhouse is up and running. After making it to the ballot but not winning the vote in Year 1 of PB, the solar powered greenhouse was on the ballot in Year 2 and received 533 votes to win funding. Local youth will gain experience growing fresh fruits and vegetables, managing a farm, and running a business. They will learn about nutrition and receive the benefits of local produce in their diet. The solar powered greenhouse will operate year-round on clean, renewable energy.

Budget delegate Raymond Figueroa Jr. sees the greenhouse as a way of promoting physical, social, and economic health among disconnected youth in the neighborhood’s public housing. “Consider this project as an investment... in growing community in the most organic sense of the word... This is a project that over time that will... [pay] for itself... as a result of the renewable energy, and in terms of the income that is generated as a result of the youth based businesses that will be realized... Just think investment and community development!”⁵³

Winning Projects

1,770 voters cast a ballot for their top five projects in District 8. Table 2 shows the projects that were selected.

Table 2
6 Winning Projects: District 8

<u>Project</u>	<u># of Votes</u>	<u>% of Voters</u>	<u>Price</u>
Installation of Security Cameras at Johnson, East River, Douglass and Millbrook Houses	964	54%	\$500,000
Laptops for District 8 Schools	857	48%	\$450,000
Technology Centers at YouthBuild and Carver Senior Center	706	40%	\$100,000
SMART’s Mobile Cooking Classroom	534	30%	\$180,000
Solar-powered Greenhouse at Millbrook Houses	533	30%	\$300,000
Basketball Court Renovations at Thomas Jefferson Park	501	28%	\$300,000
<u>Total</u>			\$1,903,000

Budget delegates present the projects that will be on the ballot at a project expo.



Lessons Learned/ Summary from District 8

The data collected from PB participants in Melissa Mark-Viverito's Council District 8 show high levels of participation for low-income people, people of color and seniors, which was very similar to Year 1 of PB in District 8. One significant change was that participation among non-English speakers and foreign born residents increased dramatically – Spanish speakers accounted for 30% of PB voters in Year 2 compared to 13% in Year 1. The Council Member's office reached out to community groups, conducted focused outreach and had interpretation and translated materials at PB events to include people that normally don't participate in politics. Community Voices Heard also conducted targeted outreach to compliment the Council Member's office in District 8, which led to a process that was representative of the overall population of the district. These strategies proved to be successful and the district saw higher rates of participation for several of these groups. Also similar to Year 1, many of the projects proposed at neighborhood assemblies were projects focused on public housing, whether for increasing security, improving parks and green spaces or building repair, due to the high concentration of public housing in the district. This resulted in six projects related to public housing being on the ballot and two receiving funding. In the end, Mark-Viverito allocated more than the minimum required of \$1 million, funding six projects for a total of \$1.9 million.



Participants discuss possible project ideas at a neighborhood assembly in District 8.

8th District Demographics

		<u>Census</u> <u>Data</u>	<u>Neighborhood</u> <u>Assemblies</u> N=231	<u>Difference</u> <u>Neighborhood</u> <u>Assemblies</u> <u>Years 1 & 2</u>	<u>Budget</u> <u>Delegates</u> N=62	<u>PB</u> <u>Voters</u> N=1066	<u>Diff. PB</u> <u>Voters</u> <u>Years</u> <u>1 & 2</u>	<u>Voters in</u> <u>2009 Local</u> <u>Elections</u>	<u>Difference</u> <u>between</u> <u>PB & 2009</u> <u>Voters</u>
<u>Gender</u> NA: N=201 BD: N=60 Voters: N=1048	Female	53%	71%	+2%	67%	68%	+2%	60%	+8%
	Male	47%	29%	-2%	32%	32%	-2%	40%	-8%
	Other	N/A	1%	+0%	2%	0%	+0%	N/A	N/A
<u>Race/Ethnicity</u> NA: N=199 BD: N=59 Voters: N=937	Asian	6%	2%	-1%	5%	3%	+1%	2%	+1%
	Black	23%	50%	+9%	42%	31%	-3%	31%	+0%
	Latino/a	50%	39%	-6%	34%	54%	+4%	39%	+15%
	White	19%	12%	-2%	17%	12%	-5%	22%	-10%
	Other	2%	7%	+2%	7%	5%	+3%	0%	+5%
<u>Highest Level</u> <u>of Education</u> NA: N=97 BD: N=44 Voters: N=700	Some High School or less	16%	8%	-2%	8%	18%	+2%	N/A	N/A
	H.S. Diploma or GED	21%	30%	+10%	25%	27%	+3%	N/A	N/A
	Associate/ Vocational Degree	5%	6%	-2%	2%	4%	-4%	N/A	N/A
	Some College	13%	20%	+2%	27%	20%	-1%	N/A	N/A
	Bachelor's Degree	17%	21%	-2%	20%	21%	+6%	N/A	N/A
	Graduate Degree	15%	16%	-5%	18%	12%	-4%	N/A	N/A
<u>Income</u> NA: N=177 BD: N=53 Voters: N=912	Less than \$10,000	18%	28%	+5%	19%	21%	-1%	4%	+17%
	\$10,000-\$14,999	9%	18%	+4%	17%	20%	+5%	24%	-4%
	\$15,000-\$24,999	13%	11%	-2%	9%	13%	+1%	14%	-1%
	\$25,000-\$34,999	9%	10%	-3%	19%	14%	+2%	25%	-11%
	\$35,000-\$49,999	12%	11%	-2%	11%	11%	-4%	11%	+0%
	\$50,000-\$74,999	13%	9%	-3%	6%	9%	-1%	20%	-9%
	\$75,000-\$99,999	8%	6%	-1%	8%	3%	-3%	1%	+2%
	\$100,000-\$149,000	8%	5%	+2%	6%	6%	+1%	1%	+5%
	\$150,000 or more	9%	3%	+0%	6%	3%	+0%	0%	+3%
<u>Age</u> NA: N=149 BD: N=49 Voters: N=857	14 years or under	20%	7%	-7%	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	15 to 19 years	7%	11%	-1%	2%	7%	+3%	N/A	N/A
	20 to 24 years	8%	10%	+8%	6%	5%	-1%	N/A	N/A
	25 to 34 years	19%	9%	-3%	8%	17%	+3%	11%	+6%
	35 to 44 years	14%	11%	+4%	22%	21%	+5%	N/A	N/A
	45 to 54 years	12%	14%	-4%	20%	16%	-5%	N/A	N/A
	55 to 64 years	10%	13%	-2%	20%	15%	-4%	N/A	N/A
	65+ years	11%	25%	+5%	20%	19%	-2%	31%	-12%
<u>Language</u> NA: N=841 BD: N=59 Voters: N=6928	English	47%	87%	+8%	75%	62%	-22%	N/A	N/A
	Spanish	42%	19%	+7%	9%	30%	+17%	N/A	N/A
	Other	11%	2%	+2%	17%	8%	+5%	N/A	N/A