California Secretary of State

Supplementary Report:

Voter's Choice Act: Understanding Language Access in Voter's Choice Act Counties for the 2022 General Election

University of California, Los Angeles
Voting Rights Project

About the California Secretary of State

The California Office of the Secretary of State is committed to adhering to the highest standards of integrity and transparency, supporting businesses, strengthening democracy, protecting individual rights, preserving our state's history, delivering quality services, and providing accessible resources and trusted information.

The California Secretary of State's responsibilities include:

- Serving as the state's Chief Elections Officer
- Implementing electronic filing and Internet disclosure of campaign and lobbyist financial information
- Maintaining business filings
- Commissioning notaries public
- Operating the Safe at Home confidential address program
- Maintaining the Domestic Partners and Advance Health Care Directive Registries
- Safeguarding the State Archives
- Serving as a trustee of the California Museum

Background

The Voter's Choice Act (VCA), established by Senate Bill 450 (Allen, Hertzberg, et al., Chapter 832, Statutes of 2016), aims to enhance voting accessibility in California. This legislation introduces a voter-centered model designed to increase electoral participation and provide voters with more flexible options for civic engagement.

Key features of the VCA's modernized election system include:

- Automatic mail-in ballots for all active, registered voters
- Extended in-person early voting periods of up to 10 days
- County-wide vote centers allowing ballot casting at any location within the voter's county
- Convenient, secure ballot drop box locations throughout each county

To implement this system, the VCA mandates that counties develop a comprehensive Election Administration Plan (EAP). This plan serves two primary purposes:

1. Informing voters about their expanded voting options
2. Outlining strategies for voter education and community outreach

The VCA emphasizes community involvement in the electoral process. It requires county election officials to actively seek and incorporate community input in planning and administering elections, ensuring that diverse voices are heard in shaping local voting systems.

Introduction

As part of measuring the effectiveness of the Voter's Choice Act (VCA), the Secretary of State's Office commissioned a research report from the University of California, Los Angeles's (UCLA) Voting Rights Project to present analysis on language access for voters in VCA counties was commissioned for the 2022 General Election. This report follows previously commissioned reports on language access for voters in VCA counties during the 2020 and 2022 Primary Elections and the 2020 General Election. This report includes voters who speak English as their primary language and voters who speak a primary language other than English. Aggregate data in the reports includes the averages for all VCA counties and VCA counties excluding Los Angeles County. Due to Los Angeles County's position as the county with the largest number of registered voters, it is also viewed separate from the VCA county aggregate.

Previous Report

The Secretary of State commissioned the UCLA Voting Rights Project to complete a research report exploring voting access for Language Minority voters in VCA counties during the 2020 General Election. This report relied on data from California's centralized Voter Registration database, VoteCal, and data collected from Counties.

The 2020 General Election Language Access report included breakdowns for minority languages voters by eligible voters by language type, minority language composition in VCA counties, eligible voters and each group's share of eligible voters, voter turnout, and voter method.

Similarities
- Each report analyzes VoteCal and Survey data from counties.
- Each report analyzes voter participation by language.
- Each report discusses outreach materials and outreach spending.

Differences
- The 2020 General Election Language Access report includes discussion about websites in the county sections, but the 2022 General Election Language Access report does not.
- The 2020 General Election Language Access Report includes discussion about outreach materials and spending in the county level breakdowns throughout the report. The 2022 General Election Language Access report includes sections on Outreach materials and outreach spending in counties.
- The 2020 General Election Language Access report includes data for Non-VCA counties, and the 2022 General Election Language Access report does not.

2022 Primary and General Election Reports

The Voting Rights Project and the University of California, Los Angeles also completed a research report exploring voting access for language minority voters in VCA counties during the 2022

Primary Election. This report relied on data from California's centralized Voter Registration database, VoteCal, and survey data collected from counties.

Similarities
- Both reports analyzed VoteCal and Survey data from counties.
- Both reports analyze voter participation by language.
- Both reports include data organized by English and Non-English-speaking registered voters.

Differences
- The 2022 Primary Election Language Access report includes a section on website accessibility and the 2022 General Election Language Access report does not.
- The 2022 General Election Language Access report includes a small section on Outreach spending in counties.

Findings

Voter Registration: Consistent with findings in the 2022 Primary Election Language Access Report, the registered electorate in VCA counties is largely comprised of English-speaking voters. Voters born outside the United States also remain more likely to be registered to vote in a language other than English compared to voters born in the United States.

Voter Participation: Between the 2022 Primary and 2022 General Elections, there was a slight decrease in the percentage of VCA voters who preferred voting by mail, 91.3% and 87.6% for English-speaking voters and 92.0% and 89.4% non-English-speaking voters, respectively. Consistent with the 2022 Primary Election Language Access Report, Non-English-speaking voters were more than one percent more likely to vote-by-mail than English speaking voters.

Voter Turnout: Voter turnout rates continue to vary based on primary language, with English-speaking (50.9%) voters the only voters with a turnout rate higher than the VCA county average of 50.3% during the 2022 General Election.

Voter Outreach: There were some changes in County voter assistance resources since the 2022 Primary Election. There were additional counties providing Spanish and Punjabi assistance hotline services, one more county for each line.

Recommendations

- **Voter Outreach:** Focused outreach for non-English voters between 18 to 29 since they are the least likely age group to be registered to vote.
- Increase community outreach and partnerships to engage with limited English Proficient and Non-English-speaking voters through increased engagement with Language Accessibility Advisory Committee (LAAC) and community-based organizations.

- o Recruitment of poll workers and in-office workers who are proficient in required languages.
- **Translation Services:** Ensure that translated materials in required languages are easy to locate and available on county websites.
  - o County website translations in their California and Federal law designated languages.

Conclusion

The VCA continues to prioritize language access for voters, but additional efforts are needed to expand translation and outreach efforts.

California Voter's Choice Act:

Understanding Language Access in Voter's Choice Act Counties for the 2022 General Election

BY UCLA VOTING RIGHTS PROJECT IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE CALIFORNIA OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE

This report was written by the UCLA Voting Rights Project in partnership with the California Office of the Secretary of State.

About the UCLA VRP
The UCLA Voting Rights Project (UCLA VRP) is a nonpartisan, educational project housed within the Latino Policy and Politics Initiative (LPPI) at the University of California, Los Angeles. The UCLA VRP educates undergraduate, graduate, and professional degree students through our flagship voting rights clinic. The UCLA VRP works with experts and election officials across the country to ensure equitable access to voting.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In this report, the UCLA Voting Rights Project (UCLA VRP) was tasked with providing a comprehensive analysis on language access in Voters Choice Act (VCA) counties. Language access is critical to ensuring that all voters can access the ballot box in accordance with federal and state law.

This report includes data analysis on how voters that speak a primary language other than English cast their ballots during the 2022 General Election utilizing VoteCal data and a survey of county accessibility in elections (e.g. translation materials on websites).

Our analysis includes an aggregated total for all VCA counties combined, as well as an aggregate of combined VCA counties that excludes Los Angeles County. We present an aggregated total that excludes Los Angeles County to prevent the skewing of the findings due to the size of the county. Outlined below is the general landscape of language access in VCA counties and individual analysis of each VCA county. Our findings resemble those outlined in the 2022 Primary Election Report.[1]

Major findings of this report:

1. **The registered electorate in VCA counties was largely composed of English-speaking voters.**
    i.   Voters registered in English accounted for 15.9 million, or 95.0% of all VCA registered voters.
    ii. The next largest language group was Spanish, which comprised over 520 thousand, or 3.1% of the VCA registered electorate.
    iii. No other single language group accounted for more than 1% of the overall VCA registered electorate.

2. **Non-English registered voters were more likely to belong to older age categories than younger age categories.**

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[1] Statements in this report may resemble our 2022 Primary Language Access Report. Since the 2022 Primary and General elections occurred in the same year, many analyses will be analogous given the similar trends across the state.

i. Across VCA counties, there were over ten times as many non-English registered voters aged 65 and over (368,151) as non-English registered voters aged 18 to 29 (33,479).

3. **Foreign-born voters were more likely to register in a language other than English compared to voters born in the United States.**

   i. Across VCA counties, over 764 thousand, or 13.45% of foreign-born voters, registered in a language other than English.
   ii. In contrast, over 74 thousand, or 0.67% of U.S.-born voters, registered in a language other than English.

4. **Turnout rates across language groups varied significantly.**

   i. English-speaking voters had the highest turnout rate at 50.9% compared to the 50.3% overall turnout rate in VCA counties
   ii. Vietnamese-speaking voters had a turnout rate of 49.5% compared to the 50.3% overall turnout rate in VCA counties.
   iii. Korean-speaking voters had a turnout rate of 45.0% compared to the 50.3% overall turnout rate in VCA counties.
   iv. Thai-speaking voters had a turnout rate of 36.0% compared to the 50.3% overall turnout rate in VCA counties.
   v. Spanish-speaking voters had a turnout rate of 35.2% compared to the 50.3% overall turnout rate in VCA counties.
   vi. Khmer-speaking voters had the lowest turnout rate at 28.2% compared to the 50.3% overall turnout rate in VCA counties.

5. **VCA voters registered in both English and non-English languages largely preferred voting by mail.**

   i. More than 7.1 million, or 87.6% of English-speaking voters, utilized vote-by-mail out of the approximately 8.1 million English-speaking voters in VCA counties.
   ii. Over 289 thousand, or 89.4% of non-English speaking voters utilized vote-by-mail out of the 323 thousand Non-English-speaking voters in VCA counties.

6. **Non-English-speaking voters were more than 1 percentage point more likely to vote-by-mail than English-speaking voters.**

    i.   This is consistent with data from the 2022 Primary Election and may suggest that voting by mail is slightly more accessible for non-English-speaking voters than for their English-speaking counterparts.

7. **Across VCA counties, the most common language access outreach method was direct mailers – used by 63% of counties.**

    i.   The second most utilized outreach methods were community events and social media posts – used by 59% of VCA counties.

    ii.   The least utilized outreach method was digital radio – used by 22% of VCA counties.

8. **Most VCA counties use multiple language access outreach methods.**

    i.   The highest number of language access outreach methods utilized by a single county was ten – including print and online newspapers, traditional radio, digital radio ads, direct mailers to voters, social media posts, and paid social media advertising.

    ii.   Larger VCA counties, such as Los Angeles County and Sacramento County, use eight to ten different outreach methods to distribute non-English outreach materials.

    iii.   Most VCA counties utilized three or more outreach tools.

    iv.   Three counties stated that they only used one outreach method to voters who speak a primary language other than English.

