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Review

# The Intersection of Racial Identity and Political Participation in Immigrant Communities

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**Abstract:** This article examines how racial identity intersects with immigrant status to shape political participation in immigrant communities within the United States. Adopting a focused literature review and illustrative case approach, the analysis centers on three key empirical domains: the 2006 Latino immigrant-rights movement, Asian American immigrant communities, and selected Black immigrant experiences. The central argument posits that racial identity does not directly or uniformly produce political participation. Instead, its effects operate through mediating mechanisms including racialization, group consciousness, linked fate, political efficacy, institutional trust, and access to organizational resources. The Latino case demonstrates how restrictive policy threats and robust community networks can transform private insecurity into civic engagement, advocacy, and voter mobilization. The Asian American case reveals that panethnic classification may foster solidarity yet does not eliminate differences in national origin, class, language, political orientation, or generational cohort. Black immigrant experiences further illustrate that external racial classification does not automatically generate a unified political identity. Across these cases, citizenship, legal status, party outreach, community organizations, and institutional openness shape whether racial identity leads to electoral incorporation, community engagement, or political withdrawal. The article concludes that immigrant political participation is best understood as the outcome of dynamic interaction among identity formation, organizational capacity, and institutional conditions within the destination society. These findings carry significant implications for scholars and policymakers seeking to understand and support inclusive democratic engagement in increasingly diverse societies.

**Keywords:** racial identity; immigrant communities; political participation; group consciousness; political opportunity

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## 1. Introduction

International migration has increased the ethnic, cultural, and linguistic diversity of many contemporary societies. Individuals relocating to a new country must adapt not only to new legal frameworks, languages, and administrative procedures but also to prevailing social categorizations and relational dynamics within the host society. These frameworks may differ significantly from the national, ethnic, or cultural self-understandings individuals held prior to relocation. Through sustained interaction with public services, civic organizations, employers, media, and other social actors, individuals may develop new understandings of social positioning that influence their sense of belonging and civic engagement [1]. Social identity should therefore be understood as a dynamic construct shaped by relocation experiences, societal classification processes, and varying degrees of inclusion or marginalization.

Civic participation among individuals who have relocated is highly varied. Some engage through formal channels such as voting, volunteering with community initiatives, or communicating with local service providers, while others participate via neighborhood associations, mutual-support networks, digital platforms for civic information sharing, or culturally grounded advocacy efforts. Still others remain minimally involved in civic life. These variations cannot be fully accounted for by factors such as legal residency status, duration of residence, educational background, economic circumstances, or language fluency [2]. Individuals originating from the same country may experience differing patterns of social recognition, develop varying degrees of shared group awareness, and hold distinct perceptions regarding their capacity to effect change or trust in institutional responsiveness. Social identity may thus help explain divergent civic responses among individuals with broadly similar backgrounds when encountering comparable civic environments.

Existing research has addressed topics including civic integration of individuals who have relocated, relationships between social identity and civic behavior, and the roles of legal status and socioeconomic resources in shaping engagement. However, these domains are often examined in isolation. Studies on civic integration typically emphasize access to formal systems, individual capabilities, and familiarity with local administrative norms, whereas analyses of social identity dynamics frequently center on long-established population groups. This disciplinary separation limits understanding of how relocation and social identification processes jointly shape civic orientation. Greater attention is needed to clarify how societal recognition influences the formation of shared civic concerns and how such concerns translate into diverse modes of civic involvement.

This article addresses three interrelated questions: How does social identity shape individuals' perceptions of shared civic concerns and communal affiliation? How do lived experiences, organizational support, legal standing, and institutional accessibility influence the translation of identity into civic action? Under what conditions does social identity foster active civic involvement, and when does it correlate with reduced civic engagement?

