A Method to Forecast Local Hispanic Voting Strength

Peter A. Morrison

RAND (retired)

<u>Overview</u>

- *FOCUS*

  - **How does Hispanic voting strength materialize in heavily Hispanic locales?**

  - **Can a demographic accounting framework forecast this process?**

- *IMPORTANCE:*

  - **Hispanics' evolving voting strength spurs concerns with potential empowerment under alternative local election systems**

Presentation Outline

- **Background and context**

- **Logic of my approach**

- **Accuracy of simulated 2000-2010 "forecasts" for 8 communities**

- **Conclusions and next steps**

Background and Context

- **Local electorates typically evolve as**
  - **Ethnic residential enclaves mature & expand**
  - **Their juvenile citizens reach adulthood**
  - **Their elderly citizens die off**

- **Approaches to foreseeing the future:**
  - **From geography:** *Spatial diffusion*
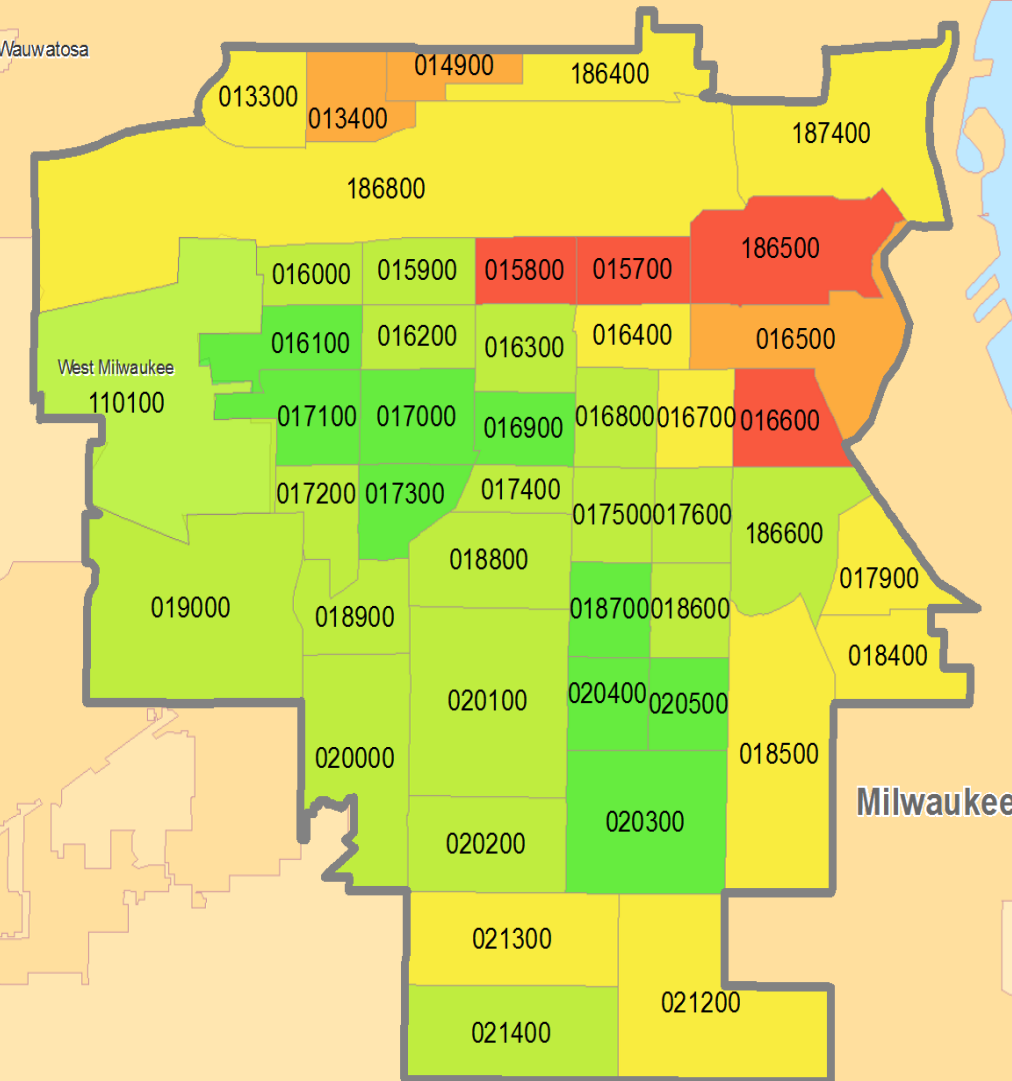 - **From demography:** *Cohort progression*

