



COUNTY OF SACRAMENTO  
Voter Registration and Election

# LANGUAGE ACCESS PLAN

★ ★ ★ 2023 ★ ★ ★



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## Introduction Plan

Sacramento County is situated in the heart of the Central Valley and the convergence of the Sacramento and American Rivers, 90 miles East of San Francisco and 100 miles West of Lake Tahoe.

There are seven incorporated cities within Sacramento County. Sacramento, California's Capital, has a population of 524,943. Elk Grove has a population of 176,124, Citrus Heights has 87,583, Folsom totals 80,454, and Rancho Cordova has 79,3392 residents. The smaller cities of Galt and Isleton have 25,383 and 794 people, respectively. Sacramento County Unincorporated area has a population of 610,422.

While Sacramento is growing and becoming more metropolitan, there are still many communities in the north-west, south, and south-east which remain rural. Agriculture is a dominant factor in many of the rural communities that includes Herald, Wilton, Courtland, and Rancho Murieta.

In 2002, TIME Magazine named the city of Sacramento America's Most Diverse City. Residents of Sacramento County take pride in this diversity and have strong language minority communities such as the Vietnamese community in Little Saigon, Chinese and Japanese communities in the Pocket-Greenhaven neighborhoods, Korean community in Rancho Cordova, Hindi, and Punjabi communities of north-east Elk Grove and Natomas, and Filipino and Spanish communities of south Sacramento.

In this plan, Sacramento County highlights the resources and steps taken to reach out to these communities to ensure every eligible citizen is able to register to vote and cast an independent and private ballot on Election Day. Included in this plan is the information provided by the Census to make our department aware of community language needs and the tools and resources provided by our department to ensure compliance with the Section 203 requirements of the Voting Rights Act (VRA) and California Election Code §§14201 and 12303.

## Census Data

Based on the 2020 US Census, the estimated population of Sacramento County is 1,585,055. The County covers 994 square miles, with a population density of 1,458 people per square mile. Based on the most recent 5 year American Community Survey estimates, Sacramento County contains the following populations:

Speak only English:	1,013,202
Spanish:	184,152
Chinese (incl. Mandarin, Cantonese):	33,852
Tagalog (incl. Filipino):	30,163
Vietnamese:	26,875
Russian:	25,813
Hmong:	18,484
Hindi:	18,071
Punjabi:	17,962
Ukrainian or other Slavic languages:	17,786
Persian (incl. Farsi, Dari):	17,701
Other Indo-European languages:	10,590
Arabic:	8,598
Ilocano, Samoan, Hawaiian, or other Austronesian languages:	7,401
Other languages of Asia:	5,376
Urdu:	4,832
German:	4,675
Korean:	4,472
Thai, Lao, or other Tai-Kadai languages:	4,072
Nepali, Marathi, or other Indic languages:	3,645
Japanese:	3,586
Portuguese:	3,338
Yoruba, Twi, Igbo, or other languages of Western Africa:	2,863
Telugu:	2,840
Armenian:	2,774
French (incl. Cajun):	2,334
Amharic, Somali, or other Afro-Asiatic languages:	2,326
Gujarati:	2,106
Polish:	1,836
Tamil:	1,773
Khmer:	1,598

Serbo-Croatian:	1,527
Malayalam, Kannada, or other Dravidian languages:	1,000
Greek:	893
Italian:	872
Bengali:	761
Other and unspecified languages:	734
Yiddish, Pennsylvania Dutch or other West Germanic languages:	730
Swahili or other languages of Central, Eastern, and Southern Africa:	703
Hebrew:	358
Other Native languages of North America:	267
Haitian:	188
Navajo:	19

After each decennial census or 5 year increment of the American Community Survey, our department will be notified by the United States Department of Justice or the California Secretary State with what language provisions may be required for Sacramento County.

## History of the Voting Rights Act

The Voting Rights Act (VRA) of 1965 was passed to guarantee that African-Americans were not denied their right to participate in the electoral process. With more immigration in the United States, Congress found that English-only elections were excluding language minority citizens from also participating in the electoral process, and were often aggravated by physical, economic, and political intimidation (42 USC § 1973b(f)(1)).

Congress declared that in order to enforce the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments of the U.S. Constitution, it was necessary to expand the English-only elections to include the languages of different minority citizens (42 USC § 1973b(f)(1)). In 1975, the VRA was expanded by Congress to include a language minority provision. This provision ensures that any language minority citizen is not denied the opportunity to participate in the electoral process, (42 USC § 1973b (f) (2)). (Section 203 of the VRA [also known as 42 USC § 1973aa-4a] and Section 4(f) (4) [also known as 42 USC § 1973b (f) (4)]). In 2006, it was extended for 25 years. (See Section 7. Extension of Bilingual Election Requirements [also known as 42 USC § 1973aa-1a (b) (1)]).

A state or political subdivision (known as a county) is subject to Section 203 of the VRA bilingual election requirements when Census Data shows:

- More than five percent of the citizens of voting age are members of a single language minority and are limited-English proficient (42 USC § 1973aa-1a(b)(2)(A)(i)(I); or
- More than 10,000 of the citizens of voting age are members of a single language minority and are limited-English proficient (42 USC § 1973aa-1a(b)(2)(A)(i)(II); or
- Voting age citizens in a single language group on an Indian reservation exceeds 5 percent of all reservation residents and the illiteracy rate of the group is higher than the national illiteracy rate (42 USC § 1973aa-1a(b)(2)(A)(i)(III)).

As of January 2022, the entire jurisdiction of Sacramento County is mandated by law to provide voter registration forms and election materials in English, Spanish, Chinese and Vietnamese. Most counties in California and many counties in other states are subject to this law.

Sacramento County is anticipating another countywide language after the November 2024 Presidential General Election.

## Section 203 of the VRA:

### Spanish Implementation in Sacramento County

In 2002, Sacramento County was notified that thresholds pursuant to the VRA were met for the Spanish language based on the 2000 Census results. Implementation of election materials and election information translated into the Spanish language was completed for the November 2002 General Election.

Implementation with bilingual election requirements included:

- Hispanic Advisory Committee appointed to advise the department on best practices
- An Election Manager was tasked with coordinating and documenting efforts with compliance
- Translated voting instructions
- Translations of the Official Ballot
- Translated Vote by Mail application
- Translated Polling Place materials and signage
- Translations of ballot measure text included in the County Voter Information Guide
- English/Spanish dictionary at every Polling Place
- Phone line for language assistance
- Spanish speaking temporary help
- Spanish speaking Poll Worker recruitment
- Translations website
- Translations of all election materials
- Outreach/community event participation

### Chinese Implementation in Sacramento County

In 2011, Sacramento County was notified that thresholds pursuant to the VRA were met for the Chinese language based on the 2010 Census results. After implementing the Spanish language, Sacramento was prepared with a robust implementation plan for the Chinese language. Implementation of election materials and election information translated into Chinese was enacted before the June 2012 Presidential Primary Election.

Implementation with trilingual election requirements included:

- Chinese Advisory Group and Community Meetings: regular monthly or quarterly meetings with members of the Chinese community that took place between 2011 through 2013.
- Hired temporary employees to provide office and outreach support
- Advertisements and media releases for Crossings TV, World Journal, and APA



- Voter Registration forms issued from Sacramento in English and Chinese.
- Pre-recorded phone assistance translated into Chinese
- State Voter Information Guides provided to front counter and every polling place in Chinese
- All Official Ballots, County Voter Information Guide, Ballot Measures, and Candidate Statements translated into Chinese
- Vote by Mail instructions, applications, and envelopes translated in Chinese
- Touchscreen audio assistance in Mandarin and Cantonese
- All polling place and department signage
- Website translation
- Sacramento County's "Guide to Voting" pamphlet
- Top Two Open Primary Act information
- Language Preference Postcard sent to all voters
- Active recruitment of bilingual poll workers and recruitment signage for Chinese language.
- Scheduled regular outreach events in Chinese community, including attending all New Citizen ceremonies

### **Vietnamese Implementation in Sacramento County**

In 2022, Sacramento County was notified that thresholds pursuant to the VRA were met for the Vietnamese language based on the 2020 Census results. After implementing the Spanish and Chinese languages, Sacramento was prepared with a robust implementation plan for the Vietnamese language. Implementation of election materials and election information translated into Vietnamese was enacted before the June 2022 Statewide Direct Primary Election.

Implementation with bilingual election requirements included:

- Language Accessibility Advisory Committee and Community Meetings: regular monthly or quarterly meetings with members of the Vietnamese community that took place between 2021 through 2023.
- Hired temporary employees to provide office and outreach support
- Advertisements and media releases for Crossings TV, NDT Digital, Thang Mo Magazine, and Lang Magazine
- Voter Registration forms issued from Sacramento in English and Vietnamese.
- Pre-recorded phone assistance translated into Vietnamese
- State Voter Information Guides provided to front counter and every Vote Center in Vietnamese

- All Official Ballots, County Voter Information Guides, Ballot Measures, and Candidate Statements translated into Vietnamese
- Vote by Mail instructions, applications, and envelopes translated in Vietnamese
- Touchscreen audio assistance in Vietnamese
- All Vote Center and department signage
- Website translation
- Sacramento County’s “Guide to Voting” pamphlet
- Top Two Open Primary Act information
- Language Preference Postcard sent to all voters
- Active recruitment of bilingual election officer and recruitment signage for Vietnamese language.
- Scheduled outreach events in Vietnamese community, including attending New Citizen ceremonies

### **Compliance in Sacramento County (current)**

As of January 2022, Sacramento County provides all election materials in English, Spanish, Chinese, and Vietnamese. Per the direction of the Attorney General, most translated voting materials are presented as bilingual or trilingual. In order to make the most informed decision, it is to the benefit of the voter to review election information in their native language as well as English.

