

Ensuring access, equity, and inclusion

*COVID-19 and Election Administration:
Approaches for Election Officials*
May 28, 2020

Housekeeping

- Be gracious about **work-from-home setups**
- **Restart Zoom** if needed
- Slides **and captioned recordings** will be available on the registration page
- Use the **chat panel** to say hello, chat with other attendees, and ask questions

Today's objectives

- Ensure **all voters can cast a ballot**
- **Translate** election materials appropriately
- Respond to the needs of **voters displaced** by the pandemic
- Partner with **community groups**

Today's agenda

- Introduction (5 minutes)
- Who is affected by vote by mail? (10 minutes)
- Steps to ensure access (10 minutes)
- Community partnerships (10 minutes)
- Q&A (20 minutes)
- Wrapping up and course survey (5 minutes)

Hello, there!



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TECH AND
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Center for Tech and Civic Life (CTCL)

Harnessing the promise of
technology to modernize the
American voting experience

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Federal resources

- Set of documents provide guidance for state, local, tribal, and territorial election officials
- Written by the Joint COVID-19 Working Group
 - Cyber Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA)
 - Elections Infrastructure Government Coordinating Council (GCC)
 - Elections Infrastructure Sector Coordinating Council's (SCC)
- <https://www.cisa.gov/publication/covid-19-election-resources>

Keep in mind

1. This is tough!
2. One size doesn't fit all
3. Things will change
4. Preparation and flexibility > a solo mission
5. A supportive team > a solo mission
6. Your work *matters*, and it's hugely appreciated

Which groups will face barriers to casting their ballot?

UNDERSTANDING VOTER NEEDS

Groups to consider



**Language
barriers**



**Voters with
disabilities**



**Displaced
voters**



**Hard-to-
reach voters**

40%

**of U.S. adults have
low literacy**

10%

**of eligible voters are
naturalized citizens**

There is the potential for

2.35m

**additional voters with
disabilities**



1/2 m

**People experience
homelessness on a given
night**

25.7m

**Students have been
affected**



>1m

**Native Americans live
on reservations**

60m

**People live in rural
areas**

Access

Conditions where any interested person is able to receive services

Equity

Fair treatment that strives to eliminate barriers to full participation

Inclusion

Authentic participation in decision-making so power is shared

Key questions

- What are the impacts of a policy or process?
- Who will benefit or be burdened by this change?
- Are there strategies to mitigate unintended consequences?

A jurisdiction will mail all voters a ballot. Their vendor usually does their translations, but cannot accommodate it on their timeline.

- What are the impacts?
- Who will benefit or be burdened?
- Are there strategies to mitigate unintended consequences?

Due to health concerns, a jurisdiction has had difficulty securing polling locations. They will have fewer polling places in different locations.

- What are the impacts?
- Who will benefit or be burdened?
- Are there strategies to mitigate unintended consequences?

In-person polling locations

- Prevalence of disabilities
- Limited English proficiency
- High populations of eligible non-registered voters
- Areas with low vote by mail use for minority and young voters

How can you make sure all voters are able to cast their vote?

HOW TO INCREASE ACCESS, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION

Administrative processes and deadlines

Date	Event
10/6/2020	Voter registration closes for deputy registrars and local election officials
10/7/2020	First day of grace period registration and voting
10/18/2020	Last day to register to vote by online application
10/19/2020	First day of early voting
10/29/2020	Last day to request a mail ballot, including military and overseas voters
11/2/2020	Last day of early voting
11/2/2020	Last day of grace period registration and voting
11/3/2020	Last day mail ballots can be postmarked
11/3/2020	Election Day


Quality translation procedures



Electronic ballot delivery

- Transmission of a digital copy of an unmarked ballot
- Ballots are returned through mail, *not necessarily digitally*
- Required of all states for UOCAVA voters

Electronic ballot marking

Font Size: A A

[Home](#) [Contact](#)

Please confirm your eligibility to access this system.

Under California law, only voters in the military, overseas voters, and voters with disabilities are eligible to use this accessible Vote by Mail system.

- I am either a voter with a disability or a military or overseas voter, and therefore I am eligible to use this accessible Vote by Mail system.
- I understand that my selections marked by this system and submitted to my local elections official will then be transferred onto an official ballot for tabulation.
- I understand that my selections marked by this system must be printed by me and submitted to my local elections official. Ballots that are mailed must be postmarked by March 3rd, 2020. Ballots that are not mailed must be received no later than 8 p.m. Pacific Time on Tuesday, March 3rd, 2020.

I certify that all of the above are true.

