

1 AN ACT concerning elections.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 5. The Election Code is amended by adding Section
5 17-14.1 as follows:

6 (10 ILCS 5/17-14.1 new)

7 Sec. 17-14.1. Foreign language ballots.

8 (a) As used in this Section:

9 "Election information" means all information necessary for
10 the public to participate fully and freely in all elections,
11 including but not limited to, voter registration forms,
12 candidate qualifying forms (but not nomination petitions),
13 candidate information pamphlets, voter information pamphlets,
14 vote by mail and regular ballots, and information about poll
15 locations and hours of operation. "Election information" shall
16 not include the website of an election authority, but if an
17 election authority is required by this Section to provide
18 foreign language election information anywhere in its
19 jurisdiction, the front page of the website shall indicate how
20 persons speaking the foreign language or languages in the
21 jurisdiction can access foreign language election information.
22 The indication required in this subsection shall be in the
23 language or languages of the population that triggered the

1 applicability of this Section.

2 "Foreign language" means Chinese, Korean, Polish, Spanish,
3 and any combination of Gujarati, Hindi, and Urdu.

4 "Limited English proficiency" means a person who has been
5 estimated by the American Community Survey to speak English
6 less than "very well".

7 "Table B16001" means the dataset published by the U.S.
8 Census Bureau or American Community Survey titled "Language
9 spoken at home by ability to speak English for the population 5
10 years and over" and identified as Table B16001, or any
11 substantially similar dataset the U.S. Census or American
12 Community Survey publishes following any future survey.

13 (b) On or before June 1, 2016 and on or before June 1 of
14 every subsequent year ending in a 1 or a 6, each election
15 authority shall report to the State Board of Elections all
16 census tracts in its jurisdiction in which Table B16001
17 demonstrates that the American Community Survey has estimated
18 that more than 10% of the persons residing within that census
19 tract who speak the same foreign language have been identified
20 as having limited English proficiency. The election authority
21 shall use information from the most recent American Community
22 Survey estimate. The State Board of Elections shall make this
23 list publicly available on its website on or before June 30 of
24 the same year.

25 (c) Beginning with the general election held in 2016, any
26 election authority reporting census tracts to the State Board

1 of Elections pursuant to subsection (b) of this Section shall
2 make all election information available in the primary
3 non-English language of the persons having limited English
4 proficiency identified in Table B16001. Ballots in these
5 foreign languages need only be available to voters registered
6 in the precincts that overlap with the census tracts identified
7 in the reports required in subsection (b). If the foreign
8 language that triggers the applicability of this Section is the
9 combination of Gujarati, Hindi, and Urdu, then ballots shall be
10 made available in Hindi only, but the election authority shall
11 make a good-faith effort to recruit Gujarati and Urdu election
12 judges in precincts that overlap the census tracts where the
13 American Community Survey estimates Gujarati and Urdu speakers
14 reside.

15 (d) Nothing in this Section requires an election authority
16 to make election information available in the primary
17 non-English language of the Limited English Proficiency
18 persons prior to June 1, 2016.

19 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
20 becoming law.