# MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE OPERATIONS AND ELECTIONS

#### Eighty-Second Session March 28, 2023

The Committee on Legislative Operations and Elections was called to order by Chair Michelle Gorelow at 4:08 p.m. on Tuesday, March 28, 2023, in Room 4100 of the Legislative Building, 401 South Carson Street, Carson City, Nevada. The meeting was videoconferenced to Room 4401 of the Grant Sawyer State Office Building, 555 East Washington Avenue, Las Vegas, Nevada. Copies of the minutes, including the Agenda [Exhibit A], the Attendance Roster [Exhibit B], and other substantive exhibits, are available and on file in the Research Library of the Legislative Counsel Bureau and on the Nevada Legislature's website at www.leg.state.nv.us/App/NELIS/REL/82nd2023.

#### **COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Assemblywoman Michelle Gorelow, Chair Assemblywoman Brittney Miller, Vice Chair Assemblyman Rich DeLong Assemblywoman Jill Dickman Assemblyman Reuben D'Silva Assemblywoman Cecelia González Assemblyman Brian Hibbetts Assemblyman Richard McArthur Assemblyman Cameron (C.H.) Miller Assemblywoman Daniele Monroe-Moreno Assemblywoman Sabra Newby Assemblyman Steve Yeager

#### **COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:**

None

#### **GUEST LEGISLATORS PRESENT:**

Assemblywoman Selena Torres, Assembly District No. 3

#### **STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Haley Proehl, Committee Policy Analyst Shuruk Ismail, Committee Manager Kristi Howard, Committee Secretary Garrett Kingen, Committee Assistant



#### **OTHERS PRESENT:**

Mary Janet Ramos, Nevada Senior Campaign Manager, All Voting is Local

Eric Jeng, Acting Executive Director, One APIA Nevada

Mark Wlaschin, Deputy Secretary for Elections, Office of the Secretary of State

Gabriel Di Chiara, Chief Deputy Secretary of State, Office of the Secretary of State

Sarah Rojas, Private Citizen, Las Vegas, Nevada

Carlos Calderon, Raiz Organizer, Planned Parenthood of the Rocky Mountains

Marilyn Morales, Director of Administration, American Civil Liberties Union of Nevada

Mariella Ibarra Locano, Private Citizen, Las Vegas Nevada

Mary Wolfrom, Private Citizen, Las Vegas, Nevada

Aleida Martinez, Private Citizen, Las Vegas, Nevada

Silvia Buenrostro, Organizer, Culinary Workers Union Local 226

Luis Medina, Private Citizen, Las Vegas, Nevada

Karla Sanchez, Youth Organizer, Make the Road Nevada

Robert Garcia, Economic Justice Organizer, Make the Road Nevada

Brian Harris, Voter Education Organizer, Battle Born Progress

Jenny Koo, Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, Nevada Chinese Association, Las Vegas, Nevada

Bianca Balderas, Civic Engagement Program Manager, Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada

Guillermo Barahona, Civic Engagement Director, Chispa Nevada

Melanie Arizmendi, Political Intern, Culinary Workers Union Local 226

Admasu Gebremeskel, Private Citizen, Las Vegas, Nevada

Amy Koo, Acting Deputy Director, One APIA Nevada

LuAnn Holmes, City Clerk, City of Las Vegas

Kim Le, President, Vietnamese-American Community of Las Vegas

Jollina Simpson, Grant and Policy Researcher, Make It Work Nevada

Emily Persaud-Zamora, Executive Director, Silver State Voices

Tony Ramirez, Government Affairs Manager, Make the Road Nevada

Lynn Chapman, Treasurer, Independent American Party of Nevada

Cyrus Hojjaty, Private Citizen, Las Vegas, Nevada

Alida Benson, Executive Director, Nevada Republican Party

Ellen Gifford, Private Citizen, Las Vegas, Nevada

Tracy Thomas, Private Citizen, Las Vegas, Nevada

Deborah Sauk, Private Citizen, Las Vegas, Nevada

Ashley Garza Kennedy, Principal Management Analyst, Government Affairs, Department of Administrative Services, Clark County

Catherine Nielsen, Executive Director, Nevada Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities

Jamie Rodriguez, Registrar of Voters, Washoe County

#### **Chair Gorelow:**

[Roll was taken. Rules and protocol were reviewed.] We have a change in plans. We will not be hearing <u>Assembly Bill 242</u>. We will only be hearing <u>Assembly Bill 246</u> this evening, and then we will be doing a work session on <u>Assembly Bill 104</u>. Let us get started with A.B. 246.

#### **Assembly Bill 246:** Revises provisions governing elections. (BDR 24-821)

#### Assemblywoman Selena Torres, Assembly District No. 3:

Assembly Bill 246 revises provisions governing elections specifically to improve access to voting for limited-English proficient members of our community. I am going to go ahead and provide some background information, and then we are going to have additional remarks from Mary Janet Ramos and Eric Jeng. They will be doing the walk through of the bill as well.

Every Nevadan has a fundamental right to participate in the electoral process. However, this right is often restricted for limited-English proficient Nevadans due to language barriers that discourage them from participating in the process. To ensure fair and equitable access to voting, we must move towards providing voting materials and election information in the languages that many eligible voters read and speak.

As defined by <u>A.B. 246</u> in section 2, "Limited-English proficiency' means being unable to speak or understand English adequately to participate in the electoral process." Nevada is a diverse state, and I would argue that this diversity is our state's greatest strength. This diversity continues to grow. Along with this diversity in race and ethnicity comes diversity in the native languages spoken at home. Although there are existing federal requirements for providing voting materials in languages other than English, these requirements often do not go far enough. <u>Assembly Bill 246</u> seeks to establish additional state standards for providing voting materials in languages other than English to eliminate language barriers that many Nevadans face in the electoral process. Additionally, it proposes establishing a toll-free telephone number for election-related translation services and allows for voters to select their preferred language upon registering or updating their voter registration status. This way, our election officials can receive a more holistic picture of voters with limited-English proficiency (LEP) so that these voters can eventually receive a sample ballot that is the most accessible to them.

We know that as Nevada continues to rapidly change, we must also ensure that we are engaging with communities and collecting data to ensure equitable access in the years ahead. That is why in section 34 this bill also seeks to establish the Language Access Advisory Committee within the Office of the Secretary of State. This advisory committee will identify programs that address problems concerning language accessibility with elections, engage with communities for regular feedback, and act as a liaison directly with the Secretary of State to make annual assessments and recommendations to improve language access at the

ballot box. In our many conversations with county registrars, nonprofit organizations, the Office of the Secretary of State, and many others, we believe that this is the best path forward to ensure that the Silver State's democratic process is accessible and equitable for all Nevadans.

