



DEBRA BOWEN | SECRETARY OF STATE
STATE OF CALIFORNIA | ELECTIONS

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March 24, 2010

County Clerk/Registrar of Voters (CC/ROV) Memorandum # 10101

TO: All County Clerks/Registrars of Voters

FROM: 
Cathy Mitchell
Chief, Elections Division

RE: Statewide Direct Primary: Language Precinct Posting Requirement

Elections Code section 14201(d) requires the Secretary of State's office, in each gubernatorial election year, to determine the precincts where more than 3% of voting age residents lack sufficient skills in English to vote without assistance.

The Secretary of State's office contracted with the U.C. Berkeley Institute for Governmental Studies to analyze information obtained from the Statewide Database related to precinct level language demographics. Data from the November 2008 General Election was analyzed by precinct and the percentage of each language group that is "language isolated" according to the 2000 census was used to determine which precincts exceeded the 3% level. Based on the review of this information, the Secretary of State's office has determined that 24 counties have precincts in which more than 3% of the residents of voting age who speak Spanish and may lack sufficient skills in English to vote without assistance. There were no changes for individual precincts in any county for Chinese, Tagalog, Japanese, Korean or Vietnamese.

Elections Code section 14201(a)(1) requires counties to post at least one facsimile copy of the ballot with the ballot measures and ballot instructions printed in Spanish. Therefore, because all 58 counties are required to comply with this requirement in all precincts, there are no changes in the posting requirements that county elections officials will have to make based on the Secretary of State's determination made pursuant to Elections Code section 14201(d).

If you would like additional copies of any of the foreign language versions of the June 8, 2010, Statewide Direct Primary Election state Voter Information Guide mailed to you please contact Katherine Montgomery at Katherine.Montgomery@sos.ca.gov.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at Cathy.Mitchell@sos.ca.gov or (916) 657-2166.