

ASIAN AMERICANS ADVANCING JUSTICE | CHICAGO'S  
POLL WATCHING REPORT  
CHICAGO 2023 MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS



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**ADVANCING  
JUSTICE**

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## I. PROJECT OVERVIEW

Asian Americans Advancing Justice | Chicago (“Advancing Justice”) served as a nonpartisan poll watching organization for Chicago’s February 28, 2023 general election (the “February 28th election”) and the April 4, 2023 runoff election (the “runoff election”). Advancing Justice started its poll watching program in 2003. Our program aims to ensure that all eligible voters have fair and equitable access to the polls, with particular attention to historically disenfranchised communities like Asian Americans and immigrants. We do this through observing voting conditions to help election officials identify and fix potential barriers to voting, including language access and disability access issues.

For Chicago’s 2023 municipal elections, Advancing Justice focused on monitoring polling locations in targeted Asian-language precincts pursuant to Section 203 of the Voting Rights Act (“Section 203” or “Section 203 of the VRA”). Section 203 covers the following languages or language groups in Cook County, Illinois: Spanish, South Asian<sup>1</sup> and Chinese. Advancing Justice also focused on monitoring polling locations where CBOE has voluntarily extended language assistance in Korean and Tagalog, and additional polling locations where we anticipated higher concentrations of Asian voters with limited English proficiency (“LEP”).

On February 28, 2023, our team of staff and volunteer poll watchers went to 105 precinct polling places and eight vote centers. On April 4, 2023, our poll watchers went to 106 precinct polling places and eight vote centers. We observed 99 percent of all Asian language precincts.<sup>2</sup> For a full list of the precinct polling places and vote centers monitored with the corresponding language(s), please refer to Appendices A and B.

Advancing Justice’s poll watching observations are detailed in Section III of this report. Overall, at almost all locations that we visited, translated ballots were available in the required languages. At most locations, we observed poll workers who were diligent, friendly, and eager to assist voters. We did not observe any major or systemic issues of electioneering or voter intimidation or harassment. When Advancing Justice sought to get a hold of CBOE to report priority issues such as missing translated ballots or concerns around potential voter harassment, we were able to reach and receive a response from CBOE promptly.

At the same time, we identified several systemic areas for improvement. For example, while most polling places have translated ballots, their availability is not well known or advertised. Overall, there is a need to increase public visibility and awareness on the types of assistance available for LEP voters and voters with disabilities. We also observed some locations without the required bilingual election judges. This was especially the case for Korean and Tagalog

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<sup>1</sup> In this report, “South Asian languages” or “South Asian language groups” refer to the following languages: Hindi, Gujarati and Urdu. Based on information and belief, after the U.S. Census Bureau expanded Section 203 coverage in Cook County, Illinois to “Asian Indian” language minority group in 2011, the CBOE has interpreted the law to require translated ballots and election materials in Hindi, and oral language assistance in Hindi, Gujarati and Urdu.

<sup>2</sup> For the purposes of this report, “Asian language precincts” refers collectively to those precincts where the CBOE is either required to or has voluntarily agreed to provide in-language assistance available for the following languages: Chinese, Hindi, Gujarati, Urdu, Korean and Tagalog.

language precincts. While our observations of poll workers lead us to believe that they are making their best efforts, we encountered election judges who were not familiar with the laws and requirements around language and disability access.

To improve access to voting, we have included recommendations for your office in Section IV of this report. These suggestions include: making improvements to poll worker training so that they are better equipped to assist LEP voters and voters with disabilities; developing polling place signs to increase visibility on the type of assistance and resources available for LEP voters and voters with disabilities; hiring staff with dedicated responsibilities over outreach to the Korean and Filipino communities; and continuing to strengthen relationships with community organizations and establishing channels for community feedback.

## II. METHODOLOGY

The information contained in Section III of this report, Election Day Observations, comes from poll watchers' responses to questionnaires. For every precinct polling place and voter center visited, poll watchers complete a questionnaire. These questionnaires are designed to assess each polling place's organization and activities. Following the election, Advancing Justice collects these questionnaires to review and analyze. This report summarizes our findings from that analysis. Because some questionnaires were not fully completed, percentages provided in Section III are calculated as a percentage of responses, rather than as a percentage of total precincts monitored. Percentage figures have been rounded as appropriate.

All Advancing Justice poll watchers are required to complete a 90-minute live, virtual training. The training covers language and disability access requirements, as well as poll watchers' rights and responsibilities under Illinois law.

Advancing Justice poll watchers were tasked with observing voting locations for compliance with language access laws, physical accessibility, and overall voting conditions, such as any voter harassment or electioneering. We also instructed poll watchers to identify themselves as nonpartisan observers, respect all requests from poll workers and election officials, and not disrupt the voting process in any way. On average, Advancing Justice's poll watchers observed each assigned polling place for twenty minutes. Advancing Justice also ran a helpline for our poll watchers to call if they have questions or observe any problems. For any serious issues reported, Advancing Justice escalated the matter to the CBOE.

### III. ELECTION DAY OBSERVATIONS

#### A. Translated Ballots and Election Materials

Section 203 of the Voting Rights Act mandates covered jurisdictions to provide language assistance in the form of translated voting materials and bilingual poll workers. Chicago is covered under Section 203 for Spanish, Chinese and South Asian languages. This means that all “voting notices, forms, instruction, assistance or other materials or information relating to the electoral process, including ballots” must be provided in the covered languages as well as English.

With at least 153 languages spoken in Chicago,<sup>3</sup> the language diversity in our city is remarkable. The needs of Chicago’s LEP voters exceed what is required under Section 203. The CBOE recognizes this, and has extended language assistance to additional languages. Specifically, the CBOE provides translated ballots and bilingual poll workers in certain precincts for Korean, Tagalog and Polish.

*With at least 153 languages spoken in Chicago, the language diversity in our city is remarkable. The needs of Chicago’s LEP voters exceed what is required under Section 203.*

Advancing Justice poll watchers were instructed to observe voting locations for the requisite translated materials. If poll watchers cannot find what they are looking for, they are instructed to speak

with an election judge or coordinator who is not actively assisting voters. Poll watchers use the questionnaires to document whether the translated ballots and materials are present or missing; and, if missing, whether poll workers were able to resolve the issue, usually by locating the missing material or making a request to CBOE’s Election Central (“Election Central”) for the missing material to be delivered.

#### 1. Translated Paper Ballots

For obvious reasons, the availability of translated ballots is especially important. Not only are translated ballots required for those languages covered under Section 203, but they are critical for voters with limited English proficiency to exercise their right to franchise.

Even with voting machines, the availability of translated paper ballots remains important as we observed some voters who had a stated preference for using paper ballots.

During the February 28th election, 98 percent of the precinct polling places we observed had the required translated paper ballots. The following two locations did not have the required translated paper ballots: **(1)** Ward 33, Precinct 20 (Ella Flagg Young Apartments) did not have Korean ballots, and **(2)** Ward 33, Precinct 10 (Jensen Park) did not have Hindi or Tagalog ballots.

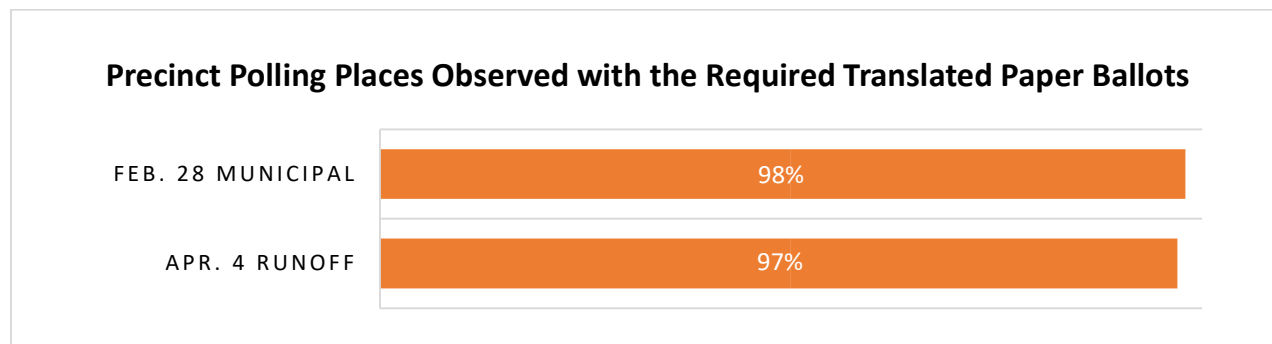
During the run-off election, 97 percent of the precinct polling places we observed had the required translated ballots. The following three locations did not have the required translated

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<sup>3</sup> See Press Release, US Census Bureau, Census Bureau Reports at Least 350 Languages Spoken in U.S. Homes (Nov. 3, 2015), <https://www.census.gov/newsroom/archives/2015-pr/cb15-185.html>.

paper ballots: **(1)** Ward 33 Precinct 10 (Jensen Park), again, did not have Hindi and Tagalog ballots; **(2)** Ward 45 Precinct 21 (Prussing School) did not have Tagalog ballots, and **(3)** Ward 50, Precinct 19 (Croatian Cultural Center) did not have Polish ballots.

Though Ward 33, Precinct 10 (Jensen Park) was a designated language precinct for Hindi and Tagalog<sup>4</sup> for both the February 28th and runoff election, the election judges at the location were not aware of this fact or the requirement to have paper ballots in Hindi and Tagalog.



## 2. Ballots via Touchscreen Voting Machines

Advancing Justice appreciates that all Chicago precinct polling places are equipped with a touchscreen voting machine. These machines are an important resource for voters with disabilities and LEP voters, as the machines have options for audio ballots and translated ballots in the following languages: Arabic, Chinese, Gujarati, Hindi, Urdu, Korean, Tagalog, Spanish, Polish, Russian and Ukrainian.

Advancing Justice poll watchers were tasked with observing whether the voting machines were in operation. Specifically, our poll watchers checked to see whether the machines were plugged-in and powered. In compliance with state law, our poll watchers were instructed not to touch the voting machines, and to remain at least five feet from the machines when they are in use. Our poll watching program does not offer an assessment of the machines' usability or navigation design.

We observed operable voting machines at ninety-eight percent of the precinct polling places we visited, both on February 28th and April 4th.<sup>5</sup>

Of course, the language-selection option on the voting machines can only be useful if poll workers and voters know about it. Most, but not all, of the poll workers we spoke to were aware that the voting machine offers translations in different languages. But even among those judges who knew about this feature, many of them expressed uncertainty over which specific language

<sup>4</sup> See Press Release, Chicago Board of Election Commissioners, Chicago Wards and Precincts with Limited English Proficiency (LEP) Assistance for Election Day on April 4th (Mar. 24, 2023).

<sup>5</sup> During the February 28th election, we observed two precinct polling places with voting machines that were out-of-operation: **(1)** Ward 40, Precinct 5 (Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram of Chicago), and **(2)** Ward 42, Precinct 4 (303 E Wacker Drive). During the runoff election, we similarly observed two polling places with machines that were out-of-operation: **(1)** Ward 12, Precinct 10 (Columbia Explorers), and **(2)** Ward 38, Precinct 13 (Granville Beach Condo).

translations are available through the voting machines. The Election Judge/Election Coordinator 2023 Handbook ("Election Judge Handbook") offers limited guidance. The handbook does not have a complete list of languages available via touchscreen. Instead, the handbook states that the touchscreen voting machine provides options for "any voter who prefers marking their ballot electronically in every available language (English, Spanish Chinese, Hindi and others)." The Handbook does not further define "others."

