



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
REGISTRAR-RECORDER/COUNTY CLERK
12400 IMPERIAL HWY. – P.O. BOX 1024, NORWALK, CALIFORNIA 90651-1024

CONNOR B. McCORMACK
Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk

November 1, 2005

TO: EACH SUPERVISOR

FROM: Conny B. McCormack, Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk

**NOVEMBER 8, 2005 SPECIAL STATEWIDE AND CONSOLIDATED ELECTIONS
STATUS REPORT #6**

Absentee Ballot Mailings

To date, we have mailed more than 600,000 absentee ballots. 200,000 voters (one-third of those issued) have returned voted ballots to our office. The deadline to apply for an absentee ballot is today, November 1.

	Absentee Ballots Issued	Absentee Ballots Returned
November 2004 (total)	752,217	636,028
November 2005 (as of 11/1)	626,425	212,981

Touchscreen Early Voting

Touchscreen Early Voting remains popular with almost 7,000 voters using the system to date at ten sites throughout Los Angeles County in addition to our headquarters in Norwalk. Any County voter may cast a ballot at any of the locations through November 4.

	Voters Using Touchscreen
November 2004 (total)	65,000
November 2005 (as of 10/31)	7,400

Pollworkers

Attached is an excellent article that appeared in today's Los Angeles Times profiling our program to assist voters whose primary language is other than English. The article does a good job of outlining the requirements for our County in serving voters in seven languages through written translations and oral assistance.

Please call me if you have any questions regarding this report or any other election preparation activity.

Attachments

c: David Janssen, Chief Administrative Officer

**NOVEMBER 8, 2005 SPECIAL STATEWIDE & CONSOLIDATED ELECTIONS
STATUS OF EVENTS PERFORMED**

<u>EVENT</u>	<u>SCHEDULED COMPLETION</u>	<u>ACTUAL COMPLETION</u>
2. <u>Recruit and Appoint Precinct Officers</u>	11/07/05	
This election will involve 2,172 precincts requiring the recruitment of approximately 12,000 pollworkers. Recruitment of precinct officers is proceeding on schedule.		
3. <u>Update Registration Records</u>	10/24/05	10/24/05
The October 24, 2005 update of the registration records total 3,843,930 registered voters. This event is complete.		
4. <u>Testing of Election Night Data Processing Hard/Ware and Programs</u>	11/07/05	
Testing of election night tally programs is in process. This event is proceeding on schedule.		
7. <u>Precinct Supplies and Vote Recorders Assembled</u>	10/24/05	
Vote Recorder Packaging was completed on October 27, 2005. Supply box processing began on October 24, 2005 and will be completed on October 29, 2005.		
8. <u>Booth and Supplies Picked-Up By Precinct Inspectors</u>	10/30/05	
Booths and supplies are scheduled for pick-up on October 29 - 30, 2005.		

LOS ANGELES COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF REGISTRAR-RECORDER/COUNTY CLERK

MILESTONE STATUS REPORT OF KEY EVENTS

November 8, 2005 – Special Statewide & Consolidated Elections

WEEK ENDING



EVENT	9/9	9/16	9/23	9/30	10/7	10/14	10/21	10/28	11/4	11/10
1. FINALIZE BALLOT PAGE DESIGN.	▲ 8/15									
2. RECRUIT AND APPOINT PRECINCT OFFICERS.										△ 11/07
3. UPDATE REGISTRATION RECORDS.								▲ 10/24		
4. TESTING OF ELECTION NIGHT DATA PROCESSING HARDWARE AND PROGRAMS.										△ 11/07
5. RECEIVE SAMPLE BALLOTS AND BALLOT PAGES FROM PRINTERS.					▲ 10/07					
6. MAIL SAMPLE BALLOTS.						▲ 10/14				
7. PRECINCT SUPPLIES AND VOTE RECORDERS ASSEMBLED.								△ 10/24		
8. BOOTH AND SUPPLIES PICKED-UP BY PRECINCT INSPECTORS.									△ 10/30	

- △ SCHEDULE COMPLETION DATE
- △ RESCHEDULE COMPLETION DATE
- ▲ COMPLETION DATE

Los Angeles Times

Need for Bilingual Poll Workers Never Ends

As the special election nears, counties seek volunteers who speak voters' languages. 'It's our biggest issue,' L.A. County's registrar says.

By Wendy Thermos
Times Staff Writer

November 1, 2005

Kookhi Bae Kim learned the importance of voting the hard way - by getting a scolding from her mother.

"I came home from school, and it was election day. My mom asked me if I had voted," recalled the 62-year-old La Cañada Flintridge resident, who was a college student in Seoul at the time.

When Kim, whose father had fought for Korean independence from Japan, sheepishly admitted she hadn't, her mother delivered some advice she never forgot.

"You need to go and vote. If you don't vote, you don't have the right to criticize," her mother had said.

"She pushed me out of the house and told me: 'You still have 10 or 20 minutes,'" said Kim, who immigrated to the United States 36 years ago. "Since then, I have never missed an election."

During the last three years, she has taken her mother's admonition a step further by volunteering as a bilingual poll worker. Officials say more people like her are needed throughout much of the Southland, even as next Tuesday's election looms.

"It's our biggest issue, always, trying to recruit bilingual poll workers," said Registrar-Recorder Conny McCormack, Los Angeles County's top elections official.

