



COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

REGISTRAR-RECORDER/COUNTY CLERK

12400 IMPERIAL HWY. – P.O. BOX 1024, NORWALK, CALIFORNIA 90651-1024/(562) 462-2716

CONNIE B. McCORMACK
REGISTRAR-RECORDER/COUNTY CLERK

August 27, 2002

TO: EACH SUPERVISOR

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

UPDATE ON MULTILINGUAL VOTER SERVICE REQUIREMENTS

Earlier this month, the U.S. Census Bureau released detailed information used by the U.S. Department of Justice to determine which foreign languages election materials and services are required to be provided to limited-English speaking voters nationwide for the next decade. These services include mailing translated election materials (including sample ballot booklets) to requesting voters, providing translated materials at targeted polling places and recruiting bilingual poll workers. Fortunately, the County will experience no change in the multilingual services we have been providing in six foreign languages including Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Spanish, Tagalog and Vietnamese. Unfortunately, the multilingual requirements remain a non-funded federal mandate and the costs are skyrocketing as explained below.

Good News: No Increase in the Number of Languages Required

Korean was officially added to the list of federally mandated languages for our County. As you know, we have been providing Korean language translations and services since the November 1998 General Election at your Board's request. Now it becomes a federal mandate.

Bad News: Skyrocketing Costs

The Multilingual Voter Services Program costs average \$2.2 million per countywide election. Translation, printing and mailing costs for the multilingual program exceeded \$2.9 million for the March 2002 Primary Election. As more voters are expected to request these services in future years, the costs are anticipated to increase.

Partnerships with Community Service Organizations

Our Department has taken a proactive role with our Multilingual Services Program and our approach has been emulated not only by other California counties, but also by counties nationwide. Long-term partnerships have been formed with numerous

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community organizations to provide voter education, recruit bilingual poll workers and distribute information on the multilingual services offered by the County. Dozens of voter advocacy groups attend our Department's quarterly Community Voter Outreach Committee (CVOC) meetings at which bilingual poll worker recruiting production reports are provided and discussed, problems experienced by limited-English voters in previous elections are cited in an environment of solution-based thinking, and escalating cost concerns are shared. A list of participating CVOC organizations is attached and includes the National Association of Latino Elected Officials (NALEO), the Asian-Pacific American Legal Center (APALC), the Korean American Coalition (KAC), the League of Women Voters and representatives from the political parties to name a few.

Our Department initiated in 1999, and continues to chair, a statewide Committee to collect, distribute and foster discussion of best practices with regard to provision of multilingual services. We are continually requested to make presentations on our multilingual program at national conferences of election administrators as well as at meetings of California Registrars. Many counties throughout the U.S. were impacted by new requirements for provision of multilingual services based on the recently released Census data. California was especially heavily impacted, increasing from 22 to 27 the number of counties required to provide election services in foreign languages and many of the 27 counties gained numerous languages compared with their previous requirements. For example, Orange County must now add Chinese and Korean to their former Spanish and Vietnamese multilingual services program and Santa Clara County is now also required to provide all voter services in four foreign languages.

If you have any questions regarding our Department's multilingual voter services program please call me or Jennifer Collins-Foley, Assistant RR/CC of Election Services Bureau, at (562) 462-2722.

