



Hosted by:

The U.S. Election Assistance Commission, Arizona State University Pastor Center for Politics and Public Service, and Democracy Fund Voice

July 24, 2018 | 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM
Washington, DC
Newseum 7th Floor Knight Conference Center

#LanguageAccess18

As in years past, the event convenes state and local election officials, advocates and stakeholders from language communities to discuss critical issues of language accessibility. Speakers will share experiences and observations on efforts to serve voters with language needs. Panelists representing Asian American, Latino, American Indian, Alaskan Native, and additional language communities from across the country will discuss demographic changes, the Section 203 designation process, federal requirements under the Voting Rights Act, voluntary and proactive language assistance, as well as strategies for cost-effective services. Participants will also highlight how emerging trends in election administration, such as the spread of vote centers and new election technologies, are impacting language access. The summit aims to share information, as well as generate new understanding and appreciation between various stakeholder communities.

PROGRAM

- 8:30 – 9:00 am **Breakfast and Registration**
- 9:00 – 9:10 am **Welcome and Introductions**
Tom Hicks, Chair, U.S. Election Assistance Commission
Alberto Olivas, Founding Executive Director, Pastor Center for Politics and Public Service, Arizona State University
Terry Ao Minnis, Senior Fellow and Consultant, Democracy Fund Voice
- 9:10 – 10:20 am **Session 1: Overview - Current Issues and Looking Ahead to 2021**
The 2018 elections are the first federal general elections since the most recent Section 203 determinations. This opening session will help set the stage for the day's discussion, focusing on best practices, and practical tools for serving language minority voters for implementing Section 203 and beyond. Panelists will discuss demographic shifts and their impact for serving language needs across the nation, as well as current issues faced by covered jurisdictions and those who are close to coverage.
Moderator: Terry Ao Minnis, Senior Fellow and Consultant, Democracy Fund Voice
James Whitehorne, Chief, Redistricting and Voting Rights Data Office, U.S. Census Bureau
John C. Yang, President and Executive Director, Asian Americans Advancing Justice
Julie Barker, Election Operations Supervisor, Clark County, Nevada
Rosalind Gold, Senior Director, Policy, Research and Advocacy, NALEO Education Fund

- 10:20 – 10:45 am **Remarks from the Department of Justice**
John Gore, Acting Assistant Attorney General, Civil Rights Division,
U.S. Department of Justice
- 10:45 – 11:00 am **Coffee Break**
- 11:00 – 11:15 am **Summit Talk: Deaf Culture and Access to the Vote**
Michelle Bishop, Voting Rights Specialist, National Disability Rights Network
- 11:15 – 12:25 pm **Session 2: Cost-Effective Practices for Providing Language Assistance**
Effectively providing language assistance requires an investment in resources and time. Additionally, jurisdictions must be fiscally responsible and efficient with their spending. Small and medium-sized jurisdictions with limited resources, as well as jurisdictions covered for multiple languages, face particular challenges in this regard. This session will focus on cost-effective ways to provide language assistance, from small to big ideas.
Moderator: Christy McCormick, Vice Chair, U.S. Election Assistance Commission
Sonya L. Aston, Administrator of Elections, Harris County, Texas
Kathy Placencia, Administrator of Elections, Board of Canvassers and Voter Registration, Providence, Rhode Island
Michelle Tassinari, Director and Legal Counsel in the Secretary of the Commonwealth's Elections Division
Dr. James Tucker, Pro Bono Voting Counsel, Native American Rights Fund
- 12:25 – 1:25 pm **Lunch and Guest Speaker**
Nellie M. Gorbea, Secretary of State, Rhode Island
- 1:25 – 2:35 pm **Session 3: Above and Beyond Section 203 - Voluntary Assistance and Other Proactive Measures**
Section 203 has fostered language assistance for many language minority voters over the last 40 plus years. However, as effective as it has been, Section 203 is limited to specific jurisdictions that meet the thresholds. Election stakeholders have used multiple tools to go beyond Section 203 in serving their language minority voters, including voluntary language assistance to meet a community need, effective implementation of Section 208, utilization of Section 4(e) for Puerto Rican voters, and enacting state laws to expand the franchise for language minority voters. This session will explore these and other efforts to ensure that all language minority voters are able to access needed assistance and cast a meaningful vote.
Moderator: Stacey Scholl, Senior Program Associate, Elections, Democracy Fund Voice
Bill Cowles, Supervisor of Elections, Orange County, Florida
Kira Romero-Craft, Managing Attorney, Southeast Regional Office, Latino Justice PRLDEF
Francesca Menes, Florida St. Coordinator, Local Progress/Center for Popular Democracy
Nicole L. Crispo, City Clerk, City of Quincy, Massachusetts
- 2:35 – 2:50 pm **Afternoon Break**
- 2:50 – 3:30 pm **Summit Chat: Language Community Outreach in Alaska - Building Relationships, Trust, and Tapping Cultural Knowledge**
Moderator: Alberto Olivas, Founding Executive Director, Pastor Center for Politics and Public Service, Arizona State University
Indra Arriaga, Elections Language Assistance Compliance Manager, Alaska Division of Elections
Walkie Charles, PhD, Associate Professor, University of Alaska Fairbanks