Logic of This Approach

- **Calibrate *spatial diffusion* model to project Hispanic enclave expansion**

- **Calibrate *cohort progression* models to project evolving future electorate:**

  - **Add juvenile citizens as they attain voting age**

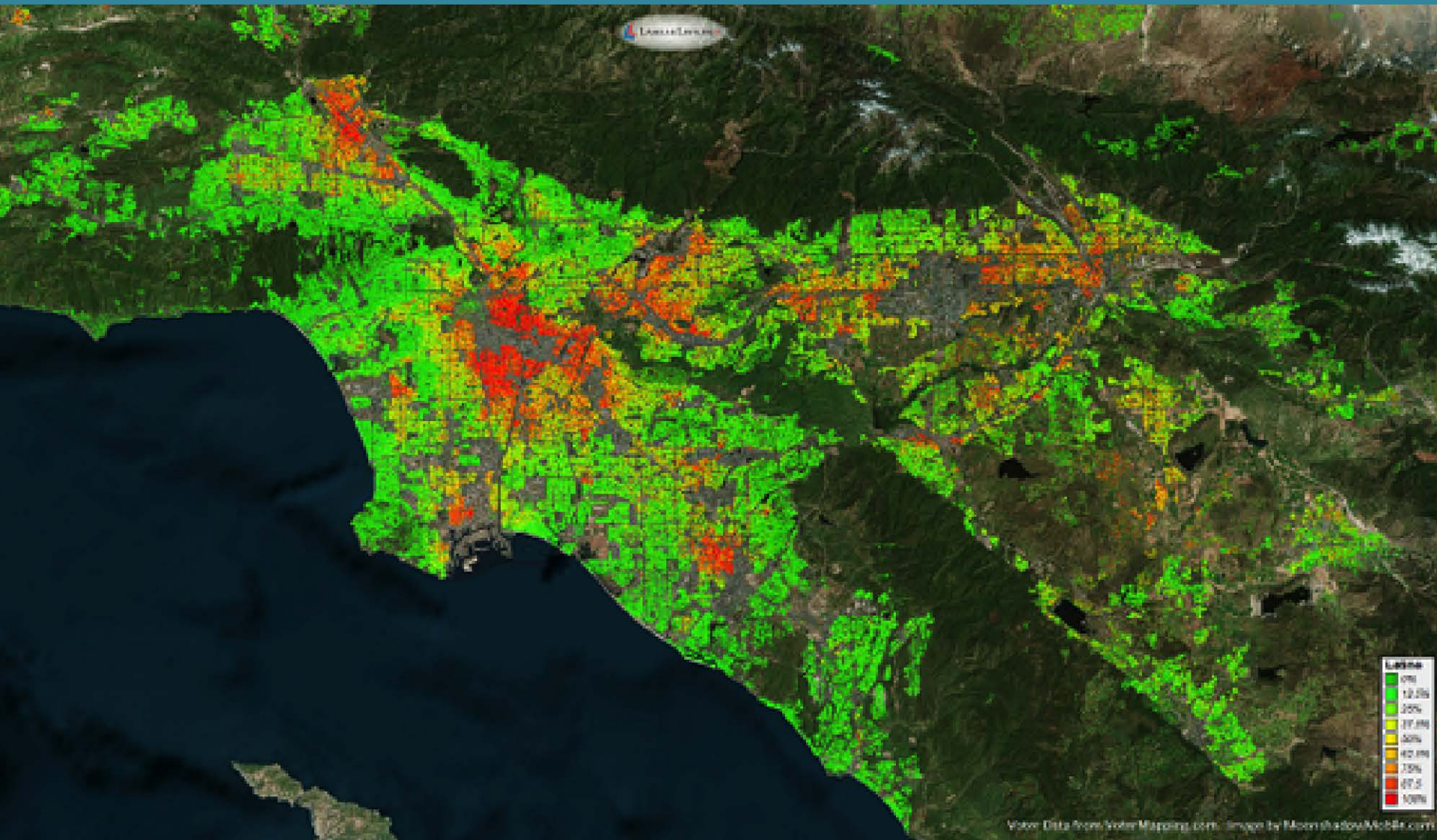 - **Subtract elderly citizens as they die off**