### 3. Exterior Signs

All voting locations are required to have an exterior "polling place" sign identifying the location as a polling place. If and where there is an accessible entrance, there should be an accessible entrance sign. For those precincts covered under Section 203 of the VRA, these signs should be translated in the required language(s): Chinese, Spanish, and Hindi.

For the February 28th election, 97 percent of the precinct polling places we observed had the required exterior polling place sign displayed. For the runoff election, 94 percent of the precinct polling places observed had the required exterior polling place signs displayed.

To mark the campaign-free zone, all voting locations are required to have two blue cones with the language, "No electioneering beyond this point," placed 100 feet from the voting room. During the February 28th election, we saw the cones outside at all the locations we observed. During the runoff election, we observed two locations that were missing blue cones: **(1)** Precinct 12, Ward 12 (Calmecca Academy), and **(2)** Precinct 50, Ward 23 (Clinton School). According to the election judges at these two locations, the cones were missing from their supplies.

Vote centers are defined as polling locations "where all voters in its jurisdictions are allowed to vote on election day during polling place hours, regardless of the precinct in which they are registered."<sup>6</sup> The majority of Chicago vote centers were also open as early voting sites during the early voting period. On election day, our poll watchers observed that the vote centers still had "early voting" signs posted outside the location. This was the case for all eight vote centers we observed on February 28th and April 4th. Our poll watchers did not see any exterior signs indicating the location was a "vote center."

### 4. Informational Materials

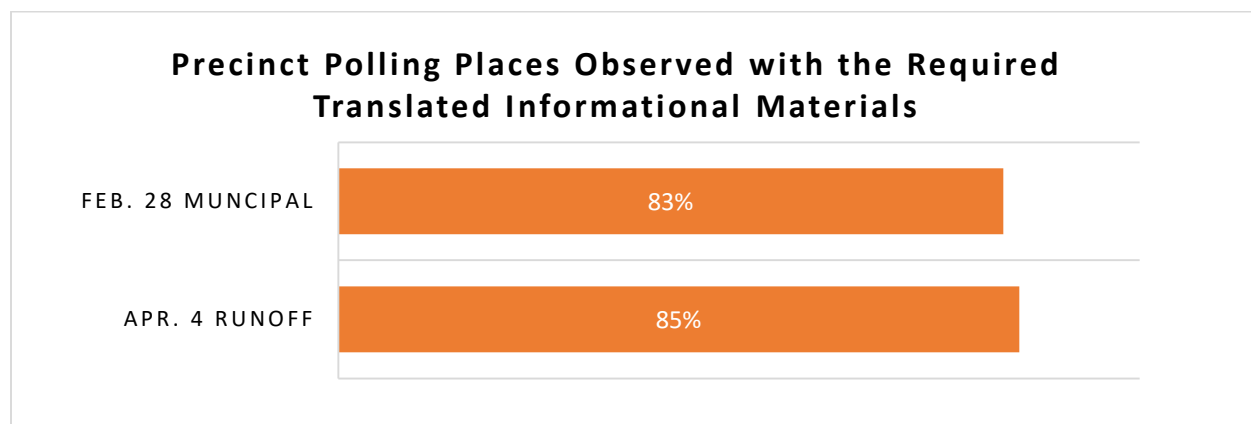
Advancing Justice poll watchers were also tasked with checking whether there were informational materials<sup>7</sup> properly displayed inside the polling place, and whether those materials are in the required Section 203 languages.

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<sup>6</sup> 10 Ill. Comp. Stat. 5/11-8.

<sup>7</sup> For the purposes of this report, "informational materials" refers collectively to the following signs: **(1)** "Need Help Voting?" aka "Form 25"; **(2)** "Election Day Registration & Voting" aka "Form 177Reg"; **(3)** "When Voters Do (And Don't) Need ID" aka "Form 251"; **(4)** "Bill of Rights for All Voters" aka "Form 253"; **(5)** "Voting Instructions" aka "Form 255"; and **(6)** "Are you registered to vote at your current address?" aka "Form 256."

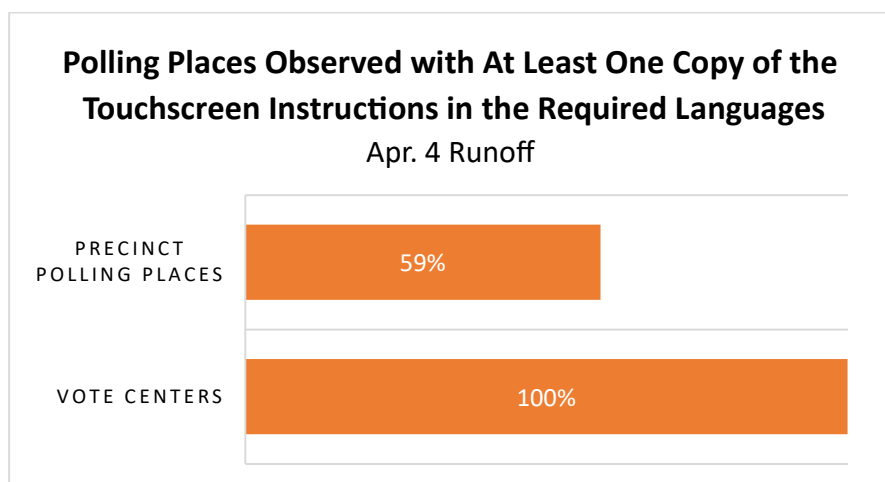
During the February 28th election, 83 percent of the precinct polling places we observed posted the required translated informational materials. During the run-off election, 85 percent of the precinct polling places we observed had posted the required translated informational materials.



### 5. Touchscreen Instructions

The current touchscreen voting machines were introduced to Chicago in 2020. As with any new technology, a learning curve is expected. Advancing Justice poll watchers first noticed the “touchscreen instructions” signs during the February 28th general election. These signs provide step-by-step instructions on how to use the machine. We understand that the CBOE had printed these signs in, at least, the following languages in addition to English: Chinese, Hindi, Spanish, Korean and Tagalog. During the February 28th election, our questionnaire did not explicitly direct Advancing Justice poll watchers to look for these signs. We, therefore, did not collect sufficient information to determine whether these signs were available, translated and properly displayed at Asian language precincts on February 28th. Our questionnaires were updated for the April 4th runoff election to track that information.

*While all the vote centers observed had a copy of the touchscreen instructions, none of them had enough to place one at every touchscreen.*



For the runoff election, only 59 percent of polling locations observed had the touchscreen instructions displayed in the required languages. We found that a common reason these instructions were not displayed was because poll workers did not know about them. We heard from many election judges who said they did not know what the “touchscreen instructions”



signs looked like and had not realized that the signs were in their supplies. After being informed by our poll watchers, many of these election judges were able to locate and post the instructions.

Additionally, the Election Judge Handbook does not offer guidance on the touchscreen instructions. Though the handbook includes a checklist of required signs, the touchscreen instructions is not included in that list.<sup>8</sup> The handbook also includes sample images of the different signs for reference, but an image of the touchscreen instructions is not included.<sup>9</sup>

*The touchscreen instructions were printed on a single page, double-sided . . . We heard from election judges who were unsure about how to display these signs, as taping one side of the sign inside the voting booth would necessarily conceal the other.*

Another issue with the touchscreen instructions had to do with how they were printed. The instructions were printed on a single page, double-sided. The English and Spanish versions are on opposite sides of the same page, as with Chinese and Hindi, and Korean and Tagalog. We heard from election judges who were unsure about how to display these signs, as taping one side of the sign inside the voting booth would necessarily conceal the other.

At vote centers, voting by touchscreen is the only option, as paper ballots are not used at these locations. All the vote centers we visited on April 4th had the required translated touchscreen instructions displayed. However, we heard from election judges who were uncertain and confused about how many copies of the instructions they should have, and where they should be placed. None of the eight vote centers we visited had enough translated touchscreen instructions to post on each of the voting booths. For example, the vote center located at North Park Village Administrative Building in the 39th ward was provided with only one copy of the voting instructions. Poll workers there posted the instructions on one of the voting booths while the other seven booths did not have instructions.

## B. Poll Worker Attendance and Bilingual Poll Worker Availability

A fully staffed polling place is critical to its overall operations.<sup>10</sup> For the February 28 election, we calculated an average of 5.4 election judges per precinct polling place. For the runoff election, the average was slightly lower at five election judges per precinct. Still, we observed polling places that were understaffed. On February 28th, we observed 29 precinct polling places that had less than five election judges. On April 4th, we observed 28 precincts with less than five election judges, four of those locations had only two election judges, and one location had only one election judge. The location observed with only one election judge was within a combination polling site, where the election judges at the neighboring precinct were able to offer some assistance.

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<sup>8</sup> See Chicago Board of Election Commissioners, Election Judge/Election Coordinator 2023 Handbook at page 41.

<sup>9</sup> *Id.* at 42-43.

<sup>10</sup> According to the Election Judge Handbook, "at least five Judges" should be assigned to each precinct.

**1. Bilingual Election Judge Attendance**

Bilingual election judges are uniquely positioned to help ease the voting process for voters with limited English proficiency. Under Section 203 of the VRA, the CBOE must staff the targeted precincts for Chinese, South Asian languages and Spanish with poll workers fluent in English and the corresponding language. The CBOE has also voluntarily committed to staffing certain locations with bilingual election judges fluent in Korean and Tagalog.

To determine the number of election judges and bilingual election judges at a precinct, Advancing Justice poll watchers surveyed the election coordinator, or alternatively, the election judges on location. The below table shows the total number of bilingual judges observed by language or language group; the number of language precincts we monitored for that language or language group; and the ratio of bilingual judges to precinct polling place based on those two figures.

