



REGISTRAR OF VOTERS

Alameda County • California

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Alameda County Registrar of Voters office is inviting interested members of the public to attend the “Kickoff” meeting of its new Language Advisory Committee, a group of volunteers who will assist Alameda County in determining how to most effectively provide election materials, information and assistance to Spanish-, Chinese-, Vietnamese- and Tagalog-language speaking residents.

The meeting will be from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Thursday, February 23, in Room 512 (Board Chambers), on the Fifth Floor of the Alameda County Administration Building, 1221 Oak Street, Oakland.

The federal Voting Rights Act requires that jurisdictions determined by the Census Bureau to have a substantial population of foreign-language-speaking citizens, such as Alameda County, provide voting materials and assistance in languages other than English. Last July, Alameda County reached an agreement with the United States Department of Justice to further assist Spanish- and Chinese-speaking voters in the County with the elections process. Though Alameda County was at the time providing a wide array of voting materials to Spanish- and Chinese-speaking voters, the agreement called for additional measures including the formation of a new Language Advisory Committee. At the time of the agreement, or Consent Decree, Spanish and Chinese were the two languages other than English in which the County was legally required to provide elections materials and other assistance. Since then, due to statistics included in the 2010 Federal Census, Vietnamese and Tagalog have been added to the list of languages in which Alameda County is legally required to provide elections materials and other forms of voter assistance.

As part of the new language requirements, Alameda County will hold its “Kickoff” Advisory Committee Meeting to begin the process of exchanging information on how best to reach non-English-speaking voters.

In addition to the formation of the Language Advisory Committee, all election and voter materials are available in these five languages in Alameda County. The materials include the Voter Information Pamphlet/Sample Ballot, Official Ballots, Voter Registration Forms, News Releases, Audio Recordings of Ballot Measure Materials/Candidate Statements, Polling Place Signage and much more. The Registrar of Voters website has been updated to include a multi-lingual “Voter Profile” page that enables a voter to easily review all aspects of their voter status. The Registrar’s office is also actively recruiting bilingual poll workers to help non-English-speaking voters at polling places.

For planning purposes, the Registrar’s office requests an RSVP from those who plan to attend the meeting. To RSVP, contact the Alameda County Registrar of Voters at (510) 272-6933. For more information, call the Registrar’s office or go to www.acgov.org/rov.