

GAO

United States General Accounting Office 131209
Briefing Report to the Honorable
Quentin N. Burdick, United States Senate

September 1986

BILINGUAL VOTING ASSISTANCE :

Costs of and Use During the November 1984 General Election



131209

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United States
General Accounting Office
Washington, D.C. 20548

General Government Division

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September 15, 1986

The Honorable Quentin N. Burdick
United States Senate

Dear Senator Burdick:

As you requested, this briefing report provides information on the expenses incurred during the November 1984 general election by state and local governments under the language minority provisions of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended. Information is also included on the use made of minority language assistance by minority voters. Preliminary results of our audit were presented to your office in an August 1985 briefing. Final results, including additional information requested by your office, are contained in this report.

The 1965 Voting Rights Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 1973 et seq.), was designed to prevent discriminatory practices denying U.S. citizens belonging to racial or language minorities their right to vote and otherwise participate in the electoral process equally with other citizens. The act's language minority provisions require covered states and political subdivisions to conduct elections in the language of certain "language minority groups" in addition to English. As of October 1, 1984, 375 political subdivisions in 21 states were covered by these requirements.

Covered jurisdictions must provide written election materials when needed in the language of applicable minorities if the minority group has a commonly used written language. All covered jurisdictions also must provide oral assistance when needed in the minority language. Both forms of assistance must be available throughout the electoral process from registration to election day activities.

This report is based on data obtained through a questionnaire survey of covered substate jurisdictions, exit polls we sponsored in Texas on November 6, 1984, and responses from covered state governments. All data are specific to the November 6, 1984, election. We did not verify the information obtained from these sources. We did, however, follow up questionnaire responses from a number of jurisdictions. Data from the substate jurisdictions are not projectable beyond those that responded to our questionnaire and thus do not represent the entire universe of covered substate jurisdictions. Data from the Texas exit poll have been projected to be representative of 283,000 Hispanics who voted on election day. The methodology for this review is explained in appendix I.

On the basis of responses to questionnaires and letters mailed to covered political subdivisions and states, respectively, we estimate that for the November 6, 1984, election

--83 substate jurisdictions incurred approximately \$388,000 in additional costs to provide written assistance;

--39 substate jurisdictions incurred approximately \$30,000 in additional costs to provide oral assistance; and

--10 states expended about \$211,000 to provide either written or oral assistance directly to voters or to substate jurisdictions.

These estimates are not projections of the total amount expended by all jurisdictions to provide assistance. Rather, they only reflect the costs reported by jurisdictions and states that responded to our requests for information.

Use of either written or oral assistance was difficult for substate jurisdiction officials to estimate. Eighty percent of respondents were unable to estimate the extent to which written assistance was used, and 74 percent were unable to estimate the extent oral assistance was used. Of the 49 jurisdictions estimating the use of written assistance, 26 said no one used the assistance. Twenty-nine of 62 jurisdictions estimating use of oral assistance said no one used it.

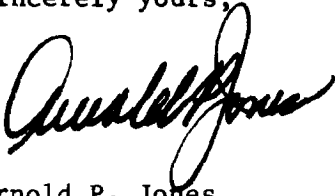
Exit poll interviews we sponsored with voters in Texas showed that an estimated 69,000 Hispanics who voted in 1,012 precincts used Spanish text on election materials. About 85,000 received oral assistance in Spanish.

The cost and use information presented in this report, while unique, is limited in terms of assessing the effect of the minority language requirements. Reliable interpretation of the data would require knowledge about how the jurisdictions implemented the act's provisions. Jurisdictions have some discretion in determining how the act's provisions are met. Therefore, for example, high costs might reflect implementation choices that are more onerous than necessary. Low costs, on the other hand, could reflect prudent choices to meet the act's requirements, or insufficient implementation efforts. Regarding data on the use of assistance, use rates are in part dependent upon how effectively jurisdictions work to make minority voters aware of the assistance that is available and to register minority individuals to vote.

In addition to cost and use information, this report also includes information regarding the extent to which minority language assistance was available on election day and an analysis of jurisdiction officials' comments regarding the minority language requirements. Appendixes further provide cost information for individual jurisdictions, basic response rates for exit poll questions, and a comparison of voters' use of assistance with their personal and demographic characteristics.

As requested by your office, we did not obtain official agency comments. Rather, the contents of the report were discussed with Department of Justice officials. Changes were made to reflect their comments, which related to the act's requirements. As arranged with your office, unless you publicly announce the contents of the report earlier, we plan no further distribution until 30 days from the date of the report. At that time we will send copies to the Attorney General, congressional committees having a jurisdictional interest in voting rights matters, and other interested parties. Additionally, we will make copies available to others upon request. If you desire additional information about this report, please contact me on 275-8389.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Arnold P. Jones", written in a cursive style.

Arnold P. Jones
Senior Associate Director

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SECTION 1
COVERAGE UNDER THE LANGUAGE MINORITY PROVISIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">° 375 jurisdictions in 21 states are covered under the Voting Rights Act's language minority provisions.° Texas has 254 covered jurisdictions, or two-thirds of all covered jurisdictions.

Background

The 1965 Voting Rights Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 1973 et seq.) was designed to prevent discriminatory practices denying U.S. citizens belonging to racial or language minorities their right to vote and otherwise participate in the electoral process equally with other citizens. The language minority provisions of the act require certain states and political subdivisions to conduct elections, whether federal, state, or local, in the language of certain "language minority groups" in addition to English.

The act provides criteria for determining which jurisdictions are to be covered by its various provisions. For the language minority requirements of the act, jurisdictions may be covered under section 4(f)(4) or section 203(c). A state or political subdivision is covered under section 4(f)(4) if all three of the following conditions existed:

- over 5 percent of the voting-age citizens were, on November 1, 1972, members of a single language minority group;
- registration and election materials were provided only in English on November 1, 1972; and
- fewer than 50 percent of the voting-age citizens were registered to vote in the 1972 Presidential election.