9. **Some counties responded that they used "other" outreach materials not listed in our survey.**

    i.   These "other" materials largely included "LanguageLine," an online on-demand translation service.

10. **Most counties reported spending either more than $30,001 or less than $1,000 on non-English outreach for the 2022 General Election.**

    i.   Nine counties spent more than $30,001.

    ii.   Seven counties spent less than $1,000.

11. **Generally, VCA counties had election staff designated as non-English speakers available to assist voters for the 2022 General Election.**

    i.   85% of counties had designated Spanish-speaking staff.

    ii.   41% of counties had designated Tagalog/Filipino-speaking staff.

    iii.   33% of counties had designated Chinese-speaking staff.

iv.   26% of counties had designated Vietnamese-speaking staff.

12. During the 2022 General Election, VCA counties were innovative in engaging with voters seeking language assistance.

    i.   Several counties offered email and video chat and/or conferencing services for voters.

    ii.   Most counties had a staff member in-person or available via phone in the elections office who was available to speak with voters.

13. Voter assistance hotlines were available to help voters in all Section 203 languages and 14201 languages.

    i.   70% of counties provided Spanish language assistance hotline services.

    ii.   37% of counties provided Chinese language assistance hotline services.

    iii.   33% of counties provided Vietnamese language assistance hotline services.

    iv.   30% of counties provided Filipino/Tagalog language assistance hotline services.

    v.   22% of counties provided Korean language assistance hotline services.

    vi.   22% of counties provided Hindi language assistance hotline services.

    vii.   22% of counties provided Japanese language assistance hotline services.

    viii. 15% of counties provided Cambodian language assistance hotline services.

    ix.   15% of counties provided Panjabi language assistance hotline services.

    x.   15% of counties provided Panjabi language assistance hotline services.

    xi.   11% of counties provided Telugu language assistance hotline services.

14. VCA counties showed innovation in the physical placement of bilingual poll workers for the 2022 General Election.

    i.   In the majority of VCA counties, demographic information largely informed the placement of bilingual poll workers for the 2022 General Election.

INTRODUCTION

The section outlined below is referenced in all election language access reports.

Signed into law in 2016, the California Voter's Choice Act (VCA) first ushered in a new election model used by five counties. In 2022, however, that number had increased to a total of 27 counties statewide. For the 2022 General Election, the following counties were VCA: Alameda, Amador, Butte, Calaveras, El Dorado, Fresno, Kings, Los Angeles, Madera, Marin, Mariposa, Merced, Napa, Nevada, Orange, Riverside, Sacramento, San Benito, San Diego, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Sonoma, Stanislaus, Tuolumne, Ventura, and Yolo.

Under the VCA, each voter is mailed a ballot which they can then return by mail, to a secure drop box, or at a vote center. Voters may also cast a ballot at any vote center within their county or through other expanded in-person early voting options.

This report, commissioned by the California Secretary of State's office pursuant to California Elections Code Section 4005(g)(1)(A), provides a comprehensive overview of voting access for language minorities in VCA counties during the 2022 General Election. This report primarily focuses on VoteCal Data and county self-reported survey data to present research and findings on minority language access to the ballot in the 27 VCA counties.

I.   <u>Section 203 of the Voting Rights Act</u>

In 1975, Congress Amended the Voting Rights Act by adding Section 203, the requirement to enforce and guarantee the fourteenth and fifteenth amendments. Section 203 of the Voting Rights Act provides that:

> "[w]henever any State or political subdivision subject to the prohibition of subsection (b) of this section provides any registration or voting notices, forms, instructions, assistance, or other materials or information relating to the electoral process, including ballots, it shall provide them in the language of the applicable minority group as well as in the English language: Provided, that where the language of the applicable minority group is oral or unwritten or in the case of Alaskan Natives and American Indians, if the predominant language is historically unwritten, the State or political subdivision is only required to furnish oral instructions, assistance, or other information relating to registration and voting." 52 U.S.C.A. § 10503(c).

Under Section 203, a language is covered in a state or political subdivision using a coverage

formula:

> "A State or political subdivision is a covered State or political subdivision for the purposes of this subsection if the Director of the Census determines, based on the 2010 American Community Survey census data and subsequent American Community Survey data in 5-year increments, or comparable census data, that--
>
> **(i)(I)** more than 5 percent of the citizens of voting age of such state or political subdivision are members of a single language minority and are limited-English proficient;
>
> **(II)** more than 10,000 of the citizens of voting age of such political subdivision are members of a single language minority and are limited-English proficient; or
>
> **(III)** in the case of a political subdivision that contains all or any part of an Indian reservation, more than 5 percent of the American Indian or Alaska Native citizens of voting age within the Indian reservation are members of a single language minority and are limited-English proficient; and
>
> **(ii)** the illiteracy rate of the citizens in the language minority as a group is higher than the national illiteracy rate." 52 U.S.C.A. § 10503(b)(2)(A).

The United States Census Bureau requires the identification of specific language groups to provide those language populations tangible and manifestable voting provisions by state and county jurisdiction based on census data. On December 8, 2021, the Census Bureau updated the Section 203 determinations using the 2015-2019 American Community Survey data (ACS). Based on the 2021 determination, the entire state of California is a covered jurisdiction for Hispanic/Spanish. Figure 1 and Table 1 below show the California counties currently required to provide language assistance under the determinations set by Section 203.

Figure 1: Social Explorer Map Covered California Counties Under Section 203

Table 1: All Covered California Counties Under Section 203 of the Voting Rights Act

Counties	Languages Covered
Alameda	Hispanic, Chinese (Taiwanese), Filipino, Vietnamese
Colusa	Hispanic
Contra Costa	Hispanic, Chinese (Taiwanese)
Fresno	Hispanic

Counties	Languages Covered
Glenn	Hispanic
Imperial	Hispanic
Kern	Hispanic
Kings	Hispanic
Los Angeles	Hispanic, Cambodian, Chinese (Taiwanese), Filipino, Korean, Vietnamese
Madera	Hispanic
Merced	Hispanic
Monterey	Hispanic
Napa	Hispanic
Orange	Hispanic, Chinese (Taiwanese), Korean, Vietnamese
Riverside	Hispanic
Sacramento	Hispanic, Chinese (Taiwanese), Vietnamese
San Benito	Hispanic
San Bernardino	Hispanic
San Diego	Hispanic, Chinese (Taiwanese), Filipino, Vietnamese
San Francisco	Hispanic, Chinese (Taiwanese)
San Joaquin	Hispanic
San Mateo	Hispanic, Chinese (Taiwanese), Filipino**
Santa Barbara	Hispanic
Santa Clara	Hispanic, Chinese (Taiwanese), Filipino, Vietnamese

Counties	Languages Covered
Sonoma*	Hispanic
Stanislaus	Hispanic
Tulare	Hispanic
Ventura	Hispanic

* Counties that did not have previous Section 203 coverage.

**New languages covered for the county

Table 2: California Counties and Languages No Longer Covered Under Section 203 Voting Rights Act

Counties	Languages Previously Covered
Del Norte*	American Indian
San Diego	American Indian

* Counties not on the 2021 determinations

II.   California Elections Code §14201 and §12303

California goes one step further than federal law; under California Elections Code § 14201, when 3% of a precinct's residents of voting age are members of a single language minority and are limited English proficient, a covered county must provide a facsimile ballot and related instructions in the language minority group's language in the precinct's polling place and make reasonable efforts to recruit poll workers that speak that language to staff polling places. *See* Cal. Elec. Code § 14201; Cal. Elec. Code § 12303.

Determinations for covered precincts and counties occur on January 1 of each year in which the Governor of California is elected. A complete list of counties covered under § 14201 is available here: https://www.sos.ca.gov/elections/voting-resources/language-requirements.

Methodology

The section outlined below is referenced in all election language access reports.

As with any data analysis, there are limitations to the various data sources used in this report. The UCLA VRP utilized VoteCal data for our analysis because it provides insights into voters with their language preference registered on the statewide voter file. Even though this dataset is of high quality, it does not contain complete information about all voters' racial and ethnic backgrounds. Furthermore, not all voters needing language assistance requested language assistance when registering to vote. There are potentially thousands of voters across California that might be interested in language services as they become aware and knowledgeable of this option. While beyond the scope of this report, future research should aim to study voter satisfaction with the language access services provided by the state through counties.

Data about voter characteristics and methods of voting gathered from county registrars and county election officials varied from county to county. There is no state-mandated standard across VCA counties on maintaining and reporting this information, which could be an opportunity for further guidance from the Secretary of State. For example, some counties provided estimates of voting statistics but not validated records. While some counties did have better-organized data related to language services, there is a need for more consistent and uniform reporting of this information.

VoteCal Data: This report utilizes voter data from VoteCal, California's single uniform, centralized voter registration database. This data includes information about voter registration, voter participation, and identifying voter characteristics.

Survey Data: The UCLA Voting Rights Project administered a survey to VCA counties in order to gather qualitative data on how county officials were engaging with Limited English Proficient and non-English speaking voters. This survey was administered on the Qualtrics platform, and county officials had two months to complete the survey. These results are detailed in the sections below.

LANGUAGE ACCESS IN CALIFORNIA AND VCA COUNTIES

Language access has been a cornerstone of ensuring equitable access to voting. Federal and California state laws govern language access in all counties in California, including VCA Counties. Using self-reported data on registration language, we analyzed registration, voting, and turnout trends for voters who registered in English and non-English languages, including Spanish, Vietnamese, Chinese, Korean, Tagalog, Japanese, Thai, Hindi, and Khmer. We provide data on each of the 27 VCA counties and group counties into a combined total category that includes Los Angeles and a combined total category that excludes Los Angeles.

I.   Analyzing Voters by Language Spoken and Nativity Using VoteCal Data

As shown in Table 3 below, the age group with the fewest non-English registrants were those 18 to 29 years old, with over 33 thousand, or 0.99%, of VCA voters registered in a language other than English. More than 132 thousand, or 2.33%, of voters in VCA counties ages 30 to 49 registered in a language other than English. More than 304 thousand, or 7.09%, of voters ages 50 to 64 registered in a language other than English. The largest non-English age group was voters 65 years and older, with over 368 thousand, or 8.70%, non-English registration.