Attachment

C: CAO
County Counsel

| | | | | | | | | |
|-------|---|---|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|---------------------|----------------|-----------------------------|
| | OAAC | Gloria Beltran | 201 N. Figueroa, Room 1440 | Los Angeles, CA 90012 | | (213) 202-5824 | N/A | gbeltran@co.la.ca.us |
| | Office of Senator Richard Polanco | Chi Mui | 300 S. Spring St., #8710 | Los Angeles, CA 90013 | | (213) 620-2529 | (213) 617-0017 | chi.mui@sen.ca.gov |
| | People's Core | Arturo Garcia | 300 W. Cesar Chavez Ave. | Los Angeles, CA 90012 | | (213) 625-7705 | (213) 625-7625 | p_core@earthlink.net |
| | Reform Party | Donna Campbell | 4606 Greenbush Drive | Concord, CA 94521 | | (925) 676-1687 | (925) 686-3749 | dgjgcr5@aol.com |
| | Republican Central Committee | Luis Angel Vega | 815 1/4 Kodak Dr. | Los Angeles, CA 90026 | | (323) 644-0137 | (323) 664-2227 | boiniquen@webtv.net |
| | Republican Party of Los Angeles County | Carol Gordon | 20021 Wagner | Torrance, CA 90503 | | (626) 457-9898 | (626) 457-5159 | repcc53ad@webtv.net |
| | Republican Party, LA County | Mary Toman | 2550 W. Main Street, Suite 207 | Alhambra, CA 91801 | | (626) 457-9898 | (626) 457-5159 | lacountygov@earthlink.net |
| | Republican Party, LA County | J. Brooks McNeil | 1730 Lucile Avenue | Los Angeles, CA 90026 | | (323) 665-8959 | (323) 666-7411 | lacountygov@earthlink.net |
| SALEF | Salvadoran American Leadership Educational Fund (SALEF) | Carlos Antonio H. Vaquerano, Executive Director | 1625 W. Olympic Blvd., Suite 706 | Los Angeles, CA 90015 | | (213) 480-1052 | (213) 487-2530 | cavaquerano@saldef.org |
| SALEF | Salvadoran-American Leadership and Educational Fund (SALEF) | Jorge Nunez | 1625 W. Olympic Blvd., Suite 706 | Los Angeles, CA 90015 | | (213) 480-1052 | (213) 487-2530 | jorgen@salef.org |
| SOS | Secretary of State | Dawn Mehlhaff | 1500 11th Street | Sacramento, CA 95814 | | (916) 657-2080 | (916) 653-3214 | dmehlhaff@ss.ca.gov |
| "S" | Smith Kaufman LLP Attorneys | "K" Stephen J. Kaufman | 725 S. Figueroa Street, Suite 3200 | Los Angeles, CA 90017 | | (213) 452-6565 | (213) 452-6575 | www.SmithKaufman.com |
| | Southern California Indian Center, Inc. | Susie Yellowhorse-Jenson | 10175 Slater Ave - Suite 150 | Fountain Valley, CA 92708 | P.O. Box 8539, Fountain Valley, CA 92728-8539 | (714) 962-6673 | (714) 962-6343 | syellowhorse@home.com |
| | Southern California Rehabilitation Services | Steve Becker | 7830 Quill Dr., Suite D | Downey, CA 90242 | | (562) 862-6531 X114 | (562) 923-5274 | N/A |
| | Southern California Rehabilitation Services | Mel Grant | 7830 Quill Dr., Suite D | Downey, CA 90242 | | (562) 862-6531 X124 | (562) 923-5274 | N/A |
| | Southwest Voter Registration Project | Sandra Perez | 2914 N. Main Street | Los Angeles, CA 90031 | | (323) 343-9299 | (323) 343-9100 | sperez@svrep.org |
| | Southwest Voter Registration Project | Arturo Gonzalez | 2914 N. Main Street | Los Angeles, CA 90031 | | (323) 343-9299 | (323) 343-9100 | rrow22@aol.com |
| | Tony Cardenas for City Council Yolanda Fuentes | Nina Banuelos | P.O. Box 350 | San Fernando, CA 91341 | | (323) 821-2044 | (818) 342-0631 | nbanuelos@aol.com |
| UCP | UCP | Terri Lantz | 6430 Independence Ave. | Woodland Hills, CA 91367-2607 | | (818) 782-2211 | N/A | terrilantz@hotop.com |
| UPVP | Unique People's Voting Project (UPVP) | Shawn Casey O'Brien | 3356 Bannard Way #105 | Santa Monica, CA 90405 | | (310) 392-3176 | (310) 820-6874 | jintrroesh@aol.com |
| | Urban League | John W. Mack, President | 3450 Mount Vernon Drive | Los Angeles, CA 90008 | | (323) 299-9660 | (323) 299-0618 | N/A |
| | US Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division | David Becker | P.O. Box 66128 | Washington, DC 20035-6128 | | (202) 514-3090 | (202) 307-3961 | N/A |
| | Western Law Center for Disability Rights | Deborah Miles | 919 S. Albany Street | Los Angeles, CA 90015 | | (213) 736-8365 | (213) 736-1428 | ollie.cantos@lls.edu |
| | Western Law Center for Disability Rights | Chris Hartman | 919 S. Albany Street | Los Angeles, CA 90015 | | (213) 736-1031 | N/A | christopher.hartman@lls.edu |