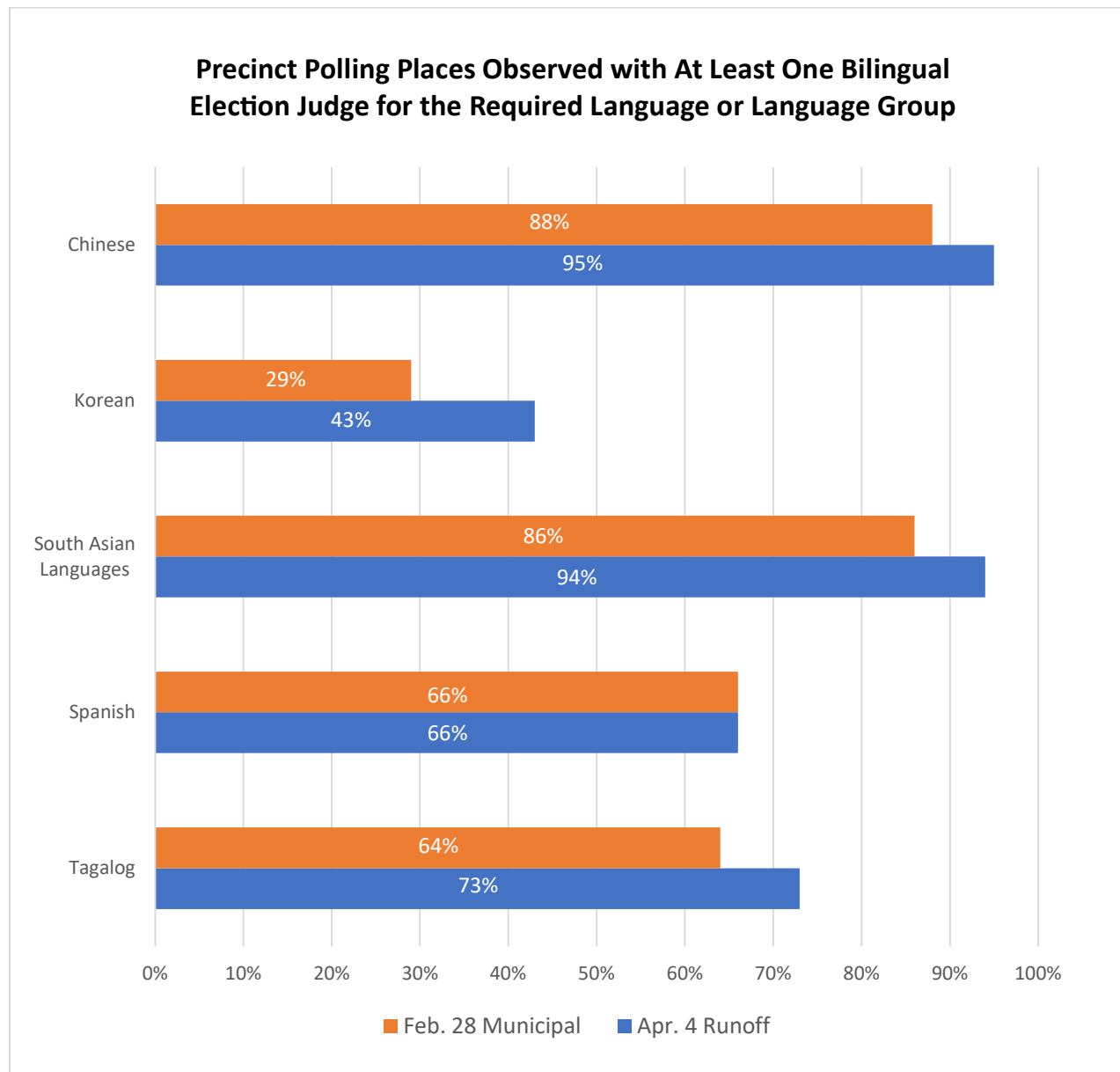
**Ratio of Bilingual Judges to Language Precinct Polling Place**

*The numbers in **the orange rows** are associated with the Feb. 28th election. The numbers in **the blue rows** are associated with the April 4th runoff election.*

	Number of Bilingual Judges on Election Day	Number of Precinct Polling Places Visited by Advancing Justice	Ratio of Bilingual Judges to Precinct Polling Place
<b>CHINESE</b>	74	59	<b>1.25</b>
	77	59	<b>1.31</b>
<b>KOREAN</b>	3	7	<b>0.43</b>
	4	7	<b>0.57</b>
<b>SOUTH ASIAN</b>	50	36	<b>1.39</b>
	55	35	<b>1.57</b>
<b>SPANISH</b>	58	65	<b>0.89</b>
	48	63	<b>0.76</b>
<b>TAGALOG</b>	7	11	<b>0.63</b>
	9	11	<b>0.81</b>

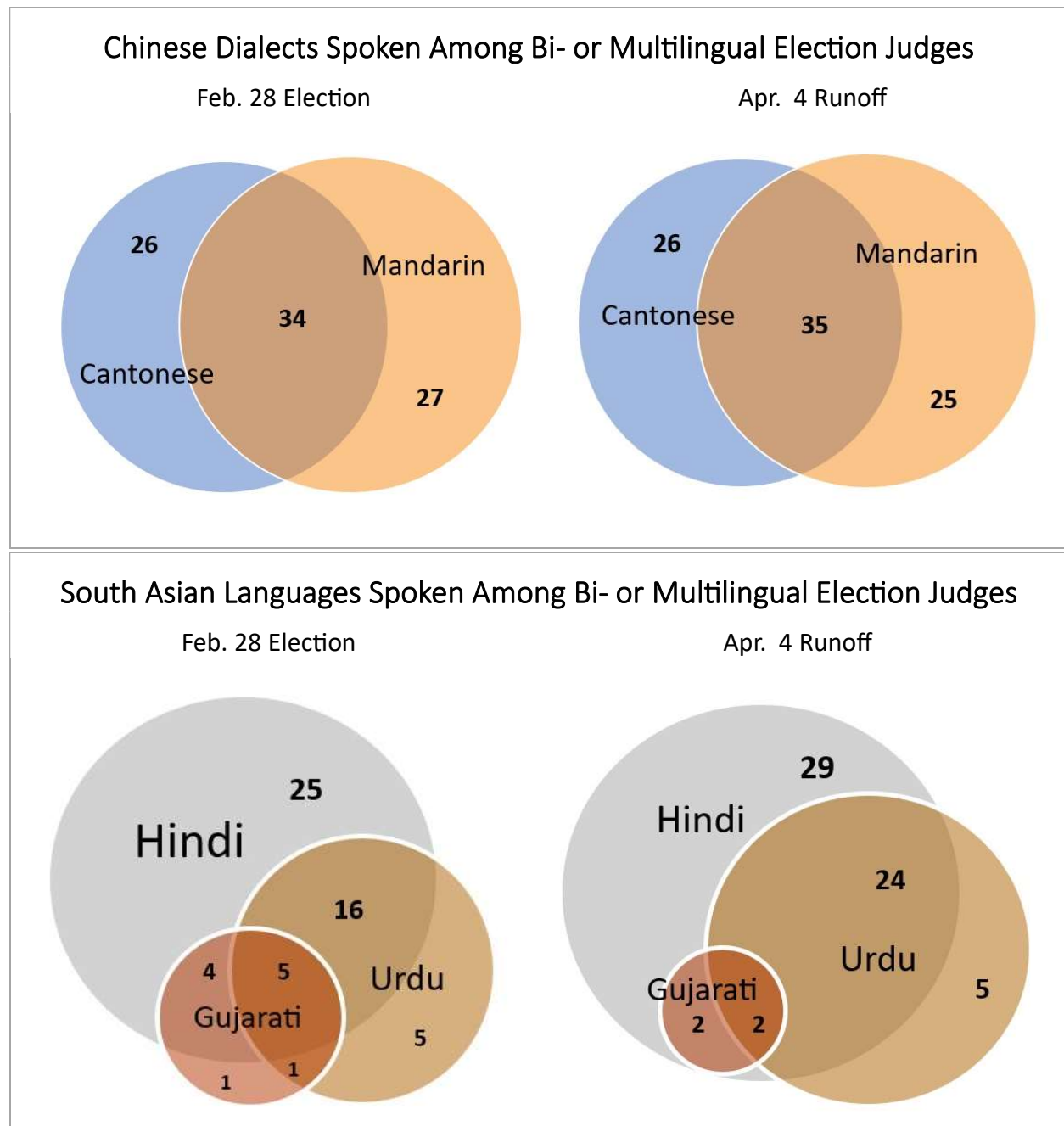
Bilingual judges are not necessarily evenly distributed across language precincts. Some precinct polling places had multiple bilingual judges, while other polling places observed had one or none. Advancing Justice recognizes that there may be valid reasons for why some polling places may have more bilingual judges than others. For instance, some precincts may have a higher concentration of LEP voters, thus requiring additional staffing. Still, all designated language precincts should have *at least* one bilingual election judge for the requisite language(s). The CBOE did not fully meet this requirement.

The below chart shows the percentages of precincts observed that had at least one bilingual election judge for the required language. Overall, the percentages fared slightly better for the runoff election than on February 28th. The Chinese and South Asian language precincts were close to full compliance for the runoff election, with 95 and 94 percent of the precincts staffed with at least one bilingual election judge who speaks the required language, respectively. Generally, compliance was stronger for the Section 203 languages (Chinese, Spanish, South Asian languages) compared with Korean and Tagalog. Notably, less than half of the Korean-language precincts had a Korean-speaking poll worker on site for both election days. Though Advancing Justice observed only a subset of the Spanish language precincts in Chicago, 34 percent of those precinct polling places did not have any Spanish-speaking poll workers.



## 2. Diversity of Languages & Dialects at South Asian and Chinese Language Precincts

Dialects and languages spoken among the bilingual election judges assigned to the Chinese and South Asian language precincts are varied. During the municipal elections, our poll watchers surveyed bilingual election judges assigned to the Chinese and South Asian language precincts on what dialects and languages they speak. Their responses are reflected in the below diagrams, which show the number of judges who identify as fluent in the corresponding language(s). Here, it should be noted that the CBOE and this report uses the term “bilingual election judges” to refer to election judges that speak *at least* two languages – English and the one of the languages required for their assigned precinct. However, as indicated below, many of these election judges are multilingual, speaking more than two dialects or languages.

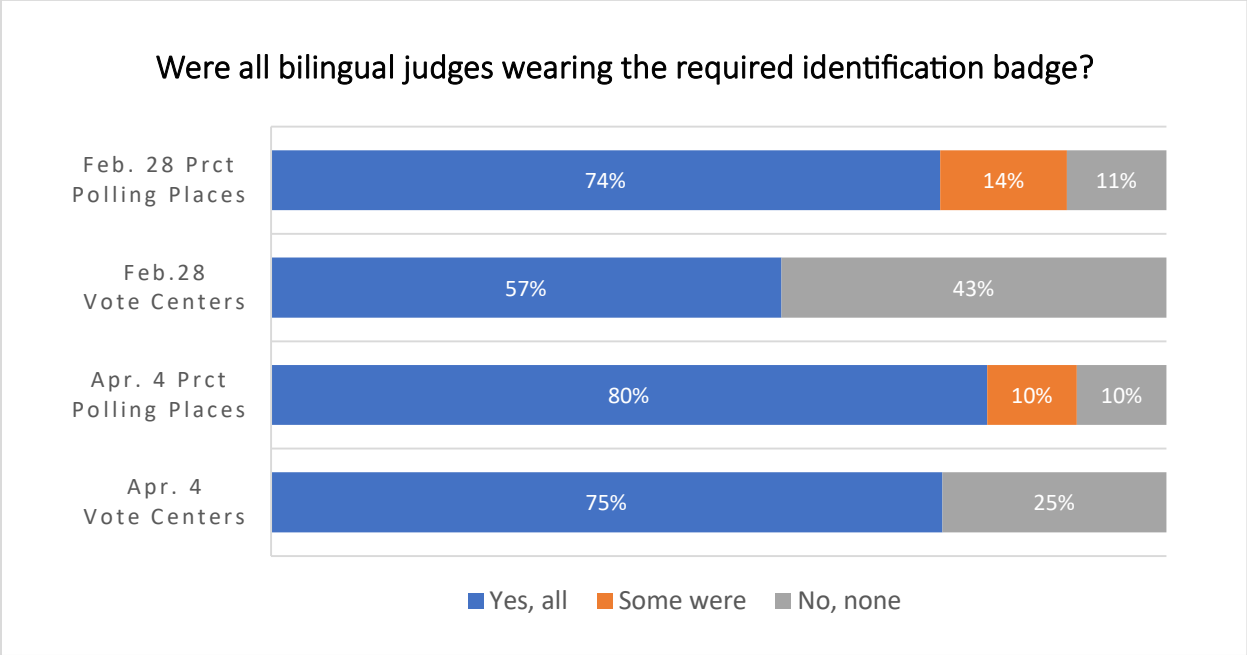


### 3. Identification Badges for Bilingual Election Judges

Bilingual election judges are required to wear identification badges identifying themselves and the languages they speak. Among those precincts that had bilingual staff, not all the bilingual election judges were observed wearing the required badges. In these situations, Advancing Justice poll watchers were instructed to speak with election judges to learn why the badges were not being worn. We found that reasons for noncompliance varied. Some election judges forgot to put on their badge, while others did not know that wearing the identification badge was a requirement. Other judges could not locate the badges in their materials, or were not provided with enough badges. Intentional noncompliance was not observed. All judges were agreeable to putting on their identification badge when requested.

