

Democracy in Action

Findings and Recommendations
from our June 2026 Election
Observer Program

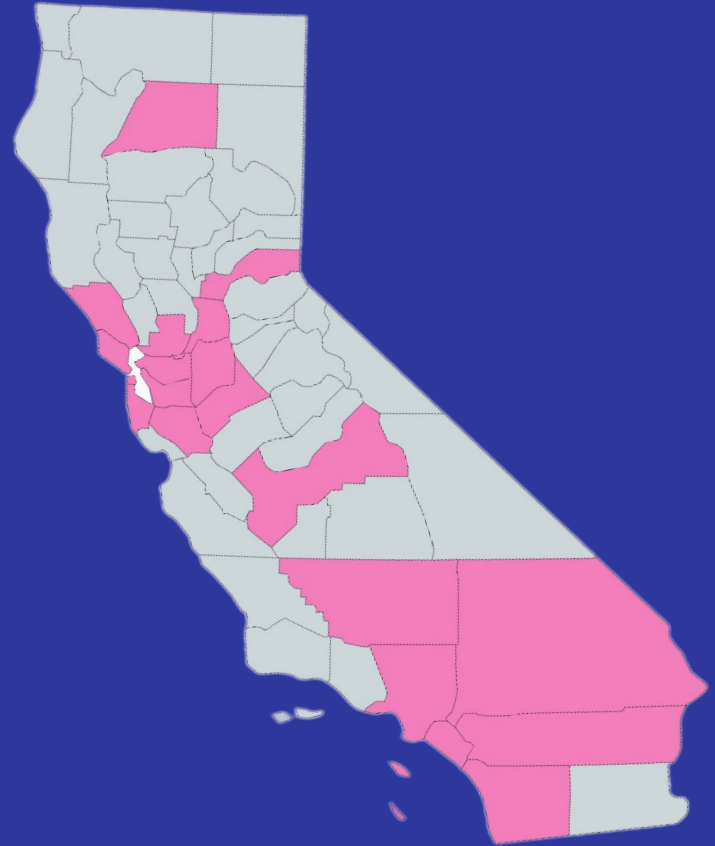


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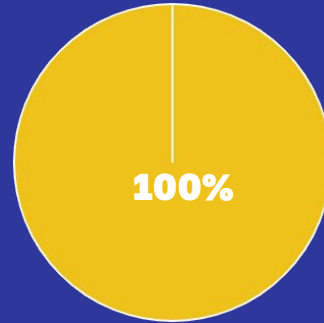
Background & Methodology

- Asian Law Caucus and California Common Cause jointly run one of the largest nonpartisan election monitoring programs in California.
- In the June 2026 primaries, we trained and sent 260 observers to 700+ polling sites across 20 counties.
- Observers collected information on language access, disability access, voter intimidation, and general voting conditions.

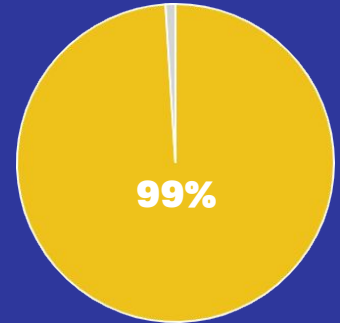


Federal Language Requirements

- Counties continue to show excellent compliance with federal Section 203 requirements.
- Translated ballots, provisional ballots, voter registration forms, voter information guides, and signage were all consistently available in Section 203 languages.



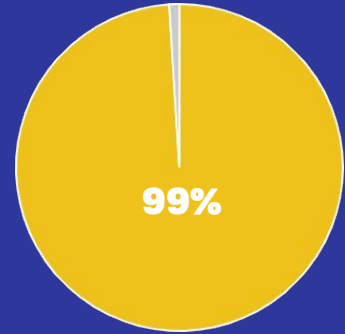
Translated votable ballots available in Section 203 languages?



Provisional ballots and same-day registration forms available in Section 203 languages?

Facsimile Ballots

- 99% of polling sites had facsimile ballots displayed prominently (usually posted on a wall or organized on a language table). Facsimile ballots in the state's newly required languages were all present.
- Most traditional polling place counties go above their legal requirements and provide facsimile ballots in all languages at all precincts.
- Compliance with Section 14201 has improved in recent years. Many counties have put energy into making their facsimile ballot displays more visible and consistent.