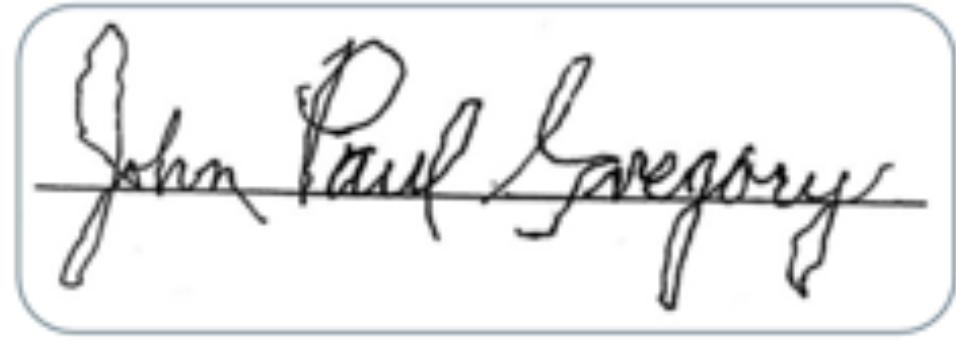
CONTINUE

Signature verification

Signature change has taken place because of age or other factors. If the change is too great recommend that the voter re-register.



Signature 1



Signature 2

In-person polling places

- ADA accessible voting locations
- Multilingual voting information
- Proximity to transit and parking

Curbside voting



Source: Gerald Herbert, The Associated Press

How can partnerships strengthen access, equity, and inclusion?

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

BALTIMORE VOTES AND BLACK GIRLS VOTE PRESENT



PARTY AT *The* MAILBOX

Secretary of State's Office Opens its Doors to Accessibility Community

By [AllOnGeorgia](#) - January 25, 2020



How can we make it work for people with disabilities?

- If you remember one thing: ask them. Involve them in the process
- Provide multiple options for voters to cast their ballots
- Use multiple formats for voter outreach and education

Just don't do this...



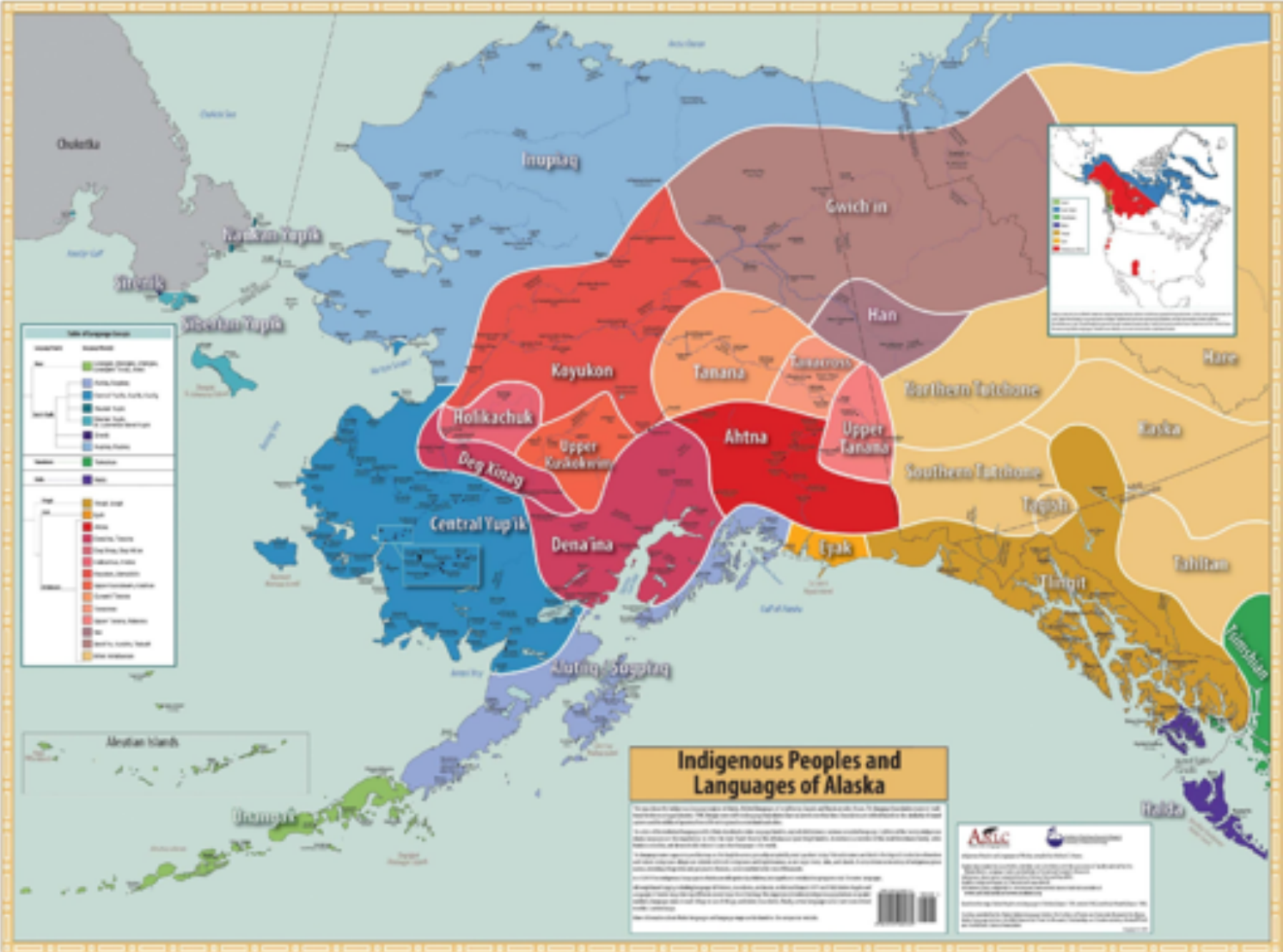
What can you do right now?

