

Language Assistance for San Mateo County Voters

Everything you need to know to vote in November 2020 in Spanish, Chinese, Burmese, Hindi, Japanese, Korean, or Tagalog



Quick Tips!

- If you vote in person, always ask the staff at your vote center what materials they have available in the language you prefer. Also, ask if any staff speak your language.
- If you vote by mail, go online to <https://voterstatus.sos.ca.gov> to indicate your preferred language. If translated materials are available in your language for your area, they will be mailed to you, free of cost.

Voting From Home

Before Election Day, you can get translated materials in the mail. To receive translated materials, make sure to update your language preference at <https://voterstatus.sos.ca.gov>, or contact the elections office at 888-762-8683 or by email to registrar@smcacre.org.

- If you prefer to vote in **Spanish** or **Chinese**, translated versions of **all** election materials are available by mail before Election Day. This includes your ballot and the state and local voter information guides, which contain helpful information about candidates and ballot measures.
- If you prefer to vote in **Burmese, Hindi, Japanese, Korean, or Tagalog**, you can ask to receive a translated “facsimile” ballot in the mail. This is a translated example ballot that will help you understand and fill out your English ballot. (You cannot actually vote on the facsimile ballot.) If it’s available for your area, the elections office will send it to you for free.

If you do not receive a ballot or materials in your preferred language, call the elections office.

Voting In Person

You can use verbal help. You are allowed to **bring up to two people to help you vote** as long as those people do not represent your employer or union. Bring a family member or friend! If there are bilingual poll workers at your vote center, **they should be wearing a badge, ribbon, or sticker** saying which languages they speak.

You can use translated voting materials, including ballots:

- **If your preferred language is Spanish or Chinese** you can vote on translated votable ballots.
- **If your preferred language is Burmese, Hindi, Japanese, Korean or Tagalog** you may be able to use a translated “facsimile” ballot if one is available for the area where you are registered to vote. You do not vote on the facsimile ballot but you use it as a reference to help you fill out the English-language ballot. You should find the available translated facsimile ballots displayed clearly in the vote centers. There should be copies for you to take into the voting booth to assist you. Ask the staff to help you find the facsimile ballot that is right for you.

If you run into any issues while voting, contact the county elections office at 888-762-8683 or contact 888-API-VOTE (888-274-8683) for assistance.