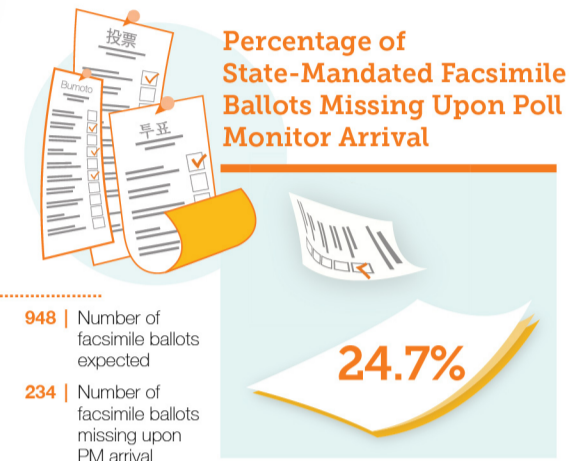
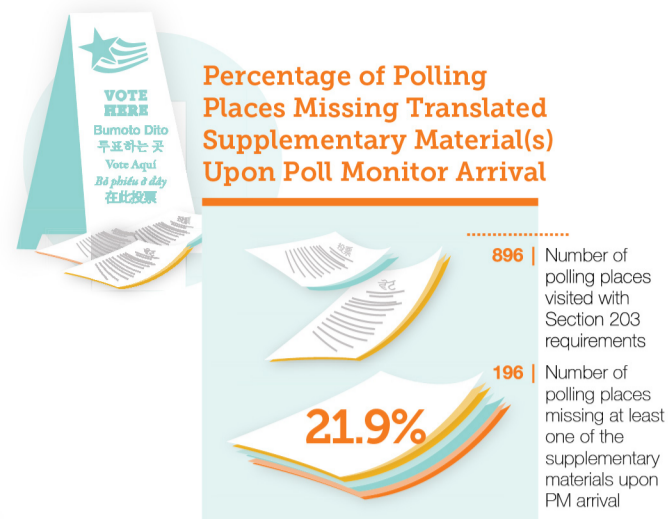
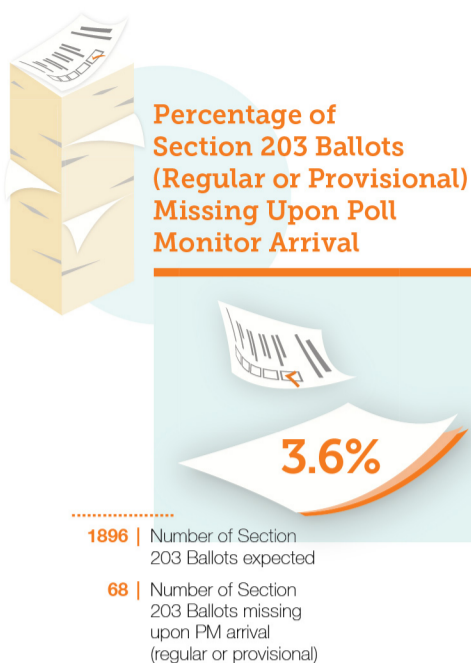


## California's Compliance in 2016 with Federal and State Law Language Access Requirements

*Note: Total number of polling places visited differs in some instances. Some calculations leave out counties because of the specific ways in which those counties implement their requirements.*



### Language Access Best Practices

Best practices that are already in use by high-achieving counties can unlock the meaningful language access California's LEP voters deserve.

**ONE** | Make facsimile ballots available in loose leaf at polling place main tables so voters can take them into voting booths and use them with privacy.

