

1. Description of the recommendation

1. Do Not Rely Solely on Vendor Translators

State should continue to work with the County language specialists in reviewing all translated materials and provide feedback before releasing final versions. This ensures accuracy, cultural appropriateness, and consistency across counties rather than depending only on vendor-produced translations.

2. Standardize Election Terminology

Establish and maintain standardized terminology for election-related language, including jurisdiction names and election-specific terms. Consistency in terminology helps ensure clarity across counties, improves translation quality, and reduces confusion for voters and election workers.

2. Reason for this recommendation

The primary reason for continuing county language-specialist review is **to avoid errors in the final translated version**, which can otherwise lead to significant operational delays.

The translation changes discovered too late in the process can **delay ballot production**, disrupt printing schedules, and create cascading timing issues for election administration.

Relying solely on vendor translators increases the risk of translation inaccuracies, terminology inconsistencies, or context-specific misunderstandings. County language specialists provide essential expertise and community-based knowledge that ensure translations are correct before materials move into ballot layout and production workflows.

further reinforce that **accuracy, version control, and thorough review** are core best practices for preventing ballot production delays.

3. Where this recommendation should be sent to or updated at (i.e., SOS webpage or sent to counties as a voluntary survey)

- Proposition Summary and Label
- State Candidate list

4. Proposed timeline for this recommendation to be implemented (i.e., before the November 3, 2026, General Election)

1. Continue State–County Translation Review (Ongoing through July–September 2026)

The current joint review process is functioning well and should remain in place throughout the pre-election period. Counties can continue to provide detailed feedback on vendor translations to ensure accuracy before ballot layout begins.

2. Finalize the Glossary (Complete by early August 2026)

To support consistency across languages, a finalized glossary should be completed and shared statewide. Earlier standardization helps counties review translations more efficiently and reduces late-stage terminology changes.

3. Finalize the Ballot Profile (Complete by mid-August 2026)

Completing the Ballot Profile early allows counties to begin translation review with stable terminology and structure.

4. Full Implementation Before November 3, 2026

With glossary and ballot profile finalized by mid-August and the review process continuing through ballot proofing in September. The recommendation can be fully implemented well ahead of the General Election.

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