- Take a good hard look at your vote by mail or absentee process
- Relax whatever barriers you can
- Consider adapting UOCAVA process for voters
- Tap creative volunteers (National Guard, librarians)
- Get the word out!

Who ya gonna call?

- Your state's Protection and Advocacy
- Find us at www.ndrn.org

Traditional Languages

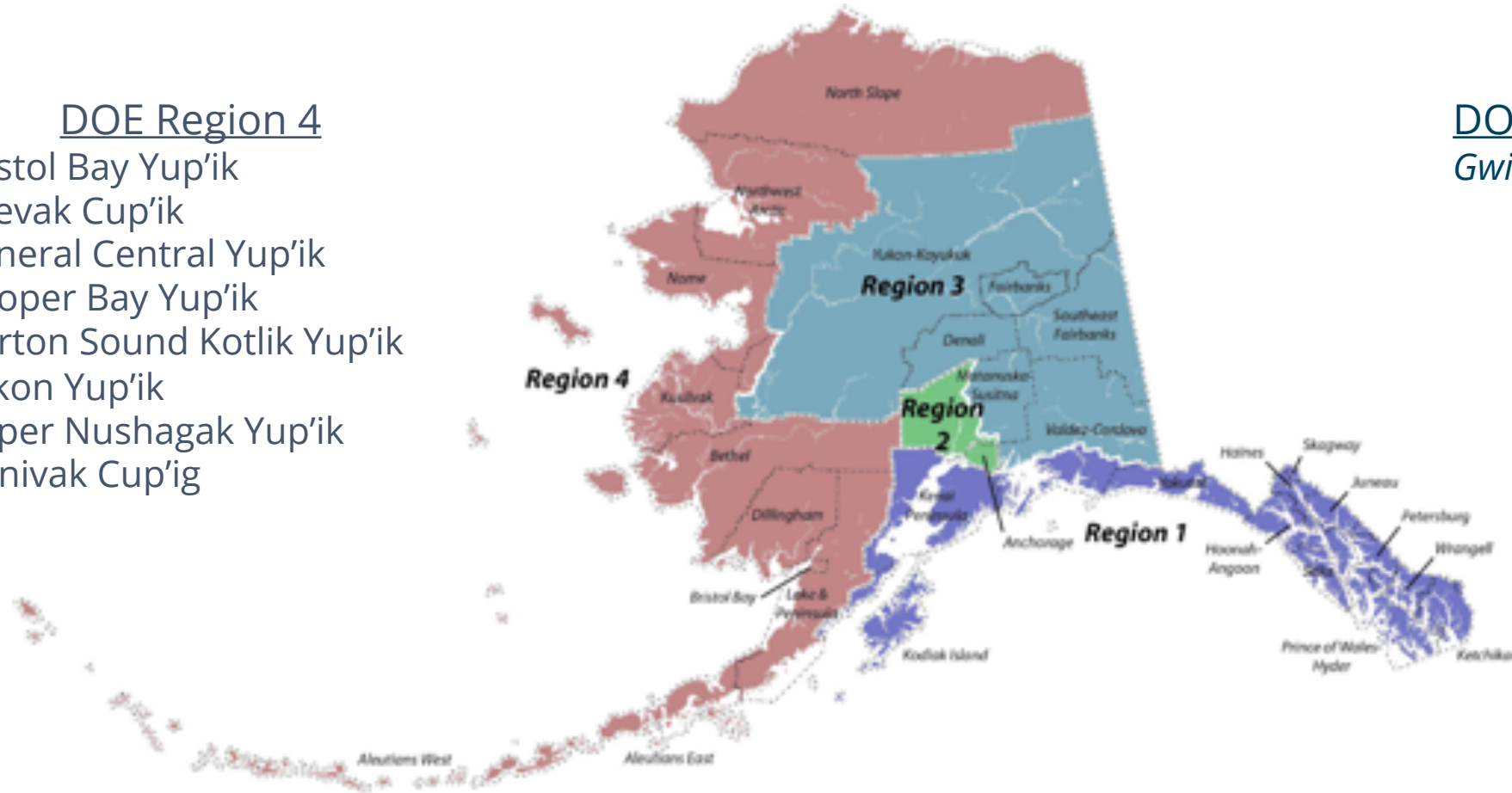


Toyukak Settlement and Section 203

DOE Region 4

Bristol Bay Yup'ik
Chevak Cup'ik
General Central Yup'ik
Hooper Bay Yup'ik
Norton Sound Kotlik Yup'ik
Yukon Yup'ik
Upper Nushagak Yup'ik
Nunivak Cup'ig

DOE Region 3 *Gwich'in*



Audio Tools

- Glossaries
- Public service announcements, radio ads, online, VHF
- Ballot measures online and on touch screen machines
- AFN listening station

Visual Tools

- Glossaries
- Sample ballots
- Ballot measures
- Posters
- OEP

Process

- Translation panels
- Outreach workers
- Poll workers
- Other translations

State of Alaska
Division of Elections



Yup'ik Glossary of Election Terms Cucukliryarami Aperyarat Nalqigutait

Bristol Bay Yup'ik
Chevak Cup'ik
General Central Yup'ik
Hooper Bay Yup'ik
Norton Sound Kotlik Yup'ik
Nunivak Cup'ig
Yukon Yup'ik



For Language Assistance, call toll free 1-866-954-8683

COVID-19 adaptation strategies

Challenges

- Travel Impacts: Expert speakers, linguists, elders
- Speed of translations
- Technology
- Workflow
- Costs

Solutions

- Engagement with panels is remote/online
- Partnerships with supporting organizations: Tribes, Village Councils
- Timing changes to panel Plan work
- Developing additional tools/training for translations
- Seek additional resources and support
- Communication with partners and communities is key

DISCUSSION



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Share your thoughts

- What resonate with you from today's webinar? (Any "ah-ha" moments)?
- What are your next steps?
- What questions do you have about what we covered today?
- What questions do you have about what we didn't cover today?