The below chart shows the percentage of polling places we observed where (a) all bilingual judges were seen wearing their identification badges, (b) some bilingual judges were wearing their badges, and (c) none of the bilingual judges had on their badges. During the February 28th election, 74 percent of precinct polling places we observed with bilingual judges were in full compliance with the identification-badge requirement. Fourteen percent of the precincts observed were in partial compliance, with some, but not all, of the bilingual election judges wearing the required badges. Eleven percent of the precincts were noncompliant, with none of the bilingual judges wearing the required identification. We observed some improvement during the runoff election. On April 4th, 80 percent of the precinct polling places were in full compliance.

Similarly, at vote centers, we saw a marked improvement between February 28th and April 4th. Only 57 percent of the vote centers were fully compliant with the identification-badge requirement on February 28th compared to 75 percent on April 4th. Many of the election judges that worked on February 28th returned to work for the runoff election, suggesting that a reason for improvement may be increased familiarity with the requirement, potentially resulting from interactions and information shared between our poll watchers and election judges.



Having identification for bilingual judges is important for several reasons. Voters with limited English proficiency may not know – and often do not expect – that language assistance is available. Even if a voter is aware that language assistance is available at a precinct, without poll workers wearing identifying badges, a voter is left to their own devices in figuring out who to approach for help. Similarly, it then becomes up to the bilingual election judges to identify voters who appear to them to speak a different language. In addition to being inefficient, this process may stray into a problematic practice of visually profiling language speakers.

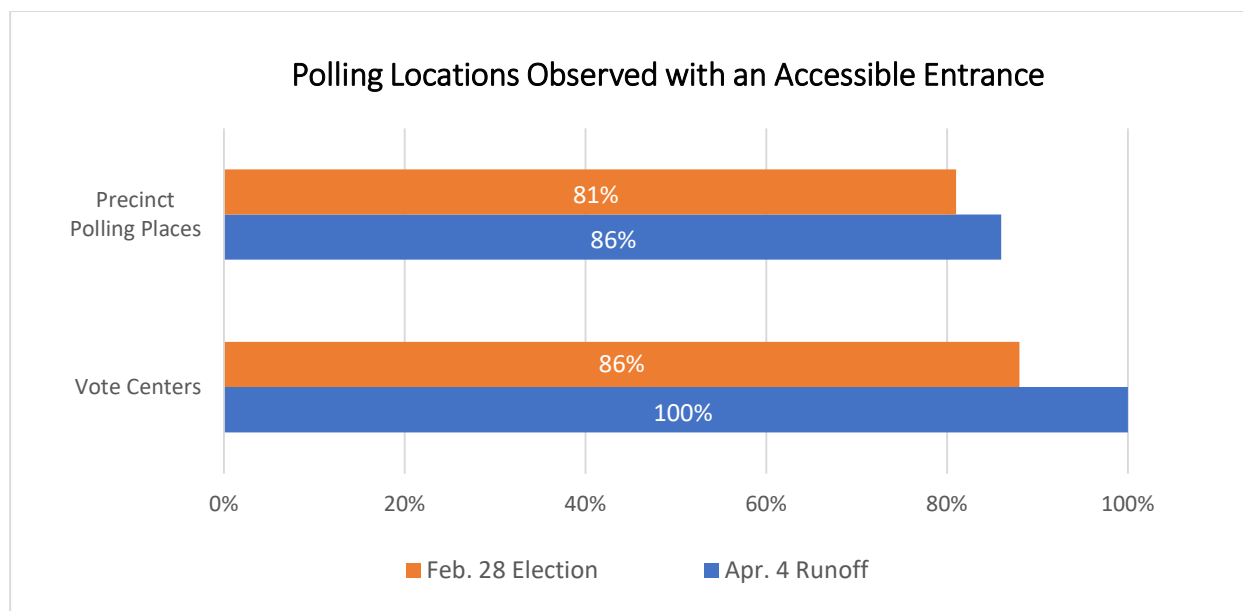
### C. Accessibility for Voters with Disabilities

Advancing Justice poll watchers also examined potential obstacles for voters with physical disabilities. Under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Help America Vote Act, voting facilities must meet certain standards for accessible design. Those standards include, but are not limited to, providing accessible parking, ensuring sufficient clearance in doorways and pathways, having accessible voting systems where individuals can vote in privacy, and supplying auxiliary aids like magnifiers and signature guides.

Our poll watchers observed the outside vicinity of polling places to identify **(1)** whether there is a door to the polling place that is propped open, has an accessible button, or can otherwise be opened with light pressure or through the assistance of an attendant. Our poll watchers also checked to see whether **(2)** a voter can enter at least one entrance to the building without going up or down any stairs. If either of these criteria were unmet, we consider the entrance to be non-accessible. On February 28th, 19 percent of the precinct polling places we visited lacked an accessible entrance. The runoff election fared slightly better – 14 percent of the precincts we visited on April 4th did not have an accessible entrance.

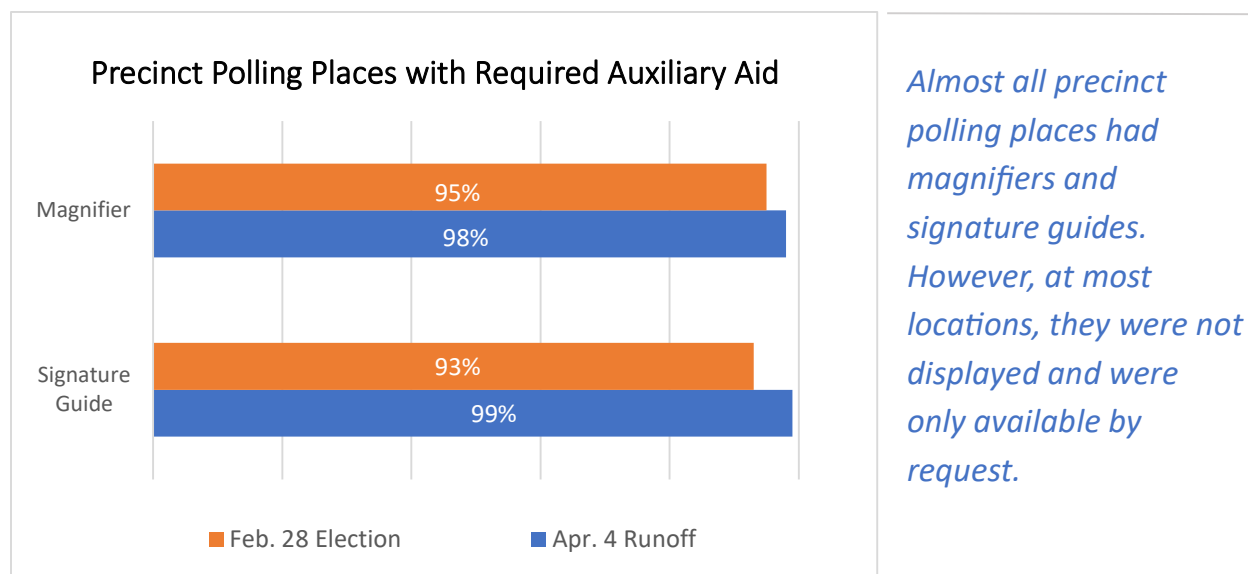
We noticed that many of the accessible-entrance issues observed on February 28th were at polling places located within schools. At some of these locations, doors were locked from the outside and could only be opened from the inside. Based on our conversations with poll workers, we understand that this is often due to the schools' rules and regulations around safety and security, and typically is not within election judges' control. For instance, we heard from poll workers who tried propping the doors open, but were later instructed by school personnel to keep the doors closed. Some election judges arranged to have a poll worker stationed near the doorway to open the door for voters. At other locations, school security staff assisted with letting voters into the building.

When our poll watchers returned on April 4th for the runoff election, we observed an improvement at some of these locations. Specifically, many of the schools that had locked doors on February 28th did not on April 4th. We understand that this may be attributed to Chicago Public Schools being closed on April 4th for Spring break.



All vote centers in Chicago are supposed to be fully ADA compliant.<sup>11</sup> Indeed, nearly all the vote centers we visited had an accessible entrance, with one exception on February 28th at North Park Village Administrative Building (“North Park Village”).

Inside the voting location, Advancing Justice poll watchers checked for the availability of magnifiers (aka ballot viewers) and signature guides. For both the February 28th election and runoff election, over 90 percent of the precinct polling places we visited were equipped with these tools. Though the Election Judge Handbook directs poll workers to place these auxiliary aids “out on a table, so voters can see them,” most of these locations did not do so. Instead, the magnifying glass and signature guide were often only made available upon request.



*Almost all precinct polling places had magnifiers and signature guides. However, at most locations, they were not displayed and were only available by request.*

<sup>11</sup> See Press Release, Chicago Board of Election Commissioners, Chicago Board of Elections Releases New Accessibility Tiers for Polling Places Ahead of Election Day on Feb. 28th (Feb. 8, 2023).

Advancing Justice poll watchers were also instructed to assess whether polling locations were wheelchair accessible inside. Specifically, our poll watchers were asked to check whether there was at least five feet of open space around the touchscreen voting machine and lowered voting booth. They were also asked to assess the voting room generally to see whether there was sufficient width (5+ ft) for wheelchair mobility. On February 28th, we observed three locations with wheelchair accessibility issues: **(1)** Prairie Shore Apartments, **(2)** Congregation Kehilath Jacob Beth Samuel; and **(3)** Holden Elementary School. At Prairie Shore Apts., the lowered booth did not have sufficient space around it to provide adequate room for wheelchair users. Poll workers there informed us that they had attempted to reorganize the space for compliance; however, the voting room was too small. Congregation Kehilath Jacob Beth Samuel ("KJBS") was a combination polling site, housing two precinct polling places. Perhaps under normal circumstances the voting room inside KJBS would be sufficiently spacious for a person to navigate in a wheelchair; however, on February 28th, there was water damage inside the building that caused a part of the voting room to be sectioned-off. At Holden Elementary School, the voting room was located on the second floor of the building, and was only accessible by going up a flight of stairs as the elevator was out-of-order.

During the runoff election, we observed three locations with wheelchair accessibility issues: **(1)** Prairie Shore Apt, **(2)** Burroughs School, and **(3)** Armour Square Apt. Though we do not have a detailed account of the accessibility issue at Burroughs School, there was a large pool table in the voting room at Armour Square Apartments which restricted the space for a wheelchair user to navigate the room.

#### D. Other Observations

##### **1. Helpful, Proactive and Friendly Poll Workers**

Overwhelmingly, Advancing Justice poll watchers documented positive observations regarding election judges and coordinators' professionalism and competence. Many of our volunteers and staff described poll workers as helpful, proactive and friendly. Election judges and coordinators welcomed our poll watchers and graciously answered their questions.

