# Facilitating Voting by LEP Spanish and Filipino/Tagalog Voters in Clark County, NV, Elections

**Election Assistance Commission
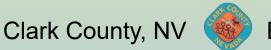Language Access for Voters Summit – Washington, D.C.
July 24, 2018**

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# OVERVIEW

**Objective: To provide some specific methods for effectively facilitating voting by LEP voters**

1. Facts about Clark County, NV

2. Timeline of Implementing Measures for LEP Voters

3. Development of Community Outreach

4. Voting Equipment

5. Early Voting and Vote Center Sites

6. Poll Workers

7. Translation and Bilingual Departmental Staffing

8. A Tip for Printed Materials

9. Summary

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# 1. FACTS ABOUT CLARK COUNTY, NV

- Total registered voters as of June 2018:  1,196,244
  - Total registered in the entire state of Nevada: 1,695,450
  - Clark County has about 70% of all of Nevada's registered voters

- Total Precincts in 2018:  1,138

- No. of Election Day Vote Centers in 2018:  172
  - Voting on Election Day is from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

- No. of Early Voting Sites in 2018:  90
  - 14 Long-Term Sites (open at the same location for longer durations, 15-40 voting machines)
  - 76 Short-Term Neighborhood Sites (open only on specific dates, 6-15 voting machines)
  - Early voting starts the Saturday, 17 days before Election Day, and continues everyday for 14 days, ending the Friday before Election Day.

- No. of Full-Time Staff in the Election Department: 37

- No. of Poll Workers on Election Day in the 2018 Primary Election:
  - 2,100 non-County employees
  - 450 County employees (Team Leaders and Assistant Team Leaders)

- Population Estimate as of August 2017:  2,248,390

- Size:  About 8,000 sq. miles

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## 2.  TIMELINE FOR IMPLEMENTING MEASURES FOR LEP VOTERS

- On July 26, 2002,  Clark County first became subject to Section 203 requirements of the Federal Voting Rights Act.  Based upon 2000 Census data, the Director of the U.S. Census Bureau directed Clark County to conduct all future elections in English and Spanish.
    - Clark County began preparing election materials that were simultaneously English and Spanish, e.g., every sample ballot contained both English and Spanish.

- On October 13, 2011, the Director of the U.S. Census Bureau informed Clark County that, based upon 2010 census data, future elections must also be conducted in Filipino (Tagalog), as well as English and Spanish.
    - Clark County began preparing materials in separate languages.  Sample ballots contained only one language because it was too cost prohibitive to print and mail sample ballots that contained English, Spanish, and Tagalog.  Spanish and Tagalog sample ballots were sent to only those who requested them.

- In 2017, the Nevada Legislature passed a law (NRS  293.2699(2)) to permit provision of election materials in additional languages to those required by federal law if a County/City Clerk determines a minority group with limited English proficiency that was subject to historical discrimination and unequal educational opportunities had a significant and substantial need for such.
    - In 2018, Clark County prepared its first "Traditional Chinese" language brochure (Vote Center Information).

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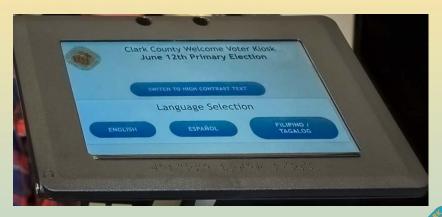
# 3. DEVELOPMENT OF COMMUNITY OUTREACH

- Identifying Latino community groups and leaders with which to coordinate outreach activities was accomplished through contact with and/or referrals from:
  - Spanish language media, such as El Mundo Newspaper
  - Latin Chamber of Commerce
  - Groups that register voters, such as Mi Familia Vota
  - The County Town Advisory Board Liaison providing contacts within County town districts

- Identifying Filipino leaders and groups for outreach efforts involved contacting:
  - Asian media, such as the Asian Journal newspaper
  - Asian Chamber of Commerce
  - National Federation of Filipino American Association (NaFFAA)
  - Asian Community Developmental Council (ACDC), majority of the members are Chinese
  - Asian Pacific Islander American Public Affairs Association

- Proactive outreach and voter education includes:
  - After General Elections, meetings with groups for feedback and to develop improvements
  - Voting machines demonstrations to encourage voting, in conjunction with registration events
  - Registering voters at community events and distributing information in the relevant language
  - Spreading the word via the top three leaders or groups that the Election Department is ready, willing, and eager for outreach

- Once it was known that the Election Department was receptive and available, community organizations and leaders eagerly contacted us for outreach.

