



How Election Materials Translation Protects the Vote for Asian Americans

15 million Asian Americans were eligible to vote in the last presidential cycle, yet millions still face ballots they cannot fully read. This is a test of whether the language services industry can deliver accuracy when it matters most.

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A Voting Population Growing Faster Than the System Serving It

15M

Eligible Asian American Voters

In the last presidential
cycle - the fastest-
growing eligible group
since 2000

2x

Registration Growth Rate

AANHPI registration
grew more than double
the overall average
increase among new
registrants between
January and June 2024

5

Battleground States

AZ, GA, NV, NC, PA -
where Asian American
turnout in 2020
exceeded the final
margin of victory

Limited English Proficiency: The Barrier Behind the Numbers



A Significant and Measurable Gap

Federal data cited by the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus puts limited English proficiency at **roughly 32%** among Asian Americans nationally - well above the general population rate.

In Massachusetts alone, **nearly 66%** of Asian American adults speak a language other than English at home, and about a third qualify as limited English proficient.

⚠ When ballot instructions exist only in English, eligible voters are left guessing at the process that determines their representation.

LEGAL FRAMEWORK

The Patchwork of Law Behind Ballot Language Access

Section 203 of the Voting Rights Act

Requires specific counties to provide voting materials in designated minority languages once census thresholds are met, coverage reassessed every five years.

- **New York (Kings, Queens, New York counties)** -Chinese, Bangladeshi, Asian Indian
- **Texas (Harris, Dallas counties)** - Vietnamese; Harris County also covers Chinese/Taiwanese

Executive Order 14224 - March 2025

Designated English as the official language of the US and revoked a 25-year-old order requiring federal agencies to support limited English proficient residents.

Title VI, the ACA, and the Stafford Act obligations remain, but agencies now have discretion they previously lacked. New York has confirmed its own Language Access Law is **unaffected** and funded through 2026.

Translation for Elections Is Not a Generic Task



Dialect and Register Matter

A term clear in Mandarin may confuse a Cantonese speaker. A correctly translated Vietnamese phrase can still fail if its register is too formal for a voter with limited literacy in their own language.



Independent Native Review

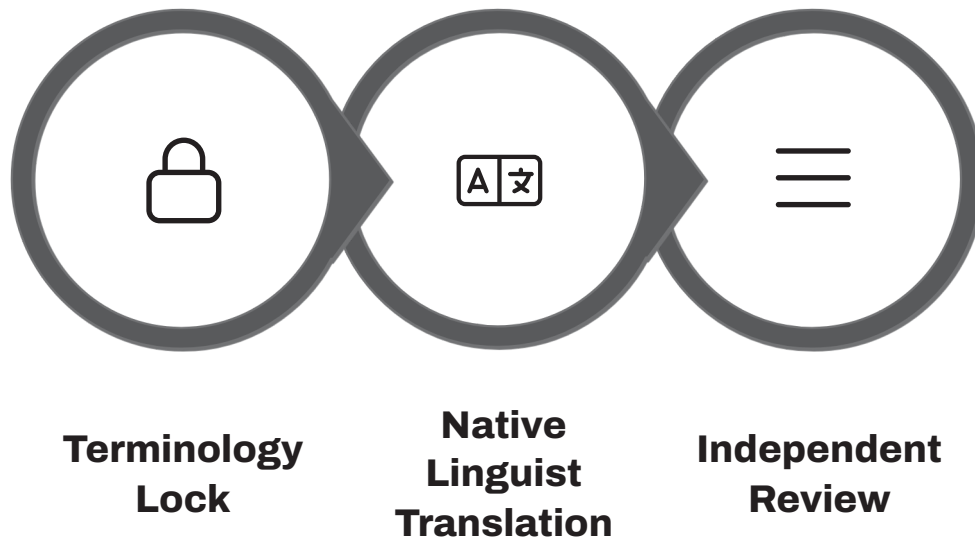
Native linguists working in their region of origin, supported by independent review, not a single translator's judgment, are essential for civic content with constitutional stakes.



Locked Terminology

Terms like "provisional ballot" and "early voting" must be defined and locked before translation begins and stay consistent across every language version a jurisdiction publishes.

Voting Information Guides: More Than Word Conversion



Accuracy and Format Are Inseparable

Ballots, sample ballots, and voter guides must preserve exact formatting so translated versions align with the numbering and layout election officials use to certify them.

Regional dialect variation, uneven literacy, and shifting federal guidance all apply to election content, only with far less room for error than in commercial translation.

22、 彡刂刂刂	疋彡刂彡彡友住用大彡	
21、 彡彡 彡	疋彡刂彡彡彡彡彡彡彡	彡彡彡
18、 彡彡 彡	彡彡彡彡彡彡彡彡彡彡	彡彡彡
28、 日彡彡彡	彡彡彡彡彡彡彡彡彡彡	
彡、 彡彡彡彡	彡彡彡彡彡彡彡彡彡	彡彡彡彡 彡彡彡彡彡

The Hidden Layer: Multilingual Desktop Publishing

Asian Scripts Behave Differently

Korean and Thai translations can run considerably longer than English source text. Chinese and Japanese follow entirely different line-break rules. Text expands, contracts, and restructures in ways English layouts cannot anticipate.

Formatting Failures Are Ballot Failures

Without multilingual DTP built into the workflow, a translated voter guide can end up with cut-off text, misaligned columns, or oversized fonts, invisible to election administrators racing against print deadlines.

DTP Must Sit Inside the Translation Workflow

When formatting is handled by a separate vendor after translation, errors compound. Formatting and translation must be coordinated from day one, not bolted on at the end.

The Single-Partner Model That Closes the Gap

1

Terminology Management

Key civic terms locked before any translation begins -consistent across all language versions

2

Native-Speaker Translation & Review

Regional linguists plus independent QA - no single point of failure in the review chain

3

Multilingual DTP

Formatting handled inside the same workflow, not outsourced after the fact

4

Election Day Readiness

Structured pre-election audits to confirm staffing, materials, and access are all in place

Every Vote Deserves to Be Understood

Asian American communities are growing faster than the national average, but language barriers still stand between eligible voters and counted ballots. 1-StopAsia bridges that gap with end-to-end translation, review, and multilingual DTP built specifically for the precision and stakes of civic participation.

Contact 1-StopAsia