Advancing Justice did not observe any improper behavior from poll workers.

At one polling location, we observed an assigned bilingual judge proactively greeting voters in their assigned language. This simple gesture effectively signals to voters that bilingual assistance is available, and LEP voters are welcome at the polling place.

##### **2. Voter Confusion Regarding Precinct Polling Place Location**

During the municipal elections, poll watchers reported several instances across the city where they observed voters going to the wrong precinct polling place. Based on our observations, election judges responded properly by directing voters to their correct precinct polling place. In some, but not all, of these instances, election judges relayed to voters the additional option of going to a vote center. Election judges did not appear to have information regarding vote centers readily available. For example, precinct polling places were not equipped with signs or flyers with information about vote centers.



### **3. For Some, Voting by Paper Ballots is the Method of Choice**

Though touchscreen voting machines have features that make them an accessible option for voters with disabilities and voters with limited English proficiency, we observed some voters who prefer using paper ballots. For example, at one precinct polling place, we observed a voter with visual impairment who stated their preference for using paper ballots. The voter insisted that they did not want to use the touchscreen voting machine. The election judges at that location respected this voter's preference, and assisted the voter by providing them with a magnifier. The election judges also offered to read the ballot aloud to the voter, if helpful.

### **4. Poll Workers Skeptical About Election Central's Interpretation Services**

At polling places that were not staffed with the requisite bilingual judges, our poll watchers were instructed to verify with the election judges if they are aware that they can call Election Central for language interpretation services. Though most of the election judges we spoke to were aware generally aware of this fact, almost none of them had ever tried calling Election Central for interpretation services, even if the need arose.

At one location, for example, an election judge told us that they had a couple LEP voters who needed assistance, and none of the poll workers spoke the voters' preferred languages. Instead, of calling Election Central, the election judge said that they eventually managed to help the voters through communicating with them through "broken English." When asked why they did not try calling Election Central, the election judge explained that Election Central is busy and they did not want to bother them.

Many of the election judges we spoke with also were not sure for which languages Election Central was equipped to assist. The election judge handbook does not provide further guidance on this other than stating that "[t]here are speakers of various languages available in Election Central."

### **5. LEP Assistance is Not Readily Visible at Polling Places**

Despite LEP assistance being available through features like touchscreen voting machines, our poll watchers shared that, when you enter a polling place, it is not clear that any assistance for LEP voters is available. This is because, as discussed above, many bilingual poll workers were observed not wearing their identification badges. The translated paper ballots are not displayed, and there are no signs informing voters that they are available. To get a translated paper ballot, voters need to request one from an election judge. Similarly, there are no signs notifying voters about the touchscreen voting machine's accessibility features. Taken altogether, these observations lead us to question whether accessibility features being offered are being underutilized due to a lack of awareness among voters.

### **6. Entrance to Voting Place was Not Always Clear**

Our poll watchers observed that the entrance to polling places were not always clear and can be confusing when the polling place is housed in a building with multiple entrances. Even when the location has an exterior sign, the correct entrance can be hard to locate in large buildings with multiple entry ways. This may be due to insufficient directional signs being provided to

poll workers. At the following locations, our poll watchers observed voters who had difficulty locating the correct entrance to the polling place: **(1)** Hibbard School, **(2)** Clinton School, **(3)** Budlong School, and **(4)** Volta School.

#### IV. RECOMMENDATIONS

##### A. Increase Public Familiarity with Touchscreen Machines' Accessibility Features

The touchscreen voting machines have features that make them an accessible option for voters with disabilities and voters with limited English proficiency. Our observations, however, raise questions as to whether voters and poll workers are aware of the machines' accessibility features. The following recommendations aim to educate voters and poll workers on these accessibility features so that touchscreen machines can be used for their intended purpose.

- ❖ **Update the Election Judge Handbook to provide instruction and guidance on the "touchscreen instructions" sign and languages available through the touchscreen voting machines.** As mentioned above in Section III(A), we encountered many election judges who did not know what the "touchscreen instructions" were or what they looked like. As a result, many election judges inadvertently failed to post these signs. Though the Election Judge Handbook includes a helpful list of signs election judges should post and images of these same signs, this list does not include the "touchscreen instructions." The handbook should be updated to include the "touchscreen instructions" sign and to also include the full list of language translations that are available through the touchscreen voting machines.
- ❖ **Create a laminated placard that lists the language translations and accessibility features available through the touchscreen.** There should be a notice at every polling location to clearly inform voters about the touchscreen machines' accessibility features. Updating the handbook is important to inform poll workers, but clear notice should also be given to voters. We recommend that CBOE create a laminated placard to let voters know about all the accessibility features of the touchscreen machines, including a clear list of all the language options available.
- ❖ **Print touchscreen instructions single-sided, so that there is one language per placard.** As mentioned above in Section III(A), the double-sided printing caused confusion that can be easily avoided by single-side printing.
- ❖ **Supply polling places with enough touchscreen instructions so that a copy can be posted on the privacy screen of *each* machine.** Touchscreen instructions are most useful if voters using the touchscreens can cross-reference the instruction. This is especially important because poll workers are not permitted to show voters how to use the touchscreen unit.<sup>12</sup> Instead, poll workers can direct the voter to the

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<sup>12</sup> See Chicago Board of Election Commissioners, Election Judge/Election Coordinator 2023 Handbook at page 59.

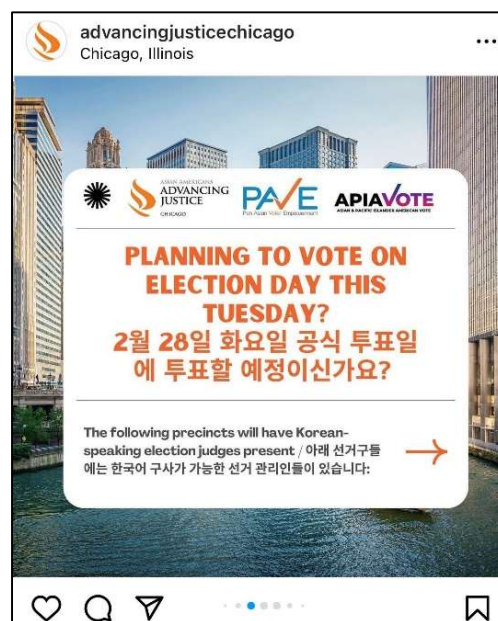
instruction panel, or read the instructions aloud. As such, it is all the more important for the instructions to be placed at each of the voting machines. This was an issue at the vote centers during the April 4th runoff. Though all the vote centers we visited had at least one copy, none of the vote centers had enough instructions to place at each of the machines. For future elections, we recommend requiring touchscreen instructions at every voting machine.

- ❖ **Continue to provide voting machine demonstrations to the community.** Ahead of the municipal election, CBOE's community outreach staff worked with community organizations to provide voting machine demonstrations to the public. Our poll watchers observed LEP and disabled voters at the polls who expressed preference for paper ballots over using the touchscreen machines. Our poll watchers also heard from election judges at vote centers who felt stretched or short-staffed given the high demand coming from voters in need of help with using the touchscreen machines. Advancing Justice recommends that the CBOE continue to provide public voting machine demonstrations. As discussed in more detail below, CBOE can work with community organizations to identify such opportunities and communities that may benefit most from these demonstrations.

## B. Continue to Create Channels for Community Engagement

The CBOE should continue to work collaboratively with community organizations and leaders. The Department of Justice recognizes that an effective outreach program needs to be "an ongoing exercise" – requiring regular assessment, analysis, and improvement -- given the ever-evolving nature and needs of the community.<sup>13</sup> A regular channel of communication between the CBOE, community organizations, and leaders from historically marginalized communities is a starting point. Beyond that, community organizations and leaders should be brought into decision-making processes that directly impact their constituents.

Advancing Justice is encouraged by positive outcomes achieved through collaboration between the CBOE and community organizations. For example, after receiving feedback from community organizations, the CBOE published its list of wards and precincts with LEP assistance on its website and through a press release ahead of the municipal elections.



<sup>13</sup> The U.S. Dept. of Justice, Language Minority Citizens, <https://www.justice.gov/crt/language-minority-citizens> (last visited July 18, 2023) ("The best-informed sources of information are people who are in the minority community and those who work with it regularly.").

Community organizations further amplified the CBOE's press release by publicizing that information through their channels.

The following recommendations aim to strengthen the CBOE's community partnerships:

- ❖ **Consult with community organizations on new election initiatives, election materials and processes.** The CBOE should have a community review process that gives community organizations and leaders an opportunity to review and provide feedback on drafts of new or updated election materials, including electronic materials. Community review is important to ensure the accuracy and quality of translations. For web content, community review is also important for testing design features to ensure that design supports accessibility.
- ❖ **Engage with poll workers in-between election cycles.** The CBOE should deepen its engagement with election judges, especially bilingual election judges – whose recruitment can be particularly challenging. Before working the polls, election judges are required to attend a training session. It is our understanding that CBOE's contact with election judges typically does not extend far beyond that. The CBOE should maintain contact with election judges beyond the immediate election cycle. Collecting election judge feedback immediately after an election, for example, can provide useful information on best practices to retain and recruit poll workers. Election judges may also have unique insight on voter experiences, given their high volume and direct contact with voters. Election judges may also be interested in volunteering with the CBOE's community outreach staff. For example, they may be interested in helping to provide public demonstrations of the voting machines. Maintaining meaningful contact with election judges will support the CBOE's poll worker recruitment and retention efforts.
- ❖ **Create a public bulletin to increase transparency and uplift the work of CBOE's community outreach team.** The CBOE has dedicated community outreach staff, whose responsibilities include outreach to LEP voters. The CBOE's community outreach team does important work. However, there does not appear to be a dedicated webpage, calendar or bulletin where community members can go to learn about upcoming outreach events. Having a public bulletin would not only increase transparency, but would also support and amplify the important work being done by the CBOE's community outreach staff.

C. Employ Full-time Community Outreach Staff Fluent in Korean and Tagalog

Recruitment of Korean and Tagalog speaking election judges lagged compared to the other languages, as discussed above in Section III(B). Advancing Justice made similar observations during the November 2022 general election. There was stronger recruitment for the other languages, where CBOE has full-time bilingual staff with dedicated community outreach responsibilities.

The CBOE should employ full-time bilingual Korean and Tagalog-speaking staff. We understand that the CBOE has full-time bilingual Chinese, Hindi, Polish and Spanish-speaking staff. For those language groups, the CBOE's community outreach team has been instrumental in empowering LEP voters and ensuring compliance with Section 203. CBOE's community outreach team does the critical work of recruiting bilingual election judges, conducting outreach and education, and responding to inquiries from voters with limited English proficiency. The CBOE should show that level of commitment to the city's Korean and Tagalog-speaking communities by hiring full-time bilingual staff to conduct targeted community outreach.

#### D. Create Dedicated Language and Disability Assistance Hotlines

Advancing Justice recommends that the CBOE reevaluate how it structures and staffs its phone line for language and disability assistance. The CBOE should have dedicated language and disability assistance hotlines available when polls are open during early voting and election day. This was not the case for the municipal elections. Instead, CBOE's election central hotline served as a hub for all inquiries, whether its equipment issues, missing materials or language interpretation issues. In practice, this means if a voter needing assistance in say, Tagalog, calls Election Central, they will be greeted by an English speaker tasked with guessing what language the caller speaks, and then transferring the voter's call based on said guess. To no fault of their own, the Election Central attorneys who are tasked with answering calls are not qualified or equipped to effectively respond to calls from LEP voters.

