



ALEX PADILLA | SECRETARY OF STATE | STATE OF CALIFORNIA
ELECTIONS DIVISION

1500 11th Street, 5th Floor, Sacramento, CA 95814 | Tel 916.657.2166 | Fax 916.653.3214 | www.sos.ca.gov

July 1, 2020

Mr. Basim Elkarra
CAIR Sacramento Valley/Central California
1122 Del Paso Blvd.
Sacramento, CA 95815
Sent via email to belkarra@cair.com

Ms. Sukaina Hussain
CAIR Sacramento Valley/Central California
1122 Del Paso Blvd.
Sacramento, CA 95815
Sent via email to S.Hussain@cair.com

Ms. Christina E. Fletes-Romo
American Civil Liberties Union of
California (ACLU)
39 Drumm Street
San Francisco, CA 94111
Sent via email to CFletes@acluca.org

Mr. Luis Ojeda
American Civil Liberties Union of
Northern California (ACLU)
39 Drumm Street
San Francisco, CA 94111
Sent via email to lojeda@aclunc.org

Dear Mr. Elkarra, Ms. Hussain, Ms. Fletes-Romo, and Mr. Ojeda:

On behalf of the Secretary of State, I want to thank you for your June 23, 2020 letter requesting the provision of language access services to the Fresno County Arabic community, under California Elections Code sections (Sections) 12303 and 14201.

Our office remains committed to increasing language access services to voters across California and continues to expand these services in uncharted ways, such as, previously adding new language requirements under the Secretary's discretionary authority under Section 14201. As part of the Secretary's discretionary authority under Section 14201, subdivision (b), our office will indeed consider your request to add Arabic as a required language for Fresno County's next set of language determinations.

Section 14201, subdivision (f), requires the Secretary of State to make the determinations and findings set forth in subdivisions (a) and (b) by January 1 of each year in which the Governor is elected. The next determination is scheduled to take place by January 1, 2022. Our office appreciates the information you have provided in your letter, as it will assist us in making this next set of language determinations under Section 14201.

In addition, for this November 2020 General Election, we encourage you to engage and coordinate the recruitment of bilingual poll workers with the Fresno County Clerk/Registrar of Voters, Ms. Brandi Orth. In your facilitation of the recruitment of bilingual poll workers, Ms. Orth can provide more information on where interested bilingual poll workers can apply as well as the training requirements.

Mr. Elkarra
Ms. Hussain
Ms. Fletes-Romo
Mr. Ojeda

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Thank you for your partnership in seeking to increase language access to California's voters and sharing this valuable information with our office. If you have any questions, please contact me at (213) 335-1929.

Sincerely,

/s/ Lisa M. Alarcón

LISA M. ALARCÓN
Special Counsel
California Secretary of State

cc: Ms. Brandi Orth
Fresno County Clerk/Registrar of Voters
Sent via email to BOrth@fresnocountyca.gov