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NEW AMERICANS VITAL TO GOLDEN STATE: California's Immigrants, Latinos, and Asians are a Political and Economic Powerhouse

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Washington D.C.—California's \$42 billion deficit has led to a lot of misplaced blame on the immigrant, Latino, and Asian communities that comprise the state's economic backbone. Yet immigrant, Latino, and Asian workers and entrepreneurs are integral to rebuilding California's economy and tax base. The state may be facing hard economic times, but the California dream is anything but dead—immigrants and their families are part of the very engine that keeps California's future alive.

The Immigration Policy Center has compiled [research](#) which shows that immigrants, Latinos, and Asians are a political and economic powerhouse.

"Immigration has a positive effect on the local economies where immigrants live. When immigrants come they bring economic vitality and help sustain industries. Clearly we're barking up the wrong tree when we blame immigrant workers for the situation of low-income workers in California," says Manuel Pastor, co-director of the Center for the Study of Immigrant Integration at University of Southern California, whose research is summarized in the [IPC report](#).

Rob Paral, demographer and Principal of Rob Paral & Associates, also points out that "California is a state quite apart from other states, in the sense that the presence of immigration is not an option: it's a reality. The question is how to leverage it." Paral, who has done research for IPC on New American electoral patterns, also said "...there's a dawning legacy in California of the children of immigrants. This new generation is almost all citizens that have had a close, personal experience with immigration. To help leverage their contributions to the California economy is to help improve the status of their parents."

California is standing proof of the contributions that immigrants make to our country, and that the role they play in securing the future of California is undeniable. "With its large immigrant population and current economic woes, California is in the belly of the anti-immigrant beast. Yet, while many restrictionists and anti-immigrant groups are exploiting the recession and using immigrants as scapegoats, an undeniable truth lies beneath their feeble facts: California's immigrants and their children climb up the socioeconomic ladder over time and most Californians have economically benefited as a result," concludes IPC Director Angela Kelley.

For more data on the contributions of immigrants, Latinos, and Asians to the California economy, view the [fact sheet](#) in its entirety.

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