From conversations we had with election judges, we learned that some election judges are similarly skeptical about how well Election Central operates as an interpretation hotline. We also heard from election judges who did not even know that interpreters are available through Election Central. Among election judges who were aware, many of them had never tried calling Election Central for language interpretation, even when the need arose.

Having functional language hotlines available during early voting and election day is especially important to assist LEP voters at polling locations that are not staffed with bilingual judges. It is our understanding that the CBOE already has bilingual staff and contractors at Election Central to help voters over the phone. Having direct hotlines would increase efficiency.

Other offices and Section 203 jurisdictions already do this. For example, the Cook County's Clerk office has separate hotlines for Spanish, Tagalog, Korean, Hindi, Polish, Russian, Ukrainian, Arabic, Gujarati and Urdu. Language hotlines should be staffed with vetted and trained bilingual staff. The hotline should also be advertised in-language to LEP voters. Community organizations can serve as partners in publicizing the language assistance hotlines.

#### E. Continue to Improve Trainings to Ensure that Poll Workers are Prepared to Assist Vulnerable Voters

Advancing Justice recommends that the CBOE continue to evaluate and accordingly adapt its training for poll workers. Our observations reveal knowledge gaps and lack of clarity among election judges as to what steps are required and what are optional. For example, we heard from judges who thought that posting up translated signs and wearing bilingual identification

badges were optional, when those tasks are required. We also heard from many election judges who were unclear as to what language translations are available through the touchscreen voting machines. Advancing Justice asks that the CBOE make the following considerations when organizing future poll worker trainings:

- ❖ **Poll worker training should be clear on the legal requirements governing disability and language access, and the purpose behind them.** Poll worker training should be explicit on the laws governing election disability and language access, including the ADA and Section 203 and Section 208 of the Voting Rights Act. The training needs to not only go through the steps poll workers need to take to make a polling place accessible, but the laws behind the requirements, and the purpose behind those laws. Including the purpose and history behind these legal requirements provides necessary context that would help to impress on poll workers the importance of compliance.
- ❖ **Poll worker training should incorporate diversity and bias training.** Poll workers will inevitably encounter voters with different backgrounds than themselves. Without diversity training, poll workers may have difficulty appreciating the fact that voting can be a frustrating and intimidating experience for some categories of voters. Training should prepare poll workers for this reality. Role-playing common scenarios and discussion can be helpful ways to prepare poll workers.
- ❖ **Involve community organizations as thought partners when developing poll worker trainings.** When designing trainings for election judges, it may be useful to consult and collaborate with community organizations and leaders who can provide insight into the varied experiences of voters belonging to historically marginalized groups. Community organizations may also be able to offer volunteers to help with the trainings, and assist with election judge recruitment.
- ❖ **Bilingual election judges should receive supplementary training, and an additional stipend.** Bilingual election judges are tasked with the same responsibilities as other election judges, in addition to servicing LEP voters. Bilingual poll workers should receive an additional stipend for their added responsibilities and skillset. Bilingual election judges should also receive additional training tailored to their unique role. There are other Section 203 jurisdictions that require additional training for bilingual workers. Ramsey County in Minnesota, for example, requires bilingual election judges to attend an additional training session that is paid. Training for bilingual poll workers should feature review of all voting materials in the languages in which they are provided, to ensure that they understand the materials and are comfortable with providing clear and complete instruction to voters. Bilingual poll workers should also be instructed and encouraged to provide active assistance. Poll workers should also be engaged in role-playing exercises in-language that involve common situations they can expect to encounter.

An additional training for bilingual election judges may also provide a welcome networking opportunity for participants. It is not uncommon for bilingual election judges to be the only one assigned to a given polling place. Having an additional training session offers a setting where they can hear from other bilingual election judges, and share experiences and best practices.

#### F. Provide Language Identification Cards at all Polling Places

All polling locations should have language identification cards so that poll workers are not put in the difficult and awkward position of guessing a voter's preferred language. During the February 28th election, we heard from an election judge who shared with us that two Asian LEP voters came to the polling place, and the election judge was not able to determine what Asian language the voters spoke. Many polling places do not have bilingual poll workers, meanwhile many Chicago voters come from diverse linguistic backgrounds. If a judge cannot determine the language spoken by the voter, then the judge cannot effectively provide the voter with the appropriate in-language ballot or material. In such situations, language identification cards can be useful. Language identification cards are a common tool used by offices who serve LEP clients to help identify whether and what kind of language assistance should be provided.<sup>14</sup> Advancing Justice recommends that a language identification card be included in judges' election day materials and incorporated in the election judge training and handbook.<sup>15</sup>

#### G. Advertise Curbside Voting

The CBOE's website states that curbside voting is an available option at polling locations that are inaccessible. We, however, did not observe any signs or notices advertising the availability of curbside voting, even though we visited several polling places that were non-ADA accessible. *See* Section III(C). Curbside voting appears poorly advertised. We recommend that curbside voting sandwich boards be placed at all non-ADA accessible polling places. These sandwich boards should provide clear instruction on how a voter can request assistance from outside a polling site.

#### H. Raise Public Awareness on Vote Centers

Advancing Justice appreciates the availability of vote centers as an additional option for voters besides their assigned precinct polling place. Additionally, we recognize that vote centers are also beneficial as they are required to be fully ADA compliant, and are equipped with accessible touchscreen voting machines.

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<sup>14</sup> *See, e.g.*, City of Chicago's Mayor's Office for People with Disabilities, A Guide for MOPD's Language Access Policy, [https://www.chicago.gov/city/en/depts/mopd/supp\\_info/LANGUAGE\\_ACCESS.html](https://www.chicago.gov/city/en/depts/mopd/supp_info/LANGUAGE_ACCESS.html) (last visited July 31, 2023).

<sup>15</sup> For examples of language identification cards, see New York State, Language Identification Tool, <https://www.dhSES.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2021/12/11-17-language-id-tool.pdf> (last visited July 31, 2023); Refugee Council, Language Identification Chart, <https://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/information/resources/language-identification-chart/> (last visited July 31, 2023); and Indiana Supreme Court, I Speak - Language Identification Cards, <https://www.in.gov/courts/admin/files/intrprt-i-speak-guide.pdf> (last visited July 31, 2023).

During the municipal elections, we encountered voters who were unfamiliar with vote centers or did not know where the nearest one was located. Advancing Justice understands that CBOE will continue to offer vote centers, as the state legislature recently passed a law that extended the use of vote centers to July 1, 2029. The following recommendations aim to increase public awareness about vote centers.

- ❖ **Precinct polling places should have signs listing the available vote centers.** As discussed above, we observed repeated incidents of voters accidentally going to the wrong precinct polling place. We observed election judges respond appropriately by directing voters to their correct precinct polling place. In some, but not all, of these instances, election judges relayed to voters the additional option of going to a vote center. We think that voters would be better served if they are informed about both options – voting at your precinct polling place or at one of the vote centers. But with 51 different vote centers available on February 28th and April 4th, poll workers cannot be reasonably expected to recall all 51 by memory. Instead, polling places should be equipped with an enlarged poster listing the available vote centers. The poster should list the address of each location and identify which ones will have bilingual election judges and for what languages. During the municipal elections, Advancing Justice provided our poll watchers with a similar resource for reference. *See Appendix C.*
  
- ❖ **Vote Centers Should Have Exterior Signs.** As discussed above in Section III(A)(3), many vote centers did not have exterior signs or sandwich boards identifying them as a “vote center.” Instead, we saw that on election day, many of the vote centers still had “early voting” signs. Advancing Justice recommends having exterior “vote center” signs. This would avoid any confusion, and help to publicize the availability of universal vote centers.



## V. CONCLUSION

During the February 28, 2023 general election, Advancing Justice | Chicago's poll watching program surveyed 105 precinct polling places and eight voter centers. During the April 4, 2023 runoff election, we surveyed 106 precinct polling places and eight vote centers. Our poll watching program focuses on monitoring locations in targeted Asian-language precincts pursuant to Section 203 of the Voting Rights Act. For the municipal elections, we observed 99 percent of the Asian language precincts in the city. Overall, we observed strong compliance with the requirement to have translated ballots available at the polling locations.

Overwhelmingly, our poll watchers reported positive interactions with and observations of election judges.

At the same time, our program found several areas for continued improvement, including:

- ❖ Bilingual judge recruitment, especially for Korean and Tagalog bilingual judges;
- ❖ Lack of visibility on the types of assistance available for LEP voters and voters with disabilities; and
- ❖ Insufficient poll worker training on the requirements around languages access.

Finally, we included a list of suggestions to consider for future elections, including specific ideas for how to improve language access and other aspects of the voting experience. We hope that the Chicago Board of Elections will consider these recommendations in the spirit of making our elections more inclusive and accessible for all voters.

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Authored by Kimberly Leung, Voting Rights Legal Fellow, Advancing Justice | Chicago.

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## APPENDIX A

### Polling places observed by Asian Americans Advancing Justice | Chicago on Feb. 28, 2023

	WARD	PRCT	POLLING PLACE NAME	ADDRESS	SECTION 203 LANGUAGE	VOLUNTARY COVERAGE
1	3	3	National Teachers Academy	55 W Cermak Rd	CHINESE	
2	3	13	South Loop School	1212 S Plymouth Ct	CHINESE	
3	4	21	601 Condominium Association	601 E 32nd St	CHINESE	
4	4	22	South Commons Phase 1 Condo	2921 S Michigan Ave	CHINESE	
5	4	23	Prairie Shores Apts	2901 S M L King Dr	CHINESE	
6	4	24	Cambridge Manor Apts	2631 S Indiana Ave	CHINESE	
7	5	12	Montgomery Place	5550 S Shore Dr	CHINESE, SOUTH ASIAN	
8	5	22	Murray School	5335 S Kenwood Ave	CHINESE	
9	5	23	University Park Condo	1450 E 55th Pl	CHINESE	
10	11	1	Chinatown Library	2100 S Wentworth Ave	CHINESE	
11	11	2	Haines School	247 W 23rd Pl	CHINESE	
12	11	3	Senior Suites of Bridgeport	2825 S Halsted St	CHINESE	
13	11	4	Boathouse At Park #571	2828 S Eleanor St	CHINESE	
14	11	5	Holden Elementary School	1104 W 31st St	CHINESE	
15	11	6	Holden Elementary School	1104 W 31st St	SPANISH, CHINESE	
16	11	7	Haines School	247 W 23rd Pl	CHINESE	
17	11	8	Long Life Apartments	344 W 28th Pl	CHINESE	
18	11	9	Healy School	3010 S Parnell Ave	CHINESE	
19	11	10	Armour Square Apts	3146 S Wentworth Ave	SPANISH, CHINESE	
20	11	11	Armour Square Apartments	3250 S Wentworth Ave	SPANISH, CHINESE	
21	11	12	Armour Square Park	3309 S Shields Ave	SPANISH, CHINESE	
22	11	13	Armour Square Park	3309 S Shields Ave	CHINESE	
23	11	14	Daley Library	3400 S Halsted St	SPANISH, CHINESE	
24	11	15	Daley Library	3400 S Halsted St	SPANISH, CHINESE	
25	11	16	Wilson Park	1122 W 34th Pl	SPANISH, CHINESE	
26	11	17	Armour Elementary	950 W 33 Pl	CHINESE	