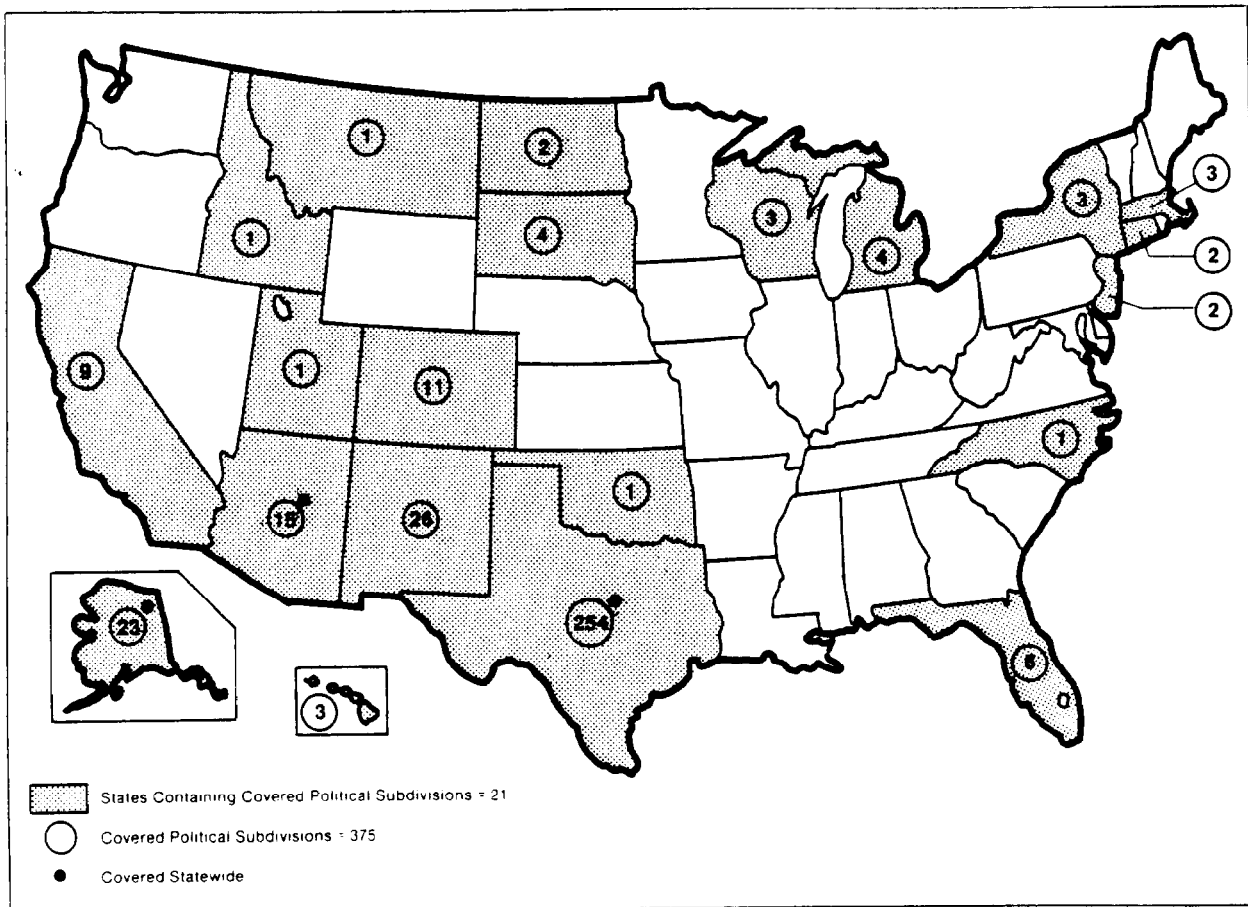
Under section 203(c), coverage is determined as follows:

- In those states where more than 5 percent of voting-age citizens are members of a single language minority group and do not speak or understand English adequately enough to participate effectively in the electoral process, and the statewide illiteracy rate of such persons as a group is greater than the national illiteracy rate, then political subdivisions are covered where 5 percent or more of the voting-age citizens of such subdivision are members of the single language minority group and do not speak or understand English adequately enough to participate effectively in the electoral process.
- Where the state does not meet the criteria noted above, political subdivisions are covered if more than 5 percent of their voting-age citizens are members of a single language minority group and do not speak or understand English adequately enough to participate effectively in the electoral process, and the illiteracy rate within the political subdivision for that minority group is greater than the national illiteracy rate.

Jurisdictions covered under section 4(f)(4) must obtain approval by either the Justice Department or the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia for changes in their voting laws, practices, or procedures prior to their implementation. Jurisdictions covered only under section 203(c) are not subject to this requirement.

As of October 1, 1984, 375 political subdivisions in 21 states were covered by the language minority provisions. Three states were covered statewide: Alaska for Alaskan natives, and Arizona and Texas for persons of Spanish heritage. The remaining 18 states were covered for specified political subdivisions. The 375 covered political subdivisions are generally counties; 254 are Texas counties, all of which are covered for persons of Spanish heritage. However, if a city or township within a covered political subdivision administers its own elections independent of the county, it too is required to adhere to the language minority provisions of the act.

Figure 1.1
Number of Jurisdictions Covered Under Section 4(f)(4)
and 203(c) of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, As Amended



The Attorney General's guidelines regarding the language minority provisions establish two basic standards by which the Attorney General measures compliance:

- Materials and assistance should be provided in a way designed to allow members of applicable language minority groups to be effectively informed of and participate effectively in voting-connected activities.
- An affected jurisdiction should take all reasonable steps to achieve that goal.

To meet these standards, jurisdictions must provide written election materials in the language of applicable minorities, if the minority group has a commonly used written language and members of the group need materials in that language. Jurisdictions must also provide oral assistance when needed to members of an applicable language minority. Both forms of assistance must be available during all stages of the electoral process. Thus, assistance must be available from voter registration through activities related to conducting an election. These activities include, for example, the issuance of notifications, announcements, or other informational materials concerning the opportunity to register, the deadline for voter registration, the time, places, and subject matters of elections, and the absentee voting process.