I want to remind Committee members that we are working off of an amendment [Exhibit C], and I want to express my gratitude to two individuals, Mary Janet Ramos and Eric Jeng, my co-presenters. We had numerous conversations before this legislative cycle started as well as in the last couple of weeks. I appreciate the Chair's flexibility as we moved this meeting to ensure that all stakeholders could be engaged in this process. We were able to have conversations about what will allow us to achieve our goals while also making sure that our goals made sense with the systems already in place. With that, I am going to hand it off to Mary Janet Ramos, Nevada Senior Campaign Manager for All Voting Is Local. Ms. Ramos will give an in-depth overview of the current state of language access within our state's election process.

#### Mary Janet Ramos, Nevada Senior Campaign Manager, All Voting is Local:

I would like to begin by thanking Assemblywoman Torres for her leadership in sponsoring A.B. 246. Committee members, you have access to the PowerPoint presentation [Exhibit D] that highlights everything that I will be covering in my remarks. Please feel free to follow along and to also utilize the PowerPoint in case you have any questions.

In the summer of 2021, All Voting is Local surveyed counties across the state to understand the availability of language accessibility for voters [page 2, Exhibit D]. In addition, this survey was followed by a listening session. We got responses from and met with 7 out of the 17 counties. Questions in the survey included whether or not a county offered voter registration materials, election materials, and signage at voting sites in another language besides English. We had the opportunity to learn from a few clerks that they would require approval from their county commissions if they tried to provide election materials in another language. We also learned from the survey and listening sessions that while they understood the need for voting materials in another language, a state mandate and funding would be needed to implement such efforts. We learned that only three counties offered voting materials and assistance in another language besides English. Assembly Bill 246 was inspired by the need to be inclusive of our diverse communities across the state, but initial policy suggestions were also inspired by the conversations we had with the clerks and registrars. We did commit to protect their identity and for that reason, we are unable to name the counties that we met with.

I would like to provide overall context for section 203 of the Voting Rights Act (VRA) [page 3]. Section 203 requires that a state or local jurisdiction such as the county, city, or municipality provide voting materials to the following communities: Native American, Asian American, Alaska Native, and Hispanic. In order to qualify for a federal mandate, protected groups must meet the threshold of 10,000 citizens or make up 5 percent of the voting age population, speak the same language, be limited-English proficient, and have an

illiteracy rate higher than the national average. Furthermore, language determinations are made every five years by the U.S. Department of Justice using U.S. Census data. The next adjustment will take place in 2026.

In Nevada, only Clark and Nye Counties are required to comply with section 203 of the VRA [page 4, Exhibit D]. Clark County is required to provide voting materials and assistance in Spanish and Tagalog. Nye County is required to provide translation and interpretation in Shoshone because it is not a written language. Washoe County is the only jurisdiction that voluntarily provides bilingual ballots and voting information in Spanish. Section 203 of the VRA is the foundation of language accessibility when it comes to citizens participating in the election process, but the criteria are difficult to meet given limitations such as the population threshold, single language requirements, literacy requirements, and the limitation to only four protected communities.

We know that Nevada voters are diverse [page 5]. According to data from the 2020 Census, our state is the third-most diverse state in the country. We have the fourth- largest population of residents who identify as Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) and the fifth-largest population who identify as Hispanic. When we compare this to 2010 Census data, we can see that both communities have significantly increased in just a decade. The AAPI population grew 45.6 percent, and the Hispanic community grew 24.3 percent. We also know that 29.9 percent of Nevada's population speak a language other than English at home, and 19.2 percent of the population is foreign-born with 51 percent of those being naturalized citizens. To put this into perspective, 471,016 Nevadans over the age of 18 reported speaking a language other than English. Additionally, 135,442 Nevadans over the age of 18 have LEP.

When we looked into the languages that are spoken in the state [page 6]; the top seven are Spanish, Tagalog, Chinese, Vietnamese, Korean, Amharic, and Thai. The U.S. Census data only captures data in four major languages: Spanish, other Indo-European languages, Asian and Pacific Island languages, and other languages. In total, census data only captures 42 languages. For example, the U.S. Census has a category for Persian, which includes both Farsi and Dari; and Amharic, which includes Somali or other African languages. This is a factor to consider when it comes to addressing the needs of citizens whose language needs are not reflected in the data set but may need access to voting materials in another language. We understand that community collaboration will be needed to identify other languages that are currently not being recorded. This also speaks to the need to creatively capture data that is consistent and reliable to ensure equitable voting access to all community communities.

Lastly, I would like to say that <u>A.B. 246</u> recognizes that our state is diverse [page 7]. By passing this bill, we are encouraging civic participation from citizens who have historically been disenfranchised by the ballot box. This is an opportunity to go beyond federal guidelines and develop policies that help voters who do not speak English as their first language. This concludes my portion of the presentation, and I will pass the next part to Eric Jeng, Acting Executive Director of One APIA Nevada.

#### Eric Jeng, Acting Executive Director, One APIA Nevada:

I am here with One APIA Nevada to provide some additional support for <u>A.B. 246</u>. First, I want to thank Assemblywoman Torres, who has been our champion for language access in taking on this task. I also want to thank the Office of the Secretary of State, as well as the county registrars from Clark, Washoe, and Douglas Counties, whose input and feedback have inspired a lot of changes to this bill. That is why we have provided a combined amendment [<u>Exhibit C</u>] for you to look at.

This is the data the federal government, through VRA, section 203, uses to determine a state's requirements to provide language access [page 8, Exhibit D]. Clark County, based on the threshold of 10,000, must provide language access in Spanish and Tagalog as of 2021. I would like to point out that Clark County's Chinese voting age LEP population is 9,566, so we missed that threshold by 434 people—a near miss for us. We will now have to wait until 2026 for voting access for LEP Chinese voters in 2028. We have a tremendous challenge, especially with that barrier. Combining with a lot of our communities, now we have a chance to address that here with the action.

The core of our democracy demands that all citizens have equal opportunity and access to exercise their vote regardless of the language they speak. Our best effort is to make sure that A.B. 246 creates a sustainable and equitable framework to expand language access at the polls in a way that is effective, operational, and fiscally responsible. That is why we present the amendment [Exhibit C] that we have. I will not walk through every section, but I will address the main changes this amendment proposes. First, let us look at section 5, subsection 1 [page 1, Exhibit C], which requires the Office of Secretary of State to ensure that voting materials on its website are in several languages other than English. Please notice the addition, "in any language as required by the counties within the state."

