

# HOW LANGUAGE ACCESS PROTECTS NEW YORK VOTERS

## The NYVRA protects your rights as a New York voter

The 2022 John R. Lewis Voting Rights Act of New York sets a new standard for protecting voters of color at the state level. To learn about all its key provisions, visit [www.naacpldf.org/new-york-voting-rights-act/](http://www.naacpldf.org/new-york-voting-rights-act/).

### How does the NYVRA protect voters whose first language is not English?

- The NYVRA requires language assistance in parts of New York State where it is not already required by federal law, providing more access for limited English proficient (LEP) voters.
- It also requires voting materials in covered languages to be "of an equal quality" to the corresponding English language materials.

### Why do we need this provision?

- New York is one of the most populous and diverse states in the country, made up of a large number of LEP voters.
- LEP voters deserve the right to vote effectively in the language they understand.

### What counts as a "covered language"?

- The NYVRA determines coverage based on the population of people who identify as LEP in a particular place and who speak a particular language.
- The NYVRA applies to assistance in Spanish, Asian languages, and Native American or Alaskan Native languages in certain parts of the state.

### What protections are implemented for LEP voters?

- Accurate translations of election- and voting-related materials, including:
  - voter registration notices and forms,
  - ballots,
  - election instructions,
  - all other materials related to the electoral process.
- Oral assistance at polling sites.

THE  
**NEW YORK**  
VOTING RIGHTS ACT



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### How do I report any issues related to language access in voting?

Call your local county board of elections.

Call Election Protection at 866-OUR-VOTE (866-687-8683). Assistance is also available in Spanish at 888-VE-Y-VOTA (888- 839-8682), in Arabic at 844-YALLA-US (844-915-5187), and Asian languages at 888-API-VOTE (1-888-274-8683). A video American Sign Language line is available at 301-818-VOTE (301-818-8683).

Contact the New York Attorney General office's voter protection hotline through phone, at 866-390-2992; email, at [election.hotline@ag.ny.gov](mailto:election.hotline@ag.ny.gov); or by filling out their Election Complaint Form online, at [www.electionhotline.ag.ny.gov](http://www.electionhotline.ag.ny.gov). Reports and complaints are accepted in any language.

Contact one of the organizations listed below.

The NYVRA makes New York a leader in language access and democracy. It signals to New York's voters that, regardless of the language you speak, you are a valued part of our state's democratic process and your voice matters.

### Does the NYVRA provide more language assistance protection than the federal Voting Rights Act?

- Yes! The NYVRA lowers the threshold of the required voting age population for each particular language minority, covering languages in more jurisdictions than the federal Voting Rights Act.
- This expands language assistance protections for LEP voters throughout the entire state, instead of just the biggest hubs.

# YOUR NEW RIGHTS UNDER THE NYVRA EXPLAINED. LANGUAGE ACCESS IS ESSENTIAL.

LEARN ABOUT THE KEY PROVISIONS OF THE NYVRA:  
[naacpldf.org/new-york-voting-rights-act](http://naacpldf.org/new-york-voting-rights-act)