Table 3: Age Category by English and Non-English Registered Voters Across VCA Counties

Jurisdiction	Age Category	Total Registered Voters	English		Non-English	
Total (Los Angeles Included)	18 to 29	3,394,574	3,361,095	99.01%	33,479	0.99%
	30 to 49	5,688,990	5,556,294	97.67%	132,696	2.33%
	50 to 64	4,298,189	3,993,388	92.91%	304,801	7.09%
	65 and over	4,232,346	3,864,195	91.30%	368,151	8.70%
Total (Los Angeles Excluded)	18 to 29	2,219,642	2,196,843	98.97%	22,799	1.03%
	30 to 49	3,680,937	3,597,145	97.72%	83,792	2.28%
	50 to 64	2,881,792	2,710,859	94.07%	170,933	5.93%
	65 and over	2,848,273	2,662,006	93.46%	186,267	6.54%

Jurisdiction	Age Category	Total Registered Voters	English		Non-English	
Alameda	18 to 29	170,146	168,644	99.12%	1,502	0.88%
	30 to 49	336,415	328,586	97.67%	7,829	2.33%
	50 to 64	239,758	225,183	93.92%	14,575	6.08%
	65 and over	223,151	205,080	91.90%	18,071	8.10%
Amador	18 to 29	2,875	2,871	99.86%	4	0.14%
	30 to 49	6,233	6,217	99.74%	16	0.26%
	50 to 64	6,796	6,769	99.60%	27	0.40%
	65 and over	10,039	10,018	99.79%	21	0.21%
Butte	18 to 29	23,981	23,948	99.86%	33	0.14%
	30 to 49	38,036	37,926	99.71%	110	0.29%
	50 to 64	27,802	27,655	99.47%	147	0.53%
	65 and over	34,910	34,791	99.66%	119	0.34%
Calaveras	18 to 29	3,754	3,749	99.87%	5	0.13%
	30 to 49	7,967	7,940	99.66%	27	0.34%
	50 to 64	8,677	8,645	99.63%	32	0.37%
	65 and over	11,925	11,896	99.76%	29	0.24%
El Dorado	18 to 29	19,154	19,088	99.66%	66	0.34%
	30 to 49	39,790	39,649	99.65%	141	0.35%
	50 to 64	37,926	37,680	99.35%	246	0.65%
	65 and over	42,617	42,426	99.55%	191	0.45%
Fresno	18 to 29	113,900	112,823	99.05%	1,077	0.95%
	30 to 49	176,602	173,501	98.24%	3,101	1.76%
	50 to 64	111,982	106,175	94.81%	5,807	5.19%

Jurisdiction	Age Category	Total Registered Voters	English		Non-English	
	65 and over	113,090	107,184	94.78%	5,906	5.22%
Kings	18 to 29	14,359	14,265	99.35%	94	0.65%
	30 to 49	22,223	21,837	98.26%	386	1.74%
	50 to 64	13,850	13,093	94.53%	757	5.47%
	65 and over	12,866	12,110	94.12%	756	5.88%
Los Angeles	18 to 29	1,174,932	1,164,252	99.09%	10,680	0.91%
	30 to 49	2,008,053	1,959,149	97.56%	48,904	2.44%
	50 to 64	1,416,397	1,282,529	90.55%	133,868	9.45%
	65 and over	1,384,073	1,202,189	86.86%	181,884	13.14%
Madera	18 to 29	16,590	16,412	98.93%	178	1.07%
	30 to 49	22,904	22,340	97.54%	564	2.46%
	50 to 64	16,656	15,629	93.83%	1,027	6.17%
	65 and over	19,277	18,241	94.63%	1,036	5.37%
Marin	18 to 29	22,796	22,692	99.54%	104	0.46%
	30 to 49	44,731	44,356	99.16%	375	0.84%
	50 to 64	47,939	47,343	98.76%	596	1.24%
	65 and over	56,452	55,988	99.18%	464	0.82%
Mariposa	18 to 29	1,284	1,280	99.69%	4	0.31%
	30 to 49	2,900	2,894	99.79%	6	0.21%
	50 to 64	3,135	3,117	99.43%	18	0.57%
	65 and over	4,312	4,302	99.77%	10	0.23%
Merced	18 to 29	32,993	32,558	98.68%	435	1.32%
	30 to 49	42,623	41,261	96.80%	1,362	3.20%

Jurisdiction	Age Category	Total Registered Voters	English		Non-English	
	50 to 64	28,914	26,487	91.61%	2,427	8.39%
	65 and over	26,647	24,601	92.32%	2,046	7.68%
Napa	18 to 29	14,203	14,001	98.58%	202	1.42%
	30 to 49	24,735	24,019	97.11%	716	2.89%
	50 to 64	21,721	20,574	94.72%	1,147	5.28%
	65 and over	25,725	24,875	96.70%	850	3.30%
Nevada	18 to 29	8,319	8,286	99.60%	33	0.40%
	30 to 49	21,138	21,095	99.80%	43	0.20%
	50 to 64	18,034	17,981	99.71%	53	0.29%
	65 and over	26,977	26,946	99.89%	31	0.11%
Orange	18 to 29	381,525	377,749	99.01%	3,776	0.99%
	30 to 49	573,493	557,825	97.27%	15,668	2.73%
	50 to 64	495,200	454,229	91.73%	40,971	8.27%
	65 and over	484,758	432,925	89.31%	51,833	10.69%
Riverside	18 to 29	289,440	286,539	99.00%	2,901	1.00%
	30 to 49	432,792	422,827	97.70%	9,965	2.30%
	50 to 64	329,181	307,524	93.42%	21,657	6.58%
	65 and over	316,912	298,330	94.14%	18,582	5.86%
Sacramento	18 to 29	167,062	165,928	99.32%	1,134	0.68%
	30 to 49	301,118	296,591	98.50%	4,527	1.50%
	50 to 64	214,789	207,696	96.70%	7,093	3.30%
	65 and over	205,734	197,910	96.20%	7,824	3.80%
San Benito	18 to 29	7,988	7,889	98.76%	99	1.24%

Jurisdiction	Age Category	Total Registered Voters	English		Non-English	
	30 to 49	13,132	12,811	97.56%	321	2.44%
	50 to 64	9,749	9,198	94.35%	551	5.65%
	65 and over	8,190	7,719	94.25%	471	5.75%
San Diego	18 to 29	376,343	370,160	98.36%	6,183	1.64%
	30 to 49	667,341	650,756	97.51%	16,585	2.49%
	50 to 64	483,415	456,653	94.46%	26,762	5.54%
	65 and over	464,692	438,897	94.45%	25,795	5.55%
San Mateo	18 to 29	74,341	73,801	99.27%	540	0.73%
	30 to 49	141,513	138,843	98.11%	2,670	1.89%
	50 to 64	115,508	110,248	95.45%	5,260	4.55%
	65 and over	117,232	110,341	94.12%	6,891	5.88%
Santa Clara	18 to 29	205,942	203,859	98.99%	2,083	1.01%
	30 to 49	327,390	316,143	96.56%	11,247	3.44%
	50 to 64	292,926	266,381	90.94%	26,545	9.06%
	65 and over	257,416	225,935	87.77%	31,481	12.23%
Santa Cruz	18 to 29	30,882	30,602	99.09%	280	0.91%
	30 to 49	51,245	50,388	98.33%	857	1.67%
	50 to 64	42,088	40,514	96.26%	1,574	3.74%
	65 and over	48,011	46,505	96.86%	1,506	3.14%
Sonoma	18 to 29	48,796	48,403	99.19%	393	0.81%
	30 to 49	88,628	87,396	98.61%	1,232	1.39%
	50 to 64	76,044	74,065	97.40%	1,979	2.60%
	65 and over	96,067	94,924	98.81%	1,143	1.19%

Jurisdiction	Age Category	Total Registered Voters	English		Non-English	
Stanislaus	18 to 29	62,065	61,424	98.97%	641	1.03%
	30 to 49	96,593	94,352	97.68%	2,241	2.32%
	50 to 64	67,910	64,472	94.94%	3,438	5.06%
	65 and over	64,501	61,308	95.05%	3,193	4.95%
Tuolumne	18 to 29	4,120	4,111	99.78%	9	0.22%
	30 to 49	9,027	9,015	99.87%	12	0.13%
	50 to 64	8,745	8,721	99.73%	24	0.27%
	65 and over	13,533	13,515	99.87%	18	0.13%
Ventura	18 to 29	100,013	99,160	99.15%	853	0.85%
	30 to 49	153,793	150,556	97.90%	3,237	2.10%
	50 to 64	135,437	128,118	94.60%	7,319	5.40%
	65 and over	135,400	128,160	94.65%	7,240	5.35%
Yolo	18 to 29	26,771	26,601	99.36%	170	0.64%
	30 to 49	38,575	38,021	98.56%	554	1.44%
	50 to 64	27,610	26,709	96.74%	901	3.26%
	65 and over	27,839	27,079	97.27%	760	2.73%

Table 4 below shows the total number of registered voters for each of the ten languages we have data on and an "Other" category. Table 4 below shows that over 15.9 million VCA voters registered in English. Of the non-English registered voters, over 520 thousand registered in Spanish. The next largest language group was Vietnamese, with 107 thousand registered VCA voters. Next are voters whose primary language is Chinese, with over 105 thousand registered voters. Over 64 thousand voters in VCA registered in Korean, and more than 13 thousand registered in Tagalog. There were 5,055 Japanese-speaking voters registered during the 2022 General Election. Thai, Hindi, and Khmer had 4,135, 2,287, and 2,971 voters registered in each language group, respectively. The remaining 13,236 VCA voters were registered in a language other than those listed in the table.

