

HOW LANGUAGE ACCESS PROTECTS NEW YORK VOTERS

The NYVRA protects your rights as a New York voter

The 2022 John R. Lewis Voting Rights Act of New York sets a new standard for protecting voters of color at the state level. To learn about all its key provisions, visit www.naacpldf.org/new-york-voting-rights-act/.

How does the NYVRA protect voters whose first language is not English?

- The NYVRA requires language assistance in parts of New York State where it is not already required by federal law, providing more access for limited English proficient (LEP) voters.
- It also requires voting materials in covered languages to be "of an equal quality" to the corresponding English language materials.

Why do we need this provision?

- New York is one of the most populous and diverse states in the country, made up of a large number of LEP voters.
- LEP voters deserve the right to vote effectively in the language they understand.

What counts as a "covered language"?

- The NYVRA determines coverage based on the population of people who identify as LEP in a particular place and who speak a particular language.
- The NYVRA applies to assistance in Spanish, Asian languages, and Native American or Alaskan Native languages in certain parts of the state.

What protections are implemented for LEP voters?

- Accurate translations of election- and voting-related materials, including:
 - voter registration notices and forms,
 - ballots,
 - election instructions,
 - all other materials related to the electoral process.
- Oral assistance at polling sites.

THE
NEW YORK
VOTING RIGHTS ACT



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How do I report any issues related to language access in voting?

Call your local county board of elections.

Call Election Protection at 866-OUR-VOTE (866-687-8683). Assistance is also available in Spanish at 888-VE-Y-VOTA (888- 839-8682), in Arabic at 844-YALLA-US (844-915-5187), and Asian languages at 888-API-VOTE (1-888-274-8683). A video American Sign Language line is available at 301-818-VOTE (301-818-8683).

Contact the New York Attorney General office's voter protection hotline through phone, at 866-390-2992; email, at election.hotline@ag.ny.gov; or by filling out their Election Complaint Form online, at www.electionhotline.ag.ny.gov. Reports and complaints are accepted in any language.

Contact one of the organizations listed below.

The NYVRA makes New York a leader in language access and democracy. It signals to New York's voters that, regardless of the language you speak, you are a valued part of our state's democratic process and your voice matters.

Does the NYVRA provide more language assistance protection than the federal Voting Rights Act?

- Yes! The NYVRA lowers the threshold of the required voting age population for each particular language minority, covering languages in more jurisdictions than the federal Voting Rights Act.
- This expands language assistance protections for LEP voters throughout the entire state, instead of just the biggest hubs.

YOUR NEW RIGHTS UNDER THE NYVRA EXPLAINED. LANGUAGE ACCESS IS ESSENTIAL.

LEARN ABOUT THE KEY PROVISIONS OF THE NYVRA:
naacpldf.org/new-york-voting-rights-act