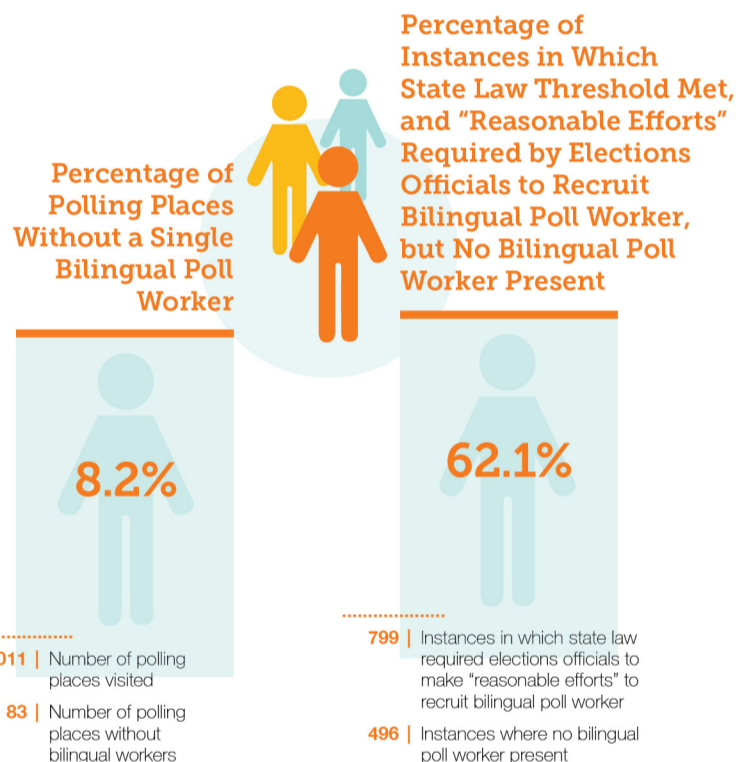
**TWO** | Post a sign next to the roster of voters that informs voters that facsimile ballots are available. This text should be in English and all languages in which facsimiles are available.

**THREE** | Have bilingual poll workers wear name tags, badges, stickers, or buttons that identify the non-English languages they speak. Post a sign that identifies the same.

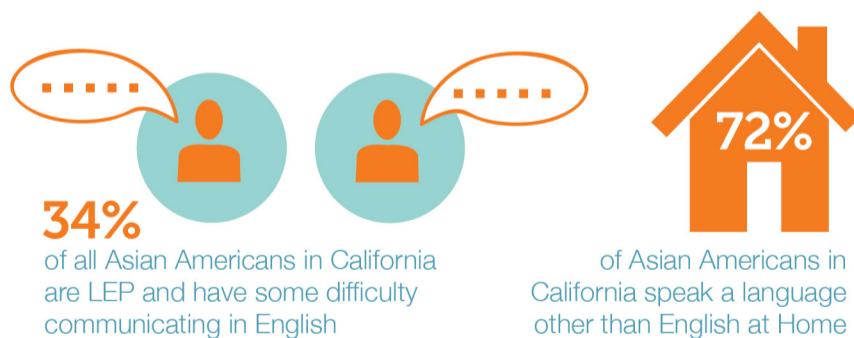
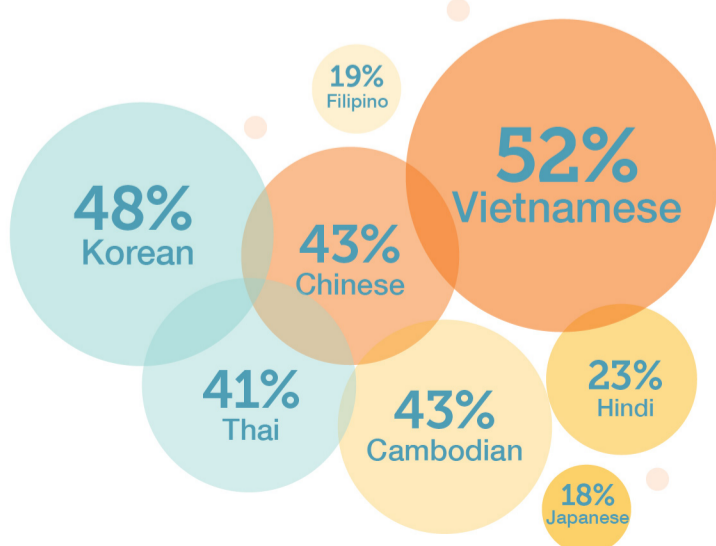
**FOUR** | Allow voters, including vote-by-mail voters, to request that a facsimile ballot be mailed or emailed to them in advance of Election Day.

**FIVE** | Make clear on a county's website and in its sample ballot booklet which polling places will have facsimile ballots on Election Day and how a facsimile ballot may be requested before Election Day. This text should be in English and all languages in which facsimiles are available.