The county is required by federal voting law to provide bilingual help in more languages - six - than any county in the nation, said David Becker, a Washington, D.C.-based voting rights attorney who tracks election trends. "I'm not aware of any other county-type jurisdiction that has [to offer] more than three or four languages."

This week, several Southern California counties were making last-minute appeals for polling place translators. It has become an election time ritual.

Los Angeles County has recruited nearly all of the 2,200 translators that will be deployed in next Tuesday's election - about one-fifth of the total poll worker force.

But an additional 200 are being sought as a cushion for last-minute dropouts.

Korean and Vietnamese speakers are especially needed, in addition to those who speak Spanish, Chinese, Tagalog and Japanese.

As of Friday, San Bernardino County still needed 50 Spanish speakers. Orange County was looking for a handful of people fluent in Vietnamese, and Ventura County needs a few more Spanish speakers for the Simi Valley and Moorpark areas. Riverside County has met its quota, said Registrar Barbara Dunmore.

Orange County must offer bilingual assistance in four languages (Spanish, Vietnamese, Chinese and Korean); Ventura, Riverside and San Bernardino counties are required to translate only one - Spanish.

Bilingual poll workers help voters with limited English skills get signed in, use voting machines correctly and resolve problems such as getting a spoiled ballot replaced.

A common question they hear: Can I bring someone into the voting booth with me? (Yes, if it's for procedural assistance.)

Such issues can turn into vote-discouraging ordeals for naturalized citizens, said Becker, who spent seven years enforcing election laws for the U.S. Department of Justice.

"There can be a lot of confusion on election day," he said. "When you're voting, you can't afford to get things wrong."

Alhambra resident Lucy Wong, an election-day translator for about five years, said Chinese American voters face a special problem: Chinese are used to having their surnames come first.

"Last name, first name, they're all mixed up on the roster," said Wong, 49, who speaks Mandarin and Cantonese. "We have to ask them, 'What names have you been using?' Then we ask for their address, just to be sure."

Federal law requiring bilingual voting assistance has been on the books since 1975. It applies to any county where more than 5% of voting-age citizens - or more than 10,000 residents - speak a single language and identify themselves in the U.S. census as having limited English skills.

Of the dozens of languages spoken in Los Angeles County, six meet those criteria.

Officials say at least two languages spoken by large immigrant populations in Southern California are not covered by the law. Armenian and Russian were not mentioned in 1975 revisions to the 1965 Voting Rights Act that established bilingual requirements.

Congress is taking a new look at the act and could add them, Becker said.

McCormack said her office does not pay to print ballot materials or provide poll translators for other languages, such as Cambodian. But some immigrant community groups provide free linguistic help on an as-needed basis.

"If we get a request for a language we're not required to service, we try to find someone to do it," she said.

Well before election day, McCormack's office determines which precincts need bilingual materials and polling booth assistance by compiling census data and consulting with the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, the League of Women Voters and other civic groups.

The biggest demand, more than 60%, is for Spanish speakers, whose services are needed throughout the county.

Other ethnicities tend to be concentrated in well-defined communities, such as Chinatown, Koreatown and Little Tokyo.

Poll workers get a small stipend of \$50 to \$150 for setting up polling booths, presiding over the sign-in table and collecting ballots. Some see it as a chance to meet their neighbors, serve the community and participate in democracy.

"They're the glue of the election process," McCormack said.

The cost of providing written translations and bilingual poll workers can be significant, officials said.

For the November 2004 general election in Los Angeles County, it amounted to \$2.1 million out of the total cost of \$16.3 million.

And it's a long-term need. "We take bilingual volunteers until the last day before the election," said Los Angeles County registrar spokeswoman Marcia Ventura. "If we can't use them this time, there's always the next election."

Times staff writers Jean Pasco, Ashley Powers, Susannah Rosenblatt and Gregory W. Griggs contributed to this report.

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(BEGIN TEXT OF INFOBOX)

Translators at polling places

With the Nov. 8 special election just a week away, voting officials need more multilingual

poll workers who speak one of the languages required by federal regulations in areas with many non-English-speaking immigrants.

Bilingual poll workers in five counties

<i>County</i>	<i>Population* (millions)</i>	<i>Number of poll workers</i>	<i>Bilingual poll workers</i>	<i>Required languages**</i>
<i>Los Angeles</i>	<i>9.8</i>	<i>11,200</i>	<i>2,186</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Orange</i>	<i>2.9</i>	<i>3,400</i>	<i>601</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>S. Bernardino</i>	<i>1.9</i>	<i>1,555</i>	<i>410</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Riverside</i>	<i>1.8</i>	<i>1,788</i>	<i>210</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Ventura</i>	<i>0.8</i>	<i>924</i>	<i>311</i>	<i>1</i>

**Estimated 2004 population*

***In addition to English*

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Bilingual poll workers in Los Angeles County

Spanish 62%

Korean 14%

Chinese 11%

Vietnamese 7%

Tagalog 4%

Other 1%

Percentages do not add up to 100 because of rounding.

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For information or to volunteer

Los Angeles County: 562-462-2226; <http://www.lavote.net>

Orange County: 714-567-7600; <http://www.ocvote.com>

Riverside County: 951-486-7200; <http://www.election.co.riverside.ca.us>

San Bernardino County: call 909-387-8300 by Thursday;

<http://www.co.san-bernardino.ca.us/rov/general_info/poll_workers.asp>

Ventura County: 805-654-3512;

recorder.countyofventura.org/election.htm

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Sources: Los Angeles County registrar-recorder, other counties' elections offices, Census Bureau