



# MULTILINGUAL SERVICES PROGRAM

## BACKGROUND

Federal legislation passed in 2006 extended the minority language provisions of the Voting Rights Act (VRA) of 1965. Any county with more than 10,000 residents whose native language is not English and indicated a lack of proficiency in English on their U.S. Census form, is required to provide election materials in the identified languages. A language is considered to be covered by the VRA as mandatory for the County's translated election materials if (1) more than 5% of the citizens of voting age are members of a single language minority and are limited English proficient OR (2) more than 10,000 of the citizens of voting age are members of a single language minority and are limited English proficient.

## MANDATED LANGUAGES

Los Angeles County is currently required to provide the following language assistance to multilingual voters in addition to English: **Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Spanish** (countywide), **Tagalog/Filipino and Vietnamese**.

## SERVICES

The Los Angeles County Multilingual Voter Services program was established to provide services to voters in need of language assistance. These services include:

- **Translated Election Materials.** A translated sample ballot booklet will be mailed to voters who requested language materials through their voter registration application, outreach activities or multilingual phone line. A sample ballot booklet contains a list of candidates, candidate statements and measures. It also provides information on where to vote, how to request a vote-by-mail ballot, and instructions on the use of voting equipment.
- **Bilingual Assistance at Polling Location.** Voters with limited English Proficiency can receive assistance in their language on Election Day at most polling places throughout the County.
- **Bilingual Assistance Hotline.** Voters may call a toll free number to request that translated election materials are mailed to them every election. They can also receive information about or request poll place locations, bilingual voter registration cards, translated vote-by-mail application and sample ballot booklets.

## CONTACT US

Bilingual Assistance Hotline: **1- 800- 481- 8683**

For assistance in the above mentioned languages, please ask to speak with bilingual staff.

Website: [www.lavote.net](http://www.lavote.net)

To obtain a translated vote-by-mail application and other election materials, select the "Multilingual Services" link on the "Voter and Elections" page.