Table 4: Language for Registered Voters Across VCA Counties

Jurisdiction	Total Registered	English	Spanish	Vietnamese	Chinese	Korean	Tagalog	Other (Not Listed)	Japanese	Thai	Hindi	Khmer
Total (Los Angeles Included)	16,774,973	15,935,846	520,676	105,398	107,520	64,290	13,236	13,559	5,055	4,135	2,287	2,971
Total (Los Angeles Excluded)	11,166,854	10,703,063	264,704	92,484	58,752	26,549	7,489	7,061	2,036	1,354	998	2,364
Alameda	927,493	885,516	14,111	4,118	20,546	1,434	876	52	130	123	128	459
Amador	25,875	25,807	53	4	3	2	1	1	3	-	-	1
Butte	124,320	123,911	313	24	24	9	2	15	7	7	2	6
Calaveras	32,230	32,137	70	2	5	3	-	1	4	2	3	3
El Dorado	138,843	138,199	405	32	84	56	18	15	12	10	2	10
Fresno	499,683	483,792	13,887	397	295	127	67	1,023	-	-	95	-
Kings	61,305	59,312	1,919	15	16	6	24	-	4	2	2	5
Los Angeles	5,608,119	5,232,783	255,972	12,914	48,768	37,741	5,747	6,498	3,019	2,781	1,289	607
Madera	72,622	69,817	2,697	14	19	9	4	33	3	6	1	19
Marin	170,379	168,840	1,061	146	150	92	5	14	29	21	8	13
Mariposa	11,593	11,555	30	-	2	6	-	-	-	-	-	-
Merced	124,907	118,637	5,959	47	47	20	20	86	6	7	3	75
Napa	83,469	80,554	2,730	49	36	19	47	3	6	9	5	11
Nevada	74,309	74,149	129	5	14	-	1	-	2	5	2	2
Orange	1,822,728	1,710,480	41,021	43,487	8,262	16,978	538	516	645	303	218	280
Riverside	1,315,220	1,262,115	46,478	1,547	398	1,605	445	2,066	110	189	108	159
Sacramento	868,125	847,547	9,575	3,925	3,370	856	573	1,540	107	116	55	461
San Benito	37,617	36,175	1,395	14	9	9	7	2	2	2	1	1
San Diego	1,916,466	1,841,141	60,734	7,139	3,082	1,397	1,975	292	324	191	101	90
San Mateo	433,233	417,872	8,023	240	5,681	398	594	134	151	79	11	50

Jurisdiction	Total Registered	English	Spanish	Vietnamese	Chinese	Korean	Tagalog	Other (Not Listed)	Japanese	Thai	Hindi	Khmer
Santa Clara	1,012,318	940,962	18,305	30,419	15,558	2,939	2,035	993	375	109	146	477
Santa Cruz	168,009	163,792	3,983	18	87	48	21	7	16	22	13	2
Sonoma	304,788	300,041	4,070	216	207	82	26	29	20	39	28	30
Stanislaus	281,556	272,043	8,737	197	161	32	45	138	5	18	50	130
Tuolumne	35,362	35,299	51	1	4	4	1	-	-	1	-	1
Ventura	505,994	487,345	17,008	376	478	371	151	62	57	84	8	54
Yolo	118,410	116,025	1,960	52	214	47	13	39	18	9	8	25

Like Table 4 above, Table 5 shows voters registered in language groups represented as percentages. Below, English-speaking voters represent 95.00% of all VCA registered voters. Spanish is the next largest language group, representing 3.10% of the VCA registered electorate. At the time of the 2022 General Election, only one language group comprised more than 1% of the registered voters in VCA counties.

Table 5: Percent Language for Registered Voters Across VCA Counties

Jurisdiction	Total Registered	English	Spanish	Vietnamese	Chinese	Korean	Tagalog	Other (Not Listed)	Japanese	Thai	Hindi	Khmer
Total (Los Angeles Included)	16,774,973	95.00%	3.10%	0.63%	0.64%	0.38%	0.08%	0.08%	0.03%	0.02%	0.01%	0.02%
Total (Los Angeles Excluded)	11,166,854	95.85%	2.37%	0.83%	0.53%	0.24%	0.07%	0.06%	0.02%	0.01%	0.01%	0.02%
Alameda	927,493	95.47%	1.52%	0.44%	2.22%	0.15%	0.09%	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%	0.05%
Amador	25,875	99.74%	0.20%	0.02%	0.01%	0.01%	0.00%	0.00%	0.01%	-	-	0.00%
Butte	124,320	99.67%	0.25%	0.02%	0.02%	0.01%	0.00%	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%	0.00%	0.00%

Jurisdiction	Total Registered	English	Spanish	Vietnamese	Chinese	Korean	Tagalog	Other (Not Listed)	Japanese	Thai	Hindi	Khmer
Calaveras	32,230	99.71%	0.22%	0.01%	0.02%	0.01%	-	0.00%	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%
El Dorado	138,843	99.54%	0.29%	0.02%	0.06%	0.04%	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%	0.00%	0.01%
Fresno	499,683	96.82%	2.78%	0.08%	0.06%	0.03%	0.01%	0.20%	-	-	0.02%	-
Kings	61,305	96.75%	3.13%	0.02%	0.03%	0.01%	0.04%	-	0.01%	0.00%	0.00%	0.01%
Los Angeles	5,608,119	93.31%	4.56%	0.23%	0.87%	0.67%	0.10%	0.12%	0.05%	0.05%	0.02%	0.01%
Madera	72,622	96.14%	3.71%	0.02%	0.03%	0.01%	0.01%	0.05%	0.00%	0.01%	0.00%	0.03%
Marin	170,379	99.10%	0.62%	0.09%	0.09%	0.05%	0.00%	0.01%	0.02%	0.01%	0.00%	0.01%
Mariposa	11,593	99.67%	0.26%	-	0.02%	0.05%	-	-	-	-	-	-
Merced	124,907	94.98%	4.77%	0.04%	0.04%	0.02%	0.02%	0.07%	0.00%	0.01%	0.00%	0.06%
Napa	83,469	96.51%	3.27%	0.06%	0.04%	0.02%	0.06%	0.00%	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%
Nevada	74,309	99.78%	0.17%	0.01%	0.02%	-	0.00%	-	0.00%	0.01%	0.00%	0.00%
Orange	1,822,728	93.84%	2.25%	2.39%	0.45%	0.93%	0.03%	0.03%	0.04%	0.02%	0.01%	0.02%
Riverside	1,315,220	95.96%	3.53%	0.12%	0.03%	0.12%	0.03%	0.16%	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%

Jurisdiction	Total Registered	English	Spanish	Vietnamese	Chinese	Korean	Tagalog	Other (Not Listed)	Japanese	Thai	Hindi	Khmer
Sacramento	868,125	97.63%	1.10%	0.45%	0.39%	0.10%	0.07%	0.18%	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%	0.05%
San Benito	37,617	96.17%	3.71%	0.04%	0.02%	0.02%	0.02%	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%	0.00%	0.00%
San Diego	1,916,466	96.07%	3.17%	0.37%	0.16%	0.07%	0.10%	0.02%	0.02%	0.01%	0.01%	0.00%
San Mateo	433,233	96.45%	1.85%	0.06%	1.31%	0.09%	0.14%	0.03%	0.03%	0.02%	0.00%	0.01%
Santa Clara	1,012,318	92.95%	1.81%	3.00%	1.54%	0.29%	0.20%	0.10%	0.04%	0.01%	0.01%	0.05%
Santa Cruz	168,009	97.49%	2.37%	0.01%	0.05%	0.03%	0.01%	0.00%	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%	0.00%
Sonoma	304,788	98.44%	1.34%	0.07%	0.07%	0.03%	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%	0.01%
Stanislaus	281,556	96.62%	3.10%	0.07%	0.06%	0.01%	0.02%	0.05%	0.00%	0.01%	0.02%	0.05%
Tuolumne	35,362	99.82%	0.14%	0.00%	0.01%	0.01%	0.00%	-	-	0.00%	-	0.00%
Ventura	505,994	96.31%	3.36%	0.07%	0.09%	0.07%	0.03%	0.01%	0.01%	0.02%	0.00%	0.01%
Yolo	118,410	97.99%	1.66%	0.04%	0.18%	0.04%	0.01%	0.03%	0.02%	0.01%	0.01%	0.02%

Table 6 below shows nativity by English and non-English registered status for voters across VCA counties during the 2022 General Election. When an individual registers to vote, they self-report their place of birth by U.S. state or country. The table below cross-analyzes this nativity data with English language status.

As shown in Table 6, of the 11.1 million VCA voters born in the United States, 11.0 million, or 99.33%, are registered to vote in English. The remaining 73 thousand, or 0.67%, are registered to vote in a language other than English. In comparison, of the nearly 5.7 million VCA voters born in the U.S. abroad, 4.9 million, or 86.55%, were registered to vote in English. The remaining 765 thousand voters born outside the U.S., or 13.45%, were registered to vote in a language other than English.

Table 6: Birthplace by English and Non-English Registered Voters Across VCA Counties

Jurisdiction	Birthplace	Total Registered	English		Non-English	
Total (Los Angeles Included)	U.S.	11,092,235	11,017,653	99.33%	74,582	0.67%
	Abroad	5,682,738	4,918,193	86.55%	764,545	13.45%
Total (Los Angeles Excluded)	U.S.	7,731,898	7,678,274	99.31%	53,624	0.69%
	Abroad	3,434,956	3,024,789	88.06%	410,167	11.94%
Alameda	U.S.	551,961	550,030	99.65%	1,931	0.35%
	Abroad	375,532	335,486	89.34%	40,046	10.66%
Amador	U.S.	21,875	21,860	99.93%	15	0.07%
	Abroad	4,000	3,947	98.68%	53	1.33%
Butte	U.S.	117,531	117,351	99.85%	180	0.15%
	Abroad	6,789	6,560	96.63%	229	3.37%
Calaveras	U.S.	26,766	26,754	99.96%	12	0.04%
	Abroad	5,464	5,383	98.52%	81	1.48%
El Dorado	U.S.	108,562	108,487	99.93%	75	0.07%
	Abroad	30,281	29,712	98.12%	569	1.88%
Fresno	U.S.	354,824	353,342	99.58%	1,482	0.42%
	Abroad	144,859	130,450	90.05%	14,409	9.95%
Kings	U.S.	41,767	41,585	99.56%	182	0.44%
	Abroad	19,538	17,727	90.73%	1,811	9.27%
Los Angeles	U.S.	3,360,337	3,339,379	99.38%	20,958	0.62%