3:30 – 4:45 pm

Session 4: Trends in Election Administration and their Impact on Language Access

The field of election administration is constantly changing. Recent shifts include growing alternatives to traditional precinct-based voting (e.g. vote-by-mail, early voting, vote centers) and increased focus on election technology and the auditability of voting systems. This session will look at these trends and others through the lens of language access and explore how to anticipate and meet the needs of language minority voters when considering changes to election policy or practice. Our last summit session aims to take the discussion beyond the importance of Section 203 compliance towards expanded approaches to language assistance.

Moderator: Tom Hicks, Chair, U.S. Election Assistance Commission

Matt Beaton, Auditor, Franklin County, Washington

Travis Lane, Assistant Director, Inter Tribal Council of Arizona

Maria Bianchi, Director, Voting Information Project, Democracy Works

Lucy Barefoot, Voter Education and Outreach Specialist, Washington Secretary of State

Whitney Quesenbery, Co-Director, Center for Civic Design

4:45 – 4:55 pm

Closing and Next Steps





SPEAKERS AND PRESENTERS

Indra Arriaga, Elections Language Assistance Compliance Manager
State of Alaska Division of Elections
@ak_elections

Indra Arriaga is a writer and research analyst working with the Alaska Division of Election as the Language Assistance Compliance Manager. Prior to working in this position, Indra worked as a consultant working in projects across the state in different areas of community development, and also worked with the State of Alaska to manage ongoing research on all Alaskan communities as required by the Alaska Constitution. Indra moved to Alaska 15 years ago from San Francisco, CA where she worked as an Equity Research Analyst in semiconductor and software infrastructure. She holds both, a BA and an MA in Political Science from St. Mary's University in San Antonio, TX.

Sonya L. Aston, Administrator of Elections
Harris County Clerk's Office, Texas
@SonyaAston

I am a native Texan having escaped a few times to Connecticut, California and Alaska. I graduated from the University of Texas with a BA and a law degree from South Texas College of Law. After practicing environmental law for many years, I landed in county government. At first, I worked in the Tax Office where I was in-house counsel and worked closely with the Voter Registrar's Office. For the past seven years, I have worked in the County Clerk's Office in Elections initially, as Assistant Administrator and for the past three years as the Administrator of the second largest election entity in the nation. Harris County has over 2.25 million registered voters and climbing. We have 46 early voting locations and approximately 750 Election Day locations.

Julie Barker, Election Operations Supervisor
Clark County Election Department

Julie Barker is an Election Operations Supervisor with the Clark County, NV, Election Department. Barker started there in 1994 and has been involved in a wide variety of activities, including the implementation of Spanish and Filipino language requirements. From 2002 to present, Barker has also been a short-term election observer with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). In that capacity, Barker witnessed the conduct of elections in other countries during ten different assignments that included Albania, Azerbaijan, Bosnia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Macedonia, Russia, and Ukraine (three times). Before this, from 1982 to 1994, Barker worked for the Business Council for the United Nations in New York City as an intern, UNICEF in Algiers, Algeria, as an administrative and information assistant, and the City of Los Angeles in various departments, including the Election Division, as a Management Analyst. Barker holds a JD degree from the Boyd School of Law at UNLV, an MPP from Claremont Graduate School in Claremont CA, and two BAs in Spanish and sociology from Occidental College in Los Angeles, CA.

