Accessible Voter Information for Everyone

Future of California Elections
The California Endowment
February 25, 2016
SAN’s Mission

South Asian Network is a community-based organization dedicated to advancing the health, well-being and civil rights of South Asians in Southern California.
SAN’s Target Community

• South Asian Americans, especially those who are low-income, in LA and Orange Counties

• Includes immigrants and U.S. citizens of Bangladeshi, Indian, Nepali, Pakistani and Sri Lankan descent
Cultural and Linguistic Access

- Cultural understanding of the various South Asian, Muslim, Sikh and Hindu communities
- Language assistance in Bangla, Gujarati, Hindi, Punjabi and Urdu
- Written materials in appropriate language
- Oral interpretation and provision of services
SAN Voter Engagement Efforts
Language Access Efforts

- Section 203 of the Voting Rights Act—Asian Indians entitled to receive oral and written language translation in Asian Indian languages in NYC, Chicago and LA.
- Local agencies supposed to provide bilingual assistance and materials.
- CA Sect of State to provide election-related materials and voter hotline assistance.
Work with Office of the Registrar, LA County

• June 2012- first time for Hindi, Khmer and Thai
• Targeted poll sites
• Understanding of community
• Significant initial investment by LA County
• Campaign-style approach
Implementation Checklist

• Advocacy with Asian Americans
  Advancing Justice – Los Angeles
• Review of election materials for translation and ensuring accurate translation
• Publicity and outreach
• Targeting, Recruitment and Training of Poll Workers
Results of Collaboration

• Locations across LA County
• Languages for translation of materials and interpretation
• Poll workers able to speak multiple languages
• Ballot information
Ongoing Efforts

• Review of Hindi translation of materials by Secretary of State
• Work with other counties
• Poll monitoring beginning in 2012
• Continued outreach and publicity
Voter Engagement in Hindi
Voting Humor

YOUR VOTE IS YOUR VOICE.
Questions?

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