



vote!

January 30, 2017

The Honorable Joe McDermott
Chair, King County Council
Room 1200
COURTHOUSE

Dear Councilmember McDermott:

I am pleased to transmit to you the attached Limited English Proficiency Data Report as required by Ordinance 18086.

Per the legislation, we have reviewed United States Census Bureau and other data, as well as collected input from both community and governmental partners, to make a recommendation on whether or not we should translate voting materials into additional languages. Based on our findings, I would not recommend changing the 10,000 limited-English speaking resident threshold at this time. The four languages for which we currently provide translation are consistent with a variety of data sources – including the County's translation tiers – and I believe they are the right ones for us right now.

Additionally, we heard from our community partners, who represent many of the languages further down the list, that translation actually isn't their top priority. They would prefer to see resources dedicated to civic education on issues like what voting looks in this country, who is eligible to vote and, how you register.

I hope you find the report informative and please don't hesitate to contact me if you have questions.

Sincerely,

Julie Wise
Elections Director

Enclosures

cc: King County Councilmembers
ATTN: Carolyn Busch, Chief of Staff
Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council
Ellen Hansen, Chair, Citizen Elections Oversight Committee