

# 2021 LANGUAGE ACCESS FOR VOTERS SUMMIT

## SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

### Day One

#### SESSION 1 SPEAKERS

##### **James Whitehorne**

CHIEF  
CENSUS REDISTRICTING & VOTING RIGHTS DATA  
OFFICE/ADDC/HQ



James Whitehorne is Chief of the Census Redistricting and Voting Rights Data Office. James previously served as the assistant chief of the CRVRDO, starting in April of 2010, until attaining the position as chief in July 2015. He originally joined the U.S. Census Bureau's Geography Division in April 2006 as a geographer. Prior to working for the Census Bureau, James worked on contract for 5 years as a special projects analyst in the Geographic Information Systems support group for the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice.

James holds both a Bachelor of Arts in Geography and a Bachelor of Science in Geography with the Geographic Information System specialty from the Pennsylvania State University. He has continued his education by completing the Oracle 9i DBA Institute from George Washington University and his post-graduate certificate in Geographic Information Systems through the Pennsylvania State University's World Campus.

##### **Terry Ao Minnis**

SENIOR FELLOW AND CONSULTANT  
DEMOCRACY FUND



Terry Ao Minnis is a Senior Fellow and consultant for the Democracy Fund, advancing the work of the foundation's Elections Program by advising staff on emerging needs and opportunities to improve voting for all, but specifically for those who face unique challenges under our current system.

Minnis also serves as the senior director of the census and voting programs for Asian Americans Advancing Justice | AAJC, where her experience on the census and voting rights spans two decades. She was one of the key leaders in the campaigns to reauthorize the Voting Rights Act in 2006 as well as to address the Supreme Court's decision in *Shelby County v. Holder*. Mrs. Minnis has published several articles, chapters in all four editions of the ABA's elections handbook and has been counsel on numerous amicus briefs filed before the Supreme Court on voting rights cases, including *Shelby County v. Holder*. Appointed to the American Bar Association's Standing Committee on Elections in 2020, Mrs. Minnis was named one of the four living 2020 National Women's History Alliance Honorees: Valiant Women of the

Vote. She is one of NOW's 100 Sisters of Suffrage as part of their celebration of the centennial anniversary of the passage of the 19th amendment. Minnis received her law degree from American University's Washington College of Law and her bachelor's degree from the University of Chicago.

## SESSION 2 SPEAKERS & DISCUSSANTS

### Kristen Clarke

ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE



Kristen Clarke is the Assistant Attorney General for Civil Rights at the U.S. Department of Justice. In this role, she leads the Justice Department's broad federal civil rights enforcement efforts and works to uphold the civil and constitutional rights of all who live in America. Assistant Attorney General Clarke is a lifelong civil rights lawyer who has spent her entire career in public service.

Assistant Attorney General Clarke began her career as a trial attorney in the Civil Rights Division through the Department of Justice's Honors Program. In 2006, she joined the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, where she helped lead the organization's work in the areas of voting rights and election law across the country. Ms. Clarke worked on cases defending the constitutionality of the Voting Rights Act, presented oral argument to the D.C. District Court in *Shelby County, Alabama v. Holder*, and has provided testimony on federal and state voting rights legislation. In 2011, she was named the head of the Civil Rights Bureau for the New York State Attorney General's

Office, where she led broad civil rights enforcement actions. Under her leadership, the Bureau secured landmark agreements with banks to address unlawful redlining, employers to address barriers to reentry for people with criminal backgrounds, police departments on reforms to policies and practices, major retailers on racial profiling of consumers, landlords on discriminatory housing policies, school districts concerning issues relating to the school-to-prison pipeline and more.

In 2015, Ms. Clarke was named the president and executive director of the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, one of the nation's leading civil rights organizations founded at the request of John F. Kennedy. There, she led the

organization's legal work in courts across the country addressing some of the nation's most complex racial justice and civil rights challenges.

Assistant Attorney General Clarke was born in Brooklyn, New York. After graduating from Choate Rosemary Hall, she received her A.B. from Harvard University and her J.D. from Columbia Law School.

### SESSION 3 SPEAKERS & DISCUSSANTS

#### Angela Willeford

INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS PROJECT MANAGER  
SALT RIVER PIMA-MARICOPA INDIAN COMMUNITY



Ms. Angela Salazar-Willeford is O'odham, Piipaash, Seminole and Creek and an Arizona native. She is a proud member of the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community (SRPMIC).

Ms. Willeford serves as the intergovernmental relations project manager for SRRPMIC. Her duties include oversight of Federal or State policy that may influence SRPMIC, as well as internal projects assigned by SRPMIC Executive office.

Serves as the Chair of the Judicial Selection Committee for SRPMIC. A recipient of the Harry Austin and Frank Harrison Award from the Intertribal Council of Arizona for her efforts in increasing the voter participation in Indian Country.

Earning her Associates degree from Scottsdale Community College and an Interdisciplinary Bachelor of Science with an emphasis in Political Science and Communication from Arizona State University. She currently is perusing her Master's in Legal Studies at Sandra Day O'Connor School of Law.

#### Adria Orr

SENIOR PROGRAM COORDINATOR  
Voting Rights and Census



Adria Orr is a Senior Program Coordinator on the Voting Rights team at Advancing Justice – ALC. She previously worked in crowdfunding and peer-to-peer fundraising, which shifted into an interest in how civic engagement can lead to systemic change. Prior to joining ALC, she researched effective methods of community engagement in the state redistricting process during her graduate capstone work with the Center for Popular Democracy. Her work now includes election protection, redistricting, and voter education with an emphasis on historically disenfranchised communities. She holds a BA in Development Studies from Brown University and an MPA from NYU Wagner with a specialization in Advocacy and Political Action.