The central proposition is that social identity does not directly or uniformly determine civic participation. Its influence is mediated by experiences of exclusion or inclusion, development of shared awareness, perceptions of interconnected outcomes, strength of community ties, confidence in personal agency, and levels of institutional trust. A strong sense of group affiliation may support participation in formal civic processes, community-based initiatives, or advocacy activities—particularly when supportive infrastructure and accessible pathways exist. Conversely, prolonged marginalization, uncertain legal standing, or limited institutional responsiveness may lead to diminished confidence, reduced trust, or perceptions that civic involvement yields limited impact. The interplay between social and relocation-related identities can therefore result in formal civic integration, community-oriented engagement, or limited civic involvement. The article advances this proposition through a focused synthesis of relevant literature and illustrative discussion of civic engagement patterns among Latino communities advocating for equitable access to services, Asian-origin immigrant populations, and selected Black-origin immigrant groups in the United States.

## **2. Literature Review and Theoretical Framework**

### *2.1. Main Explanations of Immigrant Political Participation*

Immigrant political participation encompasses both institutional and non-institutional activities. Institutional forms include voting, voter registration, campaign involvement, party activities, contacting public officials, and participation in community meetings or local governance. Non-institutional forms include lawful civic assemblies, organized advocacy initiatives, public policy engagement, digital political expression, and community-based coordination. Immigrants may also maintain political connections with

their countries of origin through electoral processes, diaspora associations, policy-related dialogue, or cross-border civic cooperation [3].

Conventional explanations of immigrant participation generally emphasize political rights, individual resources, and institutional access. Citizenship provides formal voting rights and eligibility for certain public roles, while longer residence may enhance familiarity with domestic political norms and procedures [4]. Education, occupation, and income influence access to information, time availability, and organizational support. Language proficiency supports effective interaction with governmental institutions, and political knowledge strengthens comprehension of electoral mechanisms and policy discussions. Social networks and engagement with political organizations can further facilitate participation by providing information and opportunities for involvement. Although these factors clarify immigrants’ capacity to participate, they do not fully account for how personal experiences of marginalization are interpreted within broader civic frameworks.

2.2. Racialization, Racial Identity, and Group Consciousness

Racialization refers to the process through which individuals from immigrant backgrounds are socially categorized according to racial frameworks in the destination society. It is closely associated with formal and informal racial classification systems employed by governmental bodies, institutions, media, and societal discourse. Racial identity, by contrast, reflects an individual’s self-identification with a particular racial group. Group consciousness emerges when individuals perceive shared social circumstances, collective interests, or common experiences shaping their position within society. Linked fate denotes a specific orientation wherein personal opportunities and well-being are understood as interdependent with the broader group’s social standing [1].

These concepts suggest that racial identity is not necessarily pre-established prior to migration. Immigrants may initially emphasize nationality, ethnicity, language, or cultural affiliation as primary markers of belonging; however, exposure to dominant societal categorizations—such as institutional labeling, public narratives, differential treatment, and engagement with other population groups—can influence how they interpret and situate themselves socially [5]. Table 1 distinguishes the principal concepts used in this article and identifies their respective roles in explaining immigrant political participation.

Table 1. Key Concepts and Their Roles in Explaining Immigrant Political Participation

| Concept                         | Core meaning                                                      | Explanatory role in this article                                 |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Racialization                   | The process through which immigrants are assigned racial meanings | Explains how racial identities develop or change after migration |
| Racial identity                 | Subjective identification with a racial group                     | Explains perceptions of belonging and political interests        |
| Group consciousness             | Awareness of shared conditions, interests, and inequalities       | Explains collective political mobilization                       |
| Linked fate                     | Belief that individual outcomes are connected to group outcomes   | Explains group-oriented political choices                        |
| Political efficacy              | Belief that individuals or groups can influence politics          | Explains political participation or withdrawal                   |
| Political opportunity structure | Institutional openness and available channels of participation    | Explains whether identity can be translated into action          |
| Resource mobilization           | Access to organizations, information, leadership, and networks    | Explains the capacity to organize and participate                |