Jurisdiction	Birthplace	Total Registered	English		Non-English	
	Abroad	2,247,782	1,893,404	84.23%	354,378	15.77%
Madera	U.S.	65,368	64,297	98.36%	1,071	1.64%
	Abroad	7,254	5,520	76.10%	1,734	23.90%
Marin	U.S.	134,068	133,930	99.90%	138	0.10%
	Abroad	36,311	34,910	96.14%	1,401	3.86%
Mariposa	U.S.	9,458	9,456	99.98%	2	0.02%
	Abroad	2,135	2,099	98.31%	36	1.69%
Merced	U.S.	73,275	72,747	99.28%	528	0.72%
	Abroad	51,632	45,890	88.88%	5,742	11.12%
Napa	U.S.	57,669	57,495	99.70%	174	0.30%
	Abroad	25,800	23,059	89.38%	2,741	10.62%
Nevada	U.S.	60,474	60,447	99.96%	27	0.04%
	Abroad	13,835	13,702	99.04%	133	0.96%
Orange	U.S.	1,174,505	1,167,956	99.44%	6,549	0.56%
	Abroad	648,223	542,524	83.69%	105,699	16.31%
Riverside	U.S.	959,537	950,717	99.08%	8,820	0.92%
	Abroad	355,683	311,398	87.55%	44,285	12.45%
Sacramento	U.S.	607,473	605,766	99.72%	1,707	0.28%
	Abroad	260,652	241,781	92.76%	18,871	7.24%
San Benito	U.S.	25,864	25,733	99.49%	131	0.51%
	Abroad	11,753	10,442	88.85%	1,311	11.15%
San Diego	U.S.	1,293,815	1,285,896	99.39%	7,919	0.61%
	Abroad	622,651	555,245	89.17%	67,406	10.83%
San Mateo	U.S.	267,440	266,303	99.57%	1,137	0.43%
	Abroad	165,793	151,569	91.42%	14,224	8.58%

Jurisdiction	Birthplace	Total Registered	English		Non-English	
Santa Clara	U.S.	713,556	696,414	97.60%	17,142	2.40%
	Abroad	298,762	244,548	81.85%	54,214	18.15%
Santa Cruz	U.S.	133,080	132,700	99.71%	380	0.29%
	Abroad	34,929	31,092	89.01%	3,837	10.99%
Sonoma	U.S.	242,263	241,876	99.84%	387	0.16%
	Abroad	62,525	58,165	93.03%	4,360	6.97%
Stanislaus	U.S.	186,590	185,744	99.55%	846	0.45%
	Abroad	94,966	86,299	90.87%	8,667	9.13%
Tuolumne	U.S.	27,806	27,799	99.97%	7	0.03%
	Abroad	7,556	7,500	99.26%	56	0.74%
Ventura	U.S.	394,262	391,680	99.35%	2,582	0.65%
	Abroad	111,732	95,665	85.62%	16,067	14.38%
Yolo	U.S.	82,109	81,909	99.76%	200	0.24%
	Abroad	36,301	34,116	93.98%	2,185	6.02%

Table 7 below shows the voter turnout rate by the languages listed on the California voter file. Voter turnout rates are calculated by dividing the number of ballots cast by the number of registered voters for each language group.

As shown in Table 7 below, the total turnout rate for all VCA counties was 50.3%. English-speaking VCA voters had a turnout rate of 50.9% while Spanish-speaking voters had a turnout rate of 35.2%. VCA voters registered in Vietnamese had a turnout rate of 49.5%, while Chinese-speaking voters had a turnout rate of 39.8%. Voters registered in Korean had a turnout rate of 45.0%, and Tagalog-speaking voters had a turnout rate of 41.0%. Japanese, Thai, Hindi, and Khmer voters had turnout rates of 43.9%, 36.0%, 37.2%, and 28.2%, respectively. Those VCA voters registered in a language other than those listed had a turnout rate of 40.8%.

Table 7: Turnout by Language Across VCA Counties

Jurisdiction	Category	Total	English	Spanish	Vietnamese	Chinese	Korean	Tagalog	Other	Japanese	Thai	Hindi	Khmer
Total (Los Angeles Included)	Registered	16,774,973	15,935,846	520,676	105,398	107,520	64,290	13,236	13,559	5,055	4,135	2,971	2,287
	Voted	8,437,871	8,114,287	183,218	52,217	42,775	28,959	5,431	5,530	2,218	1,487	1,104	645
	Turnout Rate	50.3%	50.9%	35.2%	49.5%	39.8%	45.0%	41.0%	40.8%	43.9%	36.0%	37.2%	28.2%
Total (Los Angeles Excluded)	Registered	11,166,854	10,703,063	264,704	92,484	58,752	26,549	7,489	7,061	2,036	1,354	2,364	998
	Voted	5,998,777	5,811,656	92,584	47,616	25,897	12,445	3,186	2,723	966	511	909	284
	Turnout Rate	53.7%	54.3%	35.0%	51.5%	44.1%	46.9%	42.5%	38.6%	47.4%	37.7%	38.5%	28.5%
Alameda	Registered	927,493	885,516	14,111	4,118	20,546	1,434	876	52	130	123	459	128
	Voted	491,705	476,108	4,908	1,567	7,991	457	347	18	53	48	169	39
	Turnout Rate	53.01%	53.8%	34.8%	38.1%	38.9%	31.9%	39.6%	34.6%	40.8%	39.0%	36.8%	30.5%
Amador	Registered	25,875	25,807	53	4	3	2	1	1	3	0	1	0
	Voted	18,790	18,760	21	0	1	2	1	1	3	0	1	0
	Turnout Rate	72.62%	72.7%	39.6%	0.0%	33.3%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	-	-	-
Butte	Registered	124,320	123,911	313	24	24	9	2	15	7	7	6	2
	Voted	72,762	72,635	100	6	5	2	2	4	3	3	2	0
	Turnout Rate	58.53%	58.6%	31.9%	25.0%	20.8%	22.2%	100.0%	26.7%	42.9%	42.9%	33.3%	0.0%
Calaveras	Registered	32,230	32,137	70	2	5	3	0	1	4	2	3	3
	Voted	21,526	21,492	20	2	3	2	0	0	3	1	1	2
	Turnout Rate	66.79%	66.9%	28.6%	100.0%	60.0%	66.7%	-	0.0%	75.0%	50.0%	33.3%	66.7%
El Dorado	Registered	138,843	138,199	405	32	84	56	18	15	12	10	10	2
	Voted	89,474	89,247	119	19	38	22	6	7	8	4	3	1
	Turnout Rate	64.44%	64.6%	29.4%	59.4%	45.2%	39.3%	33.3%	46.7%	66.7%	40.0%	30.0%	50.0%
Fresno	Registered	499,683	483,792	13,887	397	295	127	67	1,023	0	0	0	95
	Voted	220,505	214,218	5,498	150	111	33	29	443	0	0	0	23
	Turnout Rate	44.13%	44.3%	39.6%	37.8%	37.6%	26.0%	43.3%	43.3%	-	-	-	24.2%

Jurisdiction	Category	Total	English	Spanish	Vietnamese	Chinese	Korean	Tagalog	Other	Japanese	Thai	Hindi	Khmer
Kings	Registered	61,305	59,312	1,919	15	16	6	24	0	4	2	5	2
	Voted	26,903	26,125	755	2	6	4	6	0	3	1	1	0
	Turnout Rate	43.88%	44.0%	39.3%	13.3%	37.5%	66.7%	25.0%	#DIV/0!	75.0%	50.0%	20.0%	0.0%
Los Angeles	Registered	5,608,119	5,232,783	255,972	12,914	48,768	37,741	5,747	6,498	3,019	2,781	607	1,289
	Voted	2,439,094	2,302,631	90,634	4,601	16,878	16,514	2,245	2,807	1,252	976	195	361
	Turnout Rate	43.49%	44.0%	35.4%	35.6%	34.6%	43.8%	39.1%	43.2%	41.5%	35.1%	32.1%	28.0%
Madera	Registered	72,622	69,817	2,697	14	19	9	4	33	3	6	19	1
	Voted	37,105	35,916	1,132	4	12	4	2	19	2	4	10	0
	Turnout Rate	51.09%	51.4%	42.0%	28.6%	63.2%	44.4%	50.0%	57.6%	66.7%	66.7%	52.6%	0.0%
Marin	Registered	170,379	168,840	1,061	146	150	92	5	14	29	21	13	8
	Voted	120,696	120,080	409	56	75	30	0	9	19	11	3	4
	Turnout Rate	70.84%	71.1%	38.5%	38.4%	50.0%	32.6%	0.0%	64.3%	65.5%	52.4%	23.1%	50.0%
Mariposa	Registered	11,593	11,555	30	0	2	6	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Voted	7,891	7,885	4	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Turnout Rate	68.07%	68.2%	13.3%	-	50.0%	16.7%	-	-	-	-	-	-
Merced	Registered	124,907	118,637	5,959	47	47	20	20	86	6	7	75	3
	Voted	55,528	53,094	2,302	18	19	10	11	38	0	4	32	0
	Turnout Rate	44.46%	44.8%	38.6%	38.3%	40.4%	50.0%	55.0%	44.2%	0.0%	57.1%	42.7%	0.0%
Napa	Registered	83,469	80,554	2,730	49	36	19	47	3	6	9	11	5
	Voted	50,793	49,686	1,017	21	19	9	22	1	3	5	7	3
	Turnout Rate	60.85%	61.7%	37.3%	42.9%	52.8%	47.4%	46.8%	33.3%	50.0%	55.6%	63.6%	60.0%
Nevada	Registered	74,309	74,149	129	5	14	0	1	0	2	5	2	2
	Voted	50,600	50,557	33	2	7	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
	Turnout Rate	68.09%	68.2%	25.6%	40.0%	50.0%	-	0.0%	-	0.0%	0.0%	50.0%	0.0%

