

For Immediate Release
April 18, 2012

Contact: Antonio González
323-343-9299
Lydia Camarillo
210-922-0225

**SVREP REGISTERS 10,000 IN PREPARATION FOR TEXAS PRIMARY ELECTIONS;
WINS KEY LEGAL VICTORY TO RESTORE ARIZONANS RIGHT TO VOTE IN
LAWSUIT FILED IN 2004;
FILES LAWSUIT AGAINST TEXAS ON VOTER ID**

(April 17, 2012) San Antonio, Texas. Southwest Voter Registration Education Project (SVREP) has registered 10,000 new voters in Bexar, Dallas and Tarrant Counties and has set up nonpartisan registration projects in southern California and Las Cruces, New Mexico.

According to recent Census reports "the Latino vote shrank in 2009-2010. Unlike in the past election cycles where the Latino vote grew, this cycle, because of the high Latino unemployment and foreclosure rates, Latino registration declined 5% across America," said SVREP President Antonio González.

"We are working hard to catch up for the loss of 100,000 Latino voters in Texas and expand the vote for the general election. In doing so, we will contact up to a million Latino voters across Texas," continues González.

"Texas won two new congressional Latino-majority seats this redistricting process. We were front and center in the redistricting fight; we started the year running, growing the Latino vote. Latinos will elect candidates of their choice in Texas," stated Lydia Camarillo, SVREP Vice President and Chair of the Texas Latino Redistricting Task Force.

With two weeks left for the April 30th voter registration deadline for Texas Primary, SVREP expects to register another 3,000 to 4,000 Latino voters in its targeted counties.

The nonpartisan registration effort is part of the LV12N12 Campaign, a national effort to expand the Latino vote and turnout 12 million Latino voters for the 2012 general election.

PROP. 200 PROVISION FOUND UNCONSTITUTIONAL IN ARIZONA

Southwest Voter Registration Education Project (SVREP) applauds the Ninth Circuit's en banc ruling in *González v. State of Arizona*, striking down critical provisions of an Arizona law that restricted voter access. In 2004, right after voters passed Arizona proposition 200, SVREP sued Arizona for its unconstitutional proposition.

"SVREP is pleased that the court found Arizona's Proposition 200 to be unconstitutional and clearly this is another effort aimed at diluting the Latino vote," said González.

“Prop. 200 violated federal law, it forced U.S. citizens to provide proof of citizenship when they register to vote. Moreover, the law was prohibitive to groups like SVREP. SVREP will continue to work to empower the Latino vote and stop any effort that violates our right to participate in America’s democracy as full and equal partners,” states Camarillo.

The Ninth Circuit Court affirms that Arizona voters can use the federal registration card which does not require proof of citizenship.

LAWSUIT TO STOP TEXAS VOER ID FROM TAKING EFFECT

SVREP filed in the DC Federal Court to intervene in the Texas Voter ID law. The Texas Voter Id law by the State’s own account will violate the voting rights of more than 600,000 Latino voters who are citizens but do not have the proper identification to get the voter ID required to vote. Moreover, the Texas Voter ID law, which SVREP testified against during the legislative session, is repetitive and will cost the Texas tax payers to produce the voters ID. Finally, student ids and birth certificates are not allowed by the law whereas Help America Vote Act (HAVA) allows several forms of identification.

MALDEF is SVREP’s legal representative in the Texas Voter ID case as it is for the Gonzalez v. State of Arizona. MALDEF is the legal representative for the Texas Latino Redistricting Task Force.

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SVREP is the largest nonpartisan, nonprofit organization of its kind in the United States committed to the political empowerment of Latino community. Since its inception in 1974, SVREP has registered over 2.5 million Latinos, trained over 150,000 Latino leaders; won over 80 voting rights lawsuit and organized in over 250 communities across the US. For more information, see www.svrep.org.

National Office: 1426 El Paso Suite B *San Antonio, TX 78207 * (210) 922-0225 * Fax (210) 932-4055
California Office: 2914 N. Main St., 2nd. Floor * Los CA 90031 *(323) 343-9299 *Fax (323) 343-9100