SECTION 2

OBJECTIVES, SCOPE, AND METHODOLOGY

- ° We were asked to develop information on the expenses incurred by state and local governments in providing minority language election assistance, the quantity of materials produced, and the extent to which materials are used.
- ° To do this, we obtained information from 19 state governments, 318 political subdivisions within states, and from a sample of voters in Texas on November 6, 1984.
- ° We sent letters to the covered states and questionnaires to covered political subdivisions, and we sponsored exit polls with the voters in Texas.

Senator Quentin N. Burdick requested that we develop information on the expenses incurred by state and local governments under the language minority election requirements of the Voting Rights Act, as amended. In addition, he requested information on the quantity of materials produced under the law and the extent to which materials are used. As agreed with the requester's office, we obtained data to fulfill the request through a questionnaire survey of covered jurisdictions and exit polls conducted during the presidential election of November 6, 1984. We also requested information from states regarding their role in providing assistance and their costs.

Questionnaire survey of covered jurisdictions

We conducted a mail questionnaire survey of election officials in local political jurisdictions covered by the act's language minority provisions. The questionnaire asked about minority language election assistance provided to voters for the November 6, 1984, election, and costs for the election and the portion of those costs that were incurred in order to provide written and oral minority language assistance. Jurisdiction officials were also asked to estimate the use that was made of each form of assistance during the election and to provide background information on their jurisdictions.

On November 16, 1984, we mailed questionnaires to 356 local election officials representing the 375 political subdivisions covered by the act. To increase the response rate, we used a second letter and a subsequent mailgram. We received completed questionnaires from 318 respondents, for an 89 percent response rate. Alaska, which has 23 jurisdictions, provided one statewide response which we analyzed as part of state-level responses to a letter sent separately to covered states.

Because many questionnaires had incomplete or inconsistent responses, we called respondents to obtain more complete cost information and to clarify responses on other questions. Initially, we called 200 respondents who had incomplete cost data or apparent inconsistencies. We called a random sample of 40 of the remaining 118 jurisdictions. We used the sampled jurisdictions' cost information to project costs for all 118 jurisdictions. For noncost information, we used revised answers for the sample of 40 and the original answers for the 78 jurisdictions not called.

Exit poll survey

We also contracted to conduct exit polls of voters on election day to obtain information on the use of assistance. Exit polls were conducted in Texas, Los Angeles, Miami, New York

City, and New Jersey precincts near New York City. The polling operations in Los Angeles, Miami, New York, and New Jersey were conducted in judgmentally selected precincts containing high concentrations of Hispanic voters. However, because the results of these polls cannot be projected and represent only a narrow selection of voters, we did not include them in this report.

Our sample for Texas was designed to be representative of 1,012 precincts in which 75 percent of all Spanish surnamed voters were registered. Each of the 1,012 precincts had at least 100 registered voters and at least 20 percent Spanish surnamed registered voters. The sampling design consisted of a two stage probability sample of voters. During the first stage, 50 precincts were selected. In the second stage, voters were selected randomly as they emerged from designated voting locations. In our analyses, only the data from Hispanic respondents are used.

We received polling results from 47 of the 50 selected precincts. In addition, we deleted results from one precinct because updated information indicated it did not meet the requirements of our sample design. Thus, our final sample included 46 precincts.

Interviews were completed with 2,061 Hispanic individuals. The response rate varied from 39 to 99 percent among the 46 precincts, with a median response rate of 72.5 percent. The responses can be projected to represent about 283,000 Hispanics in the 1,012 precincts contained in our universe who voted on November 6, 1984, in Texas. The range of accuracy for projections made with the exit poll data varies according to the question being analyzed. Ranges at the 95-percent level of confidence for data utilized in this report are presented in appendix I.

Information obtained from states

Because some state governments also provide minority language election services, either directly to voters or to local governments, we sent letters to the 21 states containing covered political subdivisions. The December 18, 1984, letter asked for information on the minority language services that the states provided during 1984, the costs incurred to provide these services, whether the state or any other entity had studied the cost or use of minority language election services, and whether state laws or regulations existed that required minority language election services. We received information from 19 states.

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Our audit work was conducted between November 1984 and March 1986. Additional details on our methodology are in appendix I.

SECTION 3

MINORITY LANGUAGE ASSISTANCE WAS WIDELY AVAILABLE FOR THE NOVEMBER 6, 1984, ELECTION

- ° 98 percent of 318 jurisdictions reported providing some form of assistance to language minority voters.
- ° 76 percent, or 243 respondents, reported providing both written and oral assistance; 5 percent reported providing only oral assistance; and 16 percent reported providing only written assistance.
- ° Hispanics were the most commonly served minority group, with 96 percent of respondents that offered written assistance doing so for Hispanics, and 89 percent of those offering oral assistance serving Hispanics.

Among respondents to our questionnaire, assistance was made widely available to applicable minorities. Nearly all, 98 percent, of the 318 respondents reported providing some form of assistance to language minority voters. Just over three-fourths, 76 percent, reported providing both written and oral assistance during the November 1984 general election. Most respondents indicated that written and oral assistance was for only one minority group, with 284 offering written assistance to one group and 231 offering oral assistance to one group. For jurisdictions serving more than one minority, 20 reported providing oral assistance to 2 or more groups and 3 reported providing written assistance to more than 1 group. Hispanics were the overwhelming recipients of assistance, with 96 percent of the 295 jurisdictions that offered written assistance replying that it was for Hispanics, and 89 percent of the 259 jurisdictions that offered oral assistance serving Hispanics.

Jurisdictions that provided written balloting assistance almost exclusively reported using a bilingual format. Bilingual materials present English and the minority language text on the same or facing pages within the same document. The bilingual format was used by 99 percent of the 277 jurisdictions that offered written assistance on official ballots.

When providing oral assistance, jurisdictions followed differing strategies. Most jurisdictions--229 of 259 jurisdictions that provided oral assistance--relied at least in part on poll workers who performed regular poll work duties and who were also able to speak the language of the applicable minority group. We refer to these poll workers as bilingual poll workers. In addition, some jurisdictions used (1) special translators--employees who did not perform traditional poll worker duties, or (2) nonpaid assistants--individuals who were not paid but were available if assistance was needed. In total, 48 jurisdictions used special translators and 44 used nonpaid assistants. Within any one jurisdiction, varying combinations of bilingual poll workers, special translators, and/or nonpaid assistants may have been available to provide assistance.

