Translation Services for Elections

David Maeda
Director of Elections/Deputy Secretary of State
Agenda

- Translation requirements
- History of translation services
- State vs. local responsibilities
- Existing tools from Minnesota's OSS
- Upcoming tools from Minnesota's OSS
Voting Rights Act

Section 203 requires states to provide language assistance during elections to remove barriers for eligible voters.
Minnesota has provided translation services for elections since 1896.
State Ethnic Councils

Council on Asian Pacific Minnesotans

Council on Latino Affairs
Council on African Heritage
State vs. Local Responsibilities

Minnesota Office of the Secretary of State

- Create statewide tools in the appropriate languages
- Provide guidance and support for counties and municipalities

Counties, Cities, Towns & School Districts

- Ensure ballots are available in the appropriate languages
- Hire onsite interpreters
2016: Translated Voter Resources
2016: Translated Voter Resources

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VOTE DESDE SU HOGAR USANDO UNA BOLETA PARA VOTAR POR CORREO
2020: American Sign Language Resources

- Accessible absentee ballots
- Video factsheets
- Voter information hotline in American Sign Language
Lessons Learned

- Be aware of your blind spots
- Find community partners
- Ask for feedback, then listen
Upcoming
Translated
Voter Tools

Online Voter Registration
Online Voter Registration Check
Pollfinder
Absentee Ballot Application
Absentee Ballot Tracker
Questions/Contact Info

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