



Hosted by:

The U.S. Election Assistance Commission, Arizona State University Pastor Center for Politics and Public Service, and Democracy Fund Voice

July 24, 2018 | 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Washington, DC
Newseum 7th Floor Knight Conference Center

AGENDA

8:30 – 9:00 am **Breakfast and Registration**

9:00 – 9:10 am **Welcome and Introductions**

Speakers:

- Tom Hicks, Chair, U.S. Election Assistance Commission
- Alberto Olivas, Founding Executive Director, Pastor Center for Politics and Public Service, Arizona State University
- Terry Ao Minnis, Senior Fellow and Consultant, Democracy Fund Voice

9:10 – 10:20 am

Session 1: Overview - Current Issues and Looking Ahead to 2021

The 2018 elections are the first federal general elections since the most recent Section 203 determinations. This opening session will help set the stage for the day's discussion, focusing on best practices, and practical tools for serving language minority voters for implementing Section 203 and beyond. Panelists will discuss demographic shifts and their impact for serving language needs across the nation, as well as current issues faced by covered jurisdictions and those who are close to coverage.

Moderator:

- Terry Ao Minnis, Senior Fellow and Consultant, Democracy Fund Voice

Panelists:

- Julie Barker, Election Operations Supervisor, Clark County, Nevada
- Rosalind Gold, Senior Director, Policy, Research and Advocacy, NALEO Education Fund
- James Whitehorne, Chief, Redistricting and Voting Rights Data Office, U.S. Census Bureau
- John C. Yang, President and Executive Director, Asian Americans Advancing Justice - AAJC

10:20 – 10:45 am

Remarks from the Department of Justice

Speaker:

- John Gore, Acting Assistant Attorney General, Civil Rights Division, U.S. Department of Justice

10:45 – 11:00 am

Coffee Break

11:00 – 11:15 am

Summit Talk: Deaf Culture and Access to the Vote

Speaker:

- Michelle Bishop, Voting Rights Specialist, National Disability Rights Network

11:15 – 12:25 pm

Session 2: Cost-Effective Practices for Providing Language Assistance

Effectively providing language assistance requires an investment in resources and time. Additionally, jurisdictions must be fiscally responsible and efficient with their spending. Small and medium-sized jurisdictions with limited resources, as well as jurisdictions covered for multiple languages, face particular challenges in this regard. This session will focus on cost-effective ways to provide language assistance, from small to big ideas.

Moderator:

- Christy McCormick, Vice Chair, U.S. Election Assistance Commission

Panelists:

- Sonya L. Aston, Administrator of Elections, Harris County, Texas
- Deanna Kitamura, Project Director, Voting Rights, Asian American Advancing Justice - Los Angeles
- Kathy Placencia, Administrator of Elections, Board of Canvassers and Voter Registration, Providence, Rhode Island
- Dr. James Tucker, Pro Bono Voting Counsel, Native American Rights Fund

12:25 – 1:25 pm

Lunch and Guest Speaker

Guest Speaker:

- Nellie M. Gorbea, Secretary of State, Rhode Island

1:25 – 2:35 pm

Session 3: Above and Beyond Section 203: Voluntary Assistance and Other Proactive Measures

Section 203 has fostered language assistance for many language minority voters over the last 40 plus years. However, as effective as it has been, Section 203 is limited to specific jurisdictions that meet the thresholds. Election stakeholders have used multiple tools to go beyond Section 203 in serving their language minority voters, including voluntary language assistance to meet a community need, effective implementation of Section 208, utilization of Section 4(e) for Puerto Rican voters, and enacting state laws to expand the franchise for language minority voters. This session will explore these and other efforts to ensure that all language minority voters are able to access needed assistance and cast a meaningful vote.

Moderator:

- Stacey Scholl, Senior Program Associate, Elections, Democracy Fund Voice

Panelists:

- Bill Cowles, Supervisor of Elections, Orange County, Florida
- Nicole L. Crispo, City Clerk, City of Quincy, Massachusetts
- Francesca Menes, Florida State Coordinator, Local Progress/Center for Popular Democracy
- Kira Romero-Craft, Managing Attorney, Southeast Regional Office, LatinoJustice PRLDEF

2:35 – 2:50 pm

Afternoon Break

2:50 – 3:30 pm

Summit Chat: Language Community Outreach in Alaska: Building Relationships, Trust, and Tapping Cultural Knowledge

Moderator:

- Alberto Olivas, Founding Executive Director, Pastor Center for Politics and Public Service, Arizona State University

Speakers:

- Indra Arriaga, Elections Language Assistance Compliance Manager, Alaska Division of Elections
- Walkie Charles, PhD, Associate Professor, University of Alaska Fairbanks

3:30 – 4:45 pm

Session 4: Trends in Election Administration and their Impact on Language Access

The field of election administration is constantly changing. Recent shifts include growing alternatives to traditional precinct-based voting (e.g. vote-by-mail, early voting, vote centers) and increased focus on election technology and the auditability of voting systems. This session will look at these trends and others through the lens of language access and explore how to anticipate and meet the needs of language minority voters when considering changes to election policy or practice. Our last summit session aims to take the discussion beyond the importance of Section 203 compliance towards expanded approaches to language assistance.

Moderator:

- Tom Hicks, Chair, U.S. Election Assistance Commission

Panelists:

- Matt Beaton, Auditor, Franklin County, Washington
- Maria Bianchi, Director, Voting Information Project, Democracy Works
- Travis Lane, Assistant Director, Inter Tribal Council of Arizona
- Whitney Quesenbery, Co-Director, Center for Civic Design
- Jonathan Stein, Staff Attorney and Program Manager - Voting Rights, Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Asian Law Caucus

4:45 – 4:55 pm

Closing and Next Steps