Section 5, subsection 3(a) [page 2] now sets a new population threshold for LEP members that the Secretary of State, city and county clerks, and registrar can provide election materials for in the language of the minority groups. We altered the language from "registered voters" to "at least 5,000 voting age citizens" of an LEP minority group. We suggested this change because we believe our voting-age citizens are eligible but may not be registering to vote due to lack of language access. We believe that language access will encourage our citizens to register to vote.

Section 5, subsection 3(a) includes a way to determine whether minority LEP voters are a jurisdiction that meets this threshold. The Secretary of State and clerks will be required to review population data on LEP minority groups on a biennial basis, with yearly estimates and five-year estimates based on the United States Bureau of the Census American Community Survey. This data will show which voting materials should be required to be printed in written languages, including voter registration forms, ballots, sample ballots, mail-in ballots, instructions, and any other forms of materials related for voter registrations and elections.

Next, I want to note, in section 5, subsection 3, what we currently put in the amendment for section 39, which is the last paragraph. We will include the information provided by the Secretary of State will be implemented for the "next regularly scheduled election." This is necessary as the state continues to see special elections. We cannot just say "the election cycle," so we put "next regularly scheduled election" to make sure that county registrars and clerks have time to find vendors and have the materials be made available.

Section 6 [page 5, <u>Exhibit C</u>] requires the Secretary of State to establish a toll-free phone number that Nevadans may use for election-related interpretation and translation services. In section 8 [page 6] and section 17 [page 12], the bill makes changes to the format of the voter registration form. It adds language so that voter registration form may be used as a data collection tool to further determine LEP needs, performing the function of needs assessment. Section 17 adds a line on the form for applicants to enter information about their state or country of birth and language preferences [page 13]. I want to note in the amendment we struck through the place of birth in section 17 and replaced it with language preferences. We noted that should be kept. It is how registrars verify voters, so it will stay in section 17, subsection 5, paragraph (e).

Section 10 [page 6] and section 25 [page 23] of the bill require county and city clerks to make a good faith effort to appoint bilingual election board officers or poll workers. Section 19 [page 10] of the bill clarifies Nevada's online voter register system must also be accessible in the languages. This now refers back to section 5 [page 1], which designated the requirements of the Secretary of State and county election officials to meet the needs of minority LEP voters. Finally, section 34 [page 30] of the bill creates a Language Access Advisory Committee within the Office of the Secretary of State. Section 34 designates the six-member Committee's makeup. Members will be appointed by the Office of the Secretary of State and will serve two-year terms.

There is a lot to this amendment [Exhibit C]. We have included the feedback we received from our meetings with election officials across this state. We feel this is a framework that that is equitable, operational, and fiscally responsible, so we can push forward for this.

#### **Assemblywoman Torres:**

We stand open for any questions.

#### **Chair Gorelow:**

Committee, do we have any questions?

#### **Assemblyman DeLong:**

In the data you have presented, you have lumped Taiwanese under Chinese [pages 8 and 9, Exhibit D]. You have used multiple languages to come up with the number in the column that is labeled yellow. I would think that if we are going to have to provide voting materials, it is going to be by individual languages. Are the numbers here that you talk about, the 5,000 individuals, based on individual languages or the lumping that you have done in your data presentation?

#### **Assemblywoman Torres:**

This is going to be based off of the United States Bureau of Census American Community Survey that is done every five years. That data should be reflected appropriately there.

#### **Assemblyman DeLong:**

How did you come up with 5,000 individuals?

#### **Eric Jeng:**

Currently, the federal threshold is 10,000 individuals. The data lumped together is for a specific ethnicity group according to the U.S. Census. These numbers are ethnicity groups who can read written Chinese. The original intent was a lot lower than 10,000, so 5,000 was the number determined by our discussion with the Office of the Secretary of State, county registrars, and clerks. We believe that the number was operational for Nevadans, but also achieved the equitable process that we want to bridge in that area.

#### **Assemblywoman Torres:**

In reality, everybody should have access to voting. Anybody who is eligible to vote should be able to vote and participate in the electoral process regardless of the language that they speak at home, the language in which they are most comfortable communicating, either in written or spoken remarks. Ultimately 1,400 individuals would likely be the goal one day. Every Nevadan deserves access to the polls. But, in conversations with the registrars, we recognized that is not where we are ready to get yet. I hope that one day we are able to have the ballot in as many languages as possible so that every individual who is eligible to vote in our community has access to voting.

#### **Assemblyman DeLong:**

The 1,400 number that was in the original bill was registered voters, and now it is 5,000 citizens of voting age. Those are apples and oranges as far as numbers go. I did have one other question and it had to do with the translation edits. If we are not using a certified translator, how is the state or the county going to be assured that the translation occurring is communicating the correct information?

#### **Mary Janet Ramos:**

For clarification purposes, the reason we compared apples and oranges in regard to the question about 1,400 individuals was in order to reflect exactly what the data set represented. That is exactly how the U.S. Census captures that data set.

#### **Assemblywoman Torres:**

Regarding the translation question, we had a conversation about that. Would we have to require certified translators? We also recognized that there are some languages spoken here in Nevada that do not have certified translators or would be an undue burden for us to have access to. Specifically, here in the state of Nevada, Shoshone was the language that we were not sure we would have access to a translator for.

#### **Chair Gorelow:**

Committee members, are there any more questions?

#### **Assemblywoman Monroe-Moreno:**

Do you know what the anticipated costs would be for the translations?

#### Mark Wlaschin, Deputy Secretary for Elections, Office of the Secretary of State:

The anticipated fiscal analysis is still ongoing. We are looking to make sure that we are using the in-place state vehicles for things like translative services and interpretive services. We are also looking to other states. There are a number of states that have translative services on their Secretary of State's websites or other state government websites that would provide the services identified. Instead of trying to provide a specific value, I will say that while we continue to research this, we do anticipate the need for approximately \$8 million upfront in part for a statewide contract. This is currently on review. Once we have a solid number, we will submit that appropriately.

#### **Assemblywoman Monroe-Moreno:**

I know that the Office of the Secretary of State has requested funding to update your computer system. Could this be included in that contract money that is already being allocated? You also said you are going to be looking at what some other states have done. If there is work already done in another state, utilizing what is out there could save money, correct?