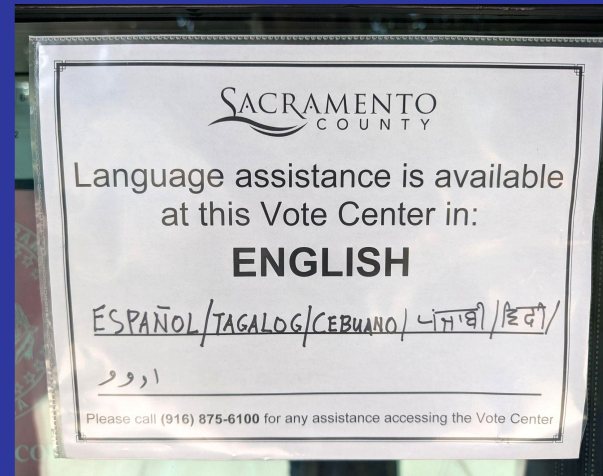
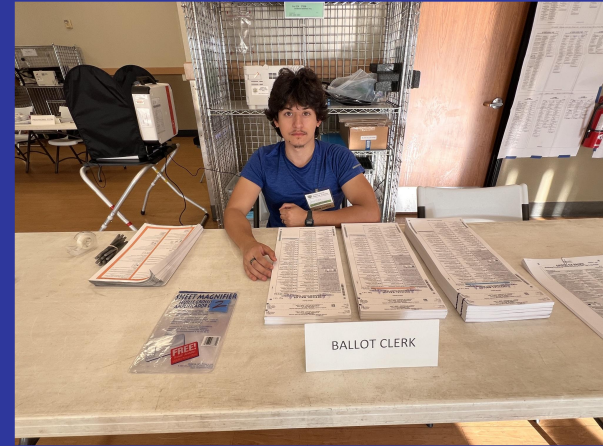
*Facsimile ballots clearly displayed
and easily accessible?*

92% → 99%

*Improvement since
November 2024*

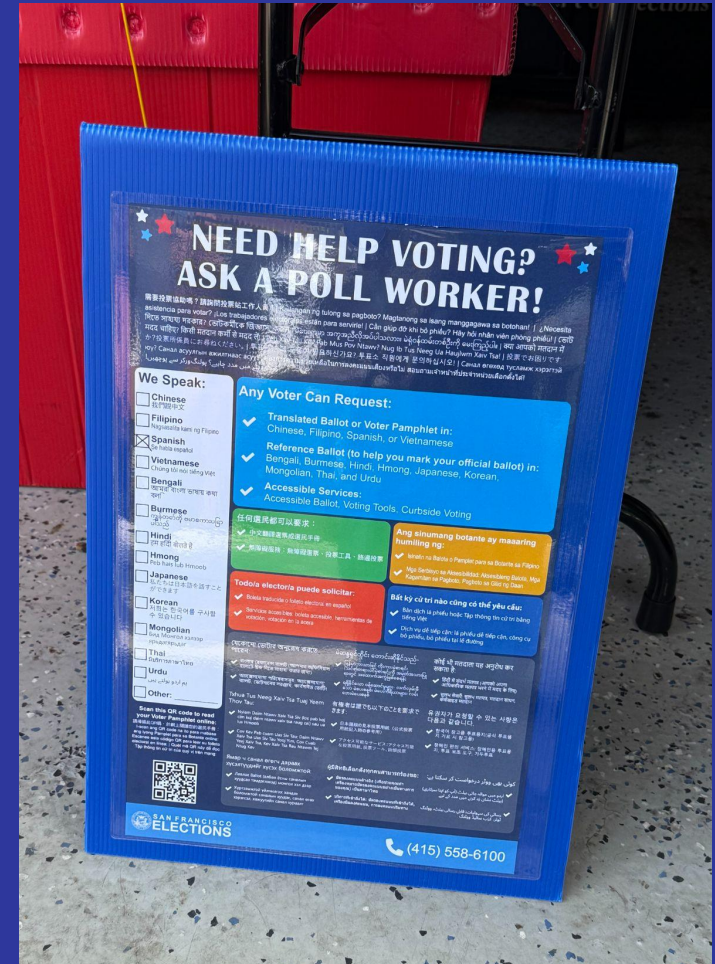
Multilingual Poll Workers

- 88% of polling sites observed had at least one multilingual poll worker. This included virtually all VCA vote centers.
- 84% of multilingual poll workers were wearing a badge or other accessory that indicated their language skills.
- 99% of polling sites had signage about in-person language assistance being available. Signage about a phone/video interpretation hotline was less consistent.



Language Access Recommendations

- **State hotline:** Provide all counties with access to the state's language interpretation hotline, and supply them with signage that they can post. Include a video option for ASL interpretation.
- **VBM voters:** Ensure that multilingual resources are just as accessible for voters for vote by mail. Make it easy for voters to request and receive these materials at home.



Other Issues We Observed

- **Voter check-in forms:** At least 4 counties (Riverside, San Diego, Stanislaus, and San Mateo) require voters to fill out check-in forms and sign under penalty of perjury before they can vote in person.
- **Directional signage:** Observers often noted a need for better directional signage, especially at polling sites housed within large multi-building complexes.
- **Room sizes:** Some polling sites—particularly in traditional polling place counties—felt uncomfortably tight. Poll workers struggled to set up in small rooms. Tight spaces also limited voter privacy and wheelchair accessibility.

