

### **Limited English Proficiency Outreach Report**

This is the first of four semiannual reports describing King County Elections' outreach efforts to voters with limited English proficiency as required by Ordinance 17941, Section 34, Proviso 2. Languages referenced include the King County identified Tier 1 language Spanish; and the Tier 2 languages Vietnamese, Russian, Somali, Chinese, Korean, Ukrainian, Amharic, and Punjabi.

#### **Election Ambassador Program**

*Summary:* Create a King County Elections Ambassador Program by recruiting and training individuals fluent in English and in one of the identified languages who would serve as community advocates. Ambassadors would assist Elections with interpretation and facilitation services and create direct connections with communities to register citizens to vote and provide information on the voting process.

*King County Elections Strategic Plan Goal:* Broaden access and opportunities to vote for all eligible citizens.

*King County Elections Strategic Plan Strategy:* Conduct a full assessment of Limited English Proficiency (LEP) community's barriers to voting and related solutions/opportunities for minimizing them.

*Achievement:* Staff conducted over 10 interviews with local, regional, and out of state agencies to gather information about establishing an ambassador program. Upon data and key findings analysis, a recommendation on how best to proceed will be presented to department leadership by July 30, 2015.

#### **Instructional Brochure Translated**

*Summary:* Develop and translate a brochure into Tier 1 and 2 languages of instructional information about voting and elections.

*Achievement:* An instructional brochure has been created and translated into Tier 1 and 2 languages. Translated versions of the brochure are available electronically as part of the online Voter Education and Outreach toolkit. A hard-copy distribution plan is under development.

#### **Online Toolkit**

*Summary:* Produce an online toolkit for those conducting voter education and outreach containing materials and links to information for citizens to access and use for community engagement.

<http://www.kingcounty.gov/elections/voter-education-outreach.aspx>

*Achievement:* A Voter Education and Outreach web page has been created. Subject matter includes an accessible voting toolkit, educational videos, and key election dates and deadlines. The page also contains an outreach calendar for events such as Naturalization Ceremonies and local festivals around the county. Elections staff regularly attends these community outreach events and local naturalization ceremonies. Of the 29 community events attended to date this year, 19 were naturalization ceremonies, at which 603 new citizens were registered to vote.

Voter Registration forms from Office of the Secretary of State are currently offered in nearly all Tier 1 and 2 languages with the exception of Amharic and Punjabi. King County Elections is working with that office to best determine how to get these last two language translations for registration forms.

### **Mock Election in Primary and Secondary schools**

*Summary:* King County Elections will provide election materials and guidance to support a mock election program. Learning about the elections process through civics programs in schools encourages voting and participation.

*Achievement:* Three Renton high schools participated in a pilot in which ASB election ballots were designed by election staff to look like a King County election ballot. Approximately 2,500 students from Hazen, Lindbergh, and Renton high schools participated. The look-alike ballot can help de-mystify the voting experience when students become registered voters. Staff have conducted follow up interviews and will determine how best to offer this service to all King County school districts.

*King County Elections Strategic Plan Goal:* Increase awareness/civics education regarding elections.

*King County Elections Strategic Plan Strategy:* Increase partnerships with the education system to provide a civics curriculum that includes voting.

*Achievement:* In acknowledgement of Temperance and Good Citizenship Day, on January 16, 2015, Director Huff emailed the message below to all 20 King County school districts encouraging voter registration. That same day, staff conducted an education and outreach event at Lindbergh High School and was able to register 11 students.

Dear King County School Educators:

Happy New Year! I hope that you are having a successful school year. On behalf of King County Elections, I would like to take this opportunity to promote observance of Temperance and Good Citizenship Day on January 16. Elections is committed to reaching out to students and encouraging them to start the path toward civic participation. But we can't do it without you. We all have a role to play in empowering young people to become active and engaged in democracy. Please join us and help make this a day of action and awareness for students throughout King County.

Visit our voter education and outreach [website](#) for more information, especially [K-12 civics and government curriculum guides](#) and [a guide to registering voters](#). The need to reach eligible high school students to register and vote is key. Voting is the number one way to participate in democracy. Young people can be a powerful force in the electoral process, especially if they get involved early and make voting a lifelong habit. I urge you to encourage eligible students at your high school to [register to vote here](#).

King County Elections appreciates this opportunity to share some of the important work done by this office to engage our communities and in support of our mission statement.

*Mission Statement: With integrity and a commitment to innovation, we provide all citizens the opportunity to participate in and protect the democratic process.*