Matt Beaton, Auditor
Franklin County
@FranklinAuditor

Matt Beaton is the elected Franklin County Auditor and has served in that position since January 2011. In his time as Auditor, he has been recognized with a statewide award for Voter Outreach by the Washington Secretary of State. He graduated from the University of Washington in 1991 with a BA Degree in Business Administration. Having earned his Real Estate License at 19 and later his appraisal certification he went on to work for 16 years in the real estate valuation field in the corporate and small business settings prior to being elected. Matt Beaton has been sought out to discuss accountability and transparency in local government. Matt lives in Pasco, Washington with his wife and children. The Beaton's have become a proud military family with their oldest son joining the Navy earlier this year. BOARD EXPERIENCE: Washington Coalition for Open Government, Board member; Washington State Association of County Auditors Legislative Committee, Past Co-Chair; Lourdes Hospital Foundation Board of Directors, Member; Central Washington Catholic Foundation, Treasurer; Pasco Kiwanis Club, Member

Maria Bianchi, Director, Voting Information Project
Democracy Works
@mariabianchi

Maria Bianchi is the Director of the Voting Information Project at Democracy Works, a 501(c)(3) nonpartisan non-profit dedicated to improving elections for voters and election administrators alike. Maria leads the team of civic technologists working with state and local election offices to make official information about where to vote and what's on their ballots available to voters wherever they search for it.

Michelle Bishop, Voting Rights Specialist
National Disability Rights Network (NDRN)
@MichelleVotes, @NDRNadvocates

Michelle Bishop is the Voting Rights Specialist at the National Disability Rights Network (NDRN), where she provides training and technical assistance to NDRN's nationwide network on access for voters with disabilities under the Help America Vote Act. Michelle also works in coalition with the civil rights community in Washington, DC to ensure strong federal policy regarding voting rights and election administration. She has provided public testimony to the US Election Assistance Commission (EAC) twice and was a founding member of the Research Alliance on Accessible Voting that received a three-year research and development grant through the EAC. Prior to joining NDRN, Michelle worked at Paragard Center for Independent Living, where she led voting rights and get out the vote initiatives for up to 40 disability organizations, and most recently served as the Assistant Director of Public Policy & Advocacy. She received a Master of Social Work in Social and Economic Development from Washington University in St. Louis and a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology and English from the State University of New York at Geneseo.

Walkie Charles, PhD, Associate Professor
University of Alaska Fairbanks

Dr. Walkie Charles (Yup'ik) is an Applied Linguist with specialization in Second Language Acquisition. He teaches Yup'ik language courses for educators at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks. His research is focused on dynamic assessment and how that has helped him revitalize the Yup'ik language for college students. Dynamic assessment is based in the Vygotsky's foundational work with the zone of proximal development. Dr. Charles's research focuses around cultural and linguistic diversity as resources critical to Indigenous students' educational success. As a native Yup'ik speaker, Dr. Charles explores educational relationships—framed by cultural and linguistic differences—between students and teachers in the classroom that mirror many of his own experiences growing up in a small rural village in Alaska. His experiences and research argue for a critical pedagogy that is framed by the perspectives of Yup'ik teachers.

Bill Cowles, Supervisor of Elections
Orange County, FL

Native Floridian; Earned a BA in Public Administration from the University of Central Florida in 1976; Worked 13 years as a Professional Scouter with the Central Florida Council, BSA; Started in the Orange County, Florida Supervisor of Elections office in 1989 as the Chief Deputy; First Elected Supervisor of Election in 1996; Been Re-Elected 5 times; Past appointee of the EAC Board of Advisors and Standards Board; Past President of IACREOT; Married with two sons and four grandsons.

Nicole L. Crispo, City Clerk
City of Quincy

Nicole joined the City Clerk's Election Department in 1999 and over the next 10 years advanced to the department's top supervisory position. In 2011 Nicole attended the New England Municipal Clerks Institute where she earned her certification as a Certified Municipal Clerk and was appointed Quincy's Assistant City Clerk in 2014 and City Clerk in 2016. Mrs. Crispo proudly serves as Chairman of Board of Registrars, member of the License Board, Clerk of the City Council, Notary Public, Justice of the Peace as well as the City's Shellfish Warden. This past spring Nicole was elected vice president of the Massachusetts Clerks Association. Nicole and her husband, of nearly 30 years, Jeff, are lifelong Quincy residents and proud parents to a son Jeffery. Nicole is active in her community and is a member of the Quincy Yacht Club and Quincy Gourmet Club.