SECTION 4

COST OF WRITTEN MINORITY LANGUAGE MATERIALS: SUBSTATE JURISDICTIONS

- ° We estimate that nearly two-thirds (191) of the 295 responding jurisdictions that reported providing written assistance did not know their additional costs for the assistance.
- ° An estimated 83 jurisdictions incurred a total of \$388,000 in additional costs to provide written assistance, which represents an average of about 7.6 percent of their total costs to hold the November 6, 1984, general election. We estimate that an additional 18 states reported providing assistance but incurred no costs to do so.
- ° The \$388,000 estimate does not represent all costs incurred, since some of the jurisdictions that did not know their additional costs and some that did not respond to our questionnaire likely could have incurred costs.

Jurisdictions covered by the language minority requirements must provide written assistance when needed for all election materials. Registration forms, election pamphlets or brochures, sample ballots, absentee ballots, official ballots, and other materials must be prepared in the language of the covered minority group if the language has a commonly used written form. Our study excluded costs for items such as voter registration forms and concentrated solely on written materials intended for use in the November 6, 1984, general election. Our questionnaire did request information concerning some materials that were distributed and used before election day, such as absentee ballots and publications explaining procedures for voting.

The additional costs that jurisdictions incur to provide minority language text in their election publications stem from such items as translating the text into the minority language and additional printing costs. The printing costs include extra time needed for typesetting and proofreading and the use of more paper and ink.

Most jurisdictions did not know their costs for providing written assistance. Out of 318 respondents to our questionnaire, 295 reported providing written minority language assistance. Three of these did not respond to our question concerning additional costs to provide that assistance. We estimate that 191, or nearly two-thirds, of the 295 respondents that reported providing written assistance did not know the additional costs they bore. From our work in developing the questionnaire, we learned that jurisdictions may lack this information, in part, because their accounting systems do not track the additional costs and, in part, because statements from printers do not always itemize the costs that are attributable to the minority language text. There are no federal requirements that such information be collected and maintained.

For the remaining 101 jurisdictions where cost information was reported, we estimate that 18 incurred no additional costs to provide the assistance and 83 incurred approximately \$388,000 for such assistance. The \$388,000 estimate represents an average of about 7.6 percent of the total costs to these jurisdictions for holding the November 6, 1984, election.

In calculating the \$388,000, we used the total cost the jurisdictions reported for written materials and the percent additional costs they estimated for providing written minority language assistance. For example, if a jurisdiction incurred \$100 total cost for written materials and reported that 25 percent were additional costs, the jurisdiction would have spent \$25 on written minority language assistance.

The \$388,000 estimate does not, of course, represent the total costs that all covered substate jurisdictions incurred to provide written assistance during the November 1984 election.

Many jurisdictions providing assistance could have incurred some additional costs, but they did not know their costs or did not respond to our questionnaire. The costs reported by individual jurisdictions for written minority language assistance are shown in appendix II.

During our audit work we learned that jurisdictions often used the same printers. We contacted seven printers that were used by many of the jurisdictions for the November election to obtain their estimates of additional cost to include minority language text in election materials. The printers provided estimates of the additional costs that varied from 10 percent additional costs to 60 percent.

Estimating additional costs incurred is difficult because of the variety of factors that can influence the costs. For example, three printers said that the additional costs decline as the number of copies printed increases. The initial extra costs for translating, typesetting, and proofreading represent a substantial portion of the costs when a small number of materials are produced, but they decline as a portion of costs when a large number are produced. The election requirements of states or localities also affect the costs for minority language written assistance. For example, California's requirement for a pamphlet explaining election issues, which necessitates original translations for each election, increases the costs that jurisdictions bear compared to other states' jurisdictions that can rely on prior translations.

In some instances the costs to provide written assistance may decline over time. Five of the seven printers we contacted said that such costs have declined over time, one said that the costs had not decreased, and one did not address the issue. Testimony during hearings preceding the 1982 amendments to the Voting Rights Act also indicated that in some jurisdictions costs have declined since the passage of the language minority requirements. Such decreases in costs are attributed in part to better targeting of materials and reliance upon translations and forms developed for prior elections.

SECTION 5

COST OF ORAL MINORITY LANGUAGE ASSISTANCE: SUBSTATE
JURISDICTIONS

- ° We estimate that no costs were incurred by 205, or 79 percent, of the 259 responding jurisdictions that reported providing oral assistance.
- ° An estimated 39 jurisdictions that provided oral assistance expended approximately \$30,000 for the assistance, which represents an average of about 2.8 percent of their costs to hold the November 6, 1984, election.

Jurisdictions covered by the language minority requirements must provide oral assistance to language minority group members to the extent needed to enable them to participate effectively in the electoral process. Oral assistance must be available throughout the electoral process, from voter registration to election day. Our study focused on assistance made available at the polls on election day, November 6, 1984.

Most jurisdictions incur no additional cost to provide the required oral assistance. Of our 318 respondents, 259 reported providing oral assistance. An estimated 15 of these jurisdictions did not know their additional costs to provide the assistance. We estimate that 205, or 79 percent, of the 259 jurisdictions incurred no additional costs.

Most jurisdictions incur no costs to provide oral assistance because they do not hire additional workers. Instead, they seek to find poll workers who are able to converse in the covered minority language. Also, jurisdictions generally pay bilingual poll workers at the same rate as monolingual workers. In some cases, jurisdictions do not actually have bilingual workers stationed at the polling places. Rather, someone is available to come to the polling place, if called, to provide assistance. These standby workers may be volunteers, or they may be paid, or paid only if they are actually called upon to assist at the polling place.

We estimate that 39 jurisdictions incurred \$30,000 in additional costs to provide oral assistance, representing an average of 2.8 percent of their total costs to hold the election. We calculated the \$30,000 estimate using the total costs jurisdictions reported for their poll workers and the percent additional costs they estimated were incurred to provide oral assistance.