*Please note that all translated materials are written in traditional Cantonese. Any of the below materials shall be provided upon request.* The following materials are bilingual, but available in all languages (English/Spanish, English/Chinese or English/Vietnamese):

- Official Ballots and voting instructions
- Voter Notification Cards
- Voter Correspondence letters for missing voter information
- Roster of Voters
- Voting Instructions & How to Mark Your Ballot
- Election Officer Manual Glossary
- Voter Center Directional Signage and instructions
- Department Directional Signage and instructions
- Voter Center Curbside Voting Sign
- Voter Bill of Rights Sign
- Top Two Open Primary Act Sign
- Precinct Scanner Instructions (tampering notice)

- Voting Instructions in Voting Booths
- 12-in-1 Poster (includes information of provisional process, required election code postings, Voter ID and Help America Vote Act information, Language Assistance).
- Black Ballot Bag Cover (for provisional ballots)
- Last 7 Day Vote by Mail Envelope
- Voted Vote by Mail Envelope
- “No Electioneering” Sign for voter centers and office
- Ballot Drop-off box instructions and decals
- Voter Center Look-up cards
- Official Write-in Candidate List
- Voter Experience Surveys
- Vote by Mail envelopes (includes Mail Ballot precincts and military/oversees)
- Voter Registration Forms
- Voter Registration Form Display boxes
- Provisional Ballot Envelopes
- Vote by Mail Cure Letters and Form
- The following materials are viewed monolingual, but available in all languages:
- Official Website
- State Voter Information Guides
- Sample Ballot Booklets
- Name Tags for Election Officer
- ‘I Voted’ Stickers
- Voter Accessibility Brochure
- Touchscreen (English, Spanish, Mandarin, Cantonese, Vietnamese)
- Guide to Voting in Sacramento County Brochure
- Top Two Open Primary Act Brochure
- Pink Vote by Mail Vote Center Bag
- Vote by Mail Authorization-Form

## Outreach and Media

Outreach and community events are a vital part of Sacramento County's language access program. During implementation of both Spanish, Chinese, and Vietnamese community members of the respective languages would join department staff to help identify areas requiring language assistance and how best to reach out to those minority communities.

For the Spanish language, our department regularly partners with the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Chicano Consortium, La Raza Network, and the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC).

Regularly scheduled outreach events with the Hispanic community include:

- Celebrando Nuestra Salud
- Festival de la Familia
- Latino Community Festival
- United Latinos Voter Education Forum
- Annual Cesar Chavez Celebration

For the Chinese language, our department regularly partners with Asian Pacific Islander American Public Affairs (APAPA), Council of Asian Pacific Islanders Together for Advocacy and Leadership (CAPITAL), Asian Resource Center, Chinese American Council of Sacramento (CACS), and Sacramento Chinese Community Service Center.

Regularly scheduled outreach events with the Chinese community include:

- Chinese New Year Senior Luncheon
- Lunar New Year Dinner, Asian Resources
- Yee Association Banquet
- Chinese New Year Celebration
- Question One, CAPITAL
- CelebrASIAN, CAPITAL
- Sacramento Community Civic Meeting, APAPA

For the Vietnamese language, our department regularly partners with Asian Pacific Islander American Public Affairs (APAPA), Council of Asian Pacific Islanders Together for Advocacy and Leadership (CAPITAL), Asian Resource Center.

Regularly scheduled outreach events with the Vietnamese community include:

- Locke Asian Pacific Spring Festival
- Golden Harvest Parade and Festival
- Lunar New Year
- TET Festival

- CelebrASIAN, CAPITAL
- Sacramento Community Civic Meeting, APAPA

Through ethnic media, our department is able to reach potential voters who get their news and information in their native language. Our department currently works with the following news organizations to share information about upcoming elections and voter information:

- Telemundo
- Univision
- Crossings TV
- World Journal
- APA News & Review
- D'Primeramano
- Lang Magazine
- Thang Mo Magazine
- Lotus Radio
- NTD Digital
- Sade Lok

Staff interviews, commercials, printed advertisements, digital, and voter information, such as voter registration deadlines upcoming events, have been shared through these media organizations.

## California Minority Language Requirements

In addition to the federal Voting Rights Act (VRA), the state of California has additional language provisions.

Census and American Community Survey data is provided to Sacramento County before each Gubernatorial Election, using precincts from past elections. Sacramento County's GIS Analyst takes the data and applies it to the current election precinct consolidations to make the determination which voter centers require additional materials or assistance in alternate languages.

As of January 2022, state law requires that Sacramento County provide additional translated materials and assistance at specified precincts in one or more of the following languages:

- Hmong
- Korean
- Punjabi
- Tagalog
- Hindi
- Japanese
- Laotian
- Mien
- Telugu
- Urdu

## California Election Code §14201

Under California Election Code §14201, a facsimile ballot must be posted in specified languages if it has been determined that 3% or more of the language minority group in that precinct speak English less than very well.

In addition to the Translation Ballot Guide copy of the official ballot in English and the required languages, Sacramento County also provides the following materials that are available at our office's front counter and the specified precincts:

- State Voter Information Guide
- Local Measure Translations
- Local Candidate Statement Translations
- Top Two Open Primary Act Information

## Bilingual Election Officer Recruitment & California Election Code §12303

Under California Election Code §12303, a reasonable attempt must be made to staff bilingual Election Officer at designated precincts throughout Sacramento where 3% or more of the voting age population speak English less than very well.

Of the current 8,717 active Election Officers in Sacramento County (Inspectors & Clerks), 2,729 election officers are on record as speaking another language besides English.

In May of 2013, the breakdown of active bilingual poll workers was:

- Spanish 433
- Chinese 55
- Tagalog 25
- Russian 23
- Vietnamese 22
- Hmong 16
- Hindi 7
- Japanese 5
- Korean 0

As of August of 2016, the breakdown of active bilingual poll workers is as follows:

- Spanish 1,531
- Chinese 183
- Tagalog 151
- Russian 116
- Vietnamese 97
- Hmong 67
- Hindi 183
- Japanese 24
- Korean 16
- Thai 3
- Khmer 2
- Punjabi 34
- Other 121 (includes Arabic, Mien, Ukrainian, and African languages)

As of August 2023, the breakdown of active bilingual poll workers is as follows:

- Spanish 1,220
- Chinese 216
- Tagalog 183
- Russian 74
- Vietnamese 141
- Hmong 106
- Hindi 202
- Japanese 28
- Korean 23
- Thai 9
- Khmer4
- Punjabi 110
- Telugu 7
- Mien 18
- Laotian 5
- Urdu 34
- Other 349 (includes Arabic, Ukrainian, and African languages)

For the November 2012, Presidential General Election, our department staffed 2,350 Poll Workers at 470 polling places throughout the county, including 243 officers that were fluent in another language besides English. A total of 120 consolidated precincts were designated as needing bilingual materials and assistance.

For the June 2016, Presidential Primary Election, our department staffed 2,690 Poll Workers at 538 polling places throughout the county, including 416 officers that were fluent in another language besides English. A total of 421 consolidated precincts were designated as needing bilingual materials and assistance.

For the November 2020, Presidential General Election our department staffed 1284 Election Officers at 87 Vote Centers throughout the county including 290 officers that were fluent in another language besides English. We also staffed 208 Student Election Officers in which 68 of them spoke another language besides English. Of the 84 Vote Centers 74 were designated as needing bilingual language assistance.

### **Other Sources of Multilingual Determinations**

Each County in California has their own specific method for determining which precincts require a bilingual poll worker. Voter file information, such as birthplace, surnames, and specific language requests is used to identify areas where bilingual assistance may be needed. Census and American Community Survey information, as it applies to the



Elections Code §§14201 & 12303, is used to identify precincts that meet the 3% threshold.

In addition to voter requests from Voter Registration Forms and online registration, our department references the following for appropriate placement of bilingual staffing.

- *Comment Sheets:* Implemented in June 2012, Election Officers are asked to use their Comment Sheets to track voters who come into the polls and requests or used a language other than English. This method is based on the discretion and participation of the precinct board, making it not ideal but helpful in determining certain precincts that may need bilingual assistance for future elections.

Comment Sheet tallies show the following:

- June 2012                                    160 voters requested/used language assistance
- November 2012                            411 voters requested/used language assistance
- June 2014                                    382 voters requested/used language assistance
- November 2014                            469 voters requested/used language assistance
- November 2020                            146 voters requested/used language assistance

While a lot of these precincts mirrored determinations based on birthplace and language requests, the Comment Sheets have been useful to see where specific dialects of a language may be used. For example, the Comment Sheet can help us determine what Chinese designated precinct should have a Cantonese versus a Mandarin-speaking Election Officer.

- *Advisory Groups:* Sacramento County’s Chinese Community Advisory Group recommended that additional precincts be designated as a Chinese-speaking precinct. Though the “official” data did not support their request, the four precincts in the Sacramento area known as Little Saigon were staffed with Chinese speaking officers. This was in anticipation that many of these Vietnamese-born voters may actually speak Chinese. Comment Sheet tallies corroborated the Advisory Group’s suggestions in three of the four precincts. Our department continues to work with CAPITAL for the recruitment of bilingual election officers.
- *Advocacy Groups:* Organizations, like Asian Americans Advancing Justice, have assisted in helping Sacramento County define the language minority groups that are abundant in Sacramento County. Statewide, the Asian Indian language has been designated as Hindi, but Sacramento County has a large population of Punjabi speakers, so our department makes an additional effort to staff Punjabi election officers as designated precincts.

**Recruitment Sources/Methods**

The following is a list of recruitment methods that Precinct Operations utilizes to obtain the appropriate number of bilingual election officers for future elections in order to comply with state and federal laws and to successfully serve the limited English proficient voters

of Sacramento County. Bilingual election officers receive \$0.80 more an hour than their monolingual counterparts.

- *County Employees:* Sacramento County employs thousands of people who have a vast range of different skills, languages, and cultures. Recruitment inside the County pool of potential candidates is the ideal place to start seeking potential election officers.
- *County Employee as Volunteer Poll Worker Program* – Starting in 2002, County employees who wish to work as a poll worker on Election Day are allowed to do so without having to use any leave balances and get paid their regular wages, in addition to the stipend they receive for being a Poll worker. This incentive, as provided for by the Personnel Ordinance Section 2.78.777, is beneficial to attract County employees.
- *County Intranet Site* – Our department continues to receive many applications after County employees read about the community needs for bilingual assistance.
- *Target Languages* – Language-specific positions are very prevalent in Sacramento County. The County Employee Directory can help find positions that require fluency in a particular language.
- *High School Students:* High School Students provide a fresh prospective and enthusiasm at the polls on Election Day. Students generally have the energy, stamina, and physical ability to work a long Election Day. VRE sends out student applications and informational packets to over 29 high schools throughout the county. These packets are to emphasize the need of bilingual students to serve as election officers and include a list of the required languages.

Besides the same hourly pay as their non-student counter parts, incentives, such as extra credit and community service can make being an election officer attractive to high school students.