Rosalind Gold, Senior Director, Policy, Research and Advocacy
NALEO Educational Fund
@NALEO

Rosalind Gold serves as Senior Director of Policy, Research and Advocacy with the NALEO Educational Fund, where she has worked for nearly three decades on policy analysis and research for the organization's Latino civic engagement efforts. Ms. Gold coordinates the research for several of the NALEO Educational Fund's publications, including its Directory of Latino Elected Officials, the biennial Latino Election Handbook, and the Latino Election Profiles. Ms. Gold has extensive policy expertise in the areas of newcomer civic integration, election reform, voting rights, redistricting and the Census. She has delivered testimony before many public and private committee and commission hearings, and has served on governmental commissions, including the California State HAVA Plan Advisory Committee, and the City of Los Angeles Municipal Elections Reform Commission. She also currently serves on the Board of the Directors of the National Institute on Money in Politics, and as Chair of the Future of California Elections Board of Advisors. Ms. Gold received her J.D. from Harvard Law School and B.A. from Pomona College in Claremont, California.

Hon. Nellie M. Gorbea, Rhode Island Secretary of State
@RISecState

Rhode Island Secretary of State Nellie M. Gorbea made history when she was sworn in on January 6, 2015, becoming the first Hispanic elected to statewide office in New England. She has rapidly emerged on the national scene as a leader who is taking on some of the toughest issues and getting results, leading the way for other states across the country. Prior to her election as Secretary of State, Gorbea headed a leading organization working to make housing affordable in Rhode Island, served as Deputy Secretary of State (2002 to 2006) and led the creation of the Rhode Island Latino Civic Fund.

Originally from Puerto Rico, Gorbea is a graduate of Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School for Public and International Affairs and holds a master's degree in public administration from Columbia University. She and her husband, Steve D'Hondt, and their three daughters live in North Kingstown.

John Gore, Acting Assistant Attorney General, Civil Rights Division
U.S. Department of Justice

John Gore joined the Department on January 20, 2017 and became the Acting Assistant Attorney General on July 28. Before joining the Department, John was a partner in the Issues & Appeals practice at Jones Day in Washington, D.C. John's practice spanned all phases of appellate and trial litigation and a broad range of substantive areas, including voting rights, administrative law, antitrust, and products liability. Prior to entering private practice, John clerked for the Honorable Bruce M. Selya on the United States Court of Appeals for the First Circuit. John, his wife, and their three kids live in Northern Virginia. John is active in his neighborhood community and particularly enjoys coaching youth sports teams. John is a proud graduate of the University of Colorado and the University of Texas School of Law.

Tom Hicks, Chair
U.S. Election Assistance Commission

Thomas Hicks was nominated by President Barack H. Obama and confirmed by unanimous consent of the United States Senate on December 16, 2014 to serve on the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC). Prior to his appointment with EAC, Commissioner Hicks served as a Senior Elections Counsel and Minority Elections Counsel on the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on House Administration, a position he held from 2003 to 2014. In this role Mr. Hicks was responsible for issues relating to campaign finance, election reform, contested elections and oversight of both the Election Assistance Commission and Federal Election Commission.

His primary responsibility was advising and providing guidance to the committee members and caucus on election issues. Prior to joining the U.S. House of Representatives, Mr. Hicks served as a Senior Lobbyist and Policy Analyst from 2001 to 2003 for Common Cause, a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that empowers citizens to make their voices heard in the political process and to hold their elected leaders accountable to the public interest. Mr. Hicks served from 1993 to 2001 in the Clinton Administration as a Special Assistant and Legislative Assistant in the Office of Congressional Relations for the Office of Personnel Management. He served as agency liaison to the United States Congress and the President's Administration on matters regarding Federal personnel policies and regulations. Mr. Hicks received his J.D. from the Catholic University of America, Columbus School of Law and his B.A. in Government from Clark University (Worcester, MA). He also studied at the University of London (London, England) and law at the University of Adelaide (Adelaide, Australia).