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# 4. VOTING EQUIPMENT

- In 2018, Clark County implemented all new voting machines, Dominion's ICX touch screen machines (right image):
  - These machines were required to have both Spanish and Tagalog ballots and instructions in both written and audio formats.
  - Looking towards the future, Clark County also required the machines to be capable of permitting voting in the Chinese language with its symbols and characters.

- New electronic pollbook kiosks were also implemented:
  - The kiosks include a signature pad with which the voter interacts for identification, corrections, and signing their signature.
  - The signature pads allow the voter to choose their language.
  - Signature pads and software must also be capable of Chinese language interactions as well.





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# 5. EARLY VOTING AND VOTE CENTER SITES

- Early Voting: Clark County has an extensive early voting program. Since 2000, more people in Clark County vote before Election Day than on Election Day.
  - Early voting sites are carefully selected to ensure that all voters, including Spanish and Filipino communities, have convenient opportunities to cast their ballot before Election Day.
  - Early voting locations are approved by the County Commission.

| GENERAL ELECTION YEAR | ACTIVE REGISTERED VOTERS | TURNOUT BY VOTING METHOD | | | | | | | |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| | | Early Voting | | Election Day | | Mail/Absentee | | TOTAL | |
| | | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % |
| 2016 | 1,019,287 | 488,972 | 47.97% | 235,119 | 23.07% | 44,453 | 4.36% | 768,544 | 75.40% |
| 2014 | 822,922 | 171,286 | 20.81% | 147,729 | 17.95% | 22,339 | 2.71% | 341,354 | 41.48% |
| 2012 | 852,413 | 436,568 | 51.22% | 205,693 | 24.13% | 50,001 | 5.86% | 692,262 | 81.21% |
| 2010 | 736,663 | 258,283 | 35.06% | 174,341 | 23.67% | 33,841 | 4.59% | 466,465 | 63.32% |
| 2008 | 815,190 | 391,805 | 48.06% | 210,264 | 25.79% | 50,718 | 6.22% | 652,787 | 80.08% |
| 2006 | 647,904 | 165,293 | 25.51% | 169,503 | 26.16% | 27,805 | 4.29% | 362,601 | 55.97% |
| 2004 | 684,313 | 271,465 | 39.67% | 222,036 | 32.45% | 53,357 | 7.80% | 546,858 | 79.91% |
| 2002 | 547,758 | 136,763 | 24.97% | 148,486 | 27.11% | 28,356 | 5.18% | 313,605 | 57.25% |
| 2000 | 555,722 | 167,522 | 30.14% | 167,317 | 30.11% | 49,933 | 8.99% | 384,772 | 69.24% |
| 1998 | 484,794 | 85,646 | 17.67% | 133,572 | 27.55% | 38,383 | 7.92% | 257,601 | 53.14% |
| 1996 | 432,581 | 46,136 | 10.67% | 94,023 | 44.85% | 24,927 | 5.76% | 265,086 | 61.28% |

- Election Day Vote Centers: In 2018, Clark County began using Vote Centers instead of assigned polling places on a countywide basis. Like early voting sites, the 172 locations are carefully selected to ensure that all voters in the County, including Spanish and Filipino communities, may conveniently vote on Election Day. The locations are approved by the County Commission.

