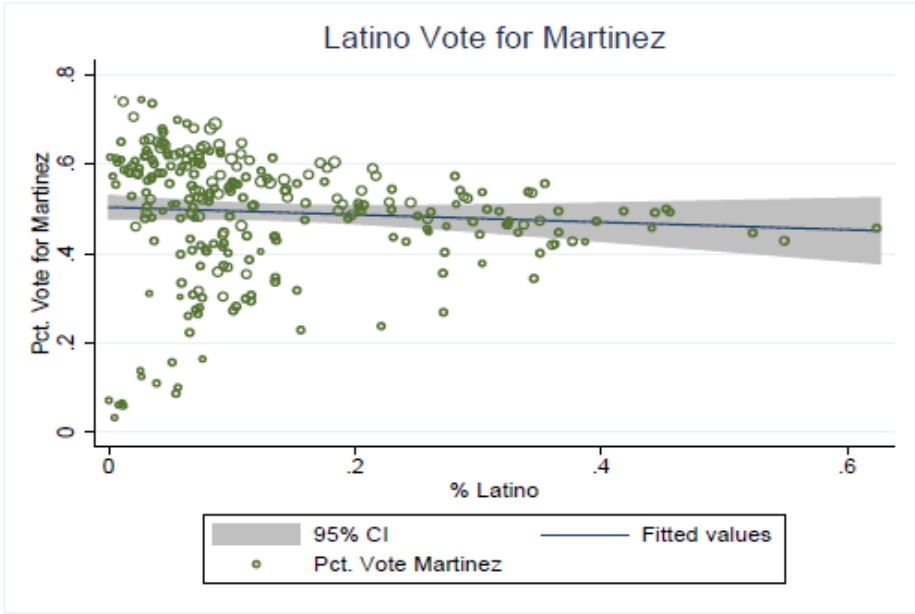**A. What is Polarized Voting?**

Racially polarized voting exists when voters of different racial or ethnic groups exhibit very different candidate preferences in an election. It means simply that voters of different groups are voting in opposite directions, rather than in a coalition. Racially polarized voting can vary in degree of intensity, and it can be easily measured and quantified using statistical analysis that has been accepted by the courts. Bottom line: minority voters are voting one way, and non-minority voters are voting another way; but because the non-minority voters are more numerous in the at-large system, the minority voters systematically lose. That's why racially polarized voting, combined with an at-large system, has such discriminatory effects.

Example: A simple example is Yakima City. In Yakima election data clearly shows that year after year, election after election, Latino voters strongly tend to favor the Latino candidates, and the White voters strongly tend to vote against the Latino candidates. That's racially polarized voting. It's something we can measure and quantify through precise statistical analysis.
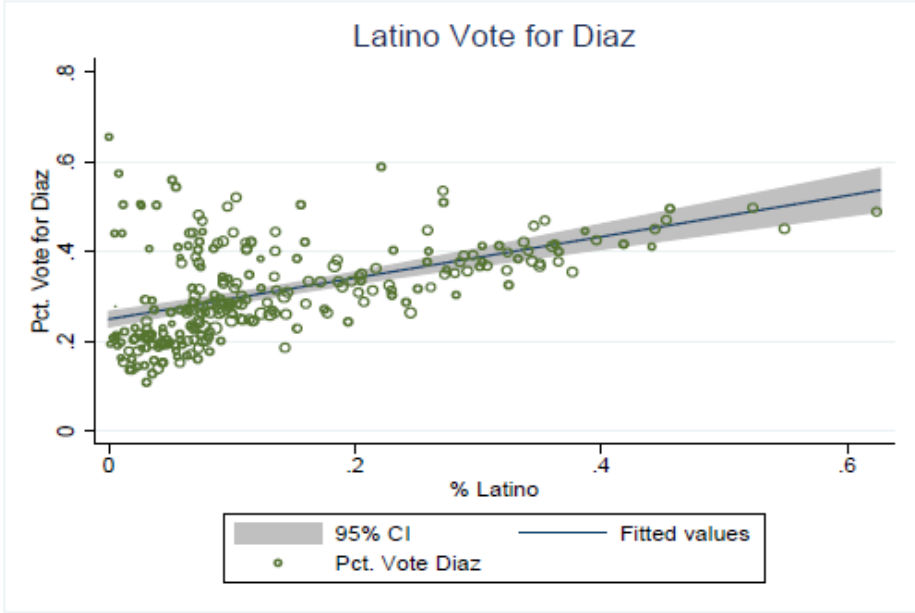
B. How does one determine whether racially polarized voting is happening?

We now have very good data collection methods that can tell us electoral preferences precinct by precinct. And because we also have very detailed demographic data that goes precinct by precinct, we can determine with confidence how certain constituencies are voting. Sadly, this is a result, in part, due to residential housing patterns that show minorities living in different neighborhoods than non-minorities. It's because of this residential segregation that we can measure racially polarized voting.
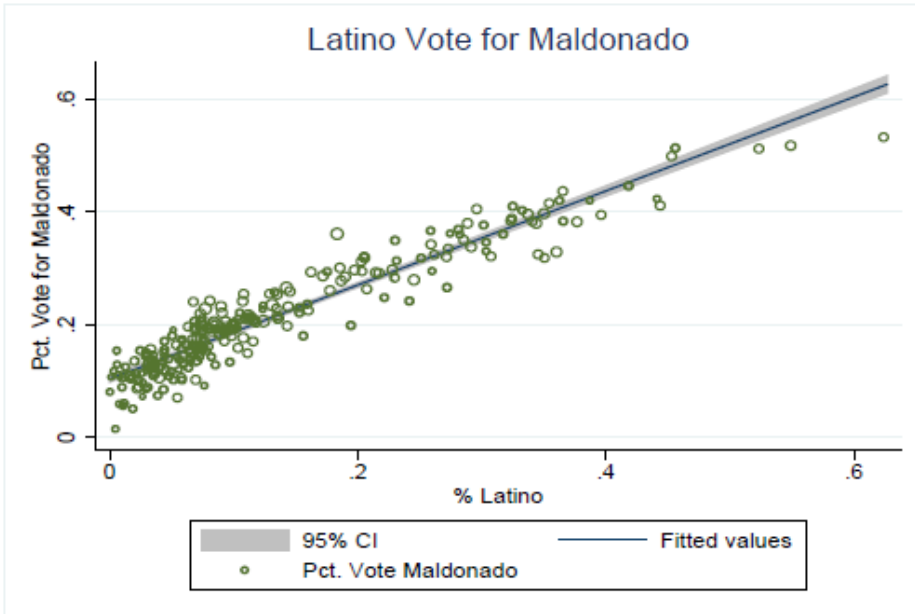
Example: Take Adams County, which is 59% Latino. In Adams County we know where the Latinos are living, by and large, and we know where the non-Latinos are living, by and large. This demographic data is publicly available. We compare the demographic data to the voting patterns, precinct-by-precinct, and through these comparisons we can see whether racially polarized voting is occurring in Adams County. It's a pretty straight forward statistical measure that courts have been using for over 30 years.

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Latino Vote for Martinez

1. Example of no polarized voting. The non-Latino precincts on the left side of the chart are not grouped, and the Latino precincts on the right side appear mostly in the middle

Latino Vote for Diaz

2. Racial bloc voting starts to appear. You can start to make out a pattern, but non-Latino precincts are only somewhat cohesive

Latino Vote for Maldonado

3. Racial bloc voting is obvious and fits very neatly on a line, where voting patterns are extremely closely related to racial characteristics of the precinct