#### Mark Wlaschin:

Absolutely. The goal is to save the Nevada taxpayers' money at every opportunity while meeting the requirements to support the needs of the electorate. Your question regarding the transition to a top-down system absolutely is something that we have been looking very closely at. We are trying to identify if there is a way to ensure that we are applying the potential provisions of these and other bills to that transition as well.

#### **Assemblywoman Monroe-Moreno:**

If we did not have a certified translator here in the state of Nevada, I would encourage you to utilize the other states that may have had a certified translator. This would also save us money and use the skill set that they had.

#### Assemblywoman González:

What are we defining as voting materials? In section 4, it says this is defined, but in the amendment, I do not see a section 4. Could we get clarity on that?

#### **Assemblywoman Torres:**

We are continuing to keep section 1 through section 4 of the original bill. It is just not included in the proposed amendment [Exhibit C]. Section 4 of the bill states, "'Voting materials' means any material related to voter registration, elections and the electoral process, including, without limitation, applications to register to vote, ballots, mail ballots, sample ballots, instructions and other forms."

#### **Chair Gorelow:**

What is the process if I am someone who just speaks Spanish? Will I mark it on my voter registration, or push "Spanish" at the polls to get assistance?

#### **Mary Janet Ramos:**

Our clerks and registrars will guide this process. In Clark County, the voter registration form has three checkboxes for language of preference: English, Spanish, and Tagalog. Once a box is checked as the language of preference, that voter automatically gets sent information in that language. When a voter shows up at a polling site, they automatically can select their language of preference. In the amended bill, there is language that asks a voter to report their language of preference. If their demographic meets the population threshold, they will be receiving those voting materials in that language. There is still an ongoing conversation as to exactly how that will look. Clark County is an example of an election department that is currently doing the work they are required to by section 203 of the VRA.

#### **Chair Gorelow:**

Since I see no more questions from the Committee, I will start with testimony in support of A.B. 246.

#### Gabriel Di Chiara, Chief Deputy Secretary of State, Office of the Secretary of State:

I am here testifying in support of the bill on behalf of Secretary of State Francisco Aguilar. He believes very strongly in expanding voting access as far as possible, including to speakers with limited-English proficiency. He believes that this bill goes a long way towards expanding our electorate. We have worked very closely with the election clerks as well as voting rights groups on this bill, and we believe that it presents a compromise that will expand the right to vote to as many people as possible without unnecessary fiscal impact.

#### Sarah Rojas, Private Citizen, Las Vegas, Nevada:

I am here today in support of <u>A.B. 246</u>. I just want to echo everything that was said about the state of Nevada being the third-most diverse state in the country. Almost 30 percent of people speak a language other than English at home. I just want to reiterate that my family, despite their limited-English proficiency, deserves to have a place in the democratic process.

#### Carlos Calderon, Raiz Organizer, Planned Parenthood of the Rocky Mountains:

Raiz is a program from Planned Parenthood which focuses on the Latino community. I am here testifying in support of A.B. 246. Based on the 2020 Census, Nevada is the third-most diverse state in the U.S. As an immigrant and native Spanish speaker, I have personally experienced the challenge faced by Spanish speakers in accessing election information in Nevada. Almost 30 percent of the population speaks a language other than English at home, highlighting the need for multilingual educational materials. As a multicultural state, we should ensure that all residents can access information in the language they understand best, especially when it comes to civil engagement. Language barriers should not prevent anyone from exercising their rights as a citizen.

## Marilyn Morales, Director of Administration, American Civil Liberties Union of Nevada:

On behalf of the American Civil Liberties Union of Nevada, we are in support of this bill and thank the sponsor for bringing it forward.

#### Mariella Ibarra Locano, Private Citizen, Las Vegas, Nevada:

I am a member of the Culinary Union, and I am here for strong support of <u>A.B. 246</u>. As a bilingual, English-speaking, Spanish speaker, I understand firsthand the importance of removing language barriers to voting. Language barriers create significant obstacles for voting for the non-English speaker, hindering the ability to address the voting process and cast the ballot. This is especially crucial to address in our state given that 30 percent of our population speaks a language other than English. With such a large percentage of the population potentially impacted by language barriers, we should ensure that all Nevadans can vote in their preference language. By doing so, we will be promoting inclusion in our democracy and send a message to non-English speaking communities that their votes matter. I firmly believe that our voters are our voice, and every vote should be heard. A person's language should not restrict their right to vote. Please support <u>A.B. 246</u>.

#### Mary Wolfrom, Private Citizen, Las Vegas, Nevada:

[Testimony translated by Robert Garcia, Economic Justice Organizer, Make the Road Nevada.] I am a proud member leader of Make the Road Nevada. I firmly believe in the importance of voting as a fundamental way for citizens to express their voices and shape the future of our society. It is through the democratic process that we the people can make a real difference. Language accessibility guarantees that all citizens regardless of their origin can fully participate in the electoral process. By providing accessible and complete information to all voters, we give them the power to make informed decisions and exercise their constitutional right to vote. We must take into account the diversity needs of our communities to create a more inclusive and solid democracy. In addition, I emphasize the importance of including families from various backgrounds in the decision-making process. In doing so, we make sure that the elected representatives accurately reflect and address the needs and priorities of their constituents. I urge the Committee to prioritize language accessibility in the voting process. [Written testimony was also provided Exhibit E.]

#### Aleida Martinez, Private Citizen, Las Vegas, Nevada:

[Testimony translated by Robert Garcia, Economic Justice Organizer, Make the Road Nevada.] I am a proud member of Make the Road Nevada. I am here to express my support for A.B. 246. Ensuring language accessibility will promote more Nevadans to participate in the voting process and cast their ballot. The barriers that are faced by people like me could be simply managed by passing A.B. 246 to expand language accessibility. Assembly Bill 246 goes beyond the federal requirement for Spanish translation. I have worked at polling stations since 2008. My experience with the Latin community is that many of their frequently asked questions could be simply answered by printing voting materials in Spanish. Unfortunately, I am not authorized to give them that information, so I must talk to the team leader to be able to give them the necessary support.

It is of great importance to be able to give clear information in the preferred language so that the voting process is easier. They can make use of the right to vote. Please support <u>A.B. 246</u> because we want everyone to have access to vote. [Written testimony was also provided <u>Exhibit F.</u>]

#### Silvia Buenrostro, Organizer, Culinary Workers Union Local 226:

I support the bill <u>A.B. 246</u> because I believe this is really important for us in the great state of Nevada with our great diversity that we have. I greatly appreciate your support as well. You know, I could not say it better than all of our peers here. I really thank you and appreciate your support.