- *College Students:* Colleges around the County may provide a good source of Election officer who are excited to work an Election and earn some extra cash.
- *Los Rios Colleges* – Sacramento City College, American River College, Cosumnes River College, and Folsom Lake College are all part of the Los Rios Community College District. For both the June and November Elections, all four community colleges were contacted to spread the word of VRE's need for bilingual election officers. Flyers were created and posted at all four schools. Specific professors and language clubs were contacted. While the result was not overly positive and not a lot of applicants, maintaining a relationship with these schools is important to successful future recruitment efforts.
- *CSU Sacramento* – We continue to have an active relationship with the university. We have used this college as a Vote Center for each Election and have many students vote using the CVR process.
- *Community Advisory Groups & Community Based Organizations.* The divisions of Outreach and Precinct Operations maintains a current list of organizations.

- *Outreach*: Election Officer Information & Application brochures are available at all VRE outreach events. By working with the Outreach division, we have received several applications from interested voters.
- *Website*: The VRE website is the most effective, yet low maintenance way to get interested voters into learning more about becoming an election officer. Election Officer applications can be submitted electronically through our website.
- *Sample Ballot Booklet*: Every registered voter in the State of California is by law, required to receive a Sample Ballot Booklet. To save money, our County has implemented an “opt-out” program so voters may view an electronic copy of their booklet. In this booklet, either physical or electronic versions, a page dedicated to the recruitment and need of bilingual election officer has been included.
- *Voter Registration Forms/Online Registration (COVR)*: VRE continuously receives notices of voters marking on their Voter Registration Form/COVR registration that they would be interested in being a election officer.
- *Inspector staffing/Special Boards*: Sacramento County is one of the most diverse areas in the country (Time Magazine, 2002) and continues to grow in diversity, according to the 2010 Census. In many cases, Inspectors will have bilingual friends or acquaintances who may be interested in working on Election Day. For voter centers that like to staff their own special board, such as a church, congregants or affiliates of that voter center may speak a language other than English.
- *Press releases/media*: Depending on the need and progress of the recruitment efforts, media releases may be utilized, budget permitting. These may appear on the County intranet site or even on multicultural television station, like Crossings TV with whom VRE worked with for every election since 2012.
- *Social Media (future)*: As more and more people are utilizing and getting information from Social Media outlets (Facebook, Twitter), it is time for VRE to use this as a recruitment tool for Election Officers. This tool will appeal to the younger generation and will also help to keep the election officers connected during off-election years. As the retention of students is low, keeping them informed and connected by ways of social media may increase the odds of them returning for future elections.

## Recruitment Tracking

In order to establish what recruitment methods yield the best results in regards to participation and quality of persons, tracking the methods of all applicants shall be recorded in our Election Management System. Application methods will be selected based on the following sources:

- Application - Outreach
- Application - Website (from PrecinctOperations@saccounty.gov)
- Application - Brochure/Faxed)

- Application - Student (High School Students only)
- Called In (staff is instructed to ask a follow up question of where they learned about us)
- County Flyer/Information/Intranet
- Inspector Staffed
- Special Board
- Referred from Election Officer
- TV/Media
- Voter Registration Form/Online Registration(COVR) Interest
- Community Advisory Group

EIMS Report POMR029 is able to identify election officer by Recruitment Source. Recruitment sources may be added or adjusted as necessary. Currently, there is no report in EIMS that displays an Election Officer's recruitment source AND language.

### **Bilingual Assessment**

Currently, Spanish, Chinese, and Vietnamese-speaking election officers are the only bilingual officers assessed for their oral skills in both English/Spanish, English/Chinese, and English/Vietnamese. All other languages are not tested by VRE staff. At this time, bilingual election officers are not evaluated on their Election Day work, unless they are an Inspector.

## Resources/Documentation

### Internal

Implementation/Compliance for Spanish: <S:\Languages\Spanish>

Implementation/Compliance for Chinese: <S:\Languages\Chinese>

Implementation/Compliance for Vietnamese: <S:\Languages\Vietnamese>

Language Assistance, from the polls: <S:\Languages\Spreadsheets for Assistance>

<Tallies> Voter Center Materials: <W:\Election Forms>

<W:\Signs> <W:\Inventory>

Bilingual Election Officers, by election: <O:\2012 Elections>

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<O:\2020 November>

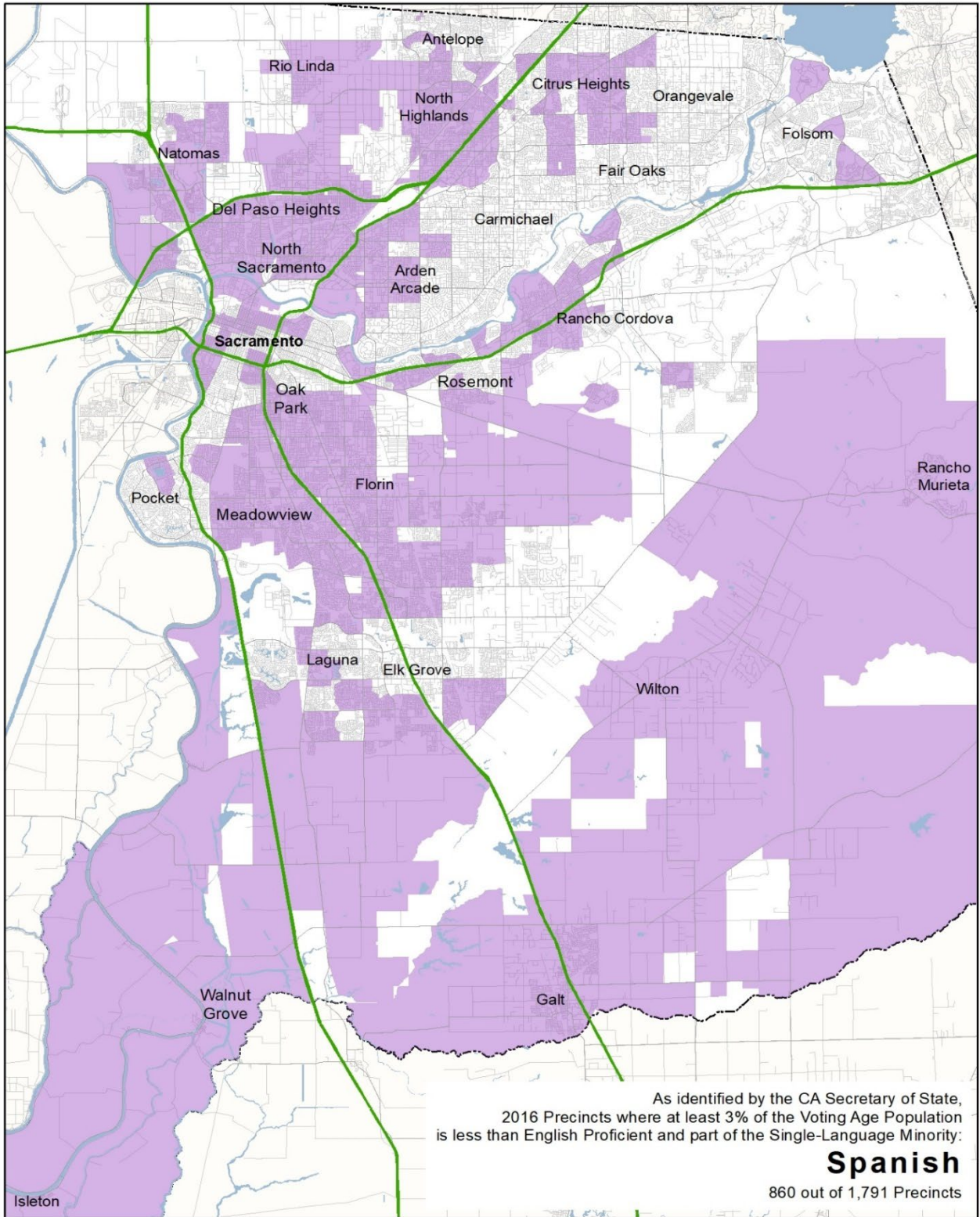
Frequently Asked Questions on Voting and Minority Language and Assistance Page 32  
in this document