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# 6. POLL WORKERS

- Early Voting:  Every early voting site is assigned at least one Spanish speaking poll worker.  Tagalog speaking poll workers are assigned to higher volume sites.  The number is increased at early voting sites in areas with larger LEP populations.  In the 2018 Primary, we had 100 Spanish and 30 Tagalog speaking early voting workers.

- Election Day:  Every vote center is assigned a Spanish speaking poll worker.  Tagalog speakers are not assigned to each Vote Center, but are on-call to travel within a 5-mile radius of where they are assigned if needed.  In the 2018 Primary, on Election Day, we had 381 Spanish and 113 Tagalog speaking poll workers.

- Testing of Language Proficiency:  Bilingual poll workers are tested for their language skills by a staff member fluent in the applicable language talking to them.

- Bilingual poll workers wear very large, highly visible badges indicating they speak either Spanish or Tagalog so that those needing help can easily see who to approach.

- Recruitment of bilingual poll workers is ongoing.  Community organizations may provide referrals.  Advertising through Spanish and Asian media sources, such as newspapers and radio, is also helpful.  On Election Day, high school students are sometimes recruited to provide bilingual help.

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# 7. TRANSLATION AND BILINGUAL STAFFING

- In-House Translation:
    - Departmental staff prepares less complicated or quickly needed translation and answers Spanish or Tagalog phone lines
    - No dedicated translation staff, i.e., those translating perform other job duties as well
    - At least two persons fluent in each language are necessary for adequate coverage, plus they can also check each other's translation for accuracy
    - Bilingual abilities are part of the job description
    - Necessary resources, such as a variety of bilingual dictionaries, are provided
    - Staff is strongly encouraged or required to develop their bilingual skills on an ongoing basis through classes and training, paid for by the County
    - Staff utilizing the translations to prepare various materials must be comfortable with languages other than English if they are not fully bilingual
    - Staff uses "Trados" software for a glossary of terms, to keep translations consistent and avoid wasting time repeatedly translating similar material
- Contracted Translation:
    - For more complicated material, e.g., ballot questions and documents with a lot of legal terms
    - Translators certified by the court often provide the translation, but sometimes other vendors
    - They are paid $0.14 per English word translated
    - Turnaround is much slower
- Internet Website:
    - Three separate sites in English, Spanish, and Tagalog, with translation by in-house staff
    - Google Translate is not used

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# 8. A TIP FOR PRINTED MATERIALS

- Space Becomes Critical: Spanish and Tagalog take up much more space than English, but the text must often still fit into the same space as English while remaining clear and readable, especially on forms, such as Voter Registration Applications and Mail/Absentee Ballot Requests.

- For a relatively small investment, the ClearviewText fonts have helped immensely through their font variations:
  - Regular is normal, ideal spacing.
  - Condensed is horizontally more compact than the regular font, allows more text in the same space, and is used as needed in Spanish material.
  - Compressed is horizontally even more compact than the condensed font, yet is still easily readable and is often needed for Tagalog material.
  - These font variations allow the same font point size to be used when the horizontal spacing must be more compact.



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# 9. SUMMARY

- Community Outreach should be proactive and developed through a wide variety of sources.  Once the word spreads that election officials are ready, willing, and eager for outreach, groups themselves become more proactive in making contact.

- Voting machines and voting processing equipment and software must be able to accommodate current as well as future anticipated language needs.

- Early Voting and Vote Center Sites are selected to ensure that all voters, including those in LEP communities, may conveniently vote on or before Election Day.

- Bilingual poll worker recruitment is ongoing. Workers are tested for language skills.  All early voting sites and Election Day vote centers have at least one Spanish speaking worker. Tagalog workers are deployed to areas where they are needed.

- Translation is completed by two different means. Less complicated or quickly needed translation is completed by Departmental staff, who are not dedicated translators and perform other election related work duties.  More complicated translation, such as ballot questions and material with a lot of legal terminology, are contracted out to certified court translators or other vendors.

- Fonts with condensed and compressed options, such as ClearviewText, facilitate document preparation in Spanish and Tagalog where space is limited.

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**www.ClarkCountyNV.gov/vote**