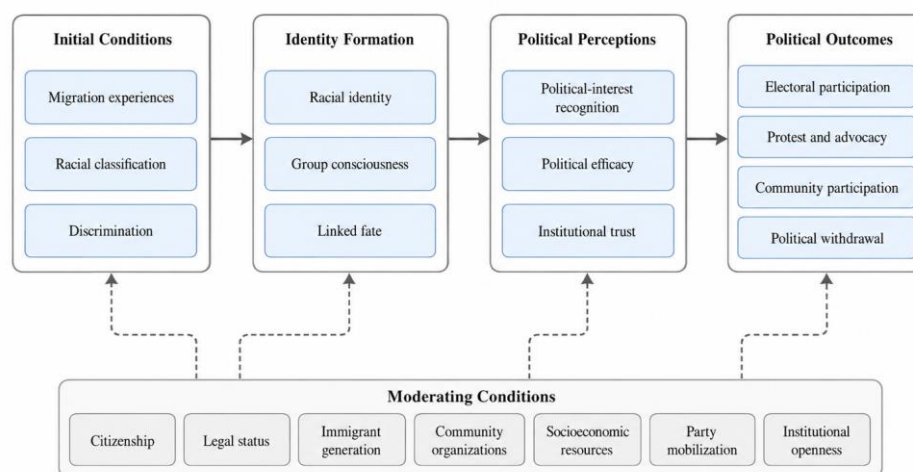
2.3. Intersectionality and Political Opportunity

The political effects of racial identity vary according to gender, socioeconomic status, country of origin, cultural background, immigrant generation, language proficiency, citizenship status, legal standing, and migration pathway [6]. For example, individuals with different legal statuses—such as those without formal residency authorization, naturalized professionals, and persons recently resettled under humanitarian programs—may be grouped under the same racial classification despite possessing markedly distinct rights, access to support structures, and levels of institutional engagement. An intersectional perspective thus avoids treating immigrant populations as homogeneous and clarifies how racial identity interacts dynamically with other social and legal dimensions.

Perspectives emphasizing political opportunity and resource mobilization indicate that identity alone does not sustain collective action. Community-based organizations, faith-based institutions, professional associations, advocacy networks, ethnic media outlets, and political entities can supply information, leadership development, linguistic mediation, and participant recruitment. When political institutions are accessible and responsive, shared identity may facilitate electoral engagement or structured civic advocacy. In contexts where formal participation channels are limited, the same identity may instead foster grassroots coordination or localized community initiatives. Without organizational infrastructure, however, experiences of marginalization and exclusion may lead to diminished institutional trust and reduced civic involvement.

#### 2.4. Integrated Analytical Framework

Figure 1 presents the analytical framework adopted in this article. Migration experiences, social categorization, and unequal treatment form the initial conditions under which racial identity, group consciousness, and linked fate may develop. These processes influence the recognition of shared political interests, perceptions of political efficacy, and trust in institutions [3]. They may subsequently produce electoral participation, civic advocacy, community participation, or political disengagement.



**Figure 1.** Analytical Framework of Racial Identity and Political Participation in Immigrant Communities

This relationship is moderated by citizenship, legal status, immigrant generation, community organizations, socioeconomic resources, party engagement, and institutional accessibility. The framework therefore does not assume that stronger racial identity automatically leads to greater participation. Instead, it explains why similar experiences of social categorization can generate different political outcomes under varying organizational and institutional contexts [4].

### **3. From Racialization to Political Mobilization: The Latino Immigrant-Rights Movement**

#### *3.1. Policy Threat and Racialized Political Consciousness*

The large-scale public gatherings in spring 2006 illustrate how legislative initiatives can shift immigration status into a broader social and political concern. The catalyst was H.R. 4437, an enforcement-focused bill approved by the House of Representatives in December 2005. The proposal emphasized stricter immigration controls and introduced measures that would classify unauthorized presence as a criminal offense while expanding penalties for aiding undocumented individuals [7]. Within many Latino communities, the bill was perceived not merely as a legal adjustment but as a challenge to family stability, labor participation, residential cohesion, and civic engagement.

Public discourse around the proposal often conflated unauthorized immigration status with generalized portrayals of Latinos as outsiders or non-integrated members of society [8]. This narrative tended to overlook distinctions among citizens, lawful permanent residents, temporary visa holders, and undocumented individuals, grouping them under a shared label of suspicion. Concerns related to legal standing, employment conditions, and family unity were thus reframed as matters affecting the broader community rather than isolated personal circumstances. In this setting, ethnic identity extended beyond cultural affiliation to encompass a shared social experience shaped by policy environments and public rhetoric.