### Website

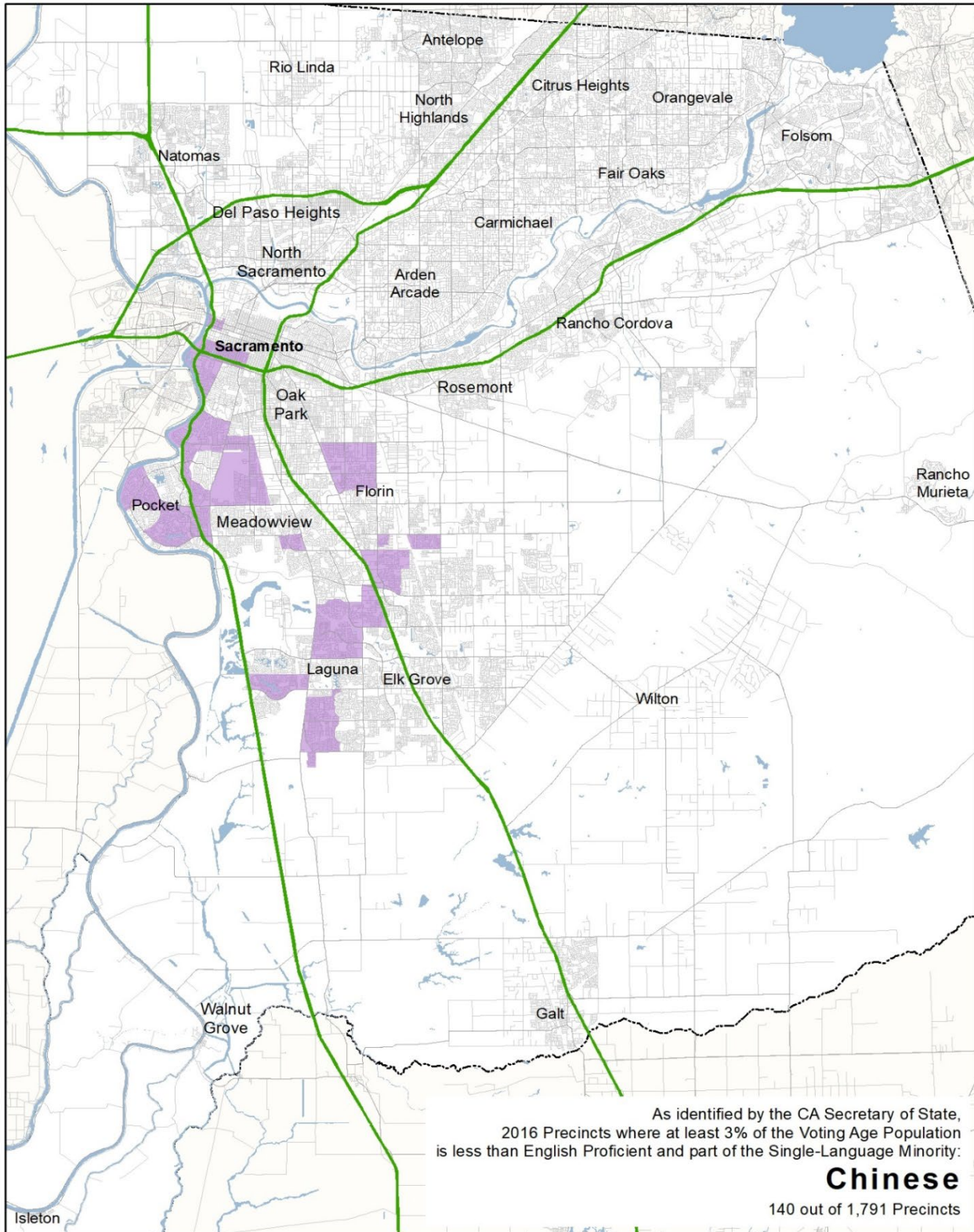
Vote Center Application

<https://elections.saccounty.gov/Pages/Work-the-Election.aspx>

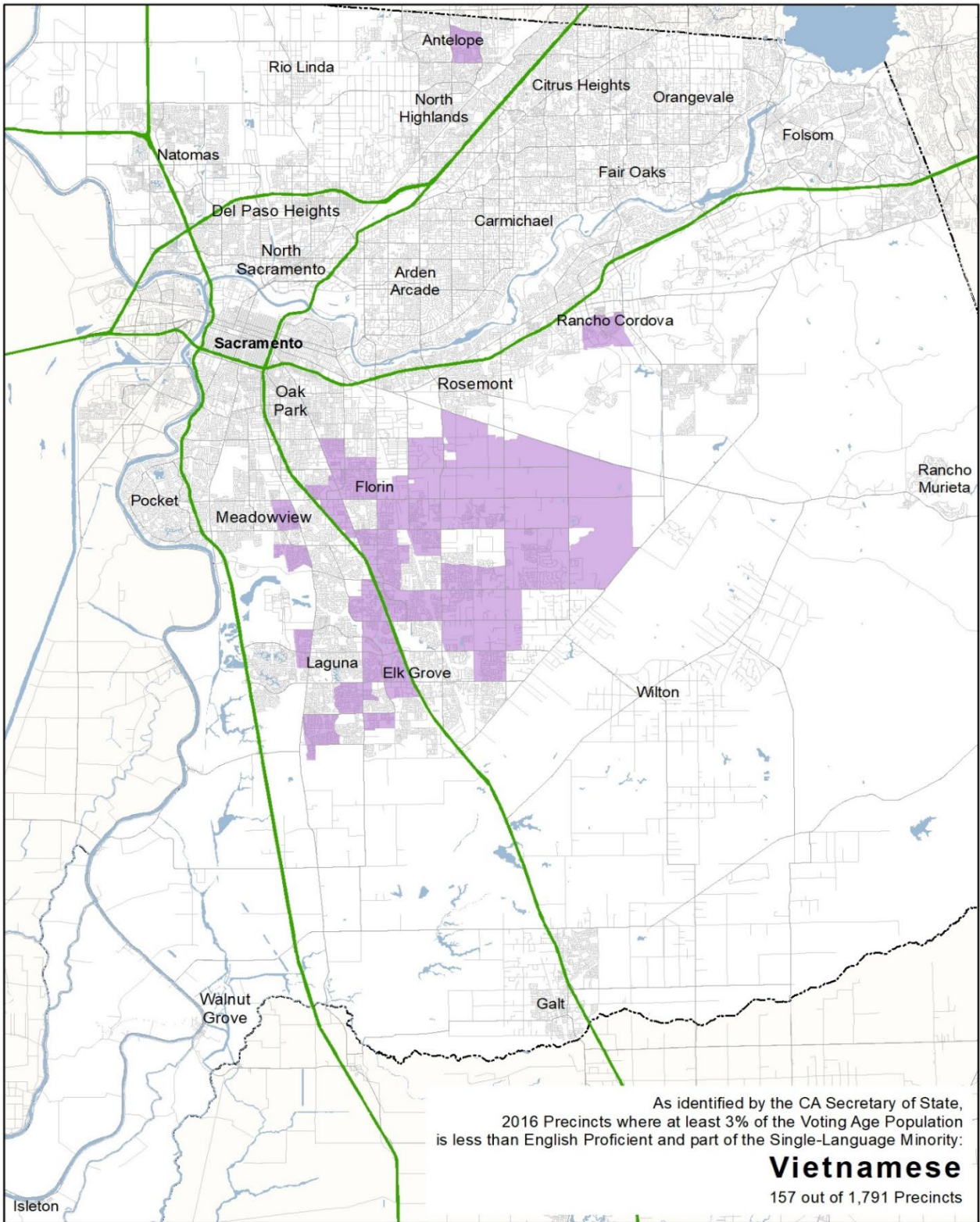
### Sacramento County Population Map, Spanish



