



DEBRA BOWEN | SECRETARY OF STATE
STATE OF CALIFORNIA | ELECTIONS

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December 30, 2013

County Clerk/Registrar of Voters (CC/ROV) Memorandum #13132

TO: All County Clerks/Registrars of Voters

FROM: /s/ Jennifer Luckie-Bratt
Translations Coordinator

RE: Translations: Ballot Translation, Posting, and Bilingual Poll Workers

The Secretary of State, by January 1 of each year in which the Governor is elected, must determine the precincts where 3% or more of the voting-age residents are members of a single language minority and lack sufficient skills in English to vote without assistance. (Elections Code section 14201(d).)

For each specified precinct in their county, elections officials are required to do the following:

- Translate a facsimile ballot and related instructions in the specified language(s).
- Post the translation(s) in a conspicuous location in the appropriate polling place.

The Secretary of State's office contracted with U.C. Berkeley to determine which precincts have reached the 3% threshold in the nine languages covered in California under the federal Voting Rights Act (VRA). This determination was made using the most current data available: the November 2012 General Election precincts and the 2010 U.S. census.

The language requirements for all 58 counties are listed on the attached chart. Individual precinct data will be provided to each county by email. These requirements will remain in place through December 31, 2017.

The Secretary of State's office has made the determination that Hindi shall be the Asian Indian language used for the written posting requirement. If a county elections official determines that their voters would benefit from posting in another Asian Indian language in addition to Hindi, the county elections official is encouraged to do so.

If a county is already required to provide translations in a particular language under the VRA, they are not required to also post a facsimile ballot and instructions at the polling place in that language.

Elections Code section 12303(c) requires county elections officials to make good faith efforts to recruit bilingual poll workers for any precinct in which 3% or more of the voting-age residents are members of a single language minority. This poll worker recruitment applies even in cases where the entire county is covered for a particular language under the VRA.

In the counties that have precincts that have met the 3% threshold for Asian Indian, county elections officials should work with community groups to determine the appropriate language(s) for poll worker recruitment in those precincts.

Voter Information Guides and Voter Bill of Rights posters are available upon request in all nine languages covered under the VRA.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (916) 651-3734. Thank you.

**Ballot Translations and Posting Requirements
(Based on 2012 General Election Precincts & 2010 U.S. Census)**

County	Spanish	Chinese	Tagalog	Japanese	Khmer	Korean	Thai	Vietnamese	Asian Indian***
Alameda	*	*	*	5	4	41		*	247
Alpine	**								
Amador	52								
Butte	277								
Calaveras	71								
Colusa	*								
Contra Costa	*	283	193	12		10		3	35
Del Norte	20								
El Dorado	333		9						
Fresno	*	4		14	7				186
Glenn	*								
Humboldt	122								
Imperial	*								
Inyo	59								
Kern	*		58						41
Kings	*		19						
Lake	106								
Lassen	54								
Los Angeles	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Madera	*								
Marin	259	4				17		1	
Mariposa	10								
Mendocino	315	19							
Merced	*								34
Modoc	22								
Mono	13								
Monterey	*	2	44			6		2	
Napa	*	1	13						
Nevada	108								
Orange	*	*	84	34	2	*		*	9
Placer	205		26						
Plumas	58								
Riverside	*	40	104			11		2	
Sacramento	*	*	132	43		14		154	48
San Benito	*								
San Bernardino	*	66	36		4	49		15	
San Diego	*	*	*	8	11	22		*	6
San Francisco	*	*	135	24		20		37	
San Joaquin	*	53	409		92			74	58
San Luis Obispo	294		3						
San Mateo	*	*	162	13					2
Santa Barbara	*		29						
Santa Clara	*	*	*	54	1	68		*	197
Santa Cruz	359	11	10						
Shasta	80								
Sierra	21								
Siskiyou	33								
Solano	472	11	235						
Sonoma	839								
Stanislaus	*				7				33
Sutter	321								233
Tehama	78								
Trinity	**								
Tulare	*		81						
Tuolumne	75								
Ventura	*	19	39						5
Yolo	307	116	4						6
Yuba	114								

KEY:

Numbers in columns indicate the number of precincts where a facsimile sample ballot and related instructions must be posted in this language under California Elections Code section 14201.

*Under the federal Voting Rights Act (VRA), all elections materials must be provided in this language countywide, so the requirement under California Elections Code section 14201 does not apply.

**Under the federal VRA and the California Elections Code, there is no requirement to provide or post any elections materials in any language other than English.

***The posting requirement for Asian Indian shall be in Hindi.