

**Assessing the Mexican Vote Abroad**  
Sponsored by the Trans-Border Institute  
University of San Diego  
Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice, Theatre and Rotunda  
Thursday, February 2, 2006  
12:15 PM – 2:00 PM

*“Mexicans who live abroad have always been in our hearts and minds. This is and always will be your country. We form a united nation, strong and indivisible. We are one people and no border could or can divide us.”*

– Mexican President, Vicente Fox, September 1, 2005

This forum will address the ramifications of the Mexican absentee vote in Mexico’s upcoming presidential elections in July 2006. The deadline for Mexicans living abroad to request absentee ballots to participate in the vote was January 15, 2006, though fewer than 20,000 of the estimated six to ten million Mexicans living in the United States were able to register for absentee ballots. Moreover, candidates are legally restricted from publicly campaigning in the United States. What worked and what went wrong with the absentee balloting process? How will migrants respond at the polls? What are the implications of the Mexican vote abroad for U.S.- Mexico relations? What are the larger implications for the 2006 presidential elections and beyond? This forum will focus on these questions and on the prospects for maximizing Mexican migrants’ political participation in the future. A group of distinguished panelists will explore recent developments in the absentee voting question, as well as several important issues surrounding the development of Mexico’s democratic electoral institutions.

Moderator:

Emily Edmonds, Assistant Professor, Political Science, University of San Diego

Panelists:

*Election Dynamics in 2006: What Is At Stake*

Todd Eisenstadt, Assistant Professor, Political Science, American University

*IFE and the Politics of the Migrant Vote Abroad*

Rodrigo Martinez Sandoval, Dean of the Education and Human Science Department  
Universidad Iberoamericana

*Legal and Political Implications of the Migrant Vote Abroad*

Jorge Santibáñez, President, Colegio de la Frontera Norte

*The Challenges of Registering Mexican Voters Abroad*

Maria Curry, Migrant Outreach Coordinator  
Talia Vazquez Alatorre, Migrant Outreach Coordinator

*Trans-Border Perspectives on Mexican Absentee Voting*

Raul Rodriguez, Director, Biblioteca y Centro de Información "Luis Fimbres Moreno"  
CETYS Universidad

Discussant:

Ramon Eduardo Ruiz, Professor Emeritus, History, University of California-San Diego

\*Some presentations will be in Spanish followed by an English Translation

\*This event will be followed by a light reception

\*Directions to USD and parking information are available at:

<http://www.sandiego.edu/about/directions/>

<http://www.sandiego.edu/parking/>