### Sacramento County Population Map, Chinese

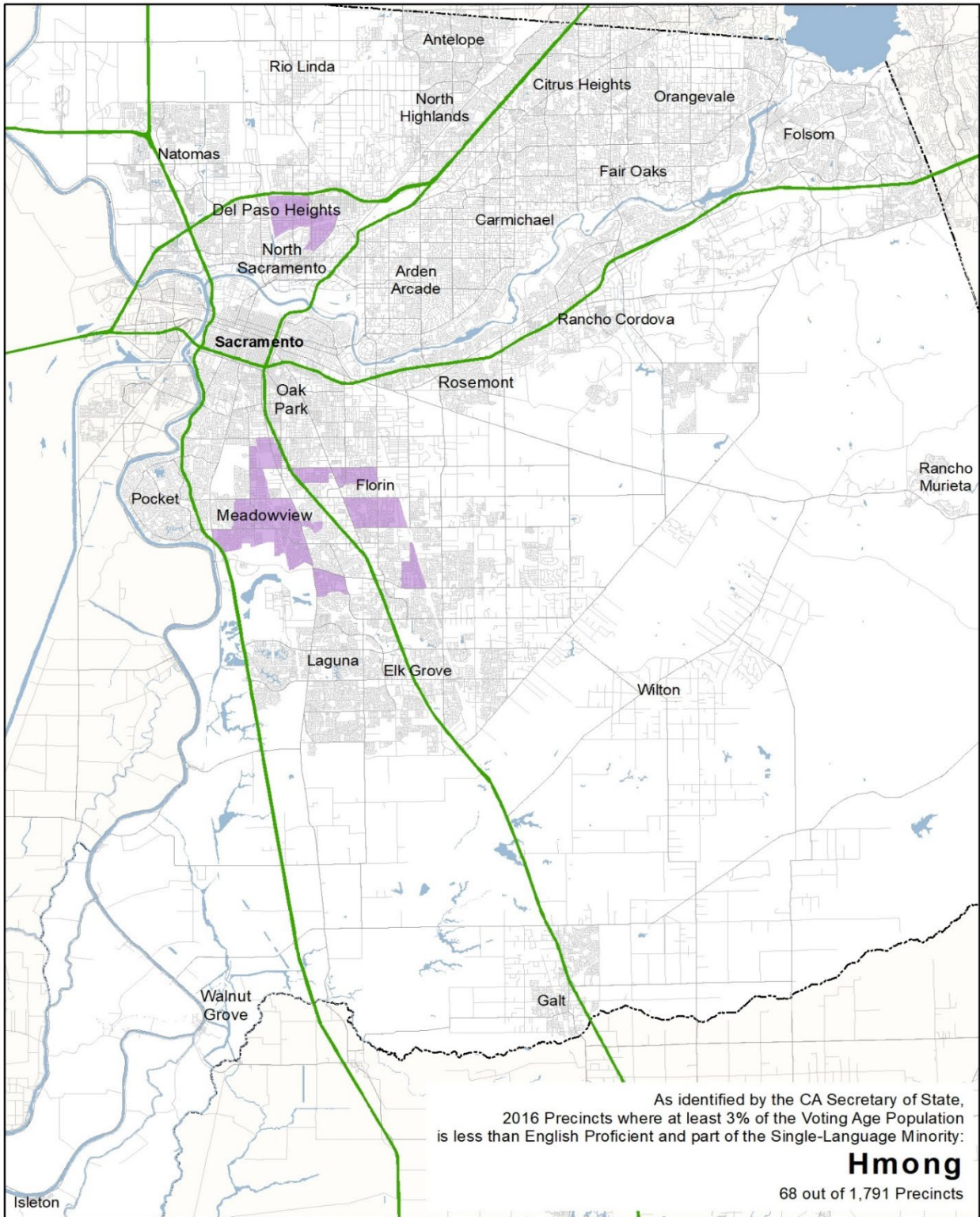


### Sacramento County Population Map, Vietnamese

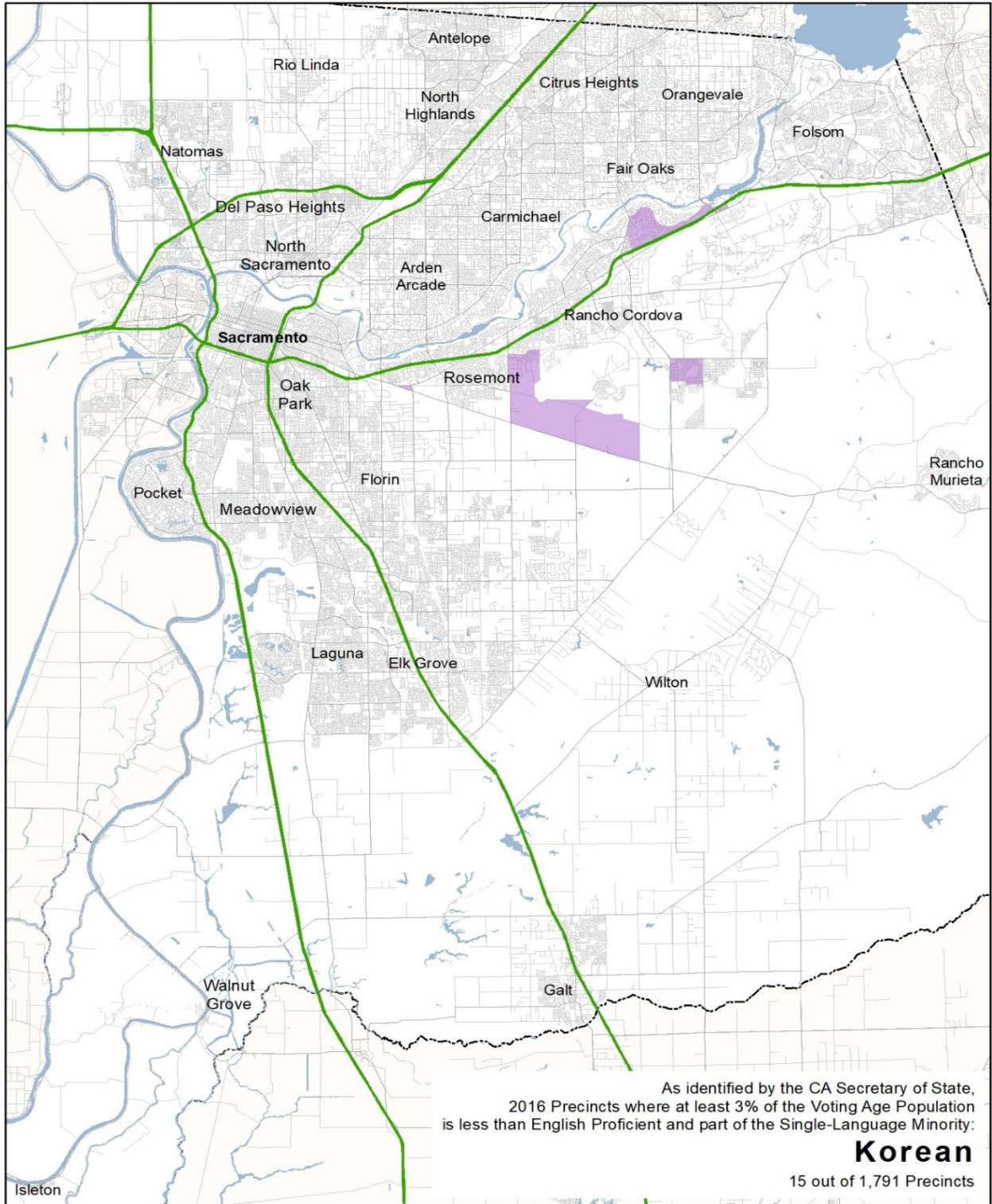




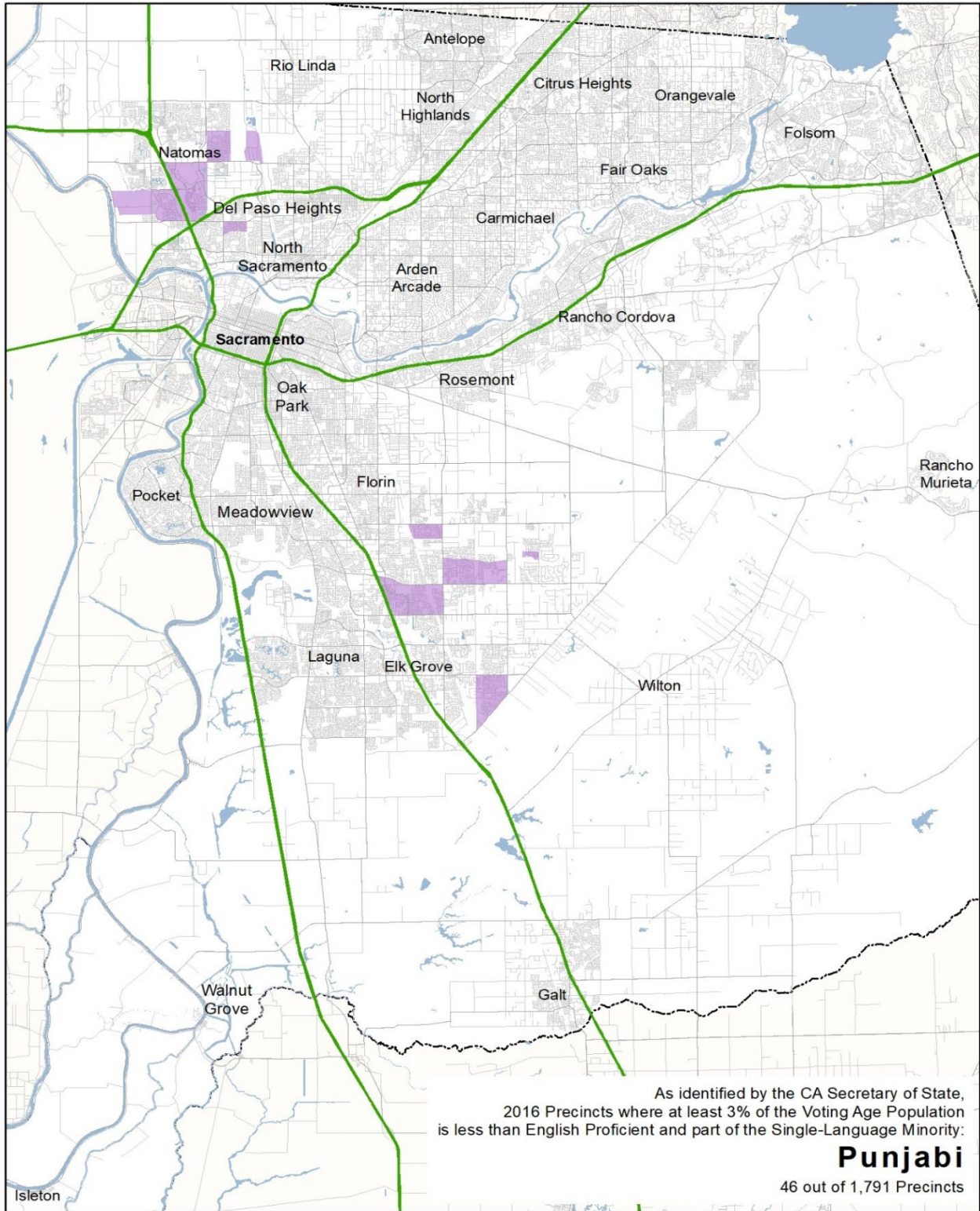
### Sacramento County Population Map, Hmong



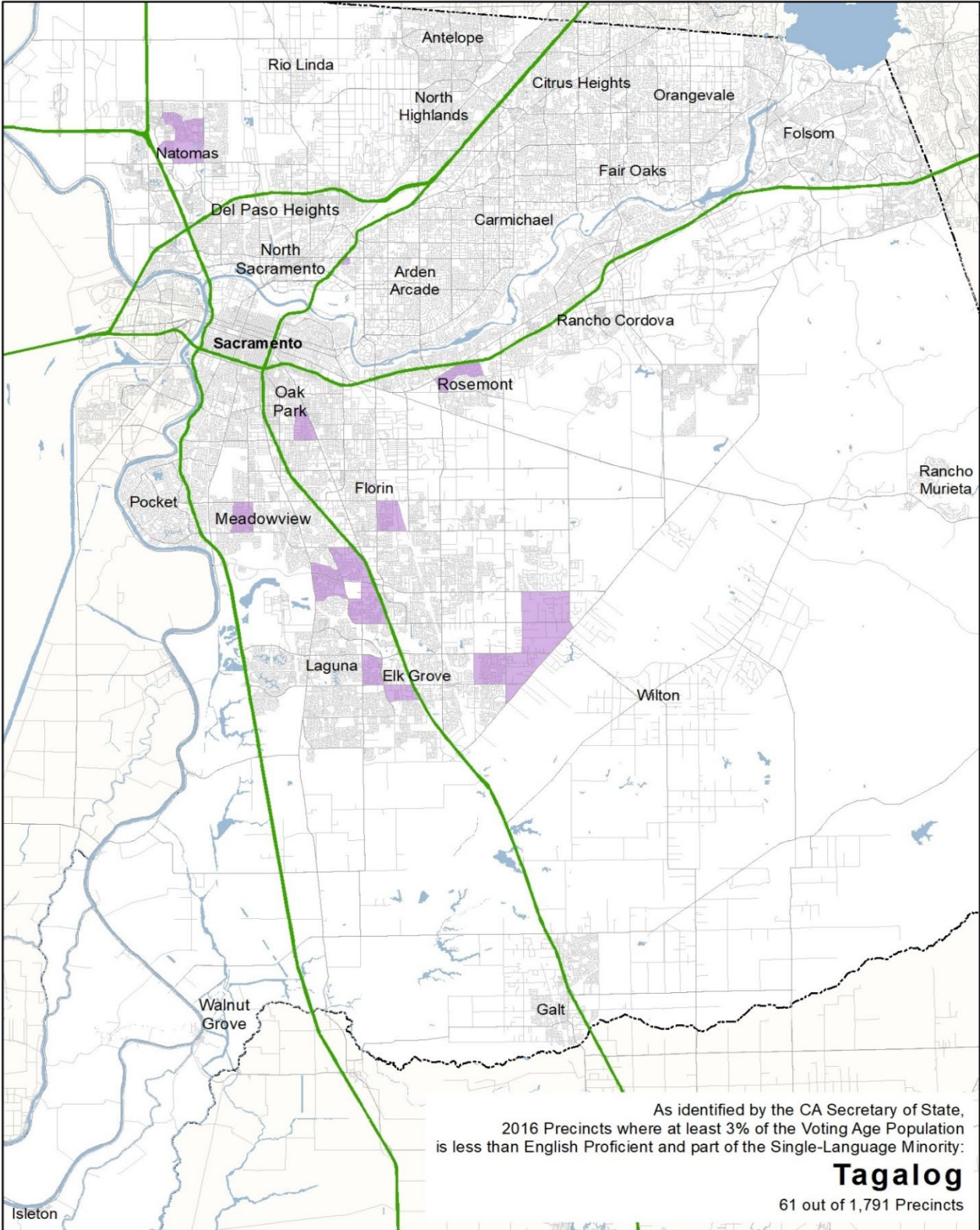
### Sacramento County Population Map, Korean