#### Luis Medina, Private Citizen, Las Vegas, Nevada:

I am proud to be a member of Make the Road Nevada, and I am here today to express my strong support for A.B. 246. As we all know, voting is a fundamental right and the cornerstone of our democracy. However, for many communities, accessing the ballot box is not always easy. That is why we must remove any and all barriers to voting including language and technological barriers. The Voting Rights Act is a critical piece of legislation that supports minorities in accessing the information they need to participate in the voting process. It is essential that all communities have access to information in a way they can understand so that they can engage civically and participate fully in our democracy. By doing so, we ensure that every vote matters and that everyone has a say in the decisions that impact their lives. Assembly Bill 246 is an important step towards achieving this goal. It would help remove barriers to voting by ensuring that individuals have the resources they need to participate in the democratic process, regardless of language or technology limitations. This will make a huge difference for many individuals and communities and help create a more inclusive and equitable society. As a member of Make the Road Nevada, I urge you to join me in supporting A.B. 246. By doing so, we can ensure that everyone has a voice in our democracy and that no one is left behind. [Written testimony was also provided Exhibit G.]

#### Karla Sanchez, Youth Organizer, Make the Road Nevada:

I am here to express my unwavering support for <u>A.B. 246</u>, which is focused on promoting language accessibility in our democratic processes. As someone who grew up with parents who speak only Spanish, I have firsthand experience with the difficulties that language barriers can present in everyday life. I have been my family's designated translator from a young age, responsible for interpreting complex information that even adults find challenging to understand. This bill aims to prioritize language accessibility, guaranteeing that each citizen regardless of their linguistic abilities can fully participate in our democracy. By making information available in multiple languages and providing translation services, we can break down barriers that prevent many from exercising their right to vote. In conclusion, I urge you to support <u>A.B. 246</u> and make language accessibility a priority for all citizens.

#### Robert Garcia, Economic Justice Organizer, Make the Road Nevada:

I am here today to express my strong support for <u>A.B. 246</u>, an important bill that will help make the voting process more accessible to our communities. One of the main reasons

people do not vote is because of language barriers that often discourage people from voting. As someone who has voted since the age of 18 in every election possible, I believe it is my civic duty to vote and make the voting process more accessible to my community. The language use and voting materials can be complex and difficult to understand. This can create significant barriers for individuals who do not speak English fluently, and it can be difficult for them to participate in the democratic process. I personally have witnessed people struggle to understand voting material and, in many cases, I had to help translate for them. We must lower these barriers and ensure all voices are heard in our democracy. Assembly Bill 246 is a step in the right direction towards achieving this goal. Thirty percent of Nevada's voting population speaks another language other than English. It is important that we provide voting materials in multiple languages to ensure everyone can participate in the voting process. Allowing people to vote in the language they prefer will make it easier for them to have their voices heard and make democracy stronger. Our civic duty is not only to vote, but also to make sure everyone's voice is heard. We need to ensure equal and equitable access to voting. Assembly Bill 246 is a crucial step in achieving this goal. I urge your support for A.B. 246. Let us make it possible for people to have their voices heard and ensure that everyone has an equal say in the democratic process. [Written testimony was also provided Exhibit H.]

#### Brian Harris, Voter Education Organizer, Battle Born Progress:

I am here to testify in support of A.B. 246. We have one of the most diverse populations in the nation, and our election system needs to reflect that. All the folks who are eligible should have the right to vote and access to voting. That means having access to ballots and election materials in languages that they can understand. Assembly Bill 246 allows more accessible language to be added to the ballot and allow those who have a voice to participate in the right to vote. I urge you to support this bill

#### **Chair Gorelow:**

We will move to Las Vegas next for testimony and support.

# Jenny Koo, Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, Nevada Chinese Association, Las Vegas, Nevada:

The Nevada Chinese Association is a local community organization that hosts events about the Chinese culture and connects the Chinese community in Las Vegas to many resources. By translating election materials into more languages, people in my community will be able to make their own choice at the ballot box with the information they need about how to register to vote and how to vote. Last year in 2022, we helped distribute Chinese-language ballots in Clark County. When passing out these ballots, many of our members told us how helpful having election information in their native language would be. In previous years, organizations like mine would share news articles we would find on local Chinese media, but having official Clark County materials will make people trust information we provide. Chinese election material will be required in 2026 in Clark County, but we have a chance to work together to reach out to the Chinese community in 2024. We hope you pass <u>A.B. 246</u> so we can provide election materials in more languages.

## Bianca Balderas, Civic Engagement Program Manager, Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada:

I am here in support of A.B. 246. At Progressive Leadership Alliance of Nevada, we believe everybody's voice is valuable and that our democracy is most vibrant when as many people as possible are able to participate. This is why within our program we organize nonpartisan get-out-to-vote community events and hold democracy dinners across the state in both English and Spanish. We hope to empower voters to feel confident when participating in democracy and in the electoral process. During these events, our organizers have encountered eligible voters who have never voted. When asked why, the reasons vary, with many of what would be first-time voters stating a language barrier. Language access also promotes civic engagement and inclusion. It sends a message that our community members whose primary language is not English are valued members of the electoral process. This in turn can help build trust in the political process and increase voter turnout among underrepresented groups. In a democracy, every vote should be heard and all barriers to voting should be removed. A voter's limited-English proficiency should not restrict their right to vote. By supporting A.B. 246, you will demonstrate your commitment to holding fair and accessible elections. This reflects the diversity in our state.

#### Guillermo Barahona, Civic Engagement Director, Chispa Nevada:

I am here today here on behalf of Chispa Nevada, a program of the League of Conservation Voters which builds the power of low-income Latinx communities. On behalf of our members in the broader Latinx community, I am here in support of A.B. 246. Over the last few years, Chispa has led a robust effort to educate and register eligible voters across Clark County. In these conversations with community members, we have heard multiple times that voters need election materials in multiple languages in order to fully participate in elections. That is why we support A.B. 246. Here in Nevada, we take one step further for easing the lives of our fellow Nevadans and ensuring smooth running elections. That is why we need to take these extra steps. This is important to ensure community has a voice in the process and our elected officials are responsive to the challenges facing all Nevadans. It is critical that our elections are accessible and prioritize the voting rights of every Nevada, regardless of English-language proficiency.

#### Melanie Arizmendi, Political Intern, Culinary Workers Local Union 226:

The Culinary Union is part of Nevada's diversity, and the Union supports <u>A.B. 246</u>. Culinary Union members come from 178 countries and speak over 40 different languages. The Union strongly supports the voting rights of all Nevadans. It is impossible for Nevadans to be able to functionally exercise their rights if they cannot fully comprehend voting materials being provided to them. Language should not be a barrier to Nevadans attempting to access their fundamental rights. The Culinary Union urges the Committee to support and pass <u>A.B. 246</u>.