The \$30,000 total additional costs does not represent all costs that were incurred by covered jurisdictions to provide oral assistance on election day. Some nonresponding jurisdictions and jurisdictions that simply did not know how much additional cost they incurred could have incurred additional costs that are not included in the \$30,000 total. The costs reported by individual jurisdictions to provide oral assistance are shown in appendix II.

SECTION 6

STATES' ROLE AND COSTS INCURRED

- ° 12 of 19 states from which we obtained information provided some minority language election services.
- ° 10 states reported spending about \$211,000 to provide minority language election assistance specifically for the November 1984 election.
- ° 6 states provided estimated expenditures to provide minority language assistance and also the total state budget for the November election. For these states, minority language election assistance represented about 2 percent of the total they budgeted for the November election.
- ° 4 states had their own laws requiring some form of minority language assistance.

When one or more of the political subdivisions within a state are covered under the Voting Rights Act's language minority provisions, state election services and the text of state election issues must also be available when needed in the language of the applicable language minority within the covered areas. Although the basic functions of the electoral process historically have been conducted by local units of government, states provide a variety of minority language assistance for which they may incur costs.

We requested the 21 states with covered political subdivisions to provide information on (1) the type and cost of minority language assistance provided; (2) studies they or others conducted concerning costs incurred to provide, or use made of, minority language assistance; and (3) any statutes or regulations the states may have had requiring minority language assistance. Of the 19 states from which we obtained information, 12 reported providing a variety of assistance; 7 reported that no assistance was provided. Six of these seven contain political subdivisions covered for American Indian populations. Because written assistance is not required when a minority lacks a commonly used written language, locally provided oral assistance may be all that these states considered to be necessary.

Costs incurred by states

Ten of the 19 responding states provided estimates of the costs to provide assistance for the November 6, 1984, election. The total expense reported by these 10 states was about \$211,000, with costs ranging from zero (Alaska, Massachusetts, and New Jersey) to \$69,874 (Texas). The states that reported costs generally were covered for Hispanics and contained greater numbers of covered political subdivisions than the states that did not report costs. Of the nine states that did not report costs, six were covered only for American Indians. Six of the states that provided cost figures for the November 6 election also supplied figures for the total portion of their election budgets devoted to that election. These six states spent about \$158,000 to provide minority language assistance, or approximately 2 percent of the \$7,390,000 total they budgeted for the November election.

These figures are not precise and do not include all costs that may have related to providing election assistance for the November election. For example, some of the written materials could be used for more than one election, making it difficult or impossible to assign a cost specific to one election. When compiling the figures for the cost of providing assistance on election day, we included only those costs which evidence indicated were directly related to the November election.

Types of assistance provided

The most common type of assistance provided by states was minority language versions of materials used during the electoral process. The translated materials included state ballot issues, pamphlets describing how to vote, election forms, and voter registration forms. Some of these translated materials were distributed to local governments for use in conducting elections, and some were provided directly to individuals of minority heritage. For example, Texas mailed Spanish versions of its notices of constitutional amendments to households having registered voters with Hispanic surnames. Two states, Texas and Hawaii, reported having assistance available by phone on election day.

Alaska and Hawaii provided assistance directly to voters on election day. Statewide elections are the responsibility of the state government in Alaska. Alaska's Voting Rights Act coverage is for Alaskan Natives, who do not have a written language. Consequently, the state arranges for oral assistance to minorities during voter registration and at the polls on election day. Because the state does not hire additional workers to specifically provide oral assistance and pays bilingual workers the same as monolingual workers, the state reported incurring no additional costs to provide assistance.

Hawaii, which provided a broad array of assistance before and during the November election, also provided some assistance directly to voters on election day. The state funded 15 multilingual voter assistance officials to provide assistance to persons of Japanese heritage during the general election. It also provided similar assistance for individuals of several other minority groups for whom assistance is not specifically required by the Voting Rights Act.

State studies on use and cost of assistance

Three states reported studies about the use or costs of providing assistance. After the 1978 general election, Colorado's Department of State surveyed 34 county clerks on requests for and use of Spanish ballots or sample ballots. On the basis of this survey, Colorado reported that usage was minimal because persons were illiterate in both English and Spanish and therefore needed oral assistance. A study in Hawaii showed that statewide 136 individuals used oral and 2 used written assistance during the November 1984 general election. Michigan reported that \$14,763 was expended by all levels of government to provide assistance during the 1982 primary and general elections.

State requirements

Four states reported having laws requiring some form of minority language assistance during the election process. California requires that minority language sample ballot be posted in polling places in which the Secretary of State determines such assistance is needed. Also, when a need exists, County clerks are required to make reasonable efforts to recruit election officials fluent in minority languages. The state considers assistance is needed when 3 percent or more of voting age citizens lack sufficient English skills to vote without assistance, or when citizens or organizations provide information supporting a need for assistance.

Colorado requires that counties take affirmative action to recruit staff members fluent in the language of minorities when the clerk or recorder finds that a precinct is composed of 3 percent or more non-English-speaking qualified voters. This provision is intended to facilitate registration of non-English-speaking citizens.

New Jersey requires that bilingual sample ballots be provided for election districts where Spanish is the primary language for 10 percent or more of the registered voters. Also, two additional board members fluent in Spanish must be appointed in these districts. Voter registration forms must be available in Spanish as well as English.

The Texas election code specifies that bilingual election materials be provided in precincts where persons of Spanish origin or descent comprise 5 percent or more of the population of both the precinct and the county in which the precinct is located. In these covered precincts the following materials must be presented bilingually: instruction cards, ballots, affidavits and other forms that voters are required to sign, and absentee voting materials. In addition, the judge presiding over an election in covered precincts must make reasonable efforts to appoint election clerks who are fluent in both English and Spanish. Texas has never applied the coverage criteria of its own law because the state considers the federal requirements to be more stringent.

SECTION 7

USE OF WRITTEN MINORITY LANGUAGE ASSISTANCE

- ° 80 percent of 277 jurisdictions that had provided written assistance on official ballots reported that they could not estimate the number of people who used the assistance.
- ° 26 of the 49 jurisdictions that estimated use of minority language written assistance on official ballots reported that no one used the assistance. Twenty-three jurisdictions provided estimates of use ranging from 1 to 7,500 people.
- ° We estimate that out of 275,000 Hispanic voters in 1,012 Texas precincts, 69,000 used written minority language assistance during the November 1984 general election. The 1,012 precincts contained approximately 75 percent of all Spanish surnamed registered voters in Texas.