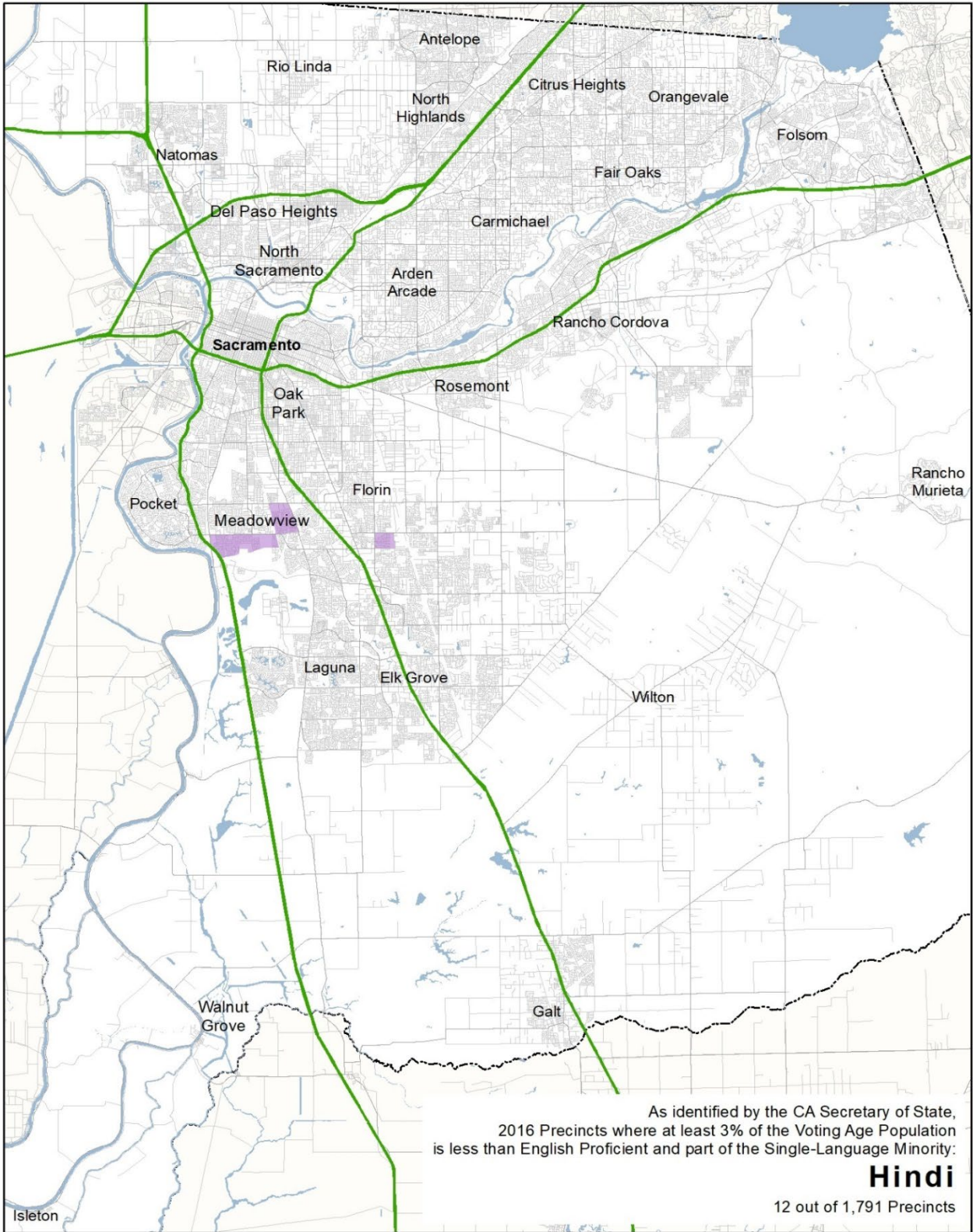
### Sacramento County Population Map, Punjabi



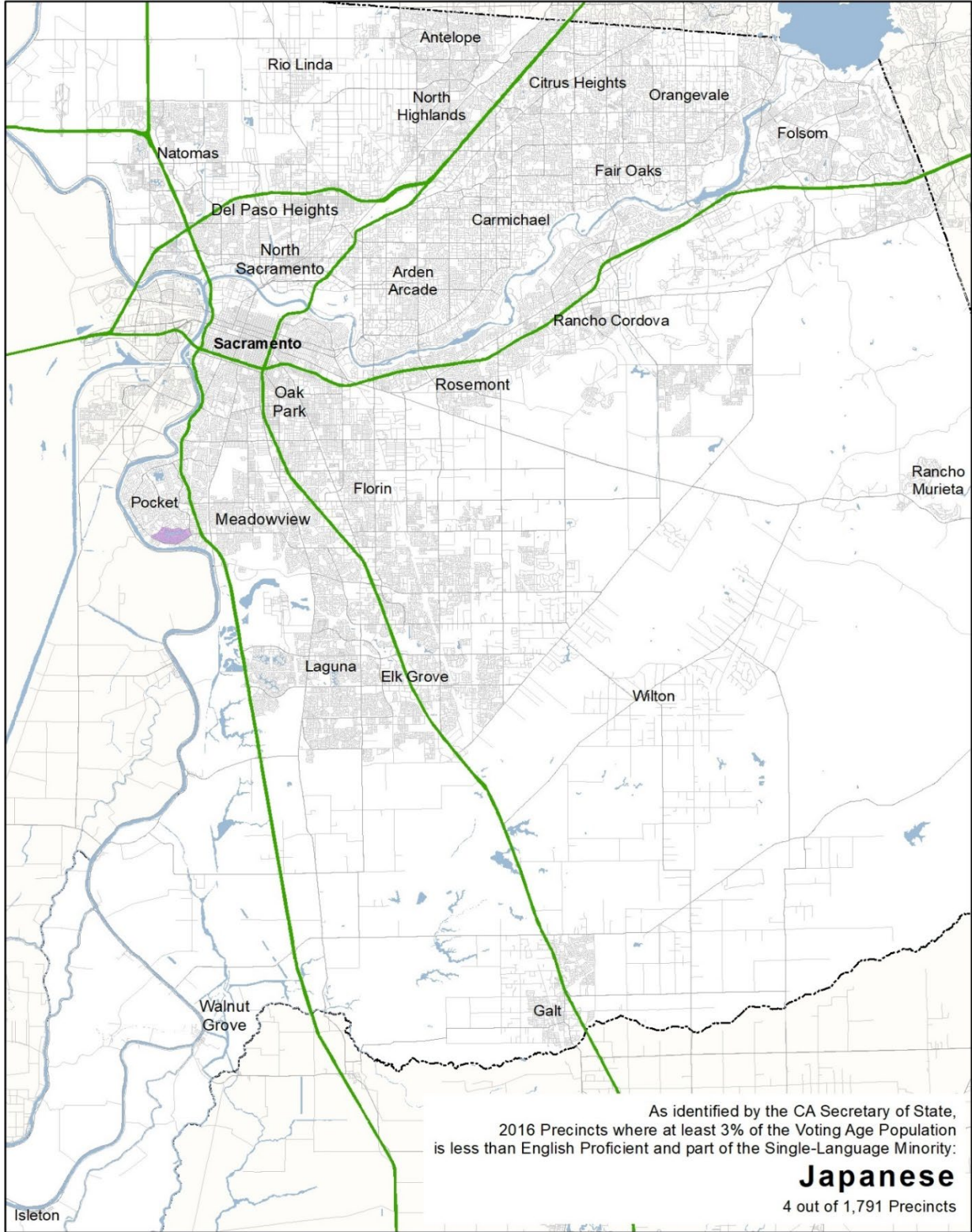
### Sacramento County Population Map, Tagalog



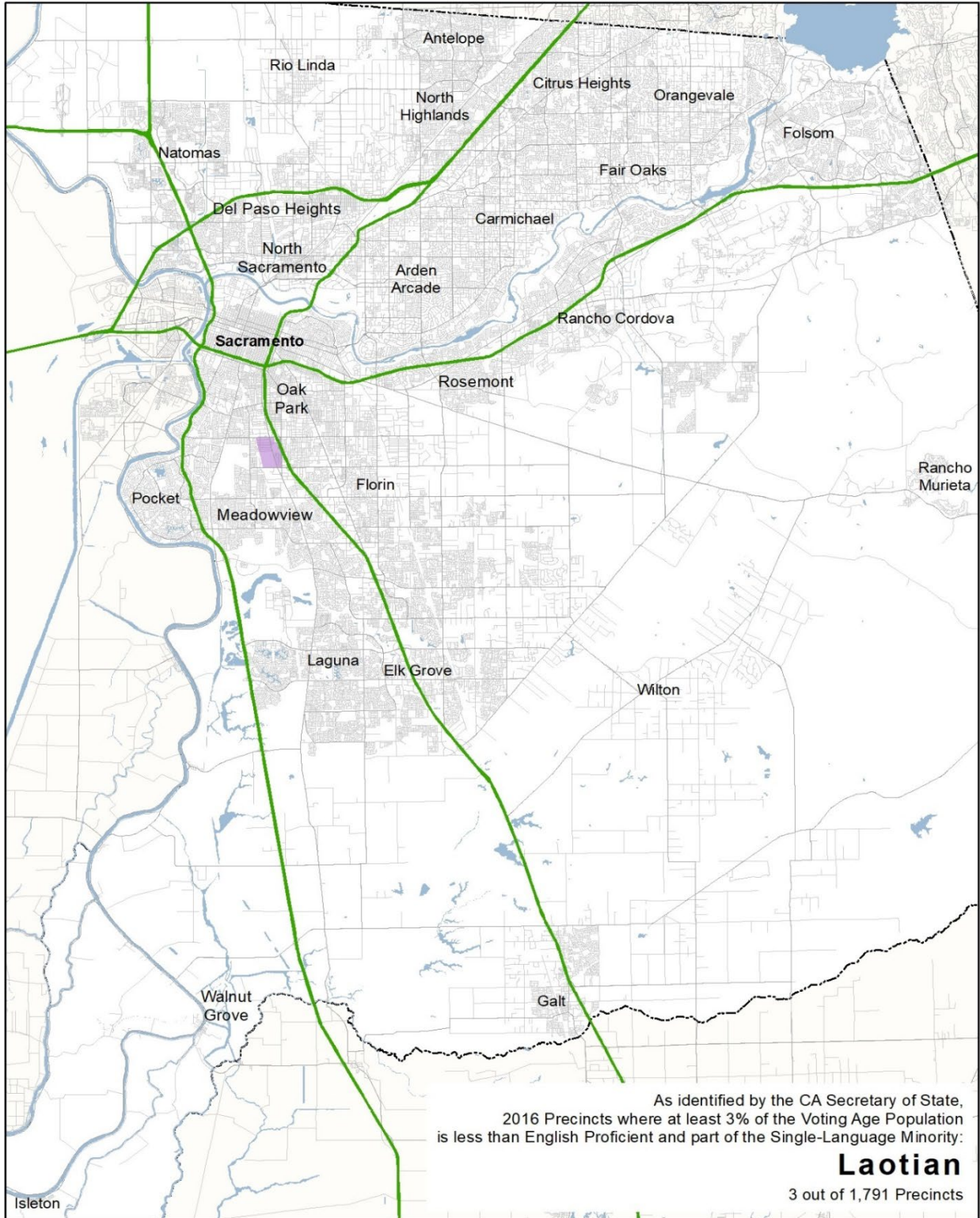
### Sacramento County Population Map, Hindi



