

Dear Mr. Abbott:

Thank you for continuing to be in conversation with our coalition about language access for Wyandotte County voters. We are grateful to you for the steps you have already taken to expand Spanish-language resources of Wyandotte County voters. As we understand it, those steps include: providing links to Spanish-language election resources from the Secretary of State's office on your website, making Spanish-language voter registration forms available online and in hard copy, and an increased number of Spanish-speaking personnel in your office. These are meaningful steps, which we applaud and appreciate.

However, we believe that the most critical steps that your office could take in improving language access have not yet been implemented. We would like to take this opportunity to once again urge you to:

- Make all locally-produced materials and online content about Wyandotte County elections – including local elections – available in Spanish. We believe that the information your office currently makes available, through the Secretary of State's office, pertains only to state and federal elections, not to local/county ones or local processes.
- Make printed materials available at all in-person voting sites, as well as online, informing voters of their right to receive language assistance at the polls from an individual of their choice. We ask that you consider making these notices available in, at minimum, English and Spanish.
- Make Spanish-language ballots, sample ballots, and informational materials available upon request, both at in-person polling places and through the advance voting process.

Based on subsequent conversations that members of our coalition have had with the Director of Elections in the Secretary of State's office, we believe that these requests can be taken in a manner that is consistent with law, policy, and the resources available to your office.

We are mindful of the concerns that you presented to us at our November 2023 meeting, especially about the viability of making resources available in multiple languages. We write here to reaffirm that our only current request is that the above-referenced items be made available in Spanish. Although we would prefer for the office to make election information available in multiple languages, we are cognizant of the capacity challenge involved in such a project. The demographic realities of Wyandotte County mean that providing Spanish-language information is urgent and critical; there are nearly ten times as many Spanish speakers as the next largest language group.

We appreciate you for continuing to engage in dialogue with us about this important issue. We hope that you will consult with the Secretary of State's office about the specific requests we make above. We look forward to hearing back from you, and hope that we will be able to work together to promote language access, voter participation, and civic engagement in Wyandotte County.

Sincerely,

ACLU of Kansas
Advocates for Immigrant Rights and Reconciliation Kansas City
Cross-Border Network

El Centro
Equality KS
Loud Light
Mainstream Coalition
Voting Rights Network of Wyandotte County
The Voter Network
WyCo Mutual Aid

CC: Brian Caskey, Director of Elections, Kansas Secretary of State's Office