

WASHINGTON - A multi-year study of bilingual election services throughout the United States will be released on September 12 by the Federal Election Commission's National Clearinghouse on Election Administration.

The long-awaited study, which was conducted under contract by the University of New Mexico, analyzes problems in providing bilingual voter services in more than 300 local jurisdictions in some 30 different states. Volume One of the study is a handbook for local election officials, suggesting various approaches and techniques they might use to identify language minority populations, and to define the types of election services most appropriate to their needs. It also reviews different ideas and approaches for designing effective bilingual registration programs and for providing effective bilingual services at polling places.

Volume Two is a glossary of Spanish election terminology. The need for this became apparent to the researchers who found a wide variation in quality and accuracy of translations from English into Spanish.

Volume Three of the Study summarizes a two-year analysis of how election officials throughout the country have identified their language minority populations and defined their needs as well as how bilingual registration and balloting services have been provided to date.

The Bilingual Elections Services Study was supervised by a nine-member advisory board created by the Federal Election Commission. Serving on the Advisory Board, and organizations each represented, are:

Henry Der, Chinese for Affirmative Action; Joyce Dieffenderfer, Director, Dade County Election Department; Andrew Hernandez, Southwest Voter Registration Education Project; George Korbel, U.S. Commission on Civil Rights; Leonard Panish, Registrar-Recorder, Los Angeles County; Al Perez, Associate Counsel, Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund; James K. Shumway, Elections Administrator, Pima County, Arizona; Ms. M.D. Taracido, Puerto Rican Legal Defense Fund; Peter Weiner, California Rural Legal Assistance, San Francisco.