As more questions come up...

- Reach out to CTCL
 - We'll help out, or
 - We'll find someone for you who can

hello@techandciviclife.org

We've covered a lot of ground

WRAPPING UP



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Today's resources

- Usability Testing Kit
ElectionTools.org/tool/usability-testing-kit
- Language access and new citizens
civicdesign.org/projects/language
- National Disability Right Network
www.ndrn.org
- Vulnerability scan and remote penetration test,
Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency
Send email to CISAServiceDesk@cisa.dhs.gov

Timeline considerations, 159 days out

Online ballot delivery – April 7

- Partner with CISA on security services (210 days)

Ballot drop boxes – May 29

- Make arrangements for temporary indoor boxes (158 days)

Outbound ballots – July 3

- Design and contract to produce inserts and stickers (123 days)

Signature verification – July 3

- Review voter registration database for voters without signature files (123 days)

What was your experience with today's course?

- A brief survey is linked in the chat box.
- Please complete the survey now to provide feedback and improve the course for future participants

See you soon!

- ~~Supporting election officials (Thursday, May 21)~~
- ~~Planning 2020 workload and resource allocation (Tuesday, May 26)~~
- ~~Ensuring access, equity, and inclusion (Thursday, May 28)~~
- Educating voters about their options (Thursday, June 4)
- Maintaining voter lists (Tuesday, June 9)
- Managing mail ballot request forms (Thursday, June 11)
- Organizing ballot dropoff locations (Tuesday, June 16)
- Streamlining the inbound ballot process (Thursday, June 18)
- Verifying and curing signatures (Tuesday, June 23)
- Recruiting and training election workers (Thursday, June 25)
- Implementing public health guidelines for voting locations (Tuesday, June 30)

techandcivicle.org/covid-19-webinars/

Thanks!

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