#### Andy Kang

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
PENNSYLVANIA IMMIGRATION & CITIZENSHIP COALITION



Andy comes to PICC with extensive experience working in the immigrant rights movement in Chicago, serving as Executive Director of Asian Americans Advancing Justice-Chicago for the past 3 years. Andy was one of the lead negotiators and strategists for the Illinois TRUST Act, the VOICES Act, and Automatic Voter Registration. Andy has also advocated successfully to strengthen Chicago's Welcoming City Ordinance. On language access, Andy worked on improving Chicago's language access ordinance, helped create the State of Illinois' Language Access to Government Services Task Force, and oversaw a poll monitoring operation to protect the rights of limited English proficient voters as required under the federal Voting Rights Act.

Regionally, Andy has participated in capacity building support to AAPI community organizing groups in Michigan, Ohio, and Minnesota and was co-founder of Asian American Midwest Progressives, a 501(c)(4) organization. Recently, Andy initiated the launch of Advancing Justice-Chicago's anti-hate bystander training project in response to the rise of anti-Asian hate incidents. Andy serves as the Board President of the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant & Refugee Rights (ICIRR) and has engaged in strategy formation and advocacy on federal immigration reform. He has previously served on the City of Chicago's Commission on Human Relations and the Committee on Equality, Equity, and Opportunity for Governor Pritzker's transition team; and co-chaired the Good Governance Committee for Mayor Lightfoot's transition team. He currently serves as the co-chair of the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association's immigration committee.

### **Nia Jones**

ELECTIONS TEAM PROGRAM ASSISTANT  
DEMOCRACY FUND



Nia Jones is a Program Assistant at Democracy Fund, an independent foundation working to ensure that our political system can withstand new challenges and deliver on its promise to the American people. In her role, she supports the Election Program's Pro Voter Reform strategy, which seeks to create a more equitable election system and supports communities defending their voting rights.

Prior to joining Democracy Fund in 2020, Nia worked in nonprofits and in higher level education providing administrative support, research support, student mentorship, and project management.

Nia graduated with a dual B.A degree in Political Science and African American Studies from Yale University.

## **SESSION 4 SPEAKERS & DISCUSSANTS**

## **John Magnino**

DIRECTOR OF GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS  
COLORADO SECRETARY OF STATE'S OFFICE



John Magnino is the Director of Government and Public Affairs at the Colorado Secretary of State's Office. In this role, John manages the department's intergovernmental affairs and legislative engagement on a broad range of issues relating to Colorado's gold standard election model, business and licensing registry, and the department's operations. John has spent his entire career at the state level in a mix of government, advocacy, and political roles. Previously, John was the Senior Director of Legislative Affairs at the State Innovation Exchange (SiX) with a focus on state legislator capacity-building while also managing the organization's engagement in western states. John currently resides in Denver, Colorado, and hails from the Midwest. John holds a Master's in Public Affairs from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

## **Elena Nunez**

DIRECTOR OF STATE OPERATIONS & BALLOT MEASURES STRATEGIES  
COMMON CAUSE



Elena is the Director of State Operations & Ballot Measure Strategies for Common Cause. Elena provides direct support to states on campaigns, fundraising, policy, and program development.

Prior to joining the national staff, Elena was executive director of Colorado Common Cause. During her tenure, Elena won reforms to promote voting rights, expand access to open records, and increase campaign finance transparency. Elena led Colorado Common Cause's efforts to modernize elections with the adoption of the Colorado

Voter Access & Modernized Elections Act, which established same day voter registration, modernized list maintenance processes, and created more convenient options for voting. She was appointed by then-Governor John Hickenlooper to the commission charged with overseeing the law's implementation and served as co-chair of the commission.

In addition to her work lobbying and building coalitions on government reform issues, Elena has significant experience working on ballot measures, including managing successful statewide campaigns for campaign finance and ethics reform. Elena serves on the board of directors for the BISC Foundation and on the Circle of Advisors for the National Vote at Home Institute. Originally from Arizona, Elena graduated from Columbia University with a degree in Political Science and Gender Studies.

## **Amanda Gonzalez**

DIRECTOR OF LAWYER ENGAGEMENT  
WE THE ACTION



Amanda Gonzalez is the Director of Lawyer Engagement for We the Action where she connects attorneys with leading nonprofits so they can find meaningful volunteer opportunities and use their talent for good. Prior to joining We The Action she was the executive director of Colorado Common Cause where she led the coalition that fought for the rights of all eligible voters in Colorado to be able to read and understand their ballot. Amanda resides in Colorado and holds a law degree from the University of Denver Sturm College of Law.

### **Viviana Perez**

SENIOR PROGRAM ASSOCIATE, ELECTIONS  
DEMOCRACY FUND



Viviana Pérez is a Senior Program Associate at Democracy Fund, an independent foundation working to ensure that our political system can withstand new challenges and deliver on its promise to the American people. Focusing on election administration, she works with the Elections Program to enable elections officials to use data, technology, and best practices with the end goal of providing citizens a more voter centric experience.

Prior to joining Democracy Fund, Viviana was the Civics Program Director at Democracy Prep Public Schools (DPPS), a national network of high performing charter schools. While there, she directed the DPPS's voter registration & education campaigns, which led to a 16% increase in the voter registration rates of its students and a 12% increase in the voting rates of its students. Additionally, she spearheaded DPPS's volunteerism, advocacy, and lobbying efforts. From 2007-2009 she was a Teach for America corps member, teaching middle school history at the Washington Heights Expeditionary Learning School, where she continued to teach until 2011. During her teaching career, she was a 2010 recipient of a Fund for Teachers grant, which enabled her to travel to Bangladesh to research the country's liberation war.

Viviana graduated from Boston University with a B.A. in sociology and minor in philosophy and holds an M.S.T. from Pace University.

###