#### Admasu Gebremeskel, Private Citizen, Las Vegas, Nevada:

I am a member of Culinary Union Local 226, and I am here in strong support of <u>A.B. 246</u>. During election years, the Culinary Union has helped bring down language barriers by recruiting Amharic speakers who are union members to help get out the vote to members of the Ethiopian-American community. Being able to communicate in our native language

impowers the community to exercise our rights to vote. As an Ethiopian-American Amharic speaker, having voting materials and phone numbers to call where we can have our questions about voting answered in Amharic will be beneficial to me and so many members of the Ethiopian community who prefer to have this information in our native language. There is a large Ethiopian community in Las Vegas, and it is important to note that we are diverse within our own community. Ethiopians have five official languages, so having the ability to report our language preference will allow the state to understand the needs that exist in our community for voting materials in our native language. This will help voters whose primary language is not English. Please support A.B. 246.

#### Amy Koo, Acting Deputy Director, One APIA Nevada:

I just wanted to follow up with materials that we presented. We actually understand how difficult it is to translate these ballot materials. Alongside All Voting Is Local and our sister organization, Asian Community Development Council, we translated the entire Clark County ballot in 2022 into Chinese. We worked with Northern Nevada International Center at University of Nevada, Reno, but we also did the copywriting for it. Eric Jeng, who is presenting here tonight, was actually the person who checked all of the translations. We have copies of that sample ballot for all of you to see. The ballot is almost 20 pages and took a long time for us to both review and make sure that we were providing the most accurate information, understanding that different areas in the country use different phrases for election materials and things like that. When we were doing our research, we made sure to check our local Chinese newspapers to ensure we were using the same language they were using. I wanted to highlight this because we know it is not easy. We know we are asking a lot from the county registrars. As a community organization, we are providing this information to communities that are not being provided this information yet by the state. We know that Chinese is going to be required in 2026. This is just one step to making sure that we are ready for that.

#### LuAnn Holmes, City Clerk, City of Las Vegas:

We recognize that <u>A.B. 246</u> is another tool in increasing accessibility for our voters, and we support this additional equity and access solution. We know that democracy is stronger when all eligible voters participate in the election process. As an election official, I want to remove barriers and support access for voters. I believe this bill does just that. We appreciate your bringing this bill forward.

#### **Chair Gorelow:**

Seeing no one else in Las Vegas coming to the table in support, we will move to callers in support.

#### Kim Le, President, Vietnamese-American Community of Las Vegas:

I am calling in support. We are a local group that connects our community with others to promote the cultural preservation and reach social and economic well-being. We encourage civic engagement to improve the life of the Vietnamese Americans in Las Vegas. We host cultural events celebrating Vietnamese culture. We also have many events where members

can volunteer, meet each other, and support each other. Many of our community members serve as official translators and help provide information about the local governments, local organizations, and events in Vietnamese. This is true for everything including elections. Despite our community growing in the last several years, in Nevada there are only a few language resources talking about local news and elections. <u>Assembly Bill 246</u> would allow for counties to provide translated materials into more languages including the Vietnamese in the future. This would be a policy that would benefit the Vietnamese-American community greatly, especially for the elderly, by providing accurate information about the election for everyone. We hope that you support <u>A.B. 246</u>.

#### Jollina Simpson, Grant and Policy Researcher, Make It Work Nevada:

I am testifying in support of <u>A.B. 246</u>. Make It Work Nevada believes that language access will go a long way in supporting the full participation of eligible voters in the state. We would like to thank Assemblywoman Torres for bringing this forward, and we strongly urge you to pass it.

#### **Chair Gorelow:**

Seeing no more callers in support of <u>Assembly Bill 246</u>, we will move back to Carson City for more support testimony.

#### Emily Persaud-Zamora, Executive Director, Silver State Voices:

On behalf of the coalition formed by Silver State Voices and Let Nevadans Vote, I am here testifying in strong support of A.B. 246. As an organization that works on democracy issues year-round from voter registration to voter education to election protection in every single election season without fail, we receive questions about language access and voting in almost all of the 17 counties in Nevada. We have been asked to help find an interpreter for Mandarin-speaking voters at the polling location during early voting. When we come across election materials, the first question that is asked is if the materials have been translated into Spanish. Language access is always at the top of our minds when educating voters and encouraging them to cast their ballot. Assembly Bill 246 would address the language needs of Nevada voters by establishing policy changes throughout the state. I think that is the part that we really want to emphasize. I know there has been a lot of conversation about Clark and Washoe Counties, but there are many growing communities in the other 15 counties that are not currently being serviced. This is something that we think would really, really benefit many of these communities. We would like to thank Assemblywoman Torres for listening to the needs of our communities. We are really proud of the work that our partners All Voting Is Local, Asian Community Development Council, and One APIA Nevada have done around this bill. We urge the Committee to support A.B. 246.

#### Tony Ramirez, Government Affairs Manager, Make the Road Nevada:

I just wanted to echo all the testimony and support, especially from my membership, Make the Road Nevada. We support A.B. 246.

[Exhibit I in support of A.B. 246 was submitted but not discussed and is included as an exhibit of the meeting.]

#### **Chair Gorelow:**

We will close support testimony for A.B. 246 and will now hear testimony in opposition.

#### Lynn Chapman, Treasurer, Independent American Party of Nevada:

According to the 22nd edition of *Ethnologue*, there are currently 7,111 living languages in the world. Today, Chinese has 13 variations. Arabic has 20 variations, and English is the number one language used in the world today. According to world data information, only 1,000 years ago there were about 9,000 languages. Due to increasing globalization, the number is decreasing. It is assumed that by the beginning of the twenty-third century, there should be only 100 different languages around the world. According to world data information, the top languages spoken in countries today include French, spoken in 46 countries; Spanish, 34 countries; Chinese, 25 countries; and Russian, 22 countries. English is spoken in 58 countries. My father worked the voting polls in California. For many years, California had a law just like what we want to pass here. He told me in election year after election year that they had many boxes full of ballots with different languages in each box. He told me that they may have used a couple here and a couple there but at the end of the day, there were many boxes still full of ballots that would be thrown away and never used. Let us not waste the taxpayers' hard-earned dollars by printing thousands of ballots and registration applications in so many different languages. Please vote no on A.B. 246.