Local Hispanic Enclaves Are Varied

Hispanic Enclave in Milwaukee County, WI

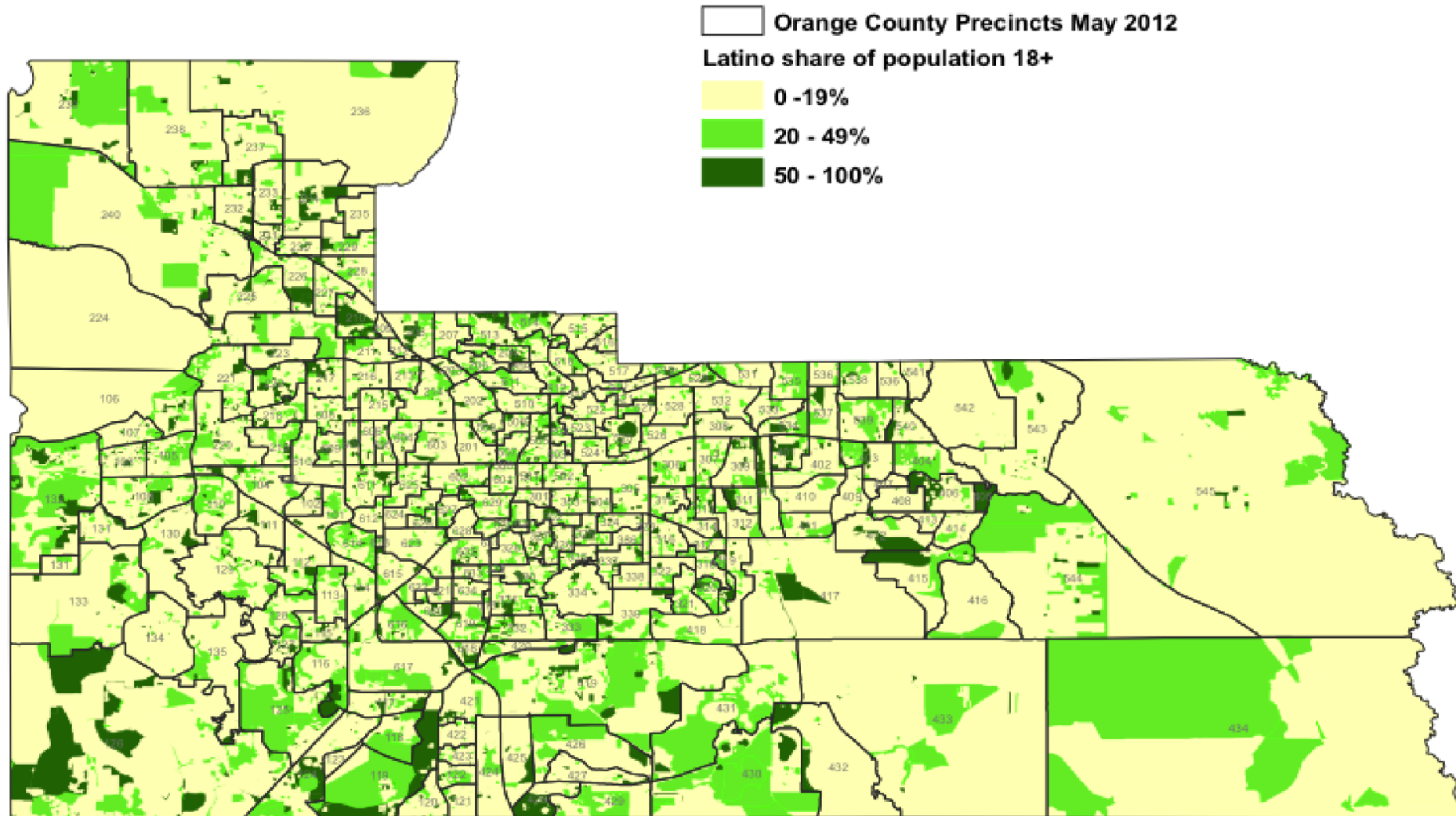## 2000-2010 Hispanic Population Change by Tract

- > -150 Decline
- -150 to 0
- 0 to 250
- 250 to 1,000
- > 1,000 Growth

Total change 2000-2010 was +7,004, reflecting growth of +23,588 Hispanics and a decline of -16,544 non-Hispanics.

