



2021 Language Access for Voters Summit

Day One Agenda

MONDAY, DEC. 13TH 2-5 P.M. ET

Language Access Coverage: The Law & Requirements

OBJECTIVE: COVER THE GOVERNING FEDERAL LAWS AND THE ROLE OF THE CENSUS IN LANGUAGE ACCESS FOR VOTERS

2:00 P.M. ET

WELCOME

SPEAKER Lindsay Daniels, Democracy Fund
MC Tammy Patrick, Democracy Fund

VIDEO SEGUE HON. MINNESOTA SECRETARY OF STATE STEVE SIMON

2:20 P.M. ET

SESSION 1: 2020 CENSUS AND IMPACT ON FUTURE ELECTIONS

The 2020 Census data was released in August and the new determinations for language requirements earlier in December. This session covers the interaction between the decennial census and voting rights and what a fair and accurate count means for LEP voters. Additionally, we will explore how the American Community Survey informs the Section 203 determinations every five years.

SPEAKER Terry Ao Minnis, Democracy Fund
SPEAKER James Whitehorne, United States Census Bureau

VIDEO SEGUE HON. ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSIONER BEN HOVLAND & ROSENGELA ORTIZ

3:00 P.M. ET

SESSION 2: WHAT DOES FEDERAL LAW SAY ABOUT ASSISTANCE TO VOTERS?

This session will answer the most basic and pressing questions around voter assistance: What are the requirements under the Voting Rights Act? What needs to be translated, and into which languages and what does compliance look like? Who can assist a voter? What does enforcement look like?

SPEAKER Kristen Clarke, U.S. Department of Justice Assistant Attorney General

VIDEO SEGUE HON. PIMA COUNTY RECORDER, GABRIELLA CAZARES-KELLY

3:40 P.M. ET

SESSION 3: VOTING METHODS & PRESSURE POINTS

Providing language access, no matter how a voter chooses to vote takes on different challenges. This session will focus on making sure all tracks of voting are sufficiently covered with language access –voting early, vote centers, vote-by-mail, and Election Day. Speakers will each answer the following questions about their topic area:

- *What are the challenges with this method of voting in ensuring voters get the assistance they need?*
- *What are some examples of how this has been overcome/challenges met?*
- *What resources are available?*

DISCUSSANT Nia Jones, Democracy Fund

Part A: Vote by Mail/Remote Voting

SPEAKER Angela Willeford, Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community

Part B: Early Voting & Vote Centers

SPEAKER Adria Orr, Advancing Justice – ALC

Part C: Election Day

SPEAKER Andy Kang, Pennsylvania Immigration & Citizenship Coalition

VIDEO SEGUE HON. ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSIONER TOM HICKS & KIM SMITH

4:20 P.M. ET

SESSION 4: ADDITIONAL COVERAGE: PUSHING OUR PRACTICE TO DO MORE

Section 203 has provided language assistance for many Limited English Proficient (LEP) voters for more than four decades. However, as effective as it has been, Section 203 is limited—both in terms of specific jurisdictions that meet the threshold and by languages that can be assisted under the statute. This session will explore how CO has gone beyond Sec 203 and helps to ensure that all language minority voters are able to access needed assistance and cast a meaningful vote.

DISCUSSANT Viviana Perez, Democracy Fund

SPEAKER John Magnino, Colorado Secretary of State's Office

SPEAKER Elena Nunez, Common Cause

SPEAKER Amanda Gonzalez, We the Action

4:50 P.M. ET

CLOSING REMARKS & DAY TWO PREVIEW

SPEAKER Lenny DeFoe, Democracy Fund

5:00 P.M. ET
ADJOURN DAY ONE

Day Two Agenda

TUESDAY, DEC. 14TH 2-5 P.M. ET

Implementation Strategies for Compliance & Success

OBJECTIVE: LEARN IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES AND INSIGHTS FOR A SUCCESSFUL VOTER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

2:00 P.M. ET
VIDEO SEGUE LOS ANGELES COUNTY REGISTRAR OF VOTERS: ARMENIAN & BENGALI

WELCOME

SPEAKER Lindsay Daniels, Democracy Fund
MC Tammy Patrick, Democracy Fund

VIDEO SEGUE COCONINO COUNTY RECORDER: NAVAJO

2:20 P.M. ET
SESSION 1: TRANSLATION OF BALLOT “LEGALESE” ACROSS LANGUAGE BARRIERS—BEYOND GOOGLE TRANSLATE!