Jurisdiction officials' estimates of the use of written assistance

In our questionnaire, we asked jurisdiction officials whether they could estimate the number of individuals who used the minority language assistance on ballots. Eighty percent of 277 jurisdictions which indicated that they had provided written assistance on official ballots reported they could not estimate the number of individuals who used the assistance.

These officials lacked information on the extent that minority language materials were used because voters generally did not need to specifically request assistance. Jurisdictions overwhelmingly used a bilingual format for election materials with English and the minority language appearing in one document. As a result, in these jurisdictions, voters did not need to request separate minority language versions of election materials. In addition, where voting machines or punch card systems are used, voters did not need to ask for a ballot because it appears on the face of the machine. If an individual does not understand English, he or she can read the minority text if a bilingual format is used, and if a bilingual format is not used, the voter can review a minority language sample ballot that is commonly posted in the voting booth or in the polling place. Thus, most officials had limited information on the extent that minority language materials were used.

Of the 49 jurisdiction officials who said they could estimate the use of minority language assistance available on official ballots, 26 said that no one used the assistance. Twenty-three officials provided estimates ranging from 1 to 7,500 people using the assistance on official ballots.

Professional judgment was most frequently cited by jurisdiction officials as the basis for their estimates for the use of minority language text on official ballots. Officials also cited requests for ballots, minority language population statistics, and other bases, singularly or in combination, as the basis for their estimates. Few jurisdictions had conducted studies or surveys to determine the number of individuals that used written assistance on official ballots.

Use reported by voters

We knew from reviewing prior research and pretesting our questionnaire that jurisdiction officials would be unable to provide much information on the extent to which minority language written assistance is used. As a result, we sought to determine the level of use by sponsoring direct interviews with a sample of voters as they left selected polls in Texas on election day. As previously stated, Texas accounts for two-thirds of the substate jurisdictions covered under the act. Our methodology for the exit polls is discussed in appendix I.

On the basis of these exit poll interviews, we estimate that 69,000¹ Hispanics used written assistance in 1,012 Texas precincts on election day, November 6, 1984. We further estimate that this represents about 25 percent of approximately 275,000¹ Hispanics who voted in the 1,012 precincts and would have responded to our question regarding use of written assistance. This estimate includes those who stated that they used the Spanish ballot version or both the Spanish and English versions. As of August 1983, the most recent date statistics were available when our sample was designed, these 1,012 precincts contained 75 percent of the 858,625 Spanish surnamed voters registered in Texas. We estimate that about 720,000 individuals in total voted during the general election in the 1,012 precincts.

In analyzing the use of written assistance we followed two approaches. First, we took the total number of voters who used each version of the ballot and looked at their self-reported language abilities. Although this approach shows the language ability characteristics of those who used each version of the ballot, it does not show how extensively those in each language ability category used the assistance. To determine this, we also looked at the total number of Hispanic voters in each language ability category and studied their use of each version of the ballot.

Looking at our exit poll results in the first manner, we found that Hispanic voters who were least able to read or speak English made up the largest portion of voters using the Spanish version of the ballot. As shown in table 7.1, an estimated 60 percent of respondents who used only the Spanish version of the ballot either read only Spanish or read Spanish better than English. Table 7.2 shows that 71 percent of those who used only the Spanish version of the ballot either spoke only Spanish or Spanish better than English.

The pattern is not as clear for voters who used both the English and the Spanish versions of the ballot. Tables 7.1 and 7.2 illustrate the language ability characteristics of voters who used both the Spanish and English versions of the ballots. About one-half of those who used both versions said that they read or

¹These figures are based on answers to our question regarding the version of the ballot used by voters. The figures do not match those in tables 7.1 and 7.2, which combine answers for two questions, due to differences in the number of people who responded to the questions.

spoke English and Spanish with about the same ability. An estimated 20 percent of Hispanic voters who used both versions of the ballot said they read only Spanish or Spanish better than English, and 30 percent said they spoke only Spanish or spoke Spanish better than English. However, about 29 and 20 percent, respectively, of those using both versions of the ballot reported that they read and spoke only English or English better than Spanish.

Table 7.1
Comparison of Ballot Version Used with Reading Ability

	Reading ability				Estimated number of Hispanic voters ^b
	Percent ^a				
Version of the ballot used	Read only Spanish or Spanish better than English	Read both about the same	Read only English or English better than Spanish	Do not read	
English only	9	37	53	1	205,000
Spanish only	60	25	10	5	19,000
Both	20	49	29	2	49,000
Nonrepondents ^c					10,000

^aRounded to nearest full percent.

^bRounded to nearest thousand.

^cDid not respond to one or more of the questions.

Table 7.2
Comparison of Ballot Version Used with Speaking Ability

<u>Version of the ballot used</u>	<u>Speaking ability</u>			<u>Estimated number of Hispanic voters^b</u>
	<u>Speak only Spanish or Spanish better than English</u>	<u>Speak both about the same</u>	<u>Speak only English or English better than Spanish</u>	
English only	13	51	36	204,000
Spanish only	71	23	6	18,000
Both	30	50	20	49,000
Nonrespondents ^c				12,000

^aRounded to nearest full percent.

^bRounded to nearest thousand.

^cDid not respond to one or more of the questions.

According to our second analysis, which focuses on how heavily voters with varying reading and speaking abilities relied upon written assistance, Hispanic voters who read or spoke only Spanish or Spanish better than English made greater use of written assistance than did other Hispanic voters. As shown in table 7.3, of the voters who read only Spanish or Spanish better than English, we estimate that 56 percent used the Spanish only version of the ballot (32 percent) or both the Spanish and English versions (24 percent). Of voters who read English and Spanish about the same, about 28 percent used the written assistance (5 percent Spanish only and 23 percent both). Of those who read only English or English better than Spanish, about 13 percent used the minority language assistance (2 percent Spanish only and 11 percent both).

