



February 25, 2016

Dakota County Clerk
P.O. Box 39
Dakota City, NE 68731-0039

Re: Bilingual voting materials

Dear Clerk:

You'll recall we contacted you in 2012 about providing election materials in Spanish. According to census data, Dakota, Colfax and Dawson County were all now required to include election materials in Spanish under Section 203 of the Voting Rights Act.

The Department of Justice clearly has outlined what responsibilities this imposes on counties:

What information must be provided in the minority language?

All information that is provided in English also must be provided in the minority language as well. This covers not only the ballot, but all election information - voter registration, candidate qualifying, polling place notices, sample ballots, instructional forms, voter information pamphlets, and absentee and regular ballots - from details about voter registration through the actual casting of the ballot, and the questions that regularly come up in the polling place. Written materials must be translated accurately, of course. Assistance also must be provided orally. Most Native American languages historically are unwritten, so that all information must be transmitted orally. Oral communications are especially important in any situation where literacy is depressed. Bilingual poll workers will be essential in at least some precincts on election day, and there should be trained personnel in the courthouse or city hall who can answer questions in the minority language, just as they do for English-speaking voters.¹

We have recently surveyed the counties' websites and discovered that Dakota County appears to be the only one in full compliance. We write to congratulate you. Thank you for ensuring access for all voters. As you prepare for the upcoming primary and general elections this year, we hope all goes smoothly. We are available should you have any questions or concerns.

Amy A. Miller
Legal Director

cc: Secretary of State John Gale and US Dept. of Justice

¹ Minority Language Citizens: Section 203 of the Voting Rights Act, US Department of Justice. Available online: <http://www.justice.gov/crt/minority-language-citizens>

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Dakota County Clerk

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March 16, 2012

ACLU Nebraska

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RE: Election Material in Spanish

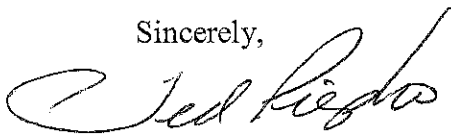
Dear Ms. Miller:

I have visited with the Department of Justice and we have been working very diligently for months and I think we should be in good standing come election day.

We have been working on filling a few positions on the Election Boards with bilingual Spanish-English speaking individuals in precincts where needed and have scheduled training for all election workers the week before election.

As far as my website concerning elections, that is being addressed.

Sincerely,



Theodore "Ted" Piepho
Dakota County Clerk