#### **Chair Gorelow:**

Seeing no more opposition testimony in Carson City we will move to Las Vegas. Seeing no one to testify in opposition of A.B. 246, we will move to callers in opposition.

#### Cyrus Hojjaty, Private Citizen, Las Vegas, Nevada:

I am in opposition to <u>Assembly Bill 246</u>. When immigrants come to the United States, they should know English. You should have one language that would work among the whole country. That is what unites them. I do not see this as an incentive for people to assimilate and blend in. I am of Persian descent and there is no plan for Persian language in the bill. In order to vote, you have to become a U.S. citizen and you have to have some recognition of English. Something smells fishy about this because I want to make sure U.S. citizens vote. We already have universal mail-in voting. With that the case, could not people take the words and translate them? I hear a lot of people talk about diversity, and I am wondering what diversity is, really. What is the ultimate goal? Is zero percent of the population going to be of European descent? What does that actually mean? I do not support this bill once again.

#### Alida Benson, Executive Director, Nevada Republican Party:

In the process for how to become a naturalized U.S. citizen, the fourth requirement states "be able to read, write, and speak basic English." In Article 2, section 1 of the *Nevada Constitution*, it states that only U.S. citizens have the right to vote. This bill seeks to require counties to print ballots in up to eight additional languages. If the requirement for all naturalized citizens is to read, write, and speak basic English, and all American-born citizens are entitled to a free public education, then why would any U.S. citizen need a ballot in another language? This bill clearly places a significant unfunded-mandate burden on Nevada

counties. There is not a single fiscal note attached to this bill. Although there were costs mentioned, a fiscal note should be attached in order to further clarify what the cost would be to each county. We already offer Spanish and Tagalog ballots in Nevada pursuant to federal law. This bill clarifies that limited-English proficiency means being unable to speak or understand English adequately to participate in the electoral process. According to Nevada's own Department of Education, in 2021 only 44 percent of the high school students and future voters of Clark County demonstrate proficiency in English. Does this mean they are going to have special materials prepared as well? Voting is for citizens and citizens in the U.S. have to read, write, and speak basic English. There is no need for an unfunded government mandate that goes far beyond federal law to again try and override the election diversity that Nevada voters have demanded at the local level. We support the right of all legal citizens to exercise their right to vote in our republic. Please vote no on Assembly Bill 246.

#### Ellen Gifford, Private Citizen, Las Vegas, Nevada:

I respect the testimony that I have heard in support of <u>A.B. 246</u>. However, as a taxpayer and a voter, I have many questions. I have analyzed <u>A.B. 246</u> carefully and I have not yet received enough positive information regarding the cost, potentially increased bureaucracy, added complexity to our voting system, and additional workload on our election officials. I must request that there be more information about these issues before I can support this bill.

#### Tracy Thomas, Private Citizen, Las Vegas Nevada

I agree with Miss Benson, Ms. Chapman, and Miss Gifford. There is no reasonable justification for increased wasteful cost in our elections. It is already wasteful enough. There is also, when new citizens are naturalized in naturalization ceremonies, those ceremonies are conducted in English, not the 30 different languages that are represented by naturalized citizens in those ceremonies. I just do not think that there is any justification for it. If voters do need assistance with their ballot, they can find people that will help them with their ballot, and they can sign off on the little disclosure waiver saying that they helped this voter in there with filling out their ballots.

#### Deborah Sauk, Private Citizen, Las Vegas, Nevada

My son-in-law was born in Tehran. His parents were also born in Iran. All of them speak English. They are all naturalized citizens. When I have heard testimony in here talking about eligible voters, in order to be eligible, you must be a citizen and as previously stated to be a citizen, you must be able to read and write English. I understand giving information in another language, but not on a ballot. I urge you to vote no on <u>A.B. 246</u>.

[Exhibit J in opposition to A.B. 246 was submitted but not discussed and is included as an exhibit of the meeting.

#### **Chair Gorelow:**

Is there anyone else that would like to testify in opposition? Seeing no one, we will move on to neutral. We will come to Carson City. [There was no one.] Next, we will go to Las Vegas for testimony in neutral. [There was no one.] We will move to callers in neutral for <u>Assembly Bill 246</u>.

# Ashley Garza Kennedy, Principal Management Analyst, Government Affairs, Department of Administrative Services, Clark County:

I am here for neutral testimony from Clark County, Nevada. I want to thank the bill sponsor and the bill proponents for working with our elections department, our registrar, and the other counties as well. We believe that this bill is a balanced approach to expand language access while also ensuring adequate implementation. In Clark County we have been offering our election materials in Spanish and Tagalog. Election materials in Spanish were offered as early as 2000, and Tagalog as of the past several years. This is based off of census data and requirements from the federal government in relation to the Voting Rights Act. There was talk today about the data that is used in determining this language access required by section 203. That determination is available online. Based off of that information, we are actually proactively getting ready for offering our election materials in Mandarin because we saw the Chinese population in need of these services. There was a question earlier about what election materials are offered in other languages, and the answer to that is, absolutely everything. Anything that you receive in the mail or visit on our website that is in English is offered in Clark County in both Spanish and Tagalog. That also includes when you go to the voting booth. If you are one of those who need election materials in Spanish or Tagalog, you will see the information you need in the voting booth and be able to make your selections in your preferred language. As the administrator of elections, we have a responsibility to ensure that if we translate official election materials, we do so accurately. We appreciate the bill proponents for working with us and we believe that Clark County is at a place we think achieved these objectives and ensures we are able to do it right and equitably.

## Catherine Nielsen, Executive Director, Nevada Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities:

I want to thank Assemblywoman Torres for discussing language access. I want to also talk about language access being vital for people with disabilities and other accommodational needs. This includes language such as braille and American Sign Language (ASL). This bill addresses many varied languages like Chinese, Tagalog, Spanish, Thai, and Vietnamese, but fails to specifically mention other types of language access such as braille and ASL. I would also like to ask that you please remember ASL is not English.

In Nevada, 7,350 people report having a visual impairment, and 119,495 people report having a hearing impairment. A little over 200,000 people could be included in this bill. The bill does not mention who the three additional required members of the Office of the Secretary of State's Language Access Advisory Committee will be. It is vital that the organizations that are appointed to this committee understand that language access goes beyond simply translating election materials into another language. Representation from the varying language access groups such as the blind and visually impaired and the deaf or hard of hearing should be included as required members on the Language Access Advisory Committee to ensure all constituents' needs for language access are addressed equally.

The Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities believes that people with developmental disabilities and other varying language access needs should receive community supports to allow them to have equal access to voting.

