

West's Annotated California Codes  
Elections Code (Refs & Annos)  
Division 12. Preelection Procedures (Refs & Annos)  
Chapter 4. Precinct Boards (Refs & Annos)  
Article 1. General Provisions

West's Ann.Cal.Elec.Code § 12303

## § 12303. Qualifications for board members; foreign language assistance; precinct lists

Effective: January 1, 2018

[Currentness](#)

- (a) A person who cannot read or write the English language is not eligible to act as a member of any precinct board.
- (b) It is the intent of the Legislature that non-English-speaking citizens, like all other citizens, should be encouraged to vote. Therefore, appropriate efforts should be made to minimize obstacles to non-English-speaking citizens voting without assistance.
- (c)(1) Where the elections official finds that citizens described in subdivision (b) approximate 3 percent or more of the voting-age residents of a precinct, **or if interested citizens or organizations provided information that the elections official believes indicates a need for voting assistance for qualified citizens described in subdivision** (b), the elections official shall make reasonable efforts to recruit election officials who are fluent in a language used by citizens described in subdivision (b) and in English. This recruitment shall be conducted through the cooperation of interested citizens and organizations and through voluntarily donated public service notices in the media, including newspapers, radio, and television, particularly those media that serve the non-English-speaking citizens described in subdivision (b).
- (2)(A) Within 150 days following each statewide general election, the county elections official shall report to the Secretary of State the number of individuals recruited to serve as members of precinct boards, including the number of individuals recruited who are fluent in each language required to be represented under Section 14201 and Section 203 of the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965 ([52 U.S.C. Sec. 10101 et seq.](#)). The Secretary of State shall issue uniform standard reporting guidelines.
- (B) The Secretary of State shall post all county reports received under subparagraph (A) on his or her Internet Web site within 180 days following each statewide general election.
- (3) At each polling place, a member of the precinct board shall identify the languages spoken by him or her, other than English, by wearing a name tag, button, sticker, lanyard, or other mechanism, as determined by the county elections official. The text indicating the language skills of the member of the precinct board shall be in the non-English language or languages spoken by that member.
- (d) At least 14 days before an election, the elections official shall prepare and make available to the public a list of the precincts to which officials were appointed pursuant to this section, and the language or languages other than English in which they will provide assistance.

**Credits**

(Stats.1994, c. 920 (S.B.1547), § 2. Amended by Stats.1996, c. 725 (A.B.1703), § 19; Stats.2017, c. 845 (A.B.918), § 6, eff. Jan. 1, 2018.)

West's Ann. Cal. Elec. Code § 12303, CA ELEC § 12303

Current with urgency legislation through Ch. 372 of 2020 Reg.Sess. Some statute sections may be more current, see credits for details.

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