Travis Lane, Assistant Director
Inter Tribal Council of Arizona

Travis L. Lane (Navajo/Southern Ute) graduated from The University of Arizona in 2002 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science with a minor in American Indian Studies. After graduation, Mr. Lane was hired by the Inter Tribal Council of Arizona (ITCA) as the Outreach Coordinator for the Indians Into Medicine Program, a program to encourage American Indian youth to pursue the health careers. Since then, he has held numerous roles and responsibilities at ITCA including serving as the statewide Native Vote Coordinator. In 2014, Mr. Lane was appointed as Assistant Director of ITCA. In this capacity, he assists in overseeing the operations and policy development of the organization, which includes managing a budget of \$18 million and supervising a staff of fifty-five.

Christy McCormick, Vice Chair
U.S. Election Assistance Commission

Christy McCormick was nominated by President Barack H. Obama and confirmed by unanimous consent of the United States Senate on December 16, 2014 to serve on the U.S. Election Assistance Commission (EAC). Prior to her appointment with EAC, Commissioner McCormick served as a Senior Trial Attorney in the Voting Section of the Civil Rights Division at the Department of Justice, a position she held from 2006 until joining the Commission. In that role, Ms. McCormick was responsible for investigating and prosecuting violations of federal voting statutes, including the Voting Rights Act, the National Voter Registration Act, the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA) and the Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment Act (MOVE). Additionally, Ms. McCormick worked with election officials to monitor compliance with the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA), the Military and Overseas Voter Empowerment Act (MOVE), the Voting Rights Act minority language requirements, and administration of elections. She has observed numerous elections, mentored and worked with election officials all across America. Ms. McCormick was detailed by the Deputy Attorney General to be Senior Attorney Advisor and Acting Deputy Rule of Law Coordinator in the Office of the Rule of Law Coordinator at the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad, Iraq from 2009 to 2010, where she worked on the Iraq national elections and on rule of law matters. Ms. McCormick was a U.S. elections expert in Iraq observing and monitoring the 2010 Iraq National elections, providing assistance and advice to the Independent High Electoral Commission and witnessing an extensive 12-day election re-count. She was a rule of law liaison to the Kurdish Regional Government and a liaison to rule of law advisors at the Provincial Reconstruction Teams. Prior to joining the Department of Justice, Ms. McCormick served as a Judicial Clerk to the Honorable Elizabeth A. McClanahan in the Court of Appeals of Virginia from 2003 to 2006. Ms. McCormick was an Assistant Attorney General and Assistant to the Solicitor General in the Office of the Attorney General of Virginia from 2001 to 2003. She was a Judicial Law Clerk in Virginia's Seventh Judicial Circuit Court from 1999 to 2001. Ms. McCormick received her B.A. from the University of Buffalo, a J.D. with honors from the George Mason University School of Law (now Antonin Scalia Law School), and also attended the William & Mary School of Law.

Francesca Menes, MPA, Florida State Coordinator
Local Progress/Center for Popular Democracy
@francescamenes

Francesca Menes was raised in Miami's Little Haiti community. She is the Florida State Coordinator for Local Progress, a network of hundreds of progressive local elected officials across the country dedicated to shared prosperity, sustainable and livable cities that serves the public interest. Francesca has led the development and implementation of strategic legislative, policy and voter engagement campaigns. She has coordinated local and statewide campaigns that led to the passage of laws benefiting communities of color in Florida. She is a co-founder and Steering Committee member of the Black Immigration Network, serves on the Miami-Dade County Community Action Agency Executive Board and serves on several organizational boards, including the Florida Center for Fiscal and Economic Policy. Francesca is a graduate of Florida International University, earning her BA in Political Science and Women's Studies with a minor in Philosophy and her Master's in Public Administration, with a certificate in Community Development.