Jurisdiction	Category	Total	English	Spanish	Vietnamese	Chinese	Korean	Tagalog	Other	Japanese	Thai	Hindi	Khmer
Orange	Registered	1,822,728	1,710,480	41,021	43,487	8,262	16,978	538	516	645	303	280	218
	Voted	991,296	938,620	15,005	24,195	3,733	8,795	214	181	295	110	93	55
	Turnout Rate	54.39%	54.9%	36.6%	55.6%	45.2%	51.8%	39.8%	35.1%	45.7%	36.3%	33.2%	25.2%
Riverside	Registered	1,315,220	1,262,115	46,478	1,547	398	1,605	445	2,066	110	189	159	108
	Voted	599,564	582,811	14,506	552	130	582	144	633	51	71	55	29
	Turnout Rate	45.59%	46.2%	31.2%	35.7%	32.7%	36.3%	32.4%	30.6%	46.4%	37.6%	34.6%	26.9%
Sacramento	Registered	868,125	847,547	9,575	3,925	3,370	856	573	1,540	107	116	461	55
	Voted	482,726	473,553	4,030	1,931	1,463	408	305	716	68	48	187	17
	Turnout Rate	55.61%	55.9%	42.1%	49.2%	43.4%	47.7%	53.2%	46.5%	63.6%	41.4%	40.6%	30.9%
San Benito	Registered	37,617	36,175	1,395	14	9	9	7	2	2	2	1	1
	Voted	19,726	19,177	527	8	5	3	4	0	2	0	0	0
	Turnout Rate	52.44%	53.0%	37.8%	57.1%	55.6%	33.3%	57.1%	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
San Diego	Registered	1,916,466	1,841,141	60,734	7,139	3,082	1,397	1,975	292	324	191	90	101
	Voted	1,029,042	1,003,686	19,012	3,270	1,327	516	848	89	149	64	43	38
	Turnout Rate	53.69%	54.5%	31.3%	45.8%	43.1%	36.9%	42.9%	30.5%	46.0%	33.5%	47.8%	37.6%
San Mateo	Registered	433,233	417,872	8,023	240	5,681	398	594	134	151	79	50	11
	Voted	251,297	245,163	3,248	100	2,231	151	234	47	73	29	19	2
	Turnout Rate	58.01%	58.7%	40.5%	41.7%	39.3%	37.9%	39.4%	35.1%	48.3%	36.7%	38.0%	18.2%
Santa Clara	Registered	1,012,318	940,962	18,305	30,419	15,558	2,939	2,035	993	375	109	477	146
	Voted	549,731	515,783	7,378	15,357	8,256	1,177	899	414	173	44	205	45
	Turnout Rate	54.30%	54.8%	40.3%	50.5%	53.1%	40.0%	44.2%	41.7%	46.1%	40.4%	43.0%	30.8%
Santa Cruz	Registered	168,009	163,792	3,983	18	87	48	21	7	16	22	2	13
	Voted	104,998	103,414	1,493	9	33	15	11	1	6	11	1	4
	Turnout Rate	62.50%	63.1%	37.5%	50.0%	37.9%	31.3%	52.4%	14.3%	37.5%	50.0%	50.0%	30.8%

Jurisdiction	Category	Total	English	Spanish	Vietnamese	Chinese	Korean	Tagalog	Other	Japanese	Thai	Hindi	Khmer
Sonoma	Registered	304,788	300,041	4,070	216	207	82	26	29	20	39	30	28
	Voted	200,334	198,669	1,363	100	98	35	14	13	11	14	6	11
	Turnout Rate	65.73%	66.2%	33.5%	46.3%	47.3%	42.7%	53.8%	44.8%	55.0%	35.9%	20.0%	39.3%
Stanislaus	Registered	281,556	272,043	8,737	197	161	32	45	138	5	18	130	50
	Voted	131,314	127,953	3,091	75	56	12	20	47	4	4	46	6
	Turnout Rate	46.64%	47.0%	35.4%	38.1%	34.8%	37.5%	44.4%	34.1%	80.0%	22.2%	35.4%	12.0%
Tuolumne	Registered	35,362	35,299	51	1	4	4	1	0	0	1	1	0
	Voted	23,383	23,369	12	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Turnout Rate	66.12%	66.2%	23.5%	100.0%	25.0%	0.0%	0.0%	-	-	0.0%	0.0%	-
Ventura	Registered	505,994	487,345	17,008	376	478	371	151	62	57	84	54	8
	Voted	283,327	276,742	5,924	151	189	154	62	28	28	30	17	2
	Turnout Rate	55.99%	56.8%	34.8%	40.2%	39.5%	41.5%	41.1%	45.2%	49.1%	35.7%	31.5%	25.0%
Yolo	Registered	118,410	116,025	1,960	52	214	47	13	39	18	9	25	8
	Voted	67,761	66,913	677	20	87	21	5	14	9	5	7	3
	Turnout Rate	57.23%	57.7%	34.5%	38.5%	40.7%	44.7%	38.5%	35.9%	50.0%	55.6%	28.0%	37.5%

Table 8 below shows the voting methods utilized by voters registered in English and non-English languages. At the time of the 2022 General Election, vote-by-mail was widely the preferred method of casting ballots statewide. Below, the table shows that of the 8.1 million English-speaking VCA voters, more than 7.1 million, or 87.6%, voted by mail. The most utilized voting method was voting in-person at a vote center with 964 thousand, or 11.9%, of VCA ballots. The remaining 4,020 (0.0%) and 35,705 (0.4%) ballots were cast using non-provisional CVR and CVR, respectively.

Table 8 also shows that of more than 323 thousand VCA voters registered in a language other than English, over 289 thousand, or 89.4%, voted by mail. The second preferred method for non-English speaking voters was voting in person at a vote center, with more than 33 thousand, or

10.2%, choosing this method. The remaining 97 (0.0%) and 1,117 (0.3%) ballots were cast using a non-provisional CVR and CVR, respectively.

Table 8: Voting Method by Language Across VCA Counties

Jurisdiction	Voting Method	English		Non-English	
Total (Los Angeles Included)	Total Voted	8,114,287	-	323,584	-
	Vote-By-Mail	7,110,491	87.6%	289,314	89.4%
	Vote Center	964,071	11.9%	33,056	10.2%
	Nonprovisional CVR	4,020	0.0%	97	0.0%
	CVR	35,705	0.4%	1,117	0.3%
Total (Los Angeles Excluded)	Total Voted	5,811,656	-	187,121	-
	Vote-By-Mail	5,260,798	90.5%	173,028	92.5%
	Vote Center	524,555	9.0%	13,191	7.0%
	Nonprovisional CVR	4,020	0.1%	97	0.1%
	CVR	22,283	0.4%	805	0.4%
Alameda	Total Voted	476,108	-	15,597	-
	Vote-By-Mail	440,686	92.6%	14,744	94.5%
	Vote Center	32,514	6.8%	759	4.9%
	Nonprovisional CVR	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
	CVR	2,908	0.6%	94	0.6%
Amador	Total Voted	18,760	-	30	-
	Vote-By-Mail	17,580	93.7%	28	93.3%
	Vote Center	1,065	5.7%	2	6.7%
	Nonprovisional CVR	112	0.6%	0	0.0%
	CVR	3	0.0%	0	0.0%
Butte	Total Voted	72,635	-	127	-

Jurisdiction	Voting Method	English		Non-English	
	Vote-By-Mail	72,052	99.2%	126	99.2%
	Vote Center	411	0.6%	0	0.0%
	Nonprovisional CVR	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
	CVR	172	0.2%	1	0.8%
Calaveras	Total Voted	21,492	-	34	-
	Vote-By-Mail	19,300	89.8%	27	79.4%
	Vote Center	2,059	9.6%	6	17.6%
	Nonprovisional CVR	130	0.6%	1	2.9%
	CVR	3	0.0%	0	0.0%
El Dorado	Total Voted	89,247	-	227	-
	Vote-By-Mail	83,051	93.1%	213	93.8%
	Vote Center	5,840	6.5%	10	4.4%
	Nonprovisional CVR	234	0.3%	3	1.3%
	CVR	122	0.1%	1	0.4%
Fresno	Total Voted	214,218	-	6,287	-
	Vote-By-Mail	186,961	87.3%	5,628	89.5%
	Vote Center	25,427	11.9%	585	9.3%
	Nonprovisional CVR	1,467	0.7%	41	0.7%
	CVR	363	0.2%	33	0.5%
Kings	Total Voted	26,125	-	778	-
	Vote-By-Mail	23,697	90.7%	724	93.1%
	Vote Center	2,356	9.0%	52	6.7%
	Nonprovisional CVR	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
	CVR	72	0.3%	2	0.3%
Los Angeles	Total Voted	2,302,631	-	136,463	-

Jurisdiction	Voting Method	English		Non-English	
	Vote-By-Mail	1,849,693	80.3%	116,286	85.2%
	Vote Center	439,516	19.1%	19,865	14.6%
	Nonprovisional CVR	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
	CVR	13,422	0.6%	312	0.2%
Madera	Total Voted	35,916	-	1,189	-
	Vote-By-Mail	32,767	91.2%	1,102	92.7%
	Vote Center	2,982	8.3%	80	6.7%
	Nonprovisional CVR	70	0.2%	3	0.3%
	CVR	97	0.3%	4	0.3%
Marin	Total Voted	120,080	-	616	-
	Vote-By-Mail	111,843	93.1%	563	91.4%
	Vote Center	7,961	6.6%	47	7.6%
	Nonprovisional CVR	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
	CVR	276	0.2%	6	1.0%
Mariposa	Total Voted	7,885	-	6	-
	Vote-By-Mail	7,863	99.7%	6	100.0%
	Vote Center	7	0.1%	0	0.0%
	Nonprovisional CVR	1	0.0%	0	0.0%
	CVR	14	0.2%	0	0.0%
Merced	Total Voted	53,094	-	2,434	-
	Vote-By-Mail	48,426	91.2%	2,209	90.8%
	Vote Center	4,569	8.6%	212	8.7%
	Nonprovisional CVR	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
	CVR	99	0.2%	13	0.5%
Napa	Total Voted	49,686	-	1,107	-

Jurisdiction	Voting Method	English		Non-English	
	Vote-By-Mail	47,959	96.5%	1,069	96.6%
	Vote Center	1,469	3.0%	27	2.4%
	Nonprovisional CVR	66	0.1%	1	0.1%
	CVR	192	0.4%	10	0.9%
Nevada	Total Voted	50,557	-	43	-
	Vote-By-Mail	46,856	92.7%	39	90.7%
	Vote Center	3,398	6.7%	1	2.3%
	Nonprovisional CVR	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
	CVR	303	0.6%	3	7.0%
Orange	Total Voted	938,620	-	52,676	-
	Vote-By-Mail	780,924	83.2%	48,274	91.6%
	Vote Center	153,883	16.4%	4,125	7.8%
	Nonprovisional CVR	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
	CVR	3,813	0.4%	277	0.5%
Riverside	Total Voted	582,811	-	16,753	-
	Vote-By-Mail	526,103	90.3%	15,507	92.6%
	Vote Center	53,122	9.1%	1,145	6.8%
	Nonprovisional CVR	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
	CVR	3,586	0.6%	101	0.6%
Sacramento	Total Voted	473,553	-	9,173	-
	Vote-By-Mail	446,468	94.3%	8,853	96.5%
	Vote Center	24,528	5.2%	287	3.1%
	Nonprovisional CVR	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
	CVR	2,557	0.5%	33	0.4%
San Benito	Total Voted	19,177	-	549	-