Much of the discussion around language assistance is rightfully about ensuring correct and culturally-appropriate translations—that is the “HOW” it is being translated. To be most effective, we must also discuss what is being translated. We know that the language used for voting materials, including the ballot, is generally at a collegiate level and can be written in purposefully confusing ways. As difficult as it is to read in English, it is that much more difficult to translate into something that makes sense in other languages. This session tackles that challenge.

DISCUSSANT Rebecca Stewart, Democracy Fund
SPEAKER Jason Chavez, Arizona Secretary of State’s Office
SPEAKER Fernando Sanchez, Center for Civic Design

VIDEO SEGUE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTRAR OF VOTERS: MANDARIN & KOREAN

3:00 P.M. ET
SESSION 2: LIGHTNING ROUND ONE—ELECTION ADMINISTRATION ASSISTANCE 101

DISCUSSANT Heather Creek, Democracy Fund

Part A: Ensuring Proper Translation

Proper translations and creating a feedback loop with the community directly, proficiency of staff and poll workers—ensuring they have the skills necessary to aid voters. Tools for statewide comprehension.

SPEAKER Lucy Barefoot, Washington Secretary of State’s Office

Part B: Assisting Voters Impartially in Other Languages

What to include in training? Modeling best practices for successful future replication.

SPEAKER Enedina Chhim, Orange County Registrar of Voters Office, California

VIDEO SEGUE RHODE ISLAND SECRETARY OF STATE'S OFFICE: SPANISH

3:40 P.M. ET

SESSION 3: LIGHTNING ROUND TWO—PARTNERSHIPS

DISCUSSANT Ebony West, Democracy Fund

Part A: Productive Partnerships & Advisory Boards

How can we transition potentially hostile relationships into productive ones? What seats do we set at the table? What resources are available?

SPEAKER Astrid Ochoa, Ochoa Consulting

Part B: Tasks to Tackle

Quality of translations and materials, poll worker coverage & training, voting location placement, reaching the difficult-to-reach voters: elderly/rural/homebound—a discussion around topics to partner on, challenges to solve collaboratively.

SPEAKER Raul Macias, Haas Jr. Fund

Part C: Case Study: 2021 Elections in Virginia

Virginia recently enacted many election changes. What was done to engage the community to ensure these changes were understood by all voters?

SPEAKER Chris Piper, Virginia Department of Elections

VIDEO SEGUE ALASKA BOARD OF ELECTIONS: YUP'IK

4:20 P.M. ET

SESSION 4: LIGHTNING ROUND 3—MEDIA ENGAGEMENT

DISCUSSANT Stephanie Roman, Democracy Fund

Part A: Finding Media Partners

Reaching your voters—online, in the community, and in the press matters. Using media as a tool for engaging language minority communities requires finding them—maps and directories are available!

SPEAKER Kavitha Rajagopalan, CUNY Center for Community Media

Part B: Mis- & Disinformation Collides with LEP—Information Deserts

Mis- & disinformation are a challenge in this time, limited English proficient voters are particularly vulnerable. Information deserts play a role in incubating issues, how do we prevent them?

SPEAKER Jacobo Licona, Equis Labs

Part C: Mis & Dis Information Collides with LEP—Where Voters Are

Mis- & disinformation are a challenge in this time, limited English proficient voters are particularly vulnerable. What are some of the platforms being used & how can we be certain information is accurate?

SPEAKER Oni Advincula, Center for Collaborative Media

VIDEO SEGUE HARRIS COUNTY ELECTIONS: MANDARIN

4:50 P.M. ET

CLOSING REMARKS

5:00 P.M. ET

ADJOURN SUMMIT

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