**SIX** | Replace facsimile ballots with voteable translated ballots, if possible.

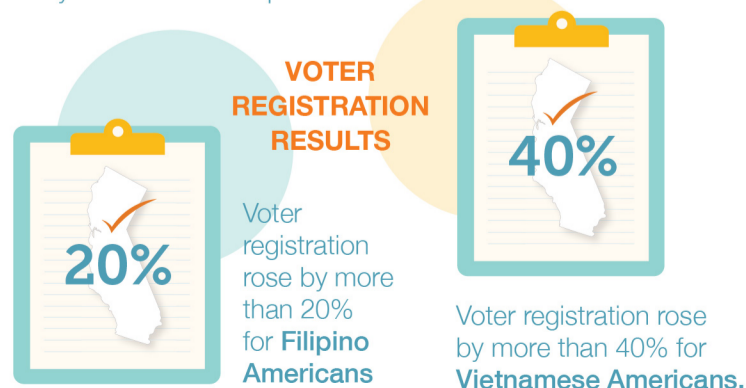


## Population Who Is Limited English Proficient for Those 5 Years of Age & Older by Ethnic Group California 2006–2010



### Upholding Section 203

San Diego County, CA — in 2004, the US Department of Justice sued the County to mandate compliance





# VOICES OF DEMOCRACY

## Language Access Map of California

This map indicates the languages in which California counties were required to provide assistance under federal and state law in 2016. It is limited to the 25 counties in which we monitored.

**KEY**  
 Languages covered by Section 203  
 Languages covered by state law



<b>ALAMEDA</b> Chinese, Filipino/Tagalog, Vietnamese, Hindi, Japanese, Khmer, Korean	<b>SACRAMENTO</b> Spanish, Chinese, Hindi, Japanese, Korean, Filipino/Tagalog, Vietnamese
<b>CONTRA COSTA</b> Spanish, Chinese, Hindi, Japanese, Korean, Filipino/Tagalog, Vietnamese	<b>SAN BERNARDINO</b> Spanish, Chinese, Filipino/Tagalog, Khmer, Korean, Vietnamese
<b>FRESNO</b> Spanish, Chinese, Hindi, Japanese, Khmer	<b>SAN DIEGO</b> Spanish, Chinese, Filipino/Tagalog, Vietnamese, Japanese, Khmer, Korean, Hindi
<b>KERN</b> Spanish, Filipino/Tagalog, Hindi	<b>SAN FRANCISCO</b> Spanish, Chinese, Filipino/Tagalog (treated as a Section 203 language due to local law), Japanese, Korean, Vietnamese
<b>KINGS</b> Spanish, Filipino/Tagalog	<b>SAN JOAQUIN</b> Spanish, Chinese, Hindi, Khmer, Filipino/Tagalog, Vietnamese
<b>LOS ANGELES</b> Chinese, Filipino/Tagalog, Japanese, Khmer, Korean, Thai, Vietnamese, Hindi	<b>SAN MATEO</b> Spanish, Chinese, Hindi, Japanese, Filipino/Tagalog
<b>MARIN</b> Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese	<b>SANTA CRUZ</b> Spanish, Chinese, Filipino/Tagalog
<b>MENDOCINO</b> Chinese	<b>SOLANO</b> Spanish, Chinese, Filipino/Tagalog
<b>MERCED</b> Spanish, Hindi	<b>STANISLAUS</b> Spanish, Hindi, Khmer
<b>MONTEREY</b> Spanish, Chinese, Korean, Filipino/Tagalog, Vietnamese	<b>SUTTER</b> Spanish, Hindi
<b>NAPA</b> Spanish, Chinese, Filipino/Tagalog	<b>TULARE</b> Spanish, Filipino/Tagalog
<b>ORANGE</b> Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese, Filipino/Tagalog, Japanese, Khmer, Hindi	<b>YOLO</b> Spanish, Chinese, Hindi, Filipino/Tagalog
<b>RIVERSIDE</b> Spanish, Chinese, Filipino/Tagalog, Korean, Vietnamese	

### What is Section 203 of the Voting Rights Act?

Section 203 requires elections officials to provide minority language communities with translated versions of all voting and voter registration materials and bilingual poll workers. Covered jurisdictions are determined every 5 years based on the size, English abilities, and literacy rates of minority language communities.

### What are the language access requirements in California state law?

California state law provides language assistance in voting to a much broader range of communities than Section 203, but provides much less by way of assistance. State law requires elections officials to provide small minority language communities with a translated copy of the ballot (posted on the wall of a polling place). It also requires officials to make "reasonable efforts" to recruit bilingual poll workers. It currently offers no assistance to vote-by-mail voters.