



How to Use California's New Language Access Requirements

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The Future Is Now



	CA Latinos	CA Asian Americans
Population	15.3 million	5.9 million
% of total state population	39%	15%
Limited English proficiency (w/i pop.)	34%	36%
Speak a language other than English at home (w/i pop.)	75%	76%

Expansion of Language Coverage

	Holdover languages	New languages	Languages no longer covered
1	Spanish	Ilocano	Japanese
2	Chinese	Punjabi	Hindi
3	Filipino/Tagalog	Hmong	
4	Cambodian/Khmer	Armenian	
5	Korean	Farsi	
6	Vietnamese	Arabic	
7		Syriac	

Number of Precincts Providing Bilingual Assistance

	Old	New	Change
All Languages Statewide	8,412	6,837	-1,575
Holdover Languages			
Spanish	5,077	3,293	-1,784
Filipino/Tagalog	1,825	1,016	-809
Vietnamese	288	397	109
Korean	258	366	108
Chinese	629	312	-317
Khmer	128	77	-51
New Languages			
Armenian	0	2,139	2,139
Farsi	0	1,388	1,388
Punjabi	0	768	768
Hmong	0	373	373
Arabic	0	180	180
Syriac	0	55	55
Illocano	0	54	54
Eliminated Languages			
Hindi	1,140	0	-1,140
Japanese	207	0	-207

**Counties Offering
Substantial New
Language Assistance**

Counties with substantial new req's

- Fresno County:
 - Spanish
 - Chinese
 - Khmer
 - **Hmong**
 - **Korean**
 - **Punjabi**
 - **Filipino**
 - **Vietnamese**

- Kern County:
 - Spanish
 - **Punjabi**
 - **Filipino**



Counties with substantial new req's



- Sacramento County:

- Spanish

- Chinese

- Vietnamese

- Filipino

- Korean

- **Punjabi**

- **Hmong**

- San Joaquin County:

- Spanish

- Chinese

- Vietnamese

- Khmer

- **Punjabi**

- **Filipino**

Counties with substantial new req's

- Stanislaus County:
 - Spanish
 - Khmer
 - **Punjabi**
 - **Syriac**
- Merced County:
 - Spanish
 - **Punjabi**
 - **Hmong**
 - **Chinese**



Communities Receiving Language Assistance for the First Time

First-time language assistance - 2018

- Punjabi speakers:

- Alameda County
- Fresno County
- Kern County
- Madera County
- Merced County
- Sacramento County
- San Joaquin County
- Stanislaus County
- Sutter County

- Hmong speakers:

- Butte County
- Fresno County
- Placer County
- Sacramento County
- Yuba County



First-time language assistance - 2018

- Ilocano speakers:
 - Kern County
 - San Joaquin County
 - Tulare County
- Syriac speakers:
 - Stanislaus County





CARPOOL LANE ENDS 1/2 MILE

Sacramento
Santa Monica
Los Angeles

National Blvd

Nati

More info?

Secretary of State CC/ROV #17148, Dec. 29, 2017

<http://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/advisories-county-elections-officials/2017-advisories-county-elections-officials/dec/>





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How Can You Use These New Tools?

How can you use these new tools?

- Call your county elections office. Ask for someone who handles language access issues.
- Ask where in the county translated “facsimile” ballots will be available on Election Day.
 - Required to post online E-14, but will know sooner
- **Do voter registration and GOTV armed with this information.**



How can you use these new tools?

- Inform voters in relevant neighborhoods they may find a “facsimile” ballot at their polling place on ED.
 - They should look for signs, or simply ask.
- If they are VBM, they may be able to request a “facsimile” ballot be sent to them via mail or email.
 - Carry that phone number with you!
 - Request a “facsimile” ballot yourself to show new or infrequent voters



Toolkit Under Development



CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF CLERKS
AND ELECTION OFFICIALS

Meeting the Needs of California's Diversifying Electorate:

An Implementation Toolkit for New Language Access Requirements in State Law

1. The Importance of Language Access in California's Elections
2. Basics of Federal and State Requirements for Language Access in Elections
 - Federal Law
 - State Law
3. State Requirements for Language Access in Elections
 - Prior to AB 918
 - After AB 918
4. Section 14201 Language Determinations
 - Language Determinations Prior to 2018
 - Language Determinations Starting in 2018
 - Data on Number of Languages and Precincts Covered
5. Opportunities for Collaboration

State Requirements for Language Access in Elections

Prior to AB 918

Facsimile ballots: In precincts where a LEP language minority community exceeds a 3% threshold, a facsimile ballot in the community's language needs to be conspicuously posted in the polling place.

Bilingual poll workers: Elections officials need to make "reasonable efforts" to recruit bilingual poll workers speaking 3% languages. Also, at least 14 days before an election, elections officials need to make available a list of the precincts to which bilingual poll workers are assigned.

Tip: These provisions remain unchanged following the passage of AB 918.

After AB 918

AB 918 (Bonta) was passed in 2017. It makes California the nationwide leader in ensuring that no eligible voter experiences a barrier to voting because of their language skills.

Prior to Election Day re facsimile ballots:

- At least 14 days before an election, the county elections website must list all polling places, including the languages of the facsimile ballots available at each. Text surrounding/explaining the list must be in English and any 3% language. (Sec. 14201(d).)
- The county voter information guide must refer LEP voters to this information on the county elections website. The text in the voter information guide must be in



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