

LANGUAGE ACCESS FOR VOTERS SUMMIT

JUNE 6
2017

June 6, 2017 | 8:00 AM - 5:30 PM

Richard J. Ernst Community Cultural Center
Northern Virginia Community College
8333 Little River Turnpike
Annandale, VA 22003



democracy
fund **VOICE**

In many communities throughout the United States there are citizens for whom English is a second language or those who simply prefer to communicate in a language other than English. When these individuals vote, United States law may afford them special language assistance. For this reason, the U.S. Election Assistance Commission and Democracy Fund Voice are hosting the Language Access for Voters Summit to bring together election officials, advocates, and other experts to share ideas, techniques, and resources – all in service of meeting voters’ needs.

PROGRAM

- 8:00 - 9:00 am **Registration and Breakfast**
- 9:00 - 9:30 am **Welcome and Introductions:**
Matt Masterson, Chair, U.S. Election Assistance Commission
State Senator David W. Marsden, Virginia 37th Senate District
Adam Ambrogi, Program Director, Democracy Fund Voice
Rosie O’Neil, Board Member, Northern Virginia Community College
Cameron Sasnett, General Registrar, Fairfax County, Virginia
- 9:30 - 10:35 am **Panel: Changing Demographic Patterns in the U.S. and Changes to Voter Needs**
Experts and advocates will explain recent trends in immigration and share how these trends affect language needs – now and in the coming years.
Moderator – Terry Ao Minnis, Senior Fellow, Democracy Fund Voice
D’Vera Cohn, Senior Writer/Editor, Pew Research Center
John Yang, President and Executive Director, Asian Americans Advancing Justice – AAJC
Andrea Senteno, Legislative Staff Attorney, Mexican American Legal Defense Fund
James Tucker, Pro Bono Voting Rights Counsel, Native American Rights Fund
- 10:35 - 10:45 am **Break**
- 10:45 - 11:05 am **Summit Talk – Jennifer Driver, Manager of Education and Training, Welcoming America**

11:05 - 12:10 pm

Panel: Updates to Section 203 Coverage and Newly Covered Jurisdictions

The number of jurisdictions covered by Section 203 of the Voting Rights Act changed in 2016. Panelists will reflect on what changed and what this means for those jurisdictions who are newly covered or covered for new languages.

Moderator – Tom Hicks, Commissioner, U.S. Election Assistance Commission

James Whitehorne, Chief, Redistricting and Voting Rights Data, U.S. Census Bureau

Cameron Sasnett, General Registrar, Fairfax County, Virginia

Erin Hustings, Legislative Counsel, National Association of Latino Elected Officials Education Fund

Deanna Kitamura, Project Director of the Voting Rights Project, Asian Americans Advancing Justice – Los Angeles

Leonard Gorman, Executive Director, Navajo Nation Human Rights Commission

12:10 - 1:10 pm

Luncheon

1:10 - 1:30 pm

Summit Talk – Secretary Maggie Toulouse Oliver, New Mexico Secretary of State

1:30 - 2:35 pm

Panel: Best Practices for Initiating and Maintaining Community Relationships

Problem-solving with stakeholders yields better results; for this reason, panelists will share how administrators can find and develop meaningful partnerships with those who can best help them implement effective language assistance in their communities.

Moderator – Adam Ambrogi, Program Director, Democracy Fund Voice

Jonathan Stein, Staff Attorney and Program Manager, Asian Americans Advancing Justice – Asian Law Caucus

Indra Arriaga, Elections Language Assistance Compliance Manager, Office of Lt. Governor of Alaska

Julie Wise, Director of Elections, King County, Washington

Brittnie Baker, Counsel, Fair Elections Legal Network

2:40 - 3:40 pm

Workshop Sessions

Session 1: Maximizing Language Services and Election Materials, Seminar Room B

Hear analysis on the current state of language services options, with insight from work at the federal level. The group will seek to understand gaps in information and help generate ideas on ways to improve election materials design.

Facilitator – Stacey Scholl, Senior Program Associate, Democracy Fund Voice

Taapsi Ramchandani, Civic Anthropologist, Center for Civic Design

Priscilla Huang, Consultant and Former Senior Advisor to the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders

Session 2: Programming Voting Equipment, Seminar Room A

Easily one of the most important elements of administering an election, “equipment” can make or break a voter’s experience. Programming equipment to display more than one language accurately and effectively is key to ensuring a voter correctly and efficiently casts their ballot.

Facilitator – Ryan Macias, Certification Program Specialist, U.S. Election Assistance Commission

Session 3: Poll Place Design for Language Assistance, Seminar Room C-D

Step into the mock polling place, where you can see how other jurisdictions are displaying information for voters in multiple languages.

Facilitator – Natalie Adona, Research Associate, Democracy Fund Voice

Shobhana Johri Verma, Director of South Asian Outreach, Chicago Board of Election Commissioners

Cameron Sasnett, General Registrar, Fairfax County, Virginia

3:40 - 3:50 pm

Break

3:50 - 4:55 pm

Panel: Providing Language Assistance on a Budget

Few states and counties have extra resources or time to experiment or undertake work without clear benefits or returns. How can jurisdictions take calculated steps to maximize the resources they do have?

Matt Masterson, Chair, U.S. Election Assistance Commission

Craig Latimer, Supervisor of Elections, Hillsborough County, Florida

Dr. Gilberto Zelaya, Community Outreach Liaison, Montgomery County, Maryland Board of Elections

James Tucker, Pro Bono Voting Rights Counsel, Native American Rights Fund

Andy Kang, Legal Director, Asian Americans Advancing Justice – Chicago

4:55 - 5:20 pm

Closing and Next Steps

Matt Masterson, Chair, U.S. Election Assistance Commission

Adam Ambrogi, Program Director, Democracy Fund Voice