

Tick Segerblom, Chair
Clark County Board of Commissioners
500 S. Grand Central Pkwy
Las Vegas, Nevada 89155

RE: 2024 Language Access Plan

Dear Chair Segerblom and Clark County Commissioners,

All Voting is Local Action strongly supports and commends the efforts of the Clark County commissioners in implementing a countywide language access plan across all 38 departments, including the Election Department. This initiative is a significant step in dismantling language barriers for Clark County residents and fostering a culture of inclusivity.

The plan will improve communication between local government departments and residents whose primary language is not English, ensuring equitable access to government services. We recognize that the implementation process will not be easy. However, as the process unfolds, we urge the county to prioritize resources that include workforce development, such as bilingual speakers, allocating a budget for certified interpreters, and providing translated materials.

Since 2021, All Voting is Local Action has advocated for expanding language accessibility for Nevada voters. Every voter should have easy and convenient access to the polls, regardless of the language they speak. During the 2022 general election, All Voting is Local Action advocated to the AAPI Clark County Commission and the Election Department to provide voting information, sample ballots, and voting materials in Chinese. For context, in the most recent determination for Section 203 of the Voting Rights Act, Chinese Americans in Clark County missed the federal mandate by *fewer than 500 voters*. Available data revealed that there are 9,566 Chinese Americans of voting age whose primary language is not English and could benefit from having voting options, resources, and materials available in their native language. As a result, for the 2024 election cycle, Registrar Portillo has made voting instructions, registering to vote information, and a translated sample ballot available online in traditional Chinese.

We hope that as the language access plan is implemented, the Election Department will be given the budget to hire bilingual staff, provide translations, print materials in multiple languages, and purchase the necessary software to update voting machines to include Chinese characters – and more languages.

Lastly, we want to encourage the county to continue its cross-sector partnership with nonprofit organizations to better understand the community's language needs.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Kerry Durmick

kerry@allvotingislocal.org

Nevada State Director

All Voting is Local Action





June 18, 2024

Board of County Commissioners
Clark County
500 Grand Central Parkway
Las Vegas, NV 89155

Re: Support for the 2024 Clark County Language Access Plan

Dear Commissioners:

On behalf of Chispa and our membership -- nearly all of whom live and work in Clark County -- I would like to thank the County for moving forward with its 2024 Language Access Plan. We appreciate the hard work of County staff to draft the plan and look forward to working with staff to ensure effective implementation. The Language Access Plan is a critical step to ensure a more inclusive Clark County and support the ability of all County residents to be able to participate and benefit from government services. We encourage the Board to not only support the plan but provide appropriate funding to make sure this is implemented effectively.

Chispa Nevada, a program of the League of Conservation Voters, builds the power of low-income Latine families to have a say in the decisions that affect our environment. Black, Indigenous, Latine and communities of color are already experiencing the health consequences of environmental pollution and bearing the worst impacts of climate change: extreme heat waves, lasting drought, dirty air and a rising cost of living. Worse yet, our communities are bearing the burden of pollution we very often had no role in producing.

Key to addressing equity and promoting a healthy environment for all communities is providing inclusive services at the county level. As an organization that works closely with immigrant and limited English proficient community members, linguistic and cultural competency are essential for inclusion. For many of our members, language access is necessary in order to be able to participate in government programs. This not only includes ensuring proper translation of documents, but also, as outlined in the plan, providing the appropriate staffing and ensuring there are no partnership gaps so that services reach people. We appreciate the departmental approach taken in the plan and

believe this will be a first step to ensure that programs the County is pursuing to support our environment will have the participation of members of our community.

Our team looks forward to working with the County in implementation of the plan. We appreciate the collaborative approach that has been taken and ask the County to continue its work to ensure programs and services reach community members.

Thank you for your leadership on the 2024 Language Access Plan. We urge the Board to support and provide full funding for the plan.

Sincerely,

/s

Audrey Peral
Program Director
Chispa Nevada
1500 E. Tropicana Ave
Suite 226
Las Vegas, NV 89119

CC:

Chairman Tick Segerblom, District E
Vice Chairman William McCurdy II, District D
Commissioner Michael Naft, District A
Commissioner Marilyn Kirkpatrick, District B
Commissioner Ross Miller, District C
Commissioner Justin Jones, District F
Commissioner James Gibson, District G



Catherine Francisco
President
AAPI Chamber of Commerce
6675 S Tenaya Way, Suite 200
Las Vegas, NV 89113

July 1, 2024

Clark County Commissioners
Clark County Government Center
500 S. Grand Central Pkwy
Las Vegas, NV 89155

Dear County Commissioners,

On behalf of the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Chamber of Commerce, I am writing to express our strong support for Clark County's Language Access Plan. This initiative represents a critical step toward ensuring that all residents, and business owners regardless of their language proficiency, have equitable access to vital services, resources, and information.

