Political alliances are still essential for the full force of the minority vote to be felt at the ballot box.

Research question:

1. What factors correspond to higher levels of Latino affinity for African-Americans?
2. How much future potential is there for Latino participation in minority oriented political alliances?

Basis for minority coalitions:

- Share similar objective circumstances in US: economically disadvantaged/discrimination, housing, education, employment, both advocate for enlarging the social welfare state.

Reality - Few if any real examples of strong political coalitions between blacks and Latinos exist.

In actuality there is much political competition and resentment

What is needed to form minority coalitions?

- Symbolic glue
- Political homogeneity
- Similar political preferences
- Sense of shared fate
- Seeing their social, economic, and political opportunities tied to the status of minorities in general
- It is not enough for minorities to be a part of the larger democratic party coalition

Theories

- Assimilation hypothesis: Latinos will become less "minority" centered in their politics
• ethnic conflict hypothesis: Latino acculturation results in greater sense of affinity for minorities

• Pan-Latino Affinity hypothesis: a sense of Pan-Latino community is necessary pre-cursor for latino/black solidarity

• discrimination hypothesis: many Latinos experience severe social and economic discrimination

• racial identity hypothesis: Latinos with a sense of non-white racial identity

Results – Latino National Political Survey data 1989-90

Dependent variable: how much in common do you have with African Americans (1-100)

Regression Analysis shows support for 3 hypotheses:
pan-Latino affinity
Latino acculturation (+)
racial identity

The discrimination hypothesis didn't pan out

Residential Context and Racial Solidarity among African Americans
By Beldsoe, Welch, Sigelman, and Combs (1995)

Research Question: U.S. becoming less segregated, moving to the suburbs. How is this affecting black feelings of solidarity.

Testing three hypotheses:

1. Social Density – living among blacks increase feelings of solidarity
2. social salience – living among whites increases feelings of solidarity (reminded)
3. identity supremacy – doesn't matter because race is such a prominent issue in African American lives.

Data: in-home survey of Detroit Metropolitan Area residents. 1123 Residents (including 652 blacks).

Survey questions:
1. blacks should always vote for black candidates 16%
2. black people should choose to shop in black owned stores 61
3. black parents should give their children African names 8
4. black children should study black history 97
5. black children should study an African language 54
6. blacks should marry other blacks. 40
FINDINGS

1. Not a lot of variation across different black groups (suburbs, city, segregated, mixed) suggesting support for the identity supremacy thesis.

2. Older blacks living in the city tend to have strong feelings of solidarity (social density hypothesis).

3. Blacks living in mixed areas have lower levels of solidarity (but affects are modest) (social density hypothesis).

COALITION PROSPECTS IN A MULTI-RACIAL SOCIETY: AFRICAN-AMERICAN ATTITUDES TOWARD OTHER MINORITY GROUPS by Jackson; Gerber, Cain

Research question: how do African Americans feel about other racial and ethnic groups and how do their view their coalition prospects with other major racial and ethnic minority groups?

During the 1970s and 1980s, African Americans formed or joined the dominant political coalitions in a number of large American cities leading to the election of black candidates to the mayor’s office.

Currently there seems to be some divisions among such coalitions: class differences, entropy, migration of Latinos.

DATA: 1988 survey of black Los Angeles residents (N=489)

Blacks feel closest to whites (40.5% saying very close) then Latinos (39.5), then Jews (32.9) then Asians (28.4), then Black Muslims (11.5). This is very different from national attitudes.

64% of blacks felt it was "very important" to work through a minority party, whereas many felt it wasn't very important to work with the Established Party.

Considerable consensus as to support for nonviolence, complete integration, and court/legal/legislative action.

FINDINGS

Older, more educated and wealthier blacks are more likely willing to work with the established party. More importantly, those blacks that have closer feelings with others are more likely to be willing to work with the established party.