Jurisdiction	Voting Method	English		Non-English	
	Vote-By-Mail	17,606	91.8%	505	92.0%
	Vote Center	1,468	7.7%	40	7.3%
	Nonprovisional CVR	101	0.5%	4	0.7%
	CVR	2	0.0%	0	0.0%
San Diego	Total Voted	1,003,686	-	25,356	-
	Vote-By-Mail	910,031	90.7%	23,248	91.7%
	Vote Center	90,878	9.1%	2,089	8.2%
	Nonprovisional CVR	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
	CVR	2,777	0.3%	19	0.1%
San Mateo	Total Voted	245,163	-	6,134	-
	Vote-By-Mail	228,092	93.0%	5,717	93.2%
	Vote Center	16,289	6.6%	396	6.5%
	Nonprovisional CVR	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
	CVR	782	0.3%	21	0.3%
Santa Clara	Total Voted	515,783	-	33,948	-
	Vote-By-Mail	478,591	92.8%	31,456	92.7%
	Vote Center	35,055	6.8%	2,338	6.9%
	Nonprovisional CVR	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
	CVR	2,137	0.4%	154	0.5%
Santa Cruz	Total Voted	103,414	-	1,584	-
	Vote-By-Mail	94,896	91.8%	1,462	92.3%
	Vote Center	7,734	7.5%	116	7.3%
	Nonprovisional CVR	255	0.2%	3	0.2%
	CVR	529	0.5%	3	0.2%
Sonoma	Total Voted	198,669	-	1,665	-

Jurisdiction	Voting Method	English		Non-English	
	Vote-By-Mail	188,957	95.1%	1,587	95.3%
	Vote Center	9,100	4.6%	72	4.3%
	Nonprovisional CVR	151	0.1%	3	0.2%
	CVR	461	0.2%	3	0.2%
Stanislaus	Total Voted	127,953	-	3,361	-
	Vote-By-Mail	117,991	92.2%	3,128	93.1%
	Vote Center	9,530	7.4%	215	6.4%
	Nonprovisional CVR	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
	CVR	432	0.3%	18	0.5%
Tuolumne	Total Voted	23,369	-	14	-
	Vote-By-Mail	22,432	96.0%	13	92.9%
	Vote Center	888	3.8%	1	7.1%
	Nonprovisional CVR	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
	CVR	49	0.2%	0	0.0%
Ventura	Total Voted	276,742	-	6,585	-
	Vote-By-Mail	247,612	89.5%	5,996	91.1%
	Vote Center	27,509	9.9%	542	8.2%
	Nonprovisional CVR	1,433	0.5%	38	0.6%
	CVR	188	0.1%	9	0.1%
Yolo	Total Voted	66,913	-	848	-
	Vote-By-Mail	62,054	92.7%	804	94.8%
	Vote Center	4,513	6.7%	44	5.2%
	Nonprovisional CVR	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
	CVR	346	0.5%	0	0.0%

Takeaways

There were 16.7 million registered voters across California VCA counties at the time of the 2022 General Election. The registered electorate in VCA counties was largely composed of English-speaking voters. Voters registered in English accounted for approximately 16 million, or 95.0% of all VCA registered voters. The next largest language group was Spanish, which comprised over 520 thousand, or 3.1% of the VCA registered electorate. No other single language group accounted for more than 1% of the overall VCA registered electorate.

Non-English registered voters were more likely to belong to older age categories. For example, in VCA counties, there were over ten times as many non-English registered voters aged 65 and over (368,151) as there were non-English registered voters aged 18 to 29 (33,479).

Another key takeaway is that foreign-born voters were more likely to register in a language other than English compared to voters born in the United States. In VCA counties, over 764 thousand, or 13.45% of foreign-born voters registered in a language other than English. In contrast, only 74 thousand, or 0.67% of U.S.-born voters registered in a language other than English.

Turnout across language groups varied significantly. VCA voters registered in English had the highest turnout rate (50.3%), followed by Vietnamese-speaking voters (49.5%) and Korean-speaking voters (45.0%). Khmer-speaking voters had the lowest turnout rate (28.2%), followed by Spanish-speaking voters (35.2%) and Thai-speaking voters (36.0%). While low turnout among immigrant voters is a historical and national phenomenon, the turnout rates discussed above indicate that outreach needs to be targeted to non-English voters – particularly Spanish-speaking voters, given that they are the second largest language group in California.

VCA voters registered in both English and non-English languages largely preferred voting by mail. One notable observation is that non-English-speaking voters were more than 1 percentage point more likely to vote-by-mail than English-speaking voters, suggesting that voting by mail may be slightly more accessible for non-English-speaking voters than their English-speaking counterparts.

SURVEY RESULTS[2]

In partnership with the California Secretary of State's office, the UCLA Voting Rights Project conducted a survey that polled California Voter's Choice Act (VCA) counties on questions regarding their outreach to voters that speak a primary language other than English during the 2022 General Election. The questions asked to counties focused on the voting materials that counties distributed to voters that speak a primary language other than English, the methods in which they distributed information to voters that speak a primary language other than English, and the expenditures that counties made to reach voters that speak a primary language other than English.

Major findings of the survey:

1. All reporting counties are compliant with federal language access requirements under Section 203 of the Voting Rights Act.

2. All reporting counties are in accordance with California state law for providing translated language materials to voters.

3. The most common languages covered under Federal and California state law are Spanish, Tagalog/Filipino, Chinese, Vietnamese, and Korean.

4. The most common voter outreach method by VCA counties to non-English speaking voters was the use of direct mailers. The second and third most common method of providing non-English voter information and outreach materials was through community events and unpaid social media posts.

5. Almost all VCA counties invested money into non-English voter education outreach for the 2022 General Election. The largest VCA counties, including Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, and San Diego, invested over $30,000 on language access outreach for the 2022 General Election.

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[2] The survey was fielded from January 2023 to February 2023 using Qualtrics, a web-based survey platform. Counties self-reported data. Twenty-four of the Twenty-seven VCA counties reported data.
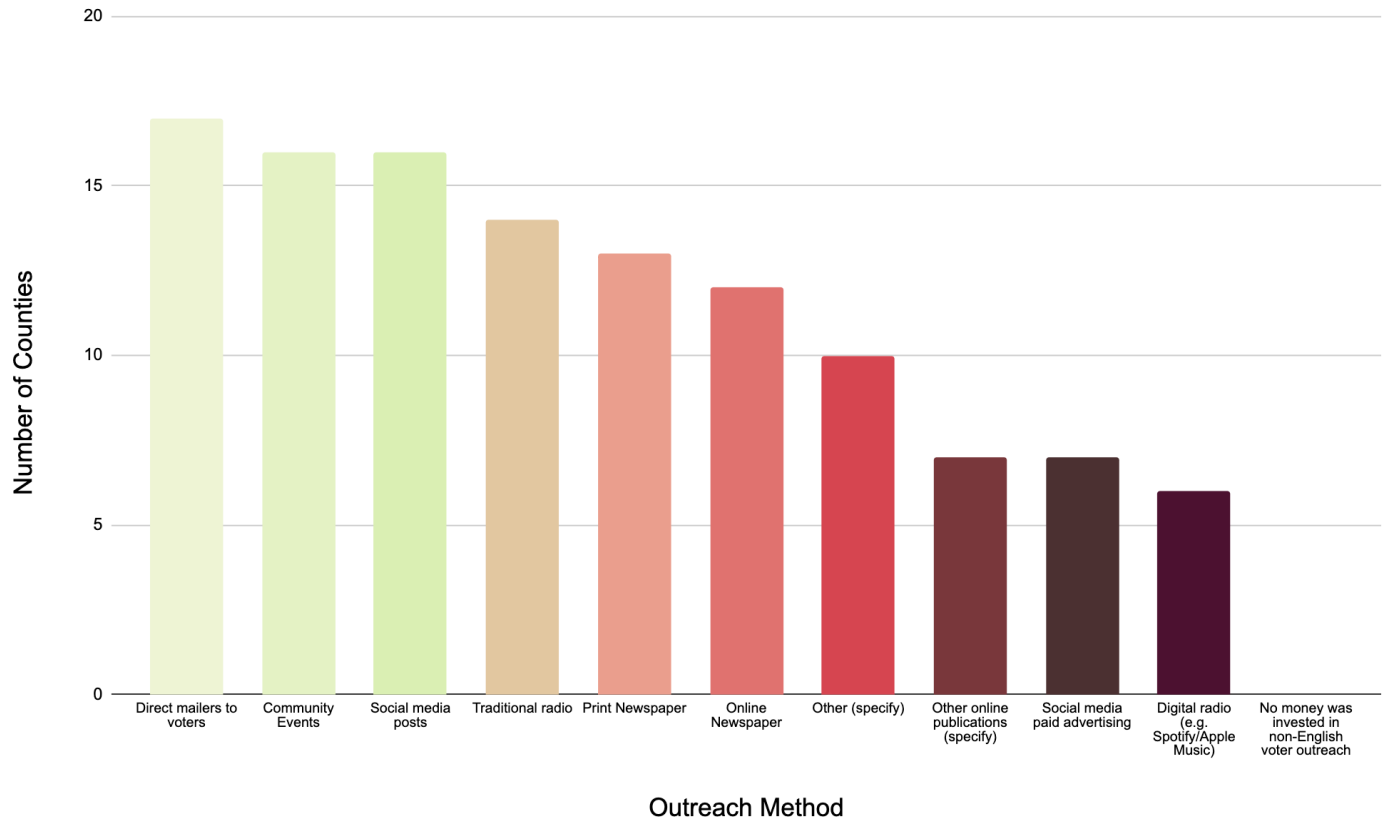
6. Twenty-three counties had either in-office employees or hired extra assistance to assist voters that speak a primary language other than English for the 2022 General Election.

Outreach Materials

The VCA Counties surveyed were asked various questions regarding the types of outreach materials they used to engage voters that speak a primary language other than English, and the amount of money spent on disseminating non-English outreach materials.

For example, one inquiry sent to counties was "[p]lease select all of the non-English language voter outreach materials the county invested in for the 2022 General Election." Response choices included community events, digital radio ads (Spotify, Apple Music, etc.), and direct mailers, among others. Counties were asked about their outreach materials and strategies to uncover the ways counties believed they were able to reach voters that speak a primary language other than English. Furthermore, the questions asked helped determine the methods most and least utilized when reaching out to these voters. Figure 2 below provides an overview of counties' responses on the outreach materials and how many counties used each method.

