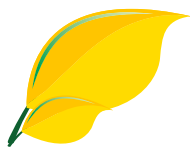




Fall 2017

Welcome Fall!!



Welcome Fall! That means the holidays are just around the corner. What ever your plans may be - dressing up for Halloween, eating pumpkin pie, or sipping eggnog - you still might want to know what's going on at the Department of Elections this Fall. The countdown has begun and we have nine months to go until the next election, June 5, 2018!

High School Voter Education Weeks

California Education Code designates the last two weeks of April and September as "High School Voter Education Weeks". We invited high school students to serve as Elections Ambassadors at their school. Ambassadors signed up peers interested in serving as Student Poll Workers, and helped register voters, including pre-registering peers age 16 and older, promoting awareness by displaying materials on campus, and presenting information to their school.

Throughout the process, ambassadors gained an important understanding of our election system and the value of civic engagement. Following is a list of high schools who participated in High School Voter Education Weeks: Balboa, Convent of the Sacred Heart, International, Lowell, Mission, RASOTA, Wallenberg, and Washington. We look forward to partnering with the next cohort of ambassadors in April 2018.



International High School Service Fair

Polling Place Accessibility



San Francisco Polling Place

The San Francisco Department of Elections operates nearly 600 polling places on Election Day. Because the Department does not own any of the sites that serve as polling places, we rely on the community to provide spaces on Election Day.

Between elections, Department staff survey polling place sites throughout the city to check accessibility.

On Election Day, "Accessible Entry" signs are posted outside polling places to direct voters towards the accessible entrance to the polling place. For more information, [click here to watch our staff explain](#) the basic of polling place accessibility.

The next election is **June 5, 2018**.

We look forward to working with you **again!**

In early 2018, be on the lookout for your **official availability letter**.

Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee



VAAC Meeting

The Department of Elections hosts the Voting Accessibility Advisory Committee (VAAC). The purpose of the VAAC is to advise the Department on accessibility issues and provide recommendations for improving access to voting and election materials for voters with disabilities and voters who are elderly.

Through collaboration with the VAAC, the Department has expanded information and access for voters with disabilities in San Francisco. The Committee has helped the Department enhance the message used for targeted marketing materials, expand education and training for employees and poll workers who assist voters with disabilities, and increase the Department's collaboration with community partners. Through continued cooperation, the Department strives to build lasting partnerships within the community and ensure that all voters have equal access to voting and election materials in San Francisco. If you would like to join the VAAC, please complete the [interest form](#).

Language Accessibility Advisory Committee

The purpose of the LAAC is to provide recommendations for improving access to voting and election materials for members of language minorities and increasing outreach to communities where English is a second language.

The LAAC will provide input on the Department's services and programs in languages other than English and assist with developing targeted marketing messages and materials to increase education and engagement opportunities for minority-language communities throughout San Francisco. LAAC members will also serve as liaisons between the Department and these communities. If you would like to join the LAAC, please complete the [interest form](#).



San Francisco Voter Information Pamphlets in multiple languages

Did You Know?

We continually work to ensure that all voters and potential voters, including those with limited English proficiency, have equal access to our services and materials. In accordance with federal, state, and local laws, the Department provides tools and services to increase access for voters who speak a variety of languages.

The Voting Rights Act, enacted in 1975, requires the Department to provide assistance in Chinese and Spanish.

The California Elections Code requires the California Secretary of State to determine the precincts where 3% or more of voting-age residents are members of a single-language minority and lack sufficient skills in English to vote without assistance. Based on this determination, the Department provides certain materials and services in Japanese, Korean, and Vietnamese.

We comply with San Francisco Language Access Ordinance by providing all services and materials in English, Chinese, Spanish, and Filipino.

Finally, did you know that you are one of the most important resources for voters? Whether you are bilingual or not, voters need to you! You help voters get their ballot, and any resources they may need to cast it. Your assistance is important to all voters, and if you are bilingual, your skills especially needed to help voters who speak a variety of languages.

Test Your Knowledge

1. How many Precincts are in San Francisco? _____
2. How many registered voters are in San Francisco? _____
3. In which Election did San Francisco have the highest voters turnout?

4. How many Mayors have served San Francisco? _____
5. When was the Department of Elections established? _____