#### *3.2. Group Consciousness and Linked Fate*

The events also illustrate how perceived policy threats can strengthen group consciousness and a sense of shared destiny. Shared language, family relationships, neighborhood ties, and repeated exposure to discourse about immigration contributed to some individuals connecting their personal circumstances with those of broader immigrant or Latino communities [9]. Evidence from large-scale civic engagements in 2006 indicates that participation extended beyond undocumented Mexican immigrants; Latino citizens also engaged in collective action on issues directly affecting noncitizens, reflecting cross-status solidarity.

This solidarity coexisted with significant internal diversity. Latino communities varied by national origin, socioeconomic background, generational status, legal standing, and political orientation. Naturalized citizens held electoral rights unavailable to undocumented immigrants, while recently arrived workers often faced distinct challenges compared to later-generation citizens. Group consciousness thus emerged through political interpretation and interpersonal networks rather than automatically from ethnic categorization. When participants perceived proposed restrictions as affecting relatives, coworkers, or the broader community, racial and immigrant identities were more likely to inform civic participation, advocacy efforts, and electoral engagement. Research on immigrant families during this period similarly shows that civic involvement could extend across generations via familial interaction and common concerns.

#### *3.3. Community Organizations and Resource Mobilization*

Identity alone, however, does not explain the scale of civic engagement. Religious institutions, professional associations, nonprofit organizations, immigrant-support groups, Spanish-language media, and family networks transformed shared concern into coordinated civic activity [10]. These entities disseminated information about the legislation, clarified potential implications, provided language assistance, arranged transportation, and promoted public gatherings. Spanish-language broadcasters played a particularly significant role, as existing media infrastructure enabled broad outreach to encourage participation, reducing reliance on physical assemblies for visibility.

Faith-based institutions and professional associations also provided accessible venues for assembly, experienced facilitation, and organizational capacity. Family and neighborhood networks mitigated uncertainty by enabling individuals to engage alongside familiar peers. Such support reduced logistical and emotional barriers to civic

involvement, especially for immigrants concerned about documentation status or unfamiliar with formal civic processes [4]. Empirical evidence indicates that established civic structures facilitate the translation of widespread concerns into organized civic expression. The case thus highlights an important distinction: shared social identity may foster mutual recognition, but institutional resources shape whether such recognition translates into observable civic participation.

#### *3.4. Achievements and Limitations of Mobilization*

The 2006 large-scale public gatherings heightened awareness of immigrant communities and brought issues related to immigration status into mainstream national political discussion. These activities also linked civic engagement efforts—such as voter registration drives and naturalization support—with broader community participation initiatives, including electoral involvement and neighborhood-level organizing. Research indicates that the influence of this collective action extended beyond immediate events, shaping the development of civic institutions, public narratives, and later forms of organized civic involvement.

However, participation in such civic activities did not consistently lead to sustained affiliation with political parties or equitable representation in decision-making bodies. Noncitizens continued to be ineligible to vote in federal elections, and ongoing legal uncertainties hindered consistent public engagement. Organizational resources and coordination capacity varied significantly across geographic areas. Differing perspectives on policy goals and engagement approaches further constrained the emergence of unified advocacy positions within affected communities. Thus, while the initiative marked an important moment in civic life, its long-term impact was uneven. It illustrates how policy proposals perceived as discriminatory can reinforce shared identity and prompt grassroots civic responses, yet sustained involvement relies on robust organizational frameworks, pathways to citizenship, and responsive institutional mechanisms.

### **4. Panethnic Identity and Internal Diversity: Asian American Immigrant Communities**

#### *4.1. "Asian American" as a Panethnic Classification*

The category "Asian American" encompasses populations with substantial differences in national background, language, cultural traditions, migration history, socioeconomic status, and political engagement. Groups originating from China, India, the Philippines, Korea, Japan, and other parts of Asia may share an official racial classification while maintaining distinct community institutions and civic priorities. Many first-generation immigrants therefore identify more strongly with their country of origin, ethnic heritage, language, or cultural tradition than with a broad Asian American label. Immigrants from Asia are also more likely than U.S.-born individuals of Asian descent to use origin-based identifiers, indicating that panethnic identification varies across generational lines.