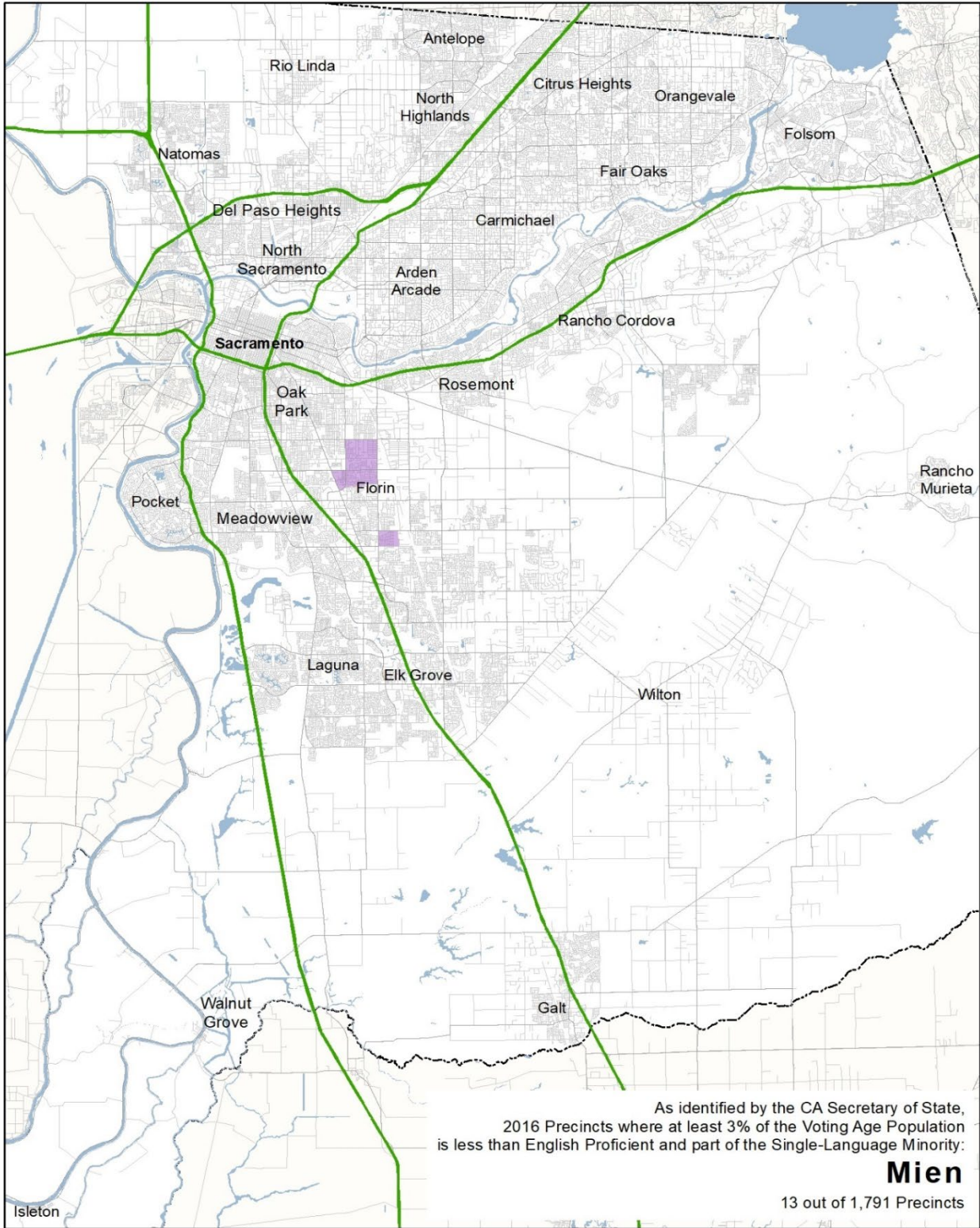
### Sacramento County Population Map, Japanese