Terry Ao Minnis, Moderator
Democracy Fund Voice
@Tao_Minnis

Terry Ao Minnis is a Senior Fellow and Consultant at the Democracy Fund, a bipartisan foundation working to ensure that our political system is able to withstand new challenges and deliver on its promise to the American people. Bringing valuable insight into the current voting rights community and important dynamics shaping our elections, Terry advances the work of the Elections Program by advising staff on emerging needs and opportunities to improve voting for all, but specifically for those who face unique challenges under our current system. Terry currently serves as the Director of the Census and Voting programs for Asian Americans Advancing Justice (AAJC). She received her Juris Doctor, cum laude, from American University Washington College of Law and her Bachelor's degree in economics at the University of Chicago.

Alberto Olivas, Executive Director
ASU Congressman Pastor Center for Politics & Public Service
@albertolivas

Alberto Olivas is the founding director of the Congressman Ed Pastor Center for Politics & Public Service at Arizona State University. Alberto previously was Director of the Center for Civic Participation for the Maricopa Community College District where he served the ten-college system for over 12 years. Alberto has over 20 years' experience in public engagement and civic education, including having served in the administration of Governor Jane Hull as Director of the Governor's Office for Equal Opportunity; and as Voter Outreach Director for Arizona Secretary of State Betsy Bayless. Governor Janet Napolitano appointed Alberto to the Arizona Commission of Indian Affairs. Currently, Alberto serves as Board Secretary for the National Civic League; and on the board for Democracy Works, a national civic engagement organization. Locally, he is Vice Chair of the Arizona Town Hall board of directors, and previously served on the Valley Leadership board of directors and as past board chairman for Kids Voting Arizona.

Tammy Patrick, Sr. Advisor
Democracy Fund Voice
@aztammy

Tammy Patrick is a Senior Advisor to the Elections program at the Democracy Fund, a bipartisan foundation working to ensure that our political system is able to withstand new challenges and deliver on its promise to the American people. Focusing on modern elections, Tammy helps lead the Democracy Fund's efforts to foster a voter-centric elections system and work to provide election officials across the country with the tools and knowledge they need to best serve their voters. In May of 2013 she was selected by President Obama to serve as a Commissioner on the Presidential Commission on Election Administration which led to a position at the Bipartisan Policy Center to further the work of the PCEA. Prior to that she was the Federal Compliance Officer for Maricopa County Elections Department for eleven years, Tammy was tasked with serving more than 1.9 million registered voters in the greater Phoenix Valley. She collaborates with community and political organizations to create a productive working relationship with the goal of voter participation and efficient election administration.

Kathy Placencia, Administrator of Elections
Board of Canvassers, City of Providence, Rhode Island

Kathy Placencia is the Administrator of Elections for the City of Providence, in Rhode Island, for the last fourteen years. Kathy oversees a dedicated staff of election technicians who process voter registrations, mail ballot applications, early voter registration, set up all supplies and equipment needed for elections, and prepare the City of Providence for all local and statewide elections. Previously, Kathy served as the Executive Assistant to the Director of Elections for the Rhode Island Secretary of State's Office. Kathy is a key resource and role model to all 39 City and Town Clerks in Rhode Island regarding election matters, and is the Chairperson of the Elections Committee for the Rhode Island City and Town Clerks Association. In this role, she is on speaking panels at the Rhode Island State House and various panels across the State pertaining to new election legislation, as well as testifying in support of election bills pending for passage. Kathy is active in the community and serves on several other boards, to include; Secretary to the Board of Omni Development Corporation, which is a low-income housing corporation, a non-profit community development, providing affordable housing to low and moderate-income families. Kathy is on the advisory board for R.I.S.E (Realizing Inspiration & Sustaining Excellence) Women's Leadership Conference. She was a previous Board Member to the Providence YMCA. Kathy received her Bachelor of Science with a Concentration in Human Services, from Springfield College, Boston MA.

Whitney Quesenbery, Co-Director
Center for Civic Design
@civicdesign

As the co-director for the Center for Civic Design, Whitney is passionate about improving the way government communicates with citizens. Fifteen years after serving on the committee writing national voting system guidelines she is still excited about the opportunities to approach democracy as a design problem. She is proud of the Center's work to introduce best practices for election design across the country through the Field Guides to Ensuring Voter Intent. Their work on the plain language version of the California Voter Bill of Rights, usable vote-by-mail envelopes, language access, and voter registration has made it easier for people across the country to vote. Whitney is the author of three books with practical advice in user experience: A Web for Everyone, Storytelling in User Experience, and Global UX. She teaches UX research at Rutgers University and, with Dana Chisnell, Election Design for the University of Minnesota Certificate in Election Administration.