Table 7.3
Comparison of Reading Ability with
Version of Ballot Used

	<u>Version of the ballot used</u>			
	<u>Percent^a</u>			
<u>Reading ability</u>	<u>English only</u>	<u>Spanish only</u>	<u>Both</u>	<u>Estimated number of Hispanic voters^b</u>
Only Spanish or Spanish better than English	44	32	24	38,000
Both about the same	72	5	23	104,000
Only English or English better than Spanish	87	2	11	128,000
Do not read	46	27	27	3,000
Nonrespondents ^c				10,000

^aRounded to nearest full percent.

^bRounded to nearest thousand.

^cDid not respond to one or more of the questions.

Hispanic voters who spoke only Spanish or Spanish better than English also relied more heavily on written assistance than did voters in the other language speaking ability categories. Table 7.4 shows that about 53 percent of those who spoke only Spanish or Spanish better than English used the Spanish only version of the ballot (27 percent) or used both the Spanish and English versions (26 percent) of the ballot. Of the voters who spoke Spanish and English with about the same ability, about 22 percent used the Spanish written assistance (4 percent Spanish only and 18 percent both). Of those who spoke only English or English better than Spanish, an estimated 13 percent used the minority language assistance (1 percent Spanish only and 12 percent both).

Table 7.4

Comparison of Speaking Ability with
Version of Ballot Used

	<u>Version of ballot used</u>			
	<u>Percent^a</u>			
<u>Speaking ability</u>	<u>English only</u>	<u>Spanish only</u>	<u>Both</u>	<u>Estimated number of Hispanic voters^b</u>
Only Spanish or Spanish better than English	47	27	26	52,000
Both about the same	78	4	18	132,000
Only English or English better than Spanish	87	1	12	87,000
Nonrespondents ^c				12,000

^aRounded to the nearest full percent.

^bRounded to nearest thousand.

^cDid not respond to one or more of the questions.

The analyses presented above indicate that according to voters' reported use of written minority language assistance obtained through the Texas exit polls, the Spanish text on the ballot was used by Hispanic voters in all three language ability categories. However, the written assistance was used most extensively by voters who read or spoke Spanish only or better than English.

SECTION 8

USE OF ORAL MINORITY LANGUAGE ASSISTANCE

- ° 74 percent of 259 responding jurisdictions that provided oral assistance were unable to estimate the number of voters who received the assistance.
- ° Of the 62 jurisdictions that estimated use of oral assistance, 29 said no one used the assistance and 33 provided estimates ranging from 1 to 2,634 people.
- ° We estimate that out of 263,000 Hispanic voters in 1,012 Texas precincts, 85,000 received oral assistance in Spanish.

Jurisdiction officials' estimates of the use of oral assistance

We asked jurisdiction officials to estimate the number of voters who received minority language oral assistance. Officials from 74 percent of 259 jurisdictions that reported providing the assistance were unable to estimate its use. Of the 62 jurisdictions that could estimate use, 29 reported that no one used the oral assistance and 33 provided estimates ranging from 1 to 2,634 people using the assistance.

The estimates of oral assistance use were most frequently based on requests for assistance, with professional judgment the second most frequently cited basis. Seven jurisdictions based their estimates in whole or part on studies they had conducted.

Use reported by voters

In our Texas exit polls we also asked voters whether a poll worker had used Spanish to explain voting procedures or the ballot to them. On the basis of the exit polling, we estimate that 85,000 Hispanics received oral assistance in Spanish in 1,012 Texas precincts during the November 6, 1984, general election. These 85,000 voters represent about 32 percent of approximately 263,000¹ Hispanics who voted in the 1,012 precincts during the election and would have responded to our question regarding oral assistance. We estimate that about 720,000 individuals in total voted during the general election in the 1,012 precincts.

As with written assistance, we analyzed use of oral assistance according to voters' reported language ability and according to the percent of voters within language ability categories who received Spanish language assistance.

Receipt of oral assistance according to Hispanic voters' speaking and reading abilities is shown in tables 8.1 and 8.2. Looking at the breakdown of those who received oral assistance by their reported speaking ability, table 8.1 shows

¹This figure is based on answers to our question regarding whether a poll worker used Spanish to explain voting procedures or the ballot to respondents. The figure does not match those in tables 8.1 and 8.2, which combine answers for two questions, due to differences in the number of people who responded to the questions.

that Hispanic voters who said they spoke English and Spanish with about the same ability comprised the highest percentage of those reporting that poll workers used Spanish in explaining voting procedures or the ballot to them. An estimated 48 percent of Hispanic voters who received assistance in Spanish reported equal ability to speak English and Spanish. Voters who reported speaking only Spanish or Spanish better than English accounted for an estimated 33 percent of those receiving oral help in Spanish. Approximately 19 percent of Hispanic voters receiving guidance in Spanish said they spoke English only or English better than Spanish. This result might be explained, at least in part, by poll workers beginning to speak Spanish to voters before realizing that the voter spoke English.

Table 8.1
Comparison of Assistance in Spanish with Speaking Ability

	<u>Speaking ability</u>			Estimated number of Hispanic voters ^b
	<u>Percent^a</u>			
<u>Received assist- ance in Spanish</u>	<u>Speak only Spanish or Spanish better than English</u>	<u>Speak both about the same</u>	<u>Speak only English or English better than Spanish</u>	
Yes	33	48	19	85,000
No	15	48	37	176,000
Nonrespon- dents ^c				22,000

^aRounded to nearest full percent.

^bRounded to nearest thousand.

^cDid not respond to one or more of the questions.

Use of oral assistance according to self-reported reading ability followed a pattern somewhat different from speaking ability. Nearly the same percent of Hispanics who had the ballot or voting procedures explained to them in Spanish read both English and Spanish with about the same ability--37 percent--or read English only or English better than Spanish--36 percent. Twenty-four percent of those who received oral assistance in Spanish read only Spanish or Spanish better than English. The percents of Hispanics receiving oral assistance in Spanish according to their reading ability are shown in table 8.2.