### Sacramento County Population Map, Laotian

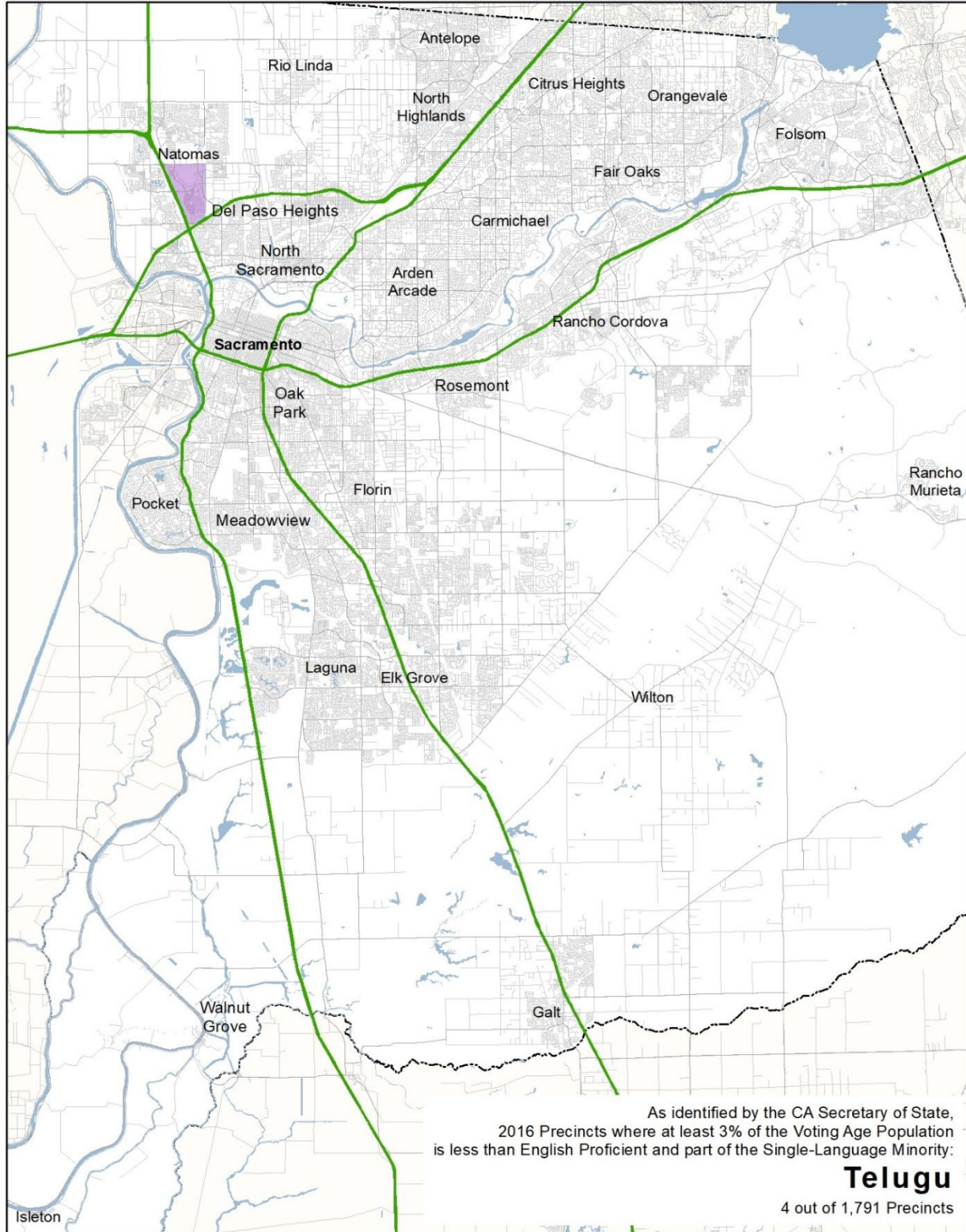


### Sacramento County Population Map, Mien

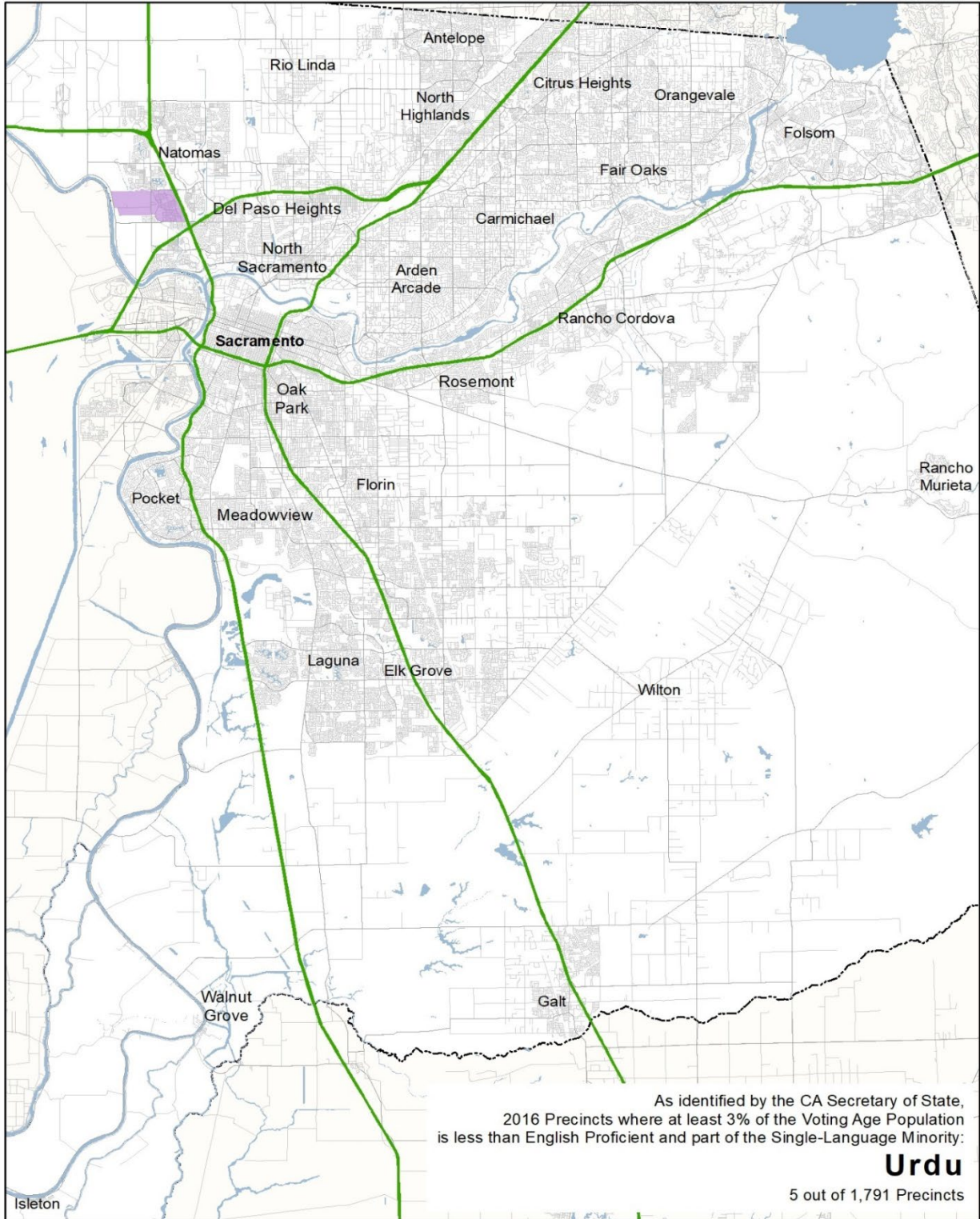




### Sacramento County Population Map, Telugu



### Sacramento County Population Map, Urdu



## Frequently Asked Questions: Voting and Minority Languages Sacramento County, 2023

### Why is Sacramento County required to print voting material in other languages?

Language requirements for election materials are governed under the federal Voting Rights Act (VRA) and the state Elections Code.

Section 203 of the VRA requires that in certain situations (counties where more than 10,000 or 5% of all total voting-age citizens who are members of a single language minority group, have depressed literacy rates, and do not speak English very well) election materials that are available in English must also be made available in the language of particular minority group. Section 203 targets those language minorities that have suffered a history of exclusion from the political process: Spanish-heritage, Asian, Native American, and Alaskan Native.

The U.S. Census Bureau identifies the specific language groups for states and county jurisdictions, based on census information, every 5 years. The latest Section 203 determination was December 8, 2021. The next determination is expected in December 2026.

For more information on Section 203 of the VRA, please visit the Department of Justice's website: <https://www.justice.gov/crt/about-language-minority-voting-rights>.

California Elections Code §14201 further requires that county elections officials provide a translated facsimile ballot and related instructions in a conspicuous location in precincts where 3% or more of the voting-age residents are members of a single language minority and lack sufficient skills in English to vote without assistance. The Secretary of State is required to make these Elections Code §14201 determinations by January 1 of each year in which the governor is elected.

Pursuant to Elections Code §14201(b)(1), the Secretary of State has reinstated prior precinct minority language determinations in addition to the designations made on December 31, 2021, see [CCROV#22039](#). These language determinations shall be effective for elections conducted on June 7, 2022, and thereafter and shall remain in effect until further notice.

For more information on Elections Code §14201:

[https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes\\_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=EL&sectionNum=14201](https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes_displaySection.xhtml?lawCode=EL&sectionNum=14201).

The chart below identifies the language requirements for Sacramento County under Section 203 of the VRA and Elections Code §14201. Please note that this chart is based upon 2016 and 2020 precinct information and data, as previously provided by the

California Statewide Database at U.C. Berkeley. The requirements provided in the chart will remain in place through December 31, 2025. The next determinations will be issued by January 1, 2026.

Ballot Translations and Posting Requirements Summary by County Based on 2016 and 2020 General Election Precincts Effective: February 28, 2022, for Elections on June 7, 2022, and thereafter.

**KEY**

- **BOLD** languages under column, "14201 Covered Languages," are new requirements as of January 1, 2020.
- Asterisked (\*) language minority groups (Chinese and Filipino) include languages within that language group.

	FEDERAL LANGUAGE REQUIREMENT	14201 COVERED LANGUAGES REQUIREMENT
<b>Sacramento County</b>	Chinese (includes Taiwanese)* Spanish Vietnamese	<b>Tagalog</b> <b>Hindi</b> <b>Hmong</b> <b>Japanese</b> <b>Korean</b> <b>Laotian</b> <b>Mien</b> <b>Panjabi</b> <b>Telugu</b> <b>Urdu</b>

**What is the VRA?**

The VRA is a federal law enacted in 1965 to combat discrimination against African Americans and break down barriers to vote (e.g., poll tax, literacy test). In 1975 the Act was amended to include language minority groups. In 2006, Congress renewed the VRA for 25 years.

## What is a language minority group?

A language minority group is defined as American Indian, Asian American, Alaskan Natives, and people of Spanish heritage.

## Why is the VRA important?

Voting is a fundamental right in a democratic society. The Voting Rights Act is intended to ensure that voting age citizens have an equal opportunity to participate and vote in the electoral process, regardless of their language abilities.

## How does the VRA help me if I am part of a language minority group?

All voting materials at each Vote Centers will be available in English, Chinese, Spanish, and Vietnamese. Precinct officers at designated Vote Centers will be available to assist voters in these languages.

Section 208 of the VRA and California Law allow voters to bring an individual of their choice (other than a representative of their employer or union) to the polls to assist them in voting. If voters want help, but did not bring anyone with them, a Precinct Officer can assist the voters with marking their ballot.

## What does election material mean?

According to the Department of Justice, “all election information that is available in English must also be available in the minority language so that all citizens will have an effective opportunity to register, learn the details of the elections, and cast a free and effective ballot.”

This means that registration forms, voting notices, voting instructions, ballots, sample ballots, vote center notices (including posters), voter information pamphlets, and any other written materials related to the voting process must be translated accurately into the covered languages, and distributed and available to people who need the information.

## Does the VRA apply to Sacramento?

Yes. Sacramento has at least 10,000 or five percent voting-age citizens who are members of a single language minority group who have limited or no English skills. Determinations for language groups are made every five years according to the American Community Survey. Sacramento has language requirements for Chinese, Spanish and Vietnamese.

## Is Sacramento the only county required to have translated voting materials in Chinese, Spanish and Vietnamese?

No. Several other counties in California (Alameda, Los Angeles, Orange, San Diego, San Francisco, San Mateo and Santa Clara) and other states that have at least 10,000 or 5% of the total voting age citizens who have limited or no English skills and who are members of a minority language group are required by law to have translated voting materials.

## What is Sacramento County doing to assist limited and non-English speaking voters at the Vote Centers?

Sacramento County Voter Registration and Elections has been providing voting materials and language assistance in Spanish since 2002, Chinese since 2012, and Vietnamese since 2022 and is currently working with community organizations and ethnic media on all aspects of implementing Vietnamese language voting material and assistance – education, outreach, translation, and bilingual precinct officers.

Bilingual precinct officers will have language tags in English, Chinese, Spanish or Vietnamese to let limited and non-English speaking voters know who to approach for assistance on Election Day.

### **Is there a hotline with a interpreter in Spanish, Chinese (Cantonese / Mandarin) or Vietnamese that I can call if I have questions about the voting material and assistance before the election?**

Yes, Sacramento County Voter Registration and Elections has dedicated phone lines for voter assistance in these languages.

- For assistance in Chinese (Cantonese / Mandarin), call (916) 876-8402
- For assistance in Spanish, call (916) 876-6688
- For assistance in Vietnamese, call (916) 875-5827

### **Need Voting Materials and Language Assistance in Chinese (Cantonese / Mandarin) Spanish and Vietnamese?**

Before the election, fill out a Voter Registration form, check the box next to your preferred language. If you are already registered and now want your materials in Chinese, Spanish, or Vietnamese please contact our office and request the change to your voter language preference on your registration file.

You can call us at (916) 875-6451, email us at [voterinfo@saccounty.gov](mailto:voterinfo@saccounty.gov), or send us a written request at Sacramento County Voter Registration and Elections, 7000 65th Street, Sacramento, CA 95823.

If you need an interpreter, say the language you speak (Cantonese, Mandarin, Spanish or Vietnamese) so staff can get an interpreter in person or on the phone. This may take a minute. Please be patient and do not leave.

On Election Day at the Vote Center, look for precinct officers with language name tags. If there are no bilingual precinct officers in Cantonese, Mandarin Spanish or Vietnamese, ask for assistance. Say the language you speak. You will be given the hotline phone number to the Voter Registration and Elections office where translation help will be available.

### **Why are voting materials available in Chinese, Spanish and Vietnamese but not other Asian languages?**

Chinese, Spanish and Vietnamese are the only languages in Sacramento County that meet the requirements set by the VRA at this time. The American Community Survey will conduct its next survey in five years at which time Sacramento may have other languages that meet this requirement.

## How do I get help if I do not speak English?

Call (916) 875-6451. Sacramento County Voter Registration and Elections has the ability to get a interpreter on the phone if you request one. Don't hang up. Be patient and wait to speak to the interpreter. For assistance in:

- for assistance in Chinese (Cantonese / Mandarin), call (916) 876-8402
- for assistance in Spanish, call (916) 876-6688
- for assistance in Vietnamese call (916) 875-5827.

## Be a Part of the Process Now

County of Sacramento Voter Registration and Elections values the rights of every voter. To help us provide the best service, please do the following:

- Register in time for the election. We want you to be able to vote, so be sure you are registered correctly.
- Select the right language when you register. This helps us schedule the right bilingual precinct officers to help at the Vote Center.
- Sign up to be a precinct officer. This is an easy way to help other voters, especially if you speak one of the required languages.

Contact us when you have questions about elections or the voting process. We want to make sure you have the information you need to vote on election day. Let us know when you see any problems. Help us improve our process by telling us where you see problems on election day or in our voting materials.

You can call us at (916) 875-6451, email us at [voterinfo@saccounty.gov](mailto:voterinfo@saccounty.gov), or write to us at Sacramento County Voter Registration and Elections, 7000 65th Street, Suite A Sacramento, CA 95823.

## References Accessed 2023:

- <https://www.justice.gov/crt/voting-section> Department of Justice - A Federal agency that oversees the VRA
- <http://www.sos.ca.gov> Secretary of State - A state agency with information for California voters.
- [www.election.saccounty.gov](http://www.election.saccounty.gov) Sacramento County's Voter Registration and Elections webpage.
- [www.eac.gov](http://www.eac.gov) Election Assistance Commission - A Federal agency with resources for voters and voter guides in various languages.
- <http://www.census.gov> Census - A Federal agency with information on the census.
- [2020 Census Results](https://www.census.gov/2020censusresults) Census - An alternate website for census information specific to the 2020 Census