



County of Sacramento

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 12, 2011

CONTACT: Alice Jarboe
(916) 875-6761

Sacramento County Voting Materials Required to be in Chinese and Spanish

New minority language requirements released

Sacramento, CA – Voters in Sacramento County will see another language on their June 2012 ballot. Registrar of Voters Jill LaVine learned today that the Department of Justice has designated Sacramento County as a jurisdiction that must provide all voting materials in Chinese. This new language is in addition to Spanish which has been required since 2000.

The Voting Rights Act of 1964 requires states or political subdivisions provide minority language assistance when the US census determines that the county has more than 10,000 or more voting age citizens belonging to a language minority group who are limited-English proficient, or if more than 5% of the voting age citizens are members of a single language group who are unable to speak or understand English adequately enough to effectively participate in the electoral process.

In 2006, Congress authorized extension of the minority language provision through 2032 and instructed the bureau to use the American Community Survey (ACS) and produce determinations every 5 years instead of the current 10 year period.

Determinations are calculated using U.S. Code 42 which bases thresholds on

- Language Minority Group (total voting age citizens)
- English Language Ability (total voting age citizens who are limited-English proficient)
- Educational Attainment (total voting age citizens who are limited-English proficient and have less than a 5th grade education)

“The Department of Justice’s new language requirement leaves Sacramento County just a few short months to prepare for the June 2012 Primary Election,” said LaVine.

For more information visit www.census.gov/rdo/data/voting_rights_determination_file.html

###