ASIAN AMERICANS
ADVANCING JUSTICE
CALIFORNIA

VOICES OF DEMOCRACY

The State of Language Access in California's November 2016 Elections

Findings from Asian Americans Advancing Justice - California's November 2016 Poll Monitoring and Recommendations for Improving Access for Limited-English Proficient Voters

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Language Access Coverage in California (November 2016)

- 56 of 58 CA counties had language access requirements under either federal or state law
- English, Spanish, 8 Asian languages

- Coverage under federal law:
  - 27 counties w/ Spanish
  - 8 w/ at least one Asian language
- Coverage under state law:
  - 50 counties

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Need for Language Assistance During Elections

	CA Latinos	CA Asian Americans
Speak a language other than English at home	77%	72%
Limited English proficient (LEP)	37%	34%

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Advancing Justice - California's Efforts in 2016

1. Community Education & Outreach

2. Meetings with Elections Officials & Advocacy for Best Practices

3. Poll Monitoring

1. Community Education and Outreach

Community Education and Outreach

Worked with 20 community partner organizations:

1. Distributed Know Your Voting Rights materials AAAJ-CA produced in 13 languages.

2. Hosted community workshops for first-time voters and LEP voters.

3. Consulted with elections officials about outreach, bilingual poll workers recruitment, etc.

4. Recruited bilingual poll workers and poll monitors.

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Community Education and Outreach

Tips for approaching community organizations:

- Cultural and linguistic competency.
- Meet people where they are.
- Try to address specific needs of that community.
    - Example: Filipino community (lack of language need, "Filipino" vs. "Tagalog")
    - Example: Punjabi community in Central CA
- Offer value.
    - Sometimes that means financial!

2. Meetings with Elections Officials & Advocacy for Best Practices

Meetings with Elections Officials & Advocacy for Best Practices

Met w/ elex officials in each county at least once.

- Brought long list of questions about details of compliance with language access requirements.

- Nudged where necessary.

- Gathered best practices from elections officials; acted as hub of a wheel.

- Created best practices package, multiple webinars, etc.

Meetings with Elections Officials & Advocacy for Best Practices

Addressing noncompliance – poll worker trainings

- Most Section 203 noncompliance in CA is poll worker-generated

- Asked to see poll worker training docs, attended poll worker trainings in 12+ counties

- Suggested additional emphasis where necessary, pointed to past data to be more persuasive

Meetings with Elections Officials & Advocacy for Best Practices

Addressing noncompliance - possibility of litigation

- Contemplated legal action against county that failed language access requirements in June 2016

- Wrote letter documenting failures

- Laid out actions they should take

- Laid out ways we could support

- "We know you share our goal of elections that are fully accessible to all language communities. The collaboration we propose here can help us achieve that goal **while also avoiding litigation that could otherwise be used** to enforce the law in this area."

3. Poll monitoring

Where We Worked

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Language Access Map of California
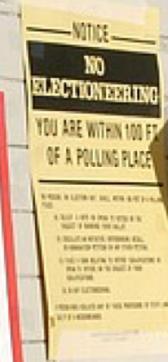
This map indicates the languages in which California counties were required to provide assistance under federal and state law in 2016. It is limited to the 25 counties in which we monitored.

KEY

Languages covered by Section 203
Languages covered by state law

ALAMEDA
Spanish, Chinese, Filipino/Tagalog, Vietnamese. Hindi, Japanese, Khmer, Korean

CONTRA COSTA
Spanish, Chinese, Hindi, Japanese, Korean, Filipino/Tagalog, Vietnamese

FRESNO
Spanish, Chinese, Hindi, Japanese, Khmer

KERN
Spanish, Filipino/Tagalog, Hindi

KINGS
Spanish, Filipino/Tagalog

LOS ANGELES
Spanish, Chinese, Filipino/Tagalog, Japanese, Khmer, Korean, Thai, Vietnamese, Hindi

MARIN
Spanish, Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese

MENDOCINO
Spanish, Chinese

MERCED
Spanish, Hindi

MONTEREY
Spanish, Chinese, Korean, Filipino/Tagalog, Vietnamese

NAPA
Spanish, Chinese, Filipino/Tagalog

ORANGE
Spanish, Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese, Filipino/Tagalog, Japanese, Khmer, Hindi

RIVERSIDE
Spanish, Chinese, Filipino/Tagalog, Korean, Vietnamese

SACRAMENTO
Spanish, Chinese, Hindi, Japanese, Korean, Filipino/Tagalog, Vietnamese

SAN BERNARDINO
Spanish, Chinese, Filipino/Tagalog, Khmer, Korean, Vietnamese

SAN DIEGO
Spanish, Chinese, Filipino/Tagalog, Vietnamese, Japanese, Khmer, Korean, Hindi

SAN FRANCISCO
Spanish, Chinese, Filipino/Tagalog (treated as a Section 203 language due to local law), Japanese, Korean, Vietnamese

SAN JOAQUIN
Spanish, Chinese, Hindi, Khmer, Filipino/Tagalog, Vietnamese

SAN MATEO
Spanish, Chinese, Hindi, Japanese, Filipino/Tagalog

SANTA CRUZ
Spanish, Chinese, Filipino/Tagalog

SOLANO
Spanish, Chinese, Filipino/Tagalog

STANISLAUS
Spanish, Hindi, Khmer

SUTTER
Spanish, Hindi

TULARE
Spanish, Filipino/Tagalog

YOLO
Spanish, Chinese, Hindi, Filipino/Tagalog

25 counties, 32.9 million people

	County	Pop.
1	Los Angeles County	10,170,292
2	San Diego County	3,299,521
3	Orange County	3,169,776
4	Riverside County	2,361,026
5	San Bernardino County	2,128,133
6	Santa Clara County	1,918,044
7	Alameda County	1,638,215
8	Sacramento County	1,501,335
9	Contra Costa County	1,126,745
10	Fresno County	974,861
11	Kern County	882,176
12	San Francisco County	864,816
13	Ventura County	850,536
14	San Mateo County	765,135
15	San Joaquin County	726,106
16	Stanislaus County	538,388
17	Sonoma County	502,146
18	Tulare County	459,863
19	Santa Barbara County	444,769
20	Solano County	436,092

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POLLING PLACE
投票站 CASILLA ELECTORAL
投票所 LUGAR NG BOTOHAN
투표소 PHÒNG PHIẾU

NOTICE
NO
ELECTIONEERING
YOU ARE WITHIN 100 FT
OF A POLLING PLACE

576 volunteers
1,286 polling places

Report Links:

http://www.advancingjustice-alc.org/programs/voting-rights/

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Questions?