Wauwatosa

West Milwaukee

Milwaukee

St. Francis

013300
014900
186400
013400
187400
186800
016000 015900 015800 015700 186500
016100 016200 016300 016400 016500
110100 017100 017000 016900 016800 016700 016600
017200 017300 017400
017500 017600 186600
019000 018800 017900
018900 018700 018600 018400
020100 020400 020500
020000 020300 018500
020200
021300
021200
021400

Multiple Hispanic Enclaves: Greater Los Angeles

Orange County, FL -- Multiple Enclaves

Orange County Precincts May 2012
Latino share of population 18+

- 0 -19%
- 20 - 49%
- 50 - 100%

<u>Spatial Diffusion Model</u>

- **Portrays coalescence & outward growth of Hispanic residential enclaves**

- **Projects future growth according to adjacent past growth**

- **Model is easily calibrated & interpreted**

How Voting Strength Materializes

City of Yakima, WA

Yakima city, WA		Projected Hispanic Share of Citizen Population 18+ Midyear 2002-2010				Actual Share (2010 Census & 2008-12 ACS)
Citizen Population (2000)	Number	2002	2004	2005	2010	
18 & older:	43,282	45,720	47,887	48,970	54,387	55,395
Hispanics	6,169	7,337	8,375	8,894	11,489	12,550
NonHispanics	37,113	38.383	39,512	40,076	42,899	
%Hispanic	*14.25%*	*16.05%*	*17.49%*	*18.16%*	*21.12%*	*22.66%*
Under 18:	19,502	x (2/18)	x (4/18)	x (5/18)	x (10/18)	
Hispanics	9,342					
NonHispanics	10,160					
%Hispanic	*47.9%*					

Sources: US Census Bureau, 2000 Census, SF2 Table QT-P1 and SF4 Table PCT044; 2010 Census, SF2 Table QT-P1 and 2008-12 American Community Survey, Tables B05003 and B05003I.

Young Hispanics Age Into an Electorate, Elderly non-Hispanic Voters Die Off

Age group	City of Gainesville, GA Population		
	Total population	% Hispanic	% White NonHisp
75 to 79 years	629	3.3%	82.5%
80 to 84 years	604	2.6%	87.1%
85 to 89 years	436	2.3%	92.0%
90 to 94 years	221	0.5%	92.8%
95+ years	66	0.0%	87.9%
Total, all ages	33,804	41.6%	39.0%
Under age 18	10,276	57.6%	20.9%
Age 18+	23,528	34.6%	46.9%
Age 65+	3,567	5.1%	82.1%

Cohort Progression Model

- **Accounts for Hispanics aging into the electorate as older non-Hispanics die off**