Table 8.2
Comparison of Assistance in Spanish with Reading Ability

	<u>Reading ability</u>				
	<u>Percent^a</u>				
<u>Received assist- ance in Spanish</u>	<u>Read only Spanish or Spanish better than English</u>	<u>Read both about the same</u>	<u>Read only English or English bet- ter than Spanish</u>	<u>Do not read</u>	<u>Estimated number of Hispanic voters^b</u>
Yes	24	37	36	3	85,000
No	11	38	50	1	177,000
Nonrespon- dents ^c					21,000

^aRounded to nearest full percent.

^bRounded to nearest thousand.

^cDid not respond to one or more of the questions.

The following tables show the percent of individuals within each reported language ability category that received oral help in Spanish. These percentages reveal that voters who spoke or read only Spanish or Spanish better than English received oral assistance in Spanish more often than voters with equal Spanish and English abilities. Twenty-one percent of voters who spoke, and 26 percent who read, only English or English better than Spanish received oral assistance in Spanish. These relationships are shown in tables 8.3 and 8.4.

Table 8.3
Comparison of Speaking Ability with Assistance in Spanish

<u>Speaking ability</u>	<u>Received assistance in Spanish Percent^a</u>		<u>Estimated number of Hispanic voters^b</u>
	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	
Only Spanish or Spanish better than English	53	47	51,000
Both about the same	33	67	126,000
Only English or English better than Spanish	21	79	84,000
Nonrespondents ^c			22,000

^aRounded to nearest full percent.

^bRounded to nearest thousand.

^cDid not respond to one or more of the questions.

Table 8.4
Comparison of Reading Ability with Assistance in Spanish

<u>Reading ability</u>	<u>Received assistance in Spanish Percent^a</u>		<u>Estimated number of Hispanic voters^b</u>
	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	
Only Spanish or Spanish better than English	53	47	38,000
Both about the same	33	67	100,000
Only English or English better than Spanish	26	74	121,000
Do not read	68	32	3,000
Nonrespondents ^c			21,000

^aRounded to nearest full percent.

^bRounded to nearest thousand.

^cDid not respond to one or more of the questions.

These analyses indicate that oral assistance in Spanish was received by voters in all three language ability categories; however, oral assistance was provided most often to voters who spoke or read only Spanish or Spanish better than English.

SECTION 9

SUMMARY OF JURISDICTION OFFICIALS' WRITTEN COMMENTS

- ° Questionnaires from 195 jurisdictions included a variety of written comments, including 66 on the need for minority language assistance, 7 on the extent of minority population in the area, and 20 on the cost of providing assistance.
- ° Most jurisdictions that made specific comments regarding the need for oral or written assistance said that such assistance was not needed.

Officials from 195 jurisdictions took advantage of the opportunity presented by our questionnaire to offer various written comments. The comments fell into three general categories: the need for minority language assistance, the size of the minority population in the jurisdiction, and the cost to provide assistance. Jurisdiction officials frequently made several comments. Sixty-six jurisdictions commented on the need for minority language assistance, 7 commented on the size of the minority population in the area, and 20 commented on the cost to provide assistance. This section also includes comments we received during calls to jurisdictions.

Within the need for assistance category, some jurisdiction officials commented specifically on (1) the need or lack thereof for written assistance, (2) the need or lack thereof for oral assistance, and (3) in general on the need or lack thereof for assistance without specific reference to either oral or written assistance. Table 9.1 shows that most jurisdiction officials who commented specifically on the need for oral or written assistance said that the assistance was not needed.

Table 9.1
Number of Comments on the Need
for Minority Language Assistance

	<u>Written</u> <u>assistance^a</u>	<u>Oral</u> <u>assistance^a</u>	<u>General need</u> <u>for assistance</u>
Needed	2	7	1
Not needed	42	22	10

^aBecause some jurisdiction officials commented on need in both categories, the total number of comments shown in this table exceeds the total number of jurisdictions that provided at least one comment on need.

Of the seven jurisdictions that commented on the size of the minority population in their area, five noted that minorities represented less than 5 percent of the population, and two said that minorities comprised 5 percent or more of the jurisdiction's population. Regarding the cost to provide minority language assistance, 19 of 20 comments indicated that providing assistance was either very costly or a waste of money. Thirteen comments suggested specifically that written assistance was costly or a waste of money, and 6 suggested that assistance in general was costly or a waste. One jurisdiction commented in general that providing assistance was not very costly. As discussed earlier, two-thirds of the jurisdictions responding to our questionnaire that provided written assistance did not know the costs they incurred.

DETAILED DISCUSSION OF METHODOLOGY

Senator Quentin N. Burdick requested that we audit the expenses incurred by state and local governments under the language minority election requirements of the Voting Rights Act, as amended. In addition, he requested information on the quantity of materials produced under the law and the extent to which materials are used.

We interviewed officials of the Department of Justice and the Federal Election Commission and reviewed Justice's guidelines for implementing the act and prior studies and reports. After consulting with the requester's office, we used a questionnaire to survey covered jurisdictions, conducted exit polls of a sample of voters on November 6, 1984, and sent letters requesting information from states containing covered jurisdictions to obtain the data presented in this report. Audit work was conducted between November 1984 and March 1986.

Questionnaire survey of covered jurisdictions

During the summer of 1984, we developed and pretested a questionnaire designed to be completed by local election officials, principally county clerks. Our review of prior research and pretesting revealed several points regarding information available on cost and use. Prior studies found that election officials often did not know the extent of use of minority language election assistance. The many jurisdictions that used bilingual ballots (both English and the minority text on the same ballot), voting machines, or punch card systems could not measure use by the number of requests for minority language ballots. During the pretest election officials told us that they would not be able to report the number of people who received oral minority language assistance. Therefore, in our final questionnaire we asked officials to estimate both written and oral use and cite the basis for their estimates.

While pretesting the questionnaire, we also tried to determine whether county clerks would be able to estimate the costs incurred by cities and towns within counties to provide minority language assistance during the November 6, 1984, election. However, we concluded that the county clerks did not have adequate knowledge of the costs incurred by other jurisdictions within the counties to be able to provide consistent, reliable estimates.

The universe of substate jurisdictions for our questionnaire included those listed by the Department of Justice in a draft revision to its implementation guidelines for the Voting Rights Act's language minority provisions