Figure 2: Responses Regarding the Use of Methods to Distribute Non-English Outreach Materials

As shown in Figure 2 above, at the time of the 2022 General Election, the most common non-English outreach methods were direct mailers used by 17 counties. The next most utilized outreach methods were community events and social media posts, with 16 counties choosing these methods. The outreach method least utilized was digital radio, with six counties selecting this method. All counties surveyed stated they utilized paid methods to distribute non-English outreach materials.

The highest number of non-English outreach methods utilized by a single county was ten, including print and online newspapers, traditional radio, digital radio ads, direct mailers to voters, social media posts, and paid social media advertising. Larger VCA counties, such as Los Angeles County and Orange County, employed eight to ten different outreach methods to distribute non-English outreach materials. Furthermore, findings show that most VCA counties utilized more than three outreach tools, all including community events. Five counties stated that they only used one method of outreach to voters that speak a primary language other than English – direct online mailers only, social media posts only, or community events only.
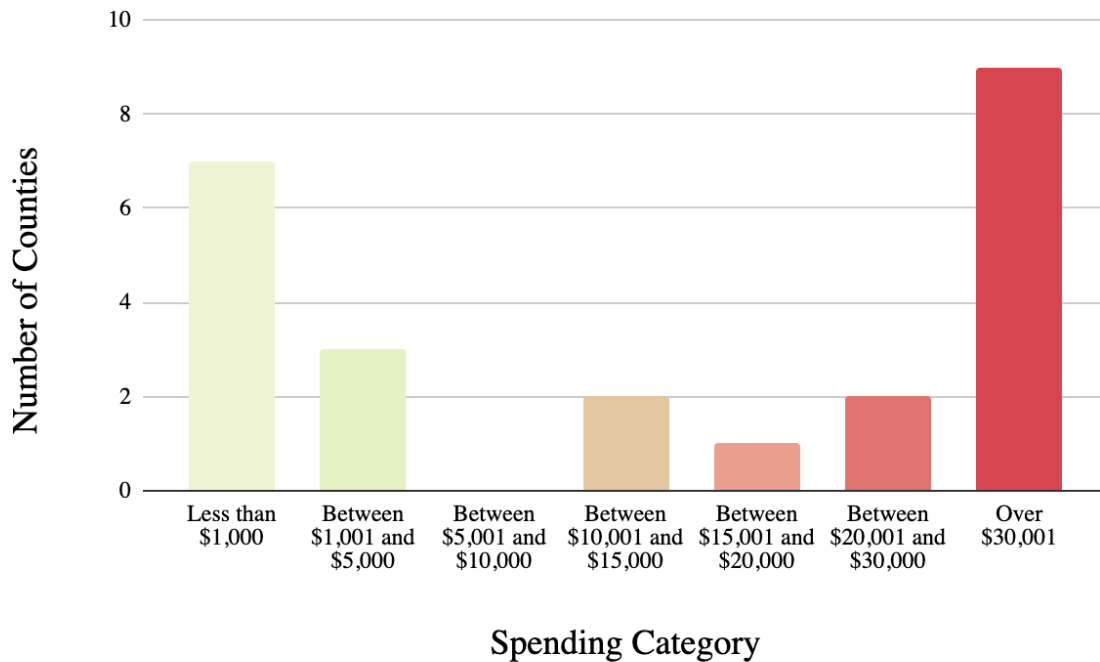
Some counties responded that they used "other" outreach materials not listed. These "other" materials included "LanguageLine," an online on-demand translation service.

Based on our analysis of VoteCal data and the survey responses, we urge all VCA counties to employ more than one outreach method to educate voters that speak a primary language other than English. This multiple methods approach should include utilizing a mix of print materials such as direct mailers, online materials (including a robust social media presence), and community engagement through events sponsored by the county registrar or partnerships with community organizations. In other words, robust outreach campaigns should aim to combine physical media, online media, and in-person events.

Outreach Expenditures

The VCA Counties were also surveyed on the amount of money spent on the outreach methods detailed in the prior section during the 2022 General Election. Figure 3 below provides a bar graph that categorizes spending amounts on non-English outreach methods with the number of counties in each category. The data was sourced from responses to the question: "How much money did the county invest in non-English outreach in total (including social media, print media, etc.) during the 2022 General Election? If no money was spent, please provide that information."

Figure 3: Responses Regarding Expenditure on Non-English Outreach Materials

As shown by the bimodal distribution in Figure 3 above, most counties reported spending more than $30,001 or less than $1,000 on non-English outreach for the 2022 General Election. The nine counties that spent more than $30,001 had larger populations.

Given the survey responses, we encourage counties that have spent less on non-English outreach to consider either increasing the amount of money spent or choosing high-visibility outreach methods to ensure that voters that speak a primary language other than English receive important election materials.

Translation Services and Assistance

In the survey, VCA counties were asked various questions about the types of translation services and assistance provided for the 2022 General Election.

Below are examples of survey questions asked to VCA counties:

▪ "In which languages did the county have a designated non-English speaker available in the Elections office during the 2022 General Election? Please select all that apply."

▪ "How were designated non-English translators made available to assist voters during the 2022 General Election? (e.g. available at the front desk, email, phone)."

▪ "In which languages, other than English did the county provide a voter assistance hotline during the 2022 General Election?"

▪ "What languages did the bilingual staff speak at polling locations during the 2022 General Election?"

▪ "Please tell us how you determined where to place bilingual poll workers during the 2022 General Election."

▪ "Please select the translation services provided during the 2022 General Election."

▪ "How much money for translation services (staffing, support, print media, social media, community events, hotlines) did the county invest in during the 2022 General Election? If no money was spent, please provide that information."

▪ "Did the county partner with any Community-Based Organizations to fulfill language needs during the 2022 General Election?"

▪ "Were there any other language access services provided by county elections officials in the 2022 General Election that were not asked about in this survey? If so, please include what services were provided below."

I. Additional Findings on Translation Services and Assistance:

Generally, VCA counties had election staff designated as non-English speakers available to assist voters for the 2022 General Election. For example, twenty-two counties had designated Spanish-speaking staff in election offices. Ten counties had designated Tagalog/Filipino speakers, eight counties had Chinese speakers in the elections office, and six counties had designated Punjabi-, Vietnamese-, and Korean-speaking staff available to assist voters.

Furthermore, survey responses suggest that VCA counties were innovative in engaging with voters seeking language assistance. Several counties offered email and video chat and/or conferencing services for voters who contacted them for translation services. Most counties stated that they had a staff member in-person or available via phone in the elections office who was available to speak with voters. One county stated that "[e]ach voting location had at least one person who spoke Spanish, staff in Election Office [that were] bilingual (Spanish, Chinese, Tagalog were former 14201 languages), specific phone lines for languages published in the VIG and on website, access to SOS language line."

In VCA counties, voter assistance hotlines were available to help voters in every Section 203 language and 14201 language for the 2022 General Election. Twenty-two counties provided Spanish language assistance hotline services; ten provided the service in Tagalog/Filipino, eight provided the service in Chinese, six in Korean, six in Vietnamese, six in Panjabi, five in Hindi, and four in Japanese.

VCA counties also showed innovation in the physical placement of bilingual poll workers for the 2022 General Election. For example, one county stated that

> "[p]lacement of bilingual workers at vote centers is determined by using a three-tiered assessment. The first tier looks at the Federal and state requirements and ranks them as the top priority to fill. The second tier is based on our VCA outreach and community feedback. These targeted spots are filled after the tier one slots are filled. The final tier is based on actual voter registration in a service area. These are filled after the other two tiers. Finally, any additional available bilingual workers are placed wherever vacancies exist because any added language support is a bonus."

One county engaged in "Precinct Language Analysis" to aid in poll worker placement, while other counties were able to ensure bilingual poll workers at every voting center. In the majority of VCA counties, demographic information largely informed the placement of bilingual poll workers for the 2022 General Election.

Based on survey responses, reviewing demographic information of areas with voters that speak a primary language other than English to place bilingual poll workers can be considered a standard and/or best practice among VCA counties.

CONCLUSION

With nearly one million VCA voters registered in a language other than English, it is imperative that California continues accommodating voters that speak a primary language other than English and furthers outreach efforts. Federal and state law requires that counties provide all manner of election materials in the languages mandated by federal and state coverage formulas. To improve outreach, we recommend hiring, spending, and civic partnership plans that will enhance accessibility in voting.

Below are the top recommendations for improving language assistance outreach:

1. All counties should increase community outreach and partnerships to engage with voters that speak a primary language other than English before, during, and after elections.

   i. This includes increased engagement with Language Accessibility Advisory Committees (LAAC), which most VCA counties currently use to advise and assist county registrars with state and federal law implementation. Over half of the surveyed counties cited community partnerships/LAAC as a pathway toward improving language accessibility.

   ii. Furthermore, there is evidence in social science literature that community-based organizations boost civic participation among minority groups – particularly when directly partnering with local governments. In one study, the authors write: "Immigrant-serving organizations are uniquely positioned to aid in the political incorporation of their constituents by understanding and framing their concerns and articulating these concerns to the political establishment" (2008, p. 603).[3] LAAC is an excellent example of how civic partnerships can boost voter accessibility.

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[3] LeRoux, K. (2007). Nonprofits as Civic Intermediaries: The Role of Community-Based Organizations in Promoting Political Participation. *Urban Affairs Review*, *42*(3), 410-422; Cordero-Guzmán, H., Martin, N., Quiroz-Becerra, V., &

2. Counties should hire more in-office personnel during elections to assist voters that speak a primary language other than English.

    i.   Personnel hired, even if temporary, should be proficient in the languages that the county is required to provide and advertised as available to voters during elections.

3. Recruitment of poll workers that are proficient in required languages should be a priority for VCA counties.

    i.   Counties should continue to explore where voters that speak a primary language other than English are likely to vote to adequately staff high-volume polling sites.

4. Counties should research providing online audio translations in covered languages for candidate statements and ballot measures.

5. Counties should record and report information similar to what was collected from our survey.

6. Counties should investigate the efficacy of their translation contractors.

    i.   For several counties, LanguageLine was utilized over in-person staff at polling places and election offices. Counties should critically evaluate whether a contract with LanguageLine is itself enough to outreach voters that speak a primary language other than English.

Theodore, N. (2008). Voting With Their Feet: Nonprofit Organizations and Immigrant Mobilization. *American Behavioral Scientist*, *52*(4), 598-617.