#### **Chair Gorelow:**

I am actually going to reclassify your testimony in opposition because you have requested some changes in the language of the bill. I would recommend getting with the bill sponsor and discussing those with her.

Is there anyone else in Carson City who would like to testify in neutral? Seeing no one, we will go to Las Vegas. Is there anyone in Las Vegas who would like to testify in neutral? Seeing no one, we will move to callers in neutral.

#### Jamie Rodriguez, Registrar of Voters, Washoe County:

I am testifying today in neutral. I really want to thank Assemblywoman Torres and the proponents of the bill for working with us on the amendment that was presented today. Our job administering elections is to ensure that we are allowing for accessibility for all of our voters. However, it is extremely important that it is done correctly. Translations do not help unless they are done correctly, accurately, or completely for all materials as has been discussed today. We did ask for a separation of the written versus the audio for the new lower mandate versus the federal mandates. That is in large part due to some of the specifics of in-person voting concerning the audio that is available for those voters who are visually challenged for in-person voting. Ensuring that we have accurate vendors available to support that, that we have people here who are able to also prove that we do not simply send our information to the translator and assume that is correct. Making sure that we are doing it correctly is really very, very important.

Washoe County offers all election materials in both English and Spanish, including our sample ballots, ballots, and the instructions for mail ballots. We have had very few individuals who have actually noted a desire for Spanish materials for our correspondence. If this bill is passed, we definitely need to make sure that we are being more proactive with those who wish to have materials provided in other languages. We have to make sure that we have that information correctly and abundantly available. That is something we will be working on.

I also wanted to note one of Washoe County's main goals going into the 2024 election is to include more bilingual poll workers. We have had difficulty finding enough bilingual election workers to help those who are not English proficient when they do come and vote. We do, again, really appreciate working with the sponsor and proponents for the bill.

#### **Chair Gorelow:**

Since there are no more callers to testify in neutral, I will close that testimony. Assemblywoman Torres, would you like to come up for some final words?

#### **Assemblywoman Torres:**

In closing, I just want to remind this Committee that Nevada voters are diverse. I think that diversity is a great strength in this state. The 2020 Census ranked Nevada as the third-most diverse state in the country, with the fourth-largest population of residents who identify as AAPI, and the fifth-largest population who identify as Latino. Thirty percent of Nevadans

speak a different language at home. Almost 20 percent of the population is foreign born, and 50 percent of those are naturalized citizens. These are critical numbers. I heard the concern that certain languages including Persian were excluded, but we very well could include it one day. I think that is exactly why we need to pass this bill. We need to be tracking what languages our registered voters speak so that we know in what languages ballots should be available. One of the key parts of this bill is updating the voter registration form so that as individuals register to vote, they can indicate the language they would prefer receiving election information in. Thank you to everybody, including our state's clerks and registrars, who reached out and continue to work with me. We had many conversations and emails back and forth. Obviously, thank you to One APIA Nevada and All Voting is Local for all their work in bringing forward this important measure that will ensure accessibility of voting for all Nevadans.

#### **Chair Gorelow:**

I will now close the hearing on <u>Assembly Bill 246</u>. I will open the work session for Assembly Bill 104.

<u>Assembly Bill 104</u>: Revises provisions governing the submission of legislative measures for city charters. (BDR 17-141)

#### **Haley Proehl, Committee Policy Analyst:**

[Read from Exhibit K.] Assembly Bill 104 is sponsored by Assemblymen Dickman and O'Neill. It was heard in this Committee on March 2, 2023. The measure authorizes a city that is incorporated by special charter, in addition to the number of legislative measures the city is authorized to request based on its population, to request one legislative measure for a regular session of the Legislature that proposes to amend the charter of the city. Assemblywoman Dickman proposed an amendment to limit the number of times a city incorporated by special charter may request the additional legislative measure authorized by this bill to not more than twice every ten years.

#### **Chair Gorelow:**

Are there any questions? [There were none.] I will entertain a motion for A.B. 104.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN MILLER MADE A MOTION TO AMEND AND DO PASS ASSEMBLY BILL 104.

ASSEMBLYMAN DELONG SECONDED THE MOTION.

Are there any discussions on the motion?

#### **Assemblywoman Newby:**

I have been in contact with the bill sponsor. Normally I am very supportive of our local government partners, but I am going to be a nay on this. I think that charter bills need to be prioritized. If it is that important to bring, then it should be the bill draft request (BDR) for

the municipality. In this Committee, we have heard testimony about further limiting the number of BDRs. While I am not supportive of that, I am not supportive of expanding the number of BDRs either.

#### **Chair Gorelow:**

Are there any other discussions?

THE MOTION PASSED. (ASSEMBLYMEN MCARTHUR AND NEWBY VOTED NO.)

I will assign the floor statement to Assemblywoman Dickman. That concludes the work session. The next agenda item is public comment. [There was none.] We will meet on Thursday at 4 p.m. in Room 3142. We are adjourned [at 5:33 p.m.].

	RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:
	Kristi Howard
	Committee Secretary
APPROVED BY:	
Assemblywoman Michelle Gorelow, Chair	
DATE:	

#### **EXHIBITS**

Exhibit A is the Agenda.

Exhibit B is the Attendance Roster.

Exhibit C is a proposed amendment to <u>Assembly Bill 246</u>, submitted by Assemblywoman Selena Torres, Assembly District No. 3.

<u>Exhibit D</u> is a copy of a PowerPoint presentation titled "AB 246 - Ballots for All: Improving Language Access for Nevada Voters," submitted by Assemblywoman Selena Torres, Assembly District No. 3.

<u>Exhibit E</u> is written testimony submitted by Mary Wolfrom, Private Citizen, Las Vegas, Nevada, in support of <u>Assembly Bill 246</u>.

Exhibit F is written testimony submitted by Aleida Martinez, Private Citizen, Las Vegas, Nevada, in support of Assembly Bill 246.

Exhibit G is written testimony submitted by Luis Medina, Private Citizen, Las Vegas, Nevada, in support of Assembly Bill 246.

<u>Exhibit H</u> is written testimony submitted by Robert Garcia, Economic Justice Organizer, Make the Road Nevada, in support of <u>Assembly Bill 246</u>.

Exhibit I is a packet of letters in support of Assembly Bill 246.

Exhibit J is a packet of letters in opposition to Assembly Bill 246.

<u>Exhibit K</u> is the Work Session Document for <u>Assembly Bill 104</u>, presented by Haley Proehl, Committee Policy Analyst, Research Division, Legislative Counsel Bureau.