



Bilingual Poll Worker Recruitment List

Asian Americans Advancing Justice-Los Angeles was one of the co-sponsors¹ of AB 817² which allows jurisdictions to recruit lawful permanent residents (green card holders) as poll workers. The statute is intended to assist counties in meeting their language assistance requirements under federal³ and state laws,⁴ thereby strengthening access to the ballot for limited English proficient voters. The statute also provides an avenue for lawful permanent residents to become civically engaged.

Because this is the first time lawful permanent residents can be poll workers, we worked with the Future of California Elections (FOCE)⁵ and the Language Accessibility Advisory Committee⁶ to create a list of suggested places and institutions where jurisdictions may find bilingual lawful permanent residents as well as bilingual U.S. citizens. The list may also be of use to community based organizations carrying out immigrant integration efforts. The list includes places which may allow presentations, posting or distribution of recruitment flyers, or other means of disseminating information:

- government payroll envelopes to government employees (include notice with payroll check)
- informational slides that are displayed during breaks on local TV stations that broadcast Board of Supervisors meetings, City council meetings, and other local government meetings
- ethnic media (TV, radio, and print)
- government agencies that have bilingual employees
- naturalization workshops sponsored by community based organizations
- colleges and universities (particularly through clubs and language courses)
- community centers
- interpreting schools
- senior centers
- English language classes (intermediate or advanced classes)
- adult schools

¹ Asian Americans Advancing Justice–ALC and NALEO Educational Fund were the other two co-sponsors.

² AB 817 has been codified in Elections Code Section 12302.

³ Section 203 of the federal Voting Rights Act.

⁴ Elections Code Section 12303.

⁵ FOCE is a collaboration between election officials, civil rights organizations and election reform advocates to examine and address the unique challenges facing the State of California's election system.

⁶ The Language Accessibility Advisory Committee is a group of individuals and organizations that provide input and recommendations to the California Secretary of State regarding language accessibility in elections.

- places of worship
- weekend language schools (parents of students and older students)
- community festivals that allow tabling, especially ones celebrating traditional holidays or feasts
- community based organizations
- libraries (presentations to library classes/programs and posting on bulletin boards)
- government offices which provide services to individuals (e.g. the Department of Motor Vehicles, the Social Security Administration, Department of Public Social Services, and Employment Development Department)
- consulate offices
- ethnic chambers of commerce
- shopping centers, markets, and restaurants
- school mailings to parents

While this is a general list, counties may find it useful to work with local community based organizations and community leaders to identify specific local institutions and provide contact information for those institutions.

We hope counties and community based organizations find the new law and list useful.