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27	11	18	Greene School	3525 S Honore St	SPANISH, CHINESE	
28	11	19	Evergreen Academy Middle School	3537 S Paulina St	SPANISH, CHINESE	
29	11	20	Donovan Park	3620 S Lituania Ave	SPANISH, CHINESE	
30	11	21	Nativity Of Our Lord	653 W 37th St	CHINESE	
31	11	23	Mc Clellan School	3527 S Wallace St	CHINESE	
32	12	1	Greene School	3525 S Honore St	SPANISH, CHINESE	
33	12	2	Burroughs School	3542 S Washtenaw Ave	SPANISH, CHINESE	
34	12	3	Thomas Early Childhood Center	3625 S Hoyne	SPANISH, CHINESE	
35	12	4	Greene School	3525 S Honore St	SPANISH, CHINESE	
36	12	5	Everett School	3419 S Bell Ave	SPANISH, CHINESE	
37	12	6	Burroughs School	3542 S Washtenaw Ave	SPANISH, CHINESE	
38	12	7	Auto Warehouse	4530 S Archer Ave	SPANISH, CHINESE	
39	12	8	Everett School	3419 S Bell Ave	SPANISH, CHINESE	
40	12	9	Aquinas Literacy Center	1751 W 35 St	SPANISH, CHINESE	
41	12	10	Columbia Explorers	4520 S Kedzie Ave	SPANISH, CHINESE	
42	12	11	Calmecca Academy	3456 W 38th St	SPANISH, CHINESE	
43	12	12	Calmecca Academy	3456 W 38th St	SPANISH, CHINESE	
44	12	13	Xtreme Fitness	4004 S Archer Av	SPANISH, CHINESE	
45	12	14	Brighton Pk Branch Library	4314 S Archer Ave	SPANISH, CHINESE	
46	12	15	Spring Of Life Center	4330 S California Ave	SPANISH, CHINESE	
47	12	17	Brighton Park Elementary School	3825 S Washtenaw Ave	SPANISH, CHINESE	
48	12	18	Kelly High School	4136 S California Ave	SPANISH, CHINESE	
49	12	19	Aquinas Literacy Center	1751 W 35 St	SPANISH, CHINESE	
50	12	20	Davis School Annex	3050 W 39th Pl	SPANISH, CHINESE	
51	14	2	Edwards School	4815 S Karlov Ave	SPANISH, CHINESE	
52	33	9	Haugan School	4540 N Hamlin Ave	SPANISH	TAGALOG
53	33	10	Jensen Park	4650 N Lawndale Ave	SPANISH, SOUTH ASIAN	TAGALOG
54	33	11	Jensen Park	4650 N Lawndale Ave	SPANISH, SOUTH ASIAN	TAGALOG
55	33	12	Roosevelt High School	3436 W Wilson Ave	SPANISH	TAGALOG
56	33	17	Roosevelt High School	3436 W Wilson Ave	SPANISH	TAGALOG

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57	33	13	Hibbard School	3244 W Ainslie St	SPANISH	KOREAN, TAGALOG
58	39	6	Haugan School	4540 N Hamlin Ave	SPANISH	TAGALOG
59	39	21	Independence Park	3945 N Springfield Ave	SOUTH ASIAN	
60	39	2	Senate Apartments	5801 N Pulaski Rd		KOREAN
61	39	15	Peterson School	5510 N Christiana Ave	SPANISH, SOUTH ASIAN	
62	39	19	North Pk Covenant Church	5250 N Christiana Ave	SOUTH ASIAN	
63	39	27	Solomon School	6206 N Hamlin Ave		KOREAN
64	39	28	Albany Park Cmty Ctr	5101 N Kimball Ave	SPANISH, SOUTH ASIAN	
65	39	35	Northside College Prep	5501 N Kedzie Av	SOUTH ASIAN	TAGALOG
66	39	25	Volta School	4950 N Avers Ave	SPANISH	TAGALOG
67	39	26	Volta School	4950 N Avers Ave	SPANISH, SOUTH ASIAN	
68	40	11	Budlong School	2701 W Foster Ave	SPANISH, SOUTH ASIAN	TAGALOG
69	40	4	Mather High School	5835 N Lincoln Ave	SPANISH, SOUTH ASIAN	
70	40	5	Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram of Chgo	5950 N Western Ave	SPANISH, SOUTH ASIAN	
71	40	8	Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram of Chgo	5950 N Western Ave	SOUTH ASIAN	
72	40	2	Daniel Hudson Burnham Apts	1930 W Loyola Ave	SPANISH, SOUTH ASIAN	
73	40	3	Emmerson Park District	1820 W Granville Ave	SPANISH, SOUTH ASIAN	
74	40	6	G & A Sr Residence/Ravenswood	1818 W Peterson Ave	SPANISH, SOUTH ASIAN	
75	42	2	Harold Washington College	30 E Lake St	CHINESE	
76	42	3	The Buckingham	360 E Randolph St	CHINESE	
77	42	4	303 E Wacker Drive	303 E Wacker Dr	CHINESE	
78	42	5	400 Condo Association	400 E Randolph St	CHINESE	
79	42	6	155 Harbor Condo Assoc	155 N Harbor Dr	CHINESE	
80	42	10	River Plz Homeowners Assoc	405 N Wabash Ave		KOREAN
81	45	21	Prussing School	4650 N Menard Ave	SPANISH, POLISH	TAGALOG
82	46	20	Ella Flagg Young Apartments	4645 N Sheridan Rd	SPANISH, CHINESE	KOREAN, TAGALOG
83	48	8	Emanuel Congregation	5959 N Sheridan Rd	SPANISH, SOUTH ASIAN	
84	48	13	Granville Beach Condo	6171 N Sheridan Rd	CHINESE	
85	48	16	Fisher Apartments	5821 N Broadway	SPANISH, SOUTH ASIAN	POLISH
86	48	18	Swift School	5900 N Winthrop Ave	SPANISH, SOUTH ASIAN	POLISH
87	48	22	Malibu East Condo	6033 N Sheridan Rd	SPANISH, SOUTH ASIAN	POLISH

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88	48	32	Swift School	5900 N Winthrop Ave	CHINESE	
	48	33	Emanuel Congregation	5959 N Sheridan Rd	SPANISH, SOUTH ASIAN, CHINESE	POLISH
89						
90	49	7	Caroline Hedger Apartments	6400 N Sheridan Rd	SOUTH ASIAN	
91	50	1	Decatur Class School	7030 N Sacramento Ave	SPANISH, SOUTH ASIAN	
92	50	2	Philip Rogers School	7345 N Washtenaw Ave	SPANISH, SOUTH ASIAN	
93	50	3	Philip Rogers School	7345 N Washtenaw Ave	SPANISH, SOUTH ASIAN	
94	50	4	Philip Rogers School	7345 N Washtenaw Ave	SPANISH, SOUTH ASIAN	
95	50	8	Stone Scholastic Academy	6239 N Leavitt St	SPANISH, SOUTH ASIAN	
96	50	13	Boone School	6710 N Washtenaw Ave	SPANISH, SOUTH ASIAN	
97	50	15	Warren Park	6601 N Western Ave	SPANISH, SOUTH ASIAN	
98	50	17	Croatian Cultural Center	2845 W Devon Ave	SPANISH, SOUTH ASIAN	POLISH
99	50	19	Croatian Cultural Center	2845 W Devon Ave	SPANISH, SOUTH ASIAN	POLISH
100	50	20	Stone Scholastic Academy	6239 N Leavitt St	SPANISH, SOUTH ASIAN	
101	50	21	Stone Scholastic Academy	6239 N Leavitt St	SPANISH, SOUTH ASIAN	
102	50	23	Clinton School	6131 N California Ave	SPANISH, SOUTH ASIAN	POLISH
103	50	24	Cong Kehilath Jacob Beth Samuel	3701 W Devon Ave		KOREAN
104	50	25	Cong Kehilath Jacob Beth Samuel	3701 W Devon Ave		KOREAN
105	50	26	Croatian Cultural Center	2845 W Devon Ave	SPANISH, SOUTH ASIAN	POLISH

Vote Centers

	WARD	POLLING PLACE NAME	ADDRESS	SECTION 203 LANGUAGE	VOLUNTARY COVERAGE
1	11	McGuane Park	2901 S. Poplar Ave	CHINESE; SPANISH	
2	12	McKinley Park Branch Library	1915 W 35th St.	CHINESE; SPANISH	
3	39	North Park Village Adm Bldg	5801 N. Pulaski Rd	CHINESE; SOUTH ASIAN	
4	40	Budlong Woods Library	5630 N. Lincoln Ave	SOUTH ASIAN	
5	46	Truman College	1145 W Wilson Ave	CHINESE	
6	48	Broadway Armory	5917 N. Broadway Ave	CHINESE; SOUTH ASIAN	
7	49	Willye B White Park	1610 W. Howard St	SOUTH ASIAN; SPANISH	
8	50	Northtown Library	6800 N. Western Ave	SOUTH ASIAN	

## APPENDIX B

### Polling places observed by Asian Americans Advancing Justice | Chicago on Apr. 4, 2023

	WARD	PRCT	POLLING PLACE NAME	ADDRESS	SECTION 203 LANGUAGE	VOLUNTARY COVERAGE
1	3	13	South Loop School	1212 S Plymouth Ct	CHINESE	
2	4	21	601 Condominium Association	601 E 32nd St	CHINESE	
3	4	22	South Commons Phase 1 Condo	2921 S Michigan Ave	CHINESE	
4	4	23	Prairie Shores Apts	2901 S M L King Dr	CHINESE	
5	4	24	Cambridge Manor Apts	2631 S Indiana Ave	CHINESE	
6	5	12	Montgomery Place	5550 S Shore Dr	CHINESE, SOUTH ASIAN	
7	5	22	Nichols Park	1355 E. 53 <sup>rd</sup> Street	CHINESE	
8	5	23	University Park Condo	1450 E 55th Pl	CHINESE	
9	11	1	Chinatown Library	2100 S Wentworth Ave	CHINESE	
10	11	2	Haines School	247 W 23rd Pl	CHINESE	
11	11	3	Senior Suites of Bridgeport	2825 S Halsted St	CHINESE	
12	11	4	Boathouse At Park #571	2828 S Eleanor St	CHINESE	
13	11	5	Holden Elementary School	1104 W 31st St	CHINESE	
14	11	6	Holden Elementary School	1104 W 31st St	SPANISH, CHINESE	
15	11	7	Haines School	247 W 23rd Pl	CHINESE	
16	11	8	Long Life Apartments	344 W 28th Pl	CHINESE	
17	11	9	Healy School	3010 S Parnell Ave	CHINESE	
18	11	10	Armour Square Apts	3146 S Wentworth Ave	SPANISH, CHINESE	
19	11	11	Armour Square Apartments	3250 S Wentworth Ave	SPANISH, CHINESE	
20	11	12	Armour Square Park	3309 S Shields Ave	SPANISH, CHINESE	
21	11	13	Armour Square Park	3309 S Shields Ave	CHINESE	
22	11	14	Daley Library	3400 S Halsted St	SPANISH, CHINESE	
23	11	15	Daley Library	3400 S Halsted St	SPANISH, CHINESE	
24	11	16	Wilson Park	1122 W 34th Pl	SPANISH, CHINESE	
25	11	17	Armour Elementary	950 W 33 Pl	CHINESE	
26	11	18	Greene School	3525 S Honore St	SPANISH, CHINESE	