A broader Asian American identity may nonetheless develop through administrative categorization, public communication, and shared experiences of being perceived as outsiders despite citizenship or long-term residence. Such common social positioning can foster mutual recognition across national-origin boundaries [11]. Panethnic affiliation may thus facilitate coordinated civic participation and representation, without erasing distinctions in socioeconomic status, cultural practices, migration pathways, or policy interests.

#### *4.2. Generational Differences in Identity and Participation*

First-generation immigrants often engage with civic life in the United States through experiences acquired prior to migration. Their involvement may be influenced by early civic learning in their countries of origin, language proficiency, naturalization status, familiarity with U.S. institutions, and connections within ethnic communities. Some

maintain cross-border civic engagement, while others limit participation due to prior experiences in environments with limited institutional transparency or stability.

Second-generation and U.S.-educated Asian Americans typically possess greater familiarity with U.S. civic processes and demographic frameworks [12]. They are more likely to understand inequitable treatment as part of broader societal patterns rather than as isolated incidents. Educational settings, professional environments, and digital platforms can strengthen shared ethnic or intergroup affiliations, supporting involvement in student groups, community initiatives, digital advocacy, and collaborative social efforts.

Generational change thus influences both access to civic resources and the evolving significance of ethnic identity. First-generation immigrants may perceive 'Asian' primarily as an externally assigned category, whereas later generations may adopt 'Asian American' as a collective identity linked to representation, fairness, and civic inclusion. However, socioeconomic background, cultural orientation, ethnic identification, and local community dynamics continue to shape whether this identity informs civic engagement [3].

#### *4.3. Anti-Asian Discrimination and Divergent Political Responses*

Experiences involving perpetual-foreigner stereotypes, language-based bias, or model-minority assumptions may reveal the limits of cultural assimilation and socioeconomic advancement, thereby heightening awareness of shared social positioning.

Such experiences may foster cross-ethnic solidarity, support for inclusive policies, civic engagement initiatives, public dialogue, and collaboration across diverse communities [1]. Community organizations often contextualize individual incidents within broader societal frameworks, offer multilingual resources, and facilitate communication with relevant authorities or reporting mechanisms. Under these conditions, socially constructed group identities can shift personal experiences toward shared civic concerns.

Conversely, concerns about visibility, personal safety, limited familiarity with institutional processes, or perceived ineffectiveness of formal channels may lead some individuals to prioritize private adaptation or reliance on trusted community networks [13]. Therefore, shared ethnic identification does not uniformly correlate with increased civic involvement; its influence depends on organizational capacity, perceived agency, and institutional accessibility.

#### *4.4. A Supplementary Comparison with Black Immigrants*

Black immigrants offer a useful comparative perspective. African and Caribbean immigrants may initially emphasize national or ethnic identity, yet U.S. institutional frameworks frequently categorize them within the broader Black racial grouping. This classification may associate their experiences with those of U.S.-born Black populations in domains such as law enforcement interactions, civic representation, and socioeconomic outcomes.

However, common racial classification does not imply uniform political orientations. Factors including national origin, socioeconomic background, migration history, and political socialization continue to influence attitudes and engagement patterns. Foreign-born individuals often maintain strong ties to national or ethnic affiliations, whereas racial identification may strengthen across subsequent generations. Organizational involvement and shared civic experiences thus play a key role in translating racial categorization into coordinated civic activity.

As summarized in Table 2, the cases of Latino, Asian American, and Black immigrants indicate that broad racial categories can facilitate mutual recognition, though their influence on political participation remains shaped by internal heterogeneity, organizational capacity, legal standing, and structural access.