Clark County is home to a richly diverse population, including a significant number of AANHPI individuals who speak a variety of languages. For many of these residents, limited English proficiency can be a substantial barrier to accessing essential services, participating fully in community life, and exercising their rights and responsibilities as members of our community. The Language Access Plan addresses these barriers by providing meaningful access to information, resources, and services in multiple languages.

We commend Clark County for recognizing the importance of language access and for taking proactive measures to meet the needs of its diverse residents. The implementation of this plan will not only enhance communication and understanding but also foster greater trust and engagement between the county government and the communities it serves.

We believe that the successful implementation of the Language Access Plan will set a positive example for other municipalities and organizations, demonstrating that diversity and inclusion are fundamental to good governance. The AAPI Chamber of Commerce is committed to supporting Clark County in this endeavor and is eager to collaborate in any way possible to ensure the plan's success.

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to making Clark County a place where all residents can thrive. We look forward to seeing the positive impact of the Language Access Plan

and to continuing our partnership with Clark County in promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'Catherine Francisco', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Catherine Francisco
President
AAPI Chamber of Commerce



**LATIN CHAMBER
OF COMMERCE NEVADA, INC.**
300 North 13th Street
Las Vegas, NV 89101
T (702) 385-7367
info@lvccc.com
www.lvccc.com

2024 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chairwoman

Sonia Joya
Office of Governor Joe Lombardo
Secretary-Treasurer
Debbie Holleran
BBQ Bill's Outdoor Kitchens
Assistant Secretary-Treasurer
Alex Vazquez
eXp Realty
Immediate Past-Chairman
Andres Estrada
Lamar Advertising Company

Directors

Maggie Arias-Petrel
Global Professional Consulting Inc.
Maite Salazar
3f Initiatives LLC
Walter Flores-Aguirre
New York Life
Zoila Sanchez

ADVISORY BOARD

Domingo Cambeiro
Domingo Cambeiro Corp. - Architects
Tony F. Sanchez, III
NV Energy

EXECUTIVE STAFF

Peter Guzman
President and CEO
Otto Mérida
President Emeritus

9:00 A.M. – JULY 2, 2024

Board of County Commissioners
500 S. GRAND CENTRAL PARKWAY, LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

To Whom It May Concern,

The Latin Chamber of Commerce, NV is writing to express strong support for the Clark County Language Access Plan. This plan is crucial in ensuring that all residents have equitable access to essential information and services, regardless of their language. The Latin Chamber of Commerce, NV supports the plan as it aims to ensure that all public communication, news, training, and outreach are conducted in an accessible and understandable manner. We also believe that incorporating the suggested changes—emphasizing professional translators to ensure cultural sensitivity for nuances and accuracy, along with a focus on cultural competency—will greatly benefit the people of Clark County. In a community as diverse as Clark County, ensuring the availability of important information and services provided by the county in an accessible way is a worthwhile and necessary step to ensuring that the many diverse communities that call the Las Vegas valley their home are able to navigate information and services as easily as possible. For these reasons, we advocate in support of the Clark County Language Access Plan. We encourage the Board of County Commissioners to prioritize the implementation of professional translation services and comprehensive, ongoing cultural competency training for staff.

Peter Guzman
President and CEO
Latin Chamber of Commerce Nevada

9:00 A.M. – JULY 2, 2024

Board of County Commissioners

500 S. GRAND CENTRAL PARKWAY, LAS VEGAS, NEVADA

To Whom It May Concern,

Planned Parenthood Votes Nevada is writing to express strong support for the Clark County Language Access Plan. This plan is crucial in ensuring that all residents have equitable access to essential information and services, regardless of their language.

Planned Parenthood Votes Nevada supports the plan as it aims to ensure that all public communication, news, training, and outreach are conducted in an accessible and understandable manner. We also believe that incorporating the suggested changes—emphasizing professional translators to ensure cultural sensitivity for nuances and accuracy, along with a focus on cultural competency—will greatly benefit the people of Clark County.

In a community as diverse as Clark County, ensuring the availability of important information and services provided by the county in an accessible way is a worthwhile and necessary step to ensuring that the many diverse communities that call the Las Vegas valley their home are able to navigate information and services as easily as possible.

For these reasons, we advocate in support of the Clark County Language Access Plan. We encourage the Board of County Commissioners to prioritize the implementation of professional translation services and comprehensive, ongoing cultural competency training for staff.

In Solidarity,

Lindsey Harmon, Executive Director

Planned Parenthood Votes Nevada