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27	11	19	Evergreen Academy Middle School	3537 S Paulina St	SPANISH, CHINESE	
28	11	20	Donovan Park	3620 S Lituania Ave	SPANISH, CHINESE	
29	11	21	Nativity Of Our Lord	653 W 37th St	CHINESE	
30	11	22	Taylor Lauridsen Park	704 W 42nd St	SPANISH	
31	11	23	Mc Clellan School	3527 S Wallace St	CHINESE	
32	12	1	Greene School	3525 S Honore St	SPANISH, CHINESE	
33	12	2	Burroughs School	3542 S Washtenaw Ave	SPANISH, CHINESE	
34	12	3	Thomas Early Childhood Center	3625 S Hoyne	SPANISH, CHINESE	
35	12	4	Greene School	3525 S Honore St	SPANISH, CHINESE	
36	12	5	Everett School	3419 S Bell Ave	SPANISH, CHINESE	
37	12	6	Burroughs School	3542 S Washtenaw Ave	SPANISH, CHINESE	
38	12	7	Auto Warehouse	4530 S Archer Ave	SPANISH, CHINESE	
39	12	8	Everett School	3419 S Bell Ave	SPANISH, CHINESE	
40	12	9	Aquinas Literacy Center	1751 W 35 St	SPANISH, CHINESE	
41	12	10	Columbia Explorers	4520 S Kedzie Ave	SPANISH, CHINESE	
42	12	11	Calmecca Academy	3456 W 38th St	SPANISH, CHINESE	
43	12	12	Calmecca Academy	3456 W 38th St	SPANISH, CHINESE	
44	12	13	Xtreme Fitness	4004 S Archer Av	SPANISH, CHINESE	
45	12	14	Brighton Pk Branch Library	4314 S Archer Ave	SPANISH, CHINESE	
46	12	15	Spring Of Life Center	4330 S California Ave	SPANISH, CHINESE	
47	12	17	Brighton Park Elementary School	3825 S Washtenaw Ave	SPANISH, CHINESE	
48	12	18	Kelly High School	4136 S California Ave	SPANISH, CHINESE	
49	12	19	Aquinas Literacy Center	1751 W 35 St	SPANISH, CHINESE	
50	12	20	Davis School Annex	3050 W 39th Pl	SPANISH, CHINESE	
51	12	21	McKinley Park	2210 W Pershing Rd	SPANISH	
52	14	2	Edwards School	4815 S Karlov Ave	SPANISH, CHINESE	
53	33	9	Haugan School	4540 N Hamlin Ave	SPANISH	TAGALOG
54	33	10	Jensen Park	4650 N Lawndale Ave	SPANISH, SOUTH ASIAN	TAGALOG
55	33	11	Jensen Park	4650 N Lawndale Ave	SPANISH, SOUTH ASIAN	TAGALOG
56	33	12	Roosevelt High School	3436 W Wilson Ave	SPANISH	TAGALOG

ADVANCING JUSTICE | CHICAGO'S POLL WATCHING REPORT  
 CHICAGO 2023 MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

57	33	17	Roosevelt High School	3436 W Wilson Ave	SPANISH	TAGALOG
58	33	13	Hibbard School	3244 W Ainslie St	SPANISH	KOREAN, TAGALOG
59	39	6	Haugan School	4540 N Hamlin Ave	SPANISH	TAGALOG
60	39	21	Independence Park	3945 N Springfield Ave	SOUTH ASIAN	
61	39	2	Senate Apartments	5801 N Pulaski Rd		KOREAN
62	39	15	Peterson School	5510 N Christiana Ave	SPANISH, SOUTH ASIAN	
63	39	19	North Pk Covenant Church	5250 N Christiana Ave	SOUTH ASIAN	
64	39	27	Solomon School	6206 N Hamlin Ave		KOREAN
65	39	28	Albany Park Cmty Ctr	5101 N Kimball Ave	SPANISH, SOUTH ASIAN	
66	39	35	Northside College Prep	5501 N Kedzie Av	SOUTH ASIAN	TAGALOG
67	39	25	Volta School	4950 N Avers Ave	SPANISH	TAGALOG
68	39	26	Volta School	4950 N Avers Ave	SPANISH, SOUTH ASIAN	
69	40	11	Budlong School	2701 W Foster Ave	SPANISH, SOUTH ASIAN	TAGALOG
70	40	4	Mather High School	5835 N Lincoln Ave	SPANISH, SOUTH ASIAN	
71	40	5	Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram of Chgo	5950 N Western Ave	SPANISH, SOUTH ASIAN	
72	40	8	Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram of Chgo	5950 N Western Ave	SOUTH ASIAN	
73	40	2	Daniel Hudson Burnham Apts	1930 W Loyola Ave	SPANISH, SOUTH ASIAN	
74	40	3	Emmerson Park District	1820 W Granville Ave	SPANISH, SOUTH ASIAN	
75	40	6	G & A Sr Residence/Ravenswood	1818 W Peterson Ave	SPANISH, SOUTH ASIAN	
76	42	2	Harold Washington College	30 E Lake St	CHINESE	
77	42	3	The Buckingham	360 E Randolph St	CHINESE	
78	42	4	303 E Wacker Drive	303 E Wacker Dr	CHINESE	
79	42	5	400 Condo Association	400 E Randolph St	CHINESE	
80	42	6	155 Harbor Condo Assoc	155 N Harbor Dr	CHINESE	
81	42	10	River Plz Homeowners Assoc	405 N Wabash Ave		KOREAN
82	45	21	Prussing School	4650 N Menard Ave	SPANISH, POLISH	TAGALOG
83	46	20	Ella Flagg Young Apartments	4645 N Sheridan Rd	SPANISH, CHINESE	KOREAN, TAGALOG
84	48	8	Emanuel Congregation	5959 N Sheridan Rd	SPANISH, SOUTH ASIAN	
85	48	13	Granville Beach Condo	6171 N Sheridan Rd	CHINESE	
86	48	16	Fisher Apartments	5821 N Broadway	SPANISH, SOUTH ASIAN	POLISH
87	48	18	Swift School	5900 N Winthrop Ave	SPANISH, SOUTH ASIAN	POLISH



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88	48	22	Malibu East Condo	6033 N Sheridan Rd	SPANISH, SOUTH ASIAN	POLISH
89	48	32	Swift School	5900 N Winthrop Ave	CHINESE	
90	48	33	Emanuel Congregation	5959 N Sheridan Rd	SPANISH, SOUTH ASIAN, CHINESE	POLISH
91	49	7	Caroline Hedger Apartments	6400 N Sheridan Rd	SOUTH ASIAN	
92	50	1	Decatur Class School	7030 N Sacramento Ave	SPANISH, SOUTH ASIAN	
93	50	2	Philip Rogers School	7345 N Washtenaw Ave	SPANISH, SOUTH ASIAN	
94	50	3	Philip Rogers School	7345 N Washtenaw Ave	SPANISH, SOUTH ASIAN	
95	50	4	Philip Rogers School	7345 N Washtenaw Ave	SPANISH, SOUTH ASIAN	
96	50	8	Stone Scholastic Academy	6239 N Leavitt St	SPANISH, SOUTH ASIAN	
97	50	13	Boone School	6710 N Washtenaw Ave	SPANISH, SOUTH ASIAN	
98	50	15	Warren Park	6601 N Western Ave	SPANISH, SOUTH ASIAN	
99	50	17	Croatian Cultural Center	2845 W Devon Ave	SPANISH, SOUTH ASIAN	POLISH
100	50	19	Croatian Cultural Center	2845 W Devon Ave	SPANISH, SOUTH ASIAN	POLISH
101	50	20	Stone Scholastic Academy	6239 N Leavitt St	SPANISH, SOUTH ASIAN	
102	50	21	Stone Scholastic Academy	6239 N Leavitt St	SPANISH, SOUTH ASIAN	
103	50	23	Clinton School	6131 N California Ave	SPANISH, SOUTH ASIAN	POLISH
104	50	24	Cong Kehilath Jacob Beth Samuel	3701 W Devon Ave		KOREAN
105	50	25	Cong Kehilath Jacob Beth Samuel	3701 W Devon Ave		KOREAN
106	50	26	Croatian Cultural Center	2845 W Devon Ave	SPANISH, SOUTH ASIAN	POLISH

Vote Centers

	WARD	POLLING PLACE NAME	ADDRESS	SECTION 203 LANGUAGE	VOLUNTARY COVERAGE
1	11	McGuane Park	2901 S. Poplar Ave	CHINESE; SPANISH	
2	12	McKinley Park Branch Library	1915 W 35th St.	CHINESE; SPANISH	
3	39	North Park Village Adm Bldg	5801 N. Pulaski Rd	CHINESE	
4	40	Budlong Woods Library	5630 N. Lincoln Ave	SOUTH ASIAN	
5	46	Truman College	1145 W Wilson Ave	CHINESE	
6	48	Broadway Armory	5917 N. Broadway Ave	CHINESE; SOUTH ASIAN	
7	49	Willye B White Park	1610 W. Howard St	SOUTH ASIAN; SPANISH	
8	50	Northtown Library	6800 N. Western Ave	SOUTH ASIAN	

## APPENDIX C

Copies of the below informational flyer was given to Advancing Justice | Chicago poll watchers as an election day resource. In case they were approached by voters looking for the nearest vote center, poll watchers could reference this flyer.

### ELECTION DAY UNIVERSAL VOTE CENTERS

*Eligible Chicagoans can vote or register to vote at **any** of the below locations on Election Day, April 4, 2023. Polls are open between 6am -7pm.*

- Downtown "Supersite," 191 N. Clark St. ♦♦
- Dawson Technical Institute, 3901 S. State St. (located in Ward 3)
- Dr. Martin Luther King Center, 4314 S. Cottage Grove Ave. (located in Ward 4)
- Southside YMCA, 6330 S. Stony Island Ave. (located in Ward 5)
- McGuane Park, 2901 S. Poplar Ave. ♦♦ (located in Ward 11)
- McKinley Park Branch Library, 1915 W. 35th St. (located in Ward 12) ♦♦
- American Indian Center, 3401 W. Ainslie St. (located in Ward 33) ♦
- North Park Village Adm Bldg, 5801 N. Pulaski Rd. (located in Ward 39) ♦♦
- Budlong Woods Library, 5630 N. Lincoln Ave. (located in Ward 40) ♦
- Maggie Daley Park, 337 E. Randolph St. (located in Ward 42)
- Kolping Society of Chicago, 5826 N. Elston Ave. (located in Ward 45) ♦
- Truman College, 1145 W. Wilson Ave. (located in Ward 46) ♦
- Broadway Armory, 5917 N. Broadway Ave. (located in Ward 48) ♦♦
- Willye B White Park, 1610 W. Howard St. (located in Ward 49) ♦♦
- Northtown Library, 6800 N. Western Ave. (located in Ward 50) ♦

For a full list of Election Day Vote Centers:

<https://chicagoelections.gov/en/early-voting.html>



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◇ Polling place has bilingual poll worker(s) fluent in Chinese

◆ Polling place has bilingual poll worker(s) fluent in Spanish

◇ Polling place has bilingual poll worker(s) fluent in Hindi