



Cost Saving Efforts for language support

Sonya L. Aston

Administrator of Elections

Office of Stan Stanart, County Clerk

Harris County, Texas

Harris County, Texas

- ▶ Second Largest election entity in the nation
- ▶ 2.29 million registered voters
- ▶ Ballot by Mail for over 65, disabled and those out of county during the election season
- ▶ Early Voting for approximately two weeks at 46 locations
- ▶ Election Day 750 - 800 polls
- ▶ Four languages: English, Spanish, Vietnamese and Chinese

Advisory Groups

- ▶ Community Participation/Buy in
- ▶ Decision on Dialect
- ▶ Free translation
- ▶ Recruitment



Foreign Language Media

- ▶ Conduct advisory meetings at Media headquarters
- ▶ Donation of PSA and/or phone bank
- ▶ Billboard donation

In-House Activities

- ▶ Glossary
- ▶ Outreach group attend foreign language activities
- ▶ Hire foreign language speakers/translators - other county department employees to assist
 - ▶ Have Advisory group vet the first employees

In-House Activities

- ▶ Website with multiple languages
- ▶ Contact other jurisdictions and ask for their documents
- ▶ Legislation to require state to pay for state generated documents
- ▶ www.bing.com/translator is helpful

Contact Information

Sonya Aston
Administrator of Elections
Attorney at Law
CERA

Office of Stan Stanart, County Clerk

(713) 755-5792

saston@cco.hctx.net