Kira Romero-Craft, Managing Attorney
LatinoJustice PRLDEF

Kira Romero-Craft is an Associate Counsel at LatinoJustice PRLDEF, focusing on immigrants rights, voting rights and criminal justice reform. Kira began her legal career as an Equal Justice Works fellow for the Legal Aid Society of the Orange County Bar Association in Orlando, Florida where she focused on representation of undocumented immigrant children in juvenile and immigration court. Kira has organized collaborations with the private bar and law schools to lead pro bono clinics to address gaps in representation for indigent clients applying for immigration status under humanitarian benefits. Prior to joining LatinoJustice, she was the Program Director for the Children's Legal program at Americans for Immigrant Justice where she led a team of lawyers representing immigrant children in dependency and removal proceedings. Kira is the Co-Chair of the Advocacy Committee for the American Immigration Lawyers Association, Central Florida Chapter. She is a graduate of Rollins College and the Florida State University, College of Law.

Stacey Scholl, Senior Program Associate
Democracy Fund Voice
@staceyhscholl

Stacey Scholl is a Senior Program Associate at Democracy Fund/Democracy Fund Voice where she co-leads work to support election administrators with tools and information. Before joining Democracy Fund/Democracy Fund Voice, Stacey spent several years with the Department of Defense's Federal Voting Assistance Program (FVAP) supporting military and overseas voters as a Program Analyst for the Election Official Assistance team. Stacey interned with both the Colorado Secretary of State's Elections Division and the Iowa Secretary of State's Elections Division. Prior to law school Stacey worked for the Nebraska Republican Party in a variety of positions, eventually serving as the party's Communications Director. She received her law degree and legislative certificate in 2012 from Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa and her bachelors of arts in Political Science and Philosophy in 2007 from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Michelle K. Tassinari, Director and Legal Counsel
Secretary of the Commonwealth's Election Division

Michelle K. Tassinari is the Director and Legal Counsel in the Secretary of the Commonwealth's Elections Division. She graduated from Brandeis University in 1994 with a degree in History, and from New England School of Law in 1997. Ms. Tassinari began her tenure at the Secretary's office as Staff Attorney in the Public Records Division, before moving to the Elections Division in 1998, where she became Legal Counsel in 2000. In December 2005, Ms. Tassinari was also named the Director of the Elections Division. She is the state appointee to the Elections Assistance Commission Standards Board and is the Treasurer of the National Association of State Election Directors.

James Whitehorne, Chief - Redistricting & Voting Rights Data Office
U.S. Census Bureau

James Whitehorne currently serves as the Chief of the Census Redistricting & Voting Rights Data Office. He joined the Census Bureau in April of 2006. Prior to working for the Census Bureau, James worked for five years for the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice. James holds two undergraduate degrees (B.A. & B.S.) in Geography from the Pennsylvania State University.

John C. Yang, President and Executive Director
Asian Americans Advancing Justice – AAJC
@johncyangdc

John C. Yang is the president and executive director of Asian Americans Advancing Justice | AAJC, where he works to address systemic policies, programs, and legislative attempts to discriminate against and marginalize Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI) and other minority communities. In 1997, John co-founded the Asian Pacific American Legal Resource Center, a nonprofit organization dedicated to addressing the direct service legal needs of Asian Pacific Americans in the D.C. metropolitan area. He served as chair of the Asian American Justice Center (former name of Advancing Justice | AAJC) after serving as treasurer of the organization and as a member of its National Advisory Council. John was president of the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA) from 2003 to 2004, and since 1998, he has served as Co-Chair of NAPABA's Judiciary and Executive Nominations & Appointments Committee. John served in the Obama Administration as Senior Advisor for Trade and Strategic Initiatives at the U.S. Department of Commerce, where he was the principal advisor to Secretary Penny Pritzker on issues related to Asia and worked with the White House and other U.S. agencies on strategic and economics issues concerning the region. John graduated with honors from George Washington University Law School, where he served on the *George Washington Law Review* and the Moot Court Board. *Chambers USA* recognized John as one of "America's Leading Business Lawyers" and as a Washington, D.C. "Super Lawyer" by *Law & Politics*.

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