- **Isolates effects of age structure apart from other possible influences**

- **Documents how Hispanics may ripen into a majority of future eligible voters**
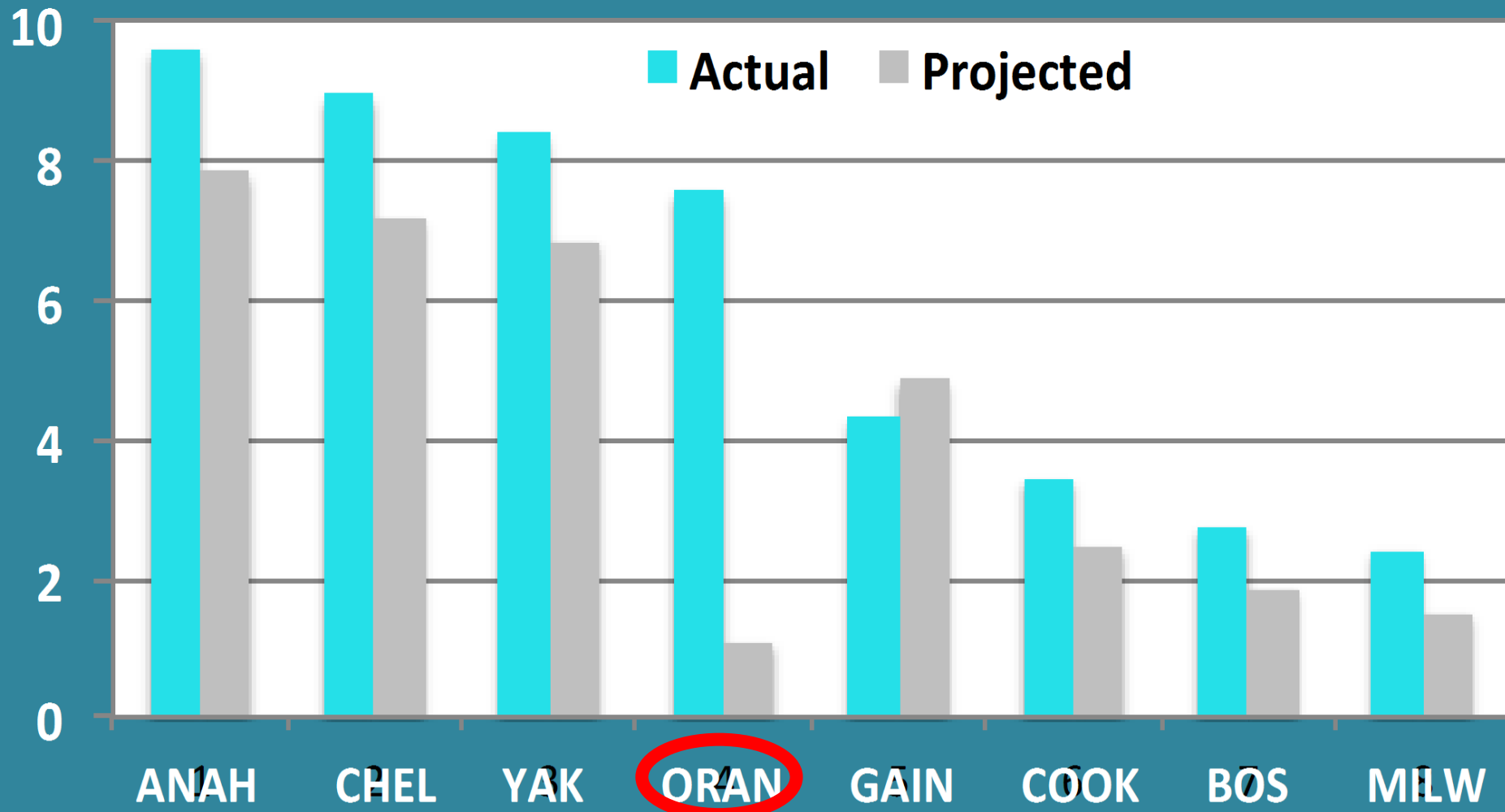
Predictive Accuracy:
2000-2010 Simulated Forecasts

Forecast Detail

City or County	Hispanic Share of Citizens 18+			Change, 2000-2010		
	2000	2010	2010 (proj.)	Actual	Projected	Difference
Anaheim, CA	24.0%	33.6%	31.8%	9.6	7.9	-1.8
Chelsea, MA	29.4%	38.4%	36.6%	9.0	7.2	-1.8
Yakima, WA	14.3%	22.7%	21.1%	8.4	6.9	-1.5
Orange Cnty, FL	15.1%	22.6%	16.2%	7.6	1.1	-6.5
Gainesville, GA	7.1%	11.5%	12.0%	4.3	4.9	0.5
Cook Cnty, IL	11.2%	14.7%	13.7%	3.4	2.5	-1.0
Boston, MA	8.7%	11.4%	10.5%	2.8	1.9	-0.9
Milwaukee, WI	6.9%	9.3%	8.4%	2.4	1.5	-0.9

Forecast Summary

2000-2010 increase. Bar chart comparing Actual (cyan) and Projected (gray) values for ANAH, CHEL, YAK, ORAN, GAIN, COOK, BOS, and MILW. ORAN is circled in red.

Conclusions & Next Steps

What Have We Learned?

- **Youthful cohort succession increases voting strength in Hispanic immigrant communities**

- **A model quantifying this process accounts for much of that prospective increase**

- **Further possible refinements could account for:**
  - **Adult noncitizen Hispanics who will naturalize**
  - **Migratory influx of adult <u>citizen</u> Hispanics**
  - **Mortality loss through elderly cohort succession**