**Table 2.** Cases of Racial Identity and Political Participation

| Case                                 | Racialized or policy context                           | Key mechanisms                                                   | Main participation forms                                           | Main limitations                                                         |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Latino immigrant-rights movement     | Restrictive immigration policy and legal insecurity    | Group consciousness, linked fate, organizational networks        | Protest, advocacy, voter mobilization                              | Citizenship restrictions, legal risk, limited continuity                 |
| Asian American immigrant communities | Panethnic classification and anti-Asian discrimination | Panethnic identity, generational change, community organizations | Voting, digital action, advocacy, community participation          | Internal diversity, language and class differences                       |
| Black immigrants                     | Incorporation into the U.S. Black racial category      | Interaction of racial and national identities                    | Community participation, coalition politics, electoral involvement | Differences in origin, migration experience, and political socialization |

## 5. Institutional Conditions and Divergent Pathways of Political Participation

### 5.1. Citizenship, Legal Status, and Political Channels

Citizenship and legal status significantly shape both access to political participation and the modes through which it occurs. Citizens possess the right to vote, run for public office, join political organizations, and engage with elected officials via formal mechanisms. Permanent residents may take part in community associations, advocacy initiatives, and local public consultations, yet remain ineligible for most electoral processes. Individuals without legal residency status face heightened constraints and typically rely on collective action, mutual support networks, workplace-related organizations, and civil society groups focused on migration-related issues.

Legal uncertainty can foster apprehension and lead individuals to limit their public engagement. Those concerned that visible participation might trigger immigration-related scrutiny—potentially affecting themselves or family members—may refrain from attending public gatherings, visiting government service centers, or affiliating with civic organizations. Thus, legal status not only governs eligibility for participation but also influences the choice among electoral, community-oriented, collective, or private forms of civic response. As a result, individuals sharing similar demographic backgrounds may pursue distinct political trajectories due to differences in institutional entitlements and perceived risk exposure.

### 5.2. Party Mobilization and Political Representation

Political parties can reduce barriers to participation by engaging with immigrant communities, offering multilingual information, facilitating voter registration, and encouraging candidacy among individuals from immigrant backgrounds. Such initiatives may enhance political efficacy by affirming that voters and communities with immigrant origins are acknowledged as legitimate participants in the political process. Representatives from immigrant backgrounds may also increase the visibility of community concerns and serve as symbolic indicators that civic engagement can shape institutional outcomes.

However, demographic growth does not automatically translate into equitable political representation. Diverse factors—including national origin, language, socioeconomic status, legal residency status, and policy preferences—may hinder cohesive engagement efforts. Political parties may limit outreach to immigrant communities to electoral periods without cultivating enduring connections. Moreover, symbolic inclusion does not guarantee substantive responsiveness in policymaking [14].

A candidate sharing an immigrant background with constituents may still provide limited advocacy for their specific policy priorities.

### 5.3. Cross-Racial Coalitions and Internal Tensions

Immigrant and ethnically diverse groups may collaborate on shared concerns such as equitable access to services, fair employment practices, education, housing, and civic participation. Such collaboration can integrate organizational resources, broaden public awareness, and strengthen collective advocacy. Examples include coordinated efforts in immigrant support initiatives, advocacy against discrimination, and engagement in community-based justice-oriented activities [15].

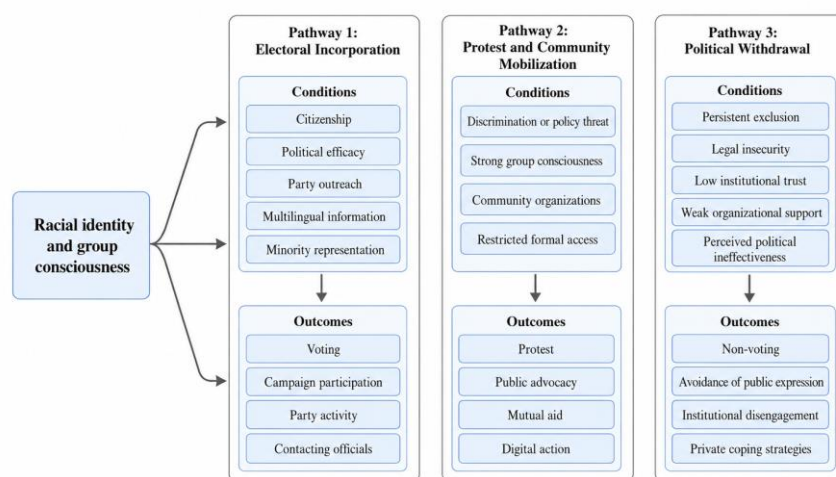
Sustaining collaborative relationships remains challenging. Differences in resource access, divergent priorities, historical misunderstandings, socioeconomic variation, and interpersonal biases can hinder coordination. Narratives about group achievement may inadvertently foster comparison rather than mutual understanding. For instance, the 'model minority' characterization—emphasizing individual attainment while overlooking systemic barriers—can obscure structural disparities and unintentionally undermine solidarity. Effective cross-group cooperation thus depends on intentional coordination and aligned conceptual frameworks, rather than assumed commonality in lived experience.

### 5.4. Three Divergent Political Pathways

The preceding analysis suggests three principal outcomes. The first is electoral incorporation, which is more likely where immigrants possess citizenship, political information, party contact, representative candidates, and relatively high political efficacy. These conditions facilitate voting, campaign involvement, party activity, and communication with officials.

The second pathway is civic engagement through community-based initiatives. It is more likely when collective awareness develops in response to social or policy challenges, while community organizations provide information and coordination [8]. This pathway is especially important when formal political participation opportunities are limited and may include public advocacy, mutual aid, digital outreach, and organized community activities.

The third pathway is political disengagement. Persistent marginalization, legal uncertainty, weak organizational support, and low institutional confidence may lead immigrants to avoid voting, public expression, and contact with political institutions [8, 12]. As illustrated in Figure 2, racial identity and group consciousness do not produce a single political outcome. Their effects depend on the institutional rights, organizational resources, and political opportunities available to immigrant communities.



**Figure 2.** Divergent Political Pathways of Racial Identity

## 6. Conclusion

This article has examined how racial identity intersects with immigrant status to shape civic engagement. Racial identity influences civic behavior through processes of social categorization, group awareness, shared experience, perceived capacity to effect change, and confidence in institutional responsiveness. Immigrants may come to recognize individual experiences of unequal treatment, legal uncertainty, or marginalization as part of a broader pattern affecting their community. However, shared racial identity alone is insufficient to generate sustained civic involvement. Community-based organizations, interpersonal networks, formal institutions, legal frameworks, and structural opportunities determine whether shared identity translates into organized civic activity.

The Latino immigrant-rights movement illustrates how policy proposals and public discourse emphasizing differential treatment can transform personal concerns into shared civic priorities. Community-based organizations, ethnic media, religious institutions, and professional associations helped translate group awareness into coordinated civic action, advocacy, and electoral participation. By contrast, the Asian American case shows that a shared racial classification does not override variation in national background, language, socioeconomic position, migration pathway, generational status, or worldview. Broad-based identity may facilitate cooperation on matters of equitable treatment, but its civic relevance varies across contexts. The supplementary comparison with Black immigrants further indicates that external social classification does not necessarily produce cohesive civic orientation.

These cases support the broader conclusion that racial identity may be associated with electoral participation, organized civic initiatives, or reduced civic involvement. Citizenship status, outreach from representative institutions, access to civic information, and inclusive institutional design can orient identity toward electoral engagement. Perceived policy challenges and organizational infrastructure may instead foster advocacy and collective civic expression. Persistent marginalization, legal uncertainty, limited institutional responsiveness, and low confidence in civic systems can contribute to disengagement.

Theoretically, the article bridges research on immigrant civic integration with scholarship on racial dynamics, treating racial identity as an evolving civic process shaped after migration. It also highlights the interplay among identity formation, organizational capacity, and institutional context. Civic support efforts should therefore expand naturalization assistance and voter registration services, provide multilingual civic resources, strengthen community-based organizations serving immigrants, enhance representation in public institutions, and reduce procedural barriers to civic inclusion. Because the discussion draws primarily on illustrative cases from the United States, its findings are context-specific and should not be extended uncritically to other settings. Future research could employ cross-national comparisons, qualitative interviews, and survey data to assess whether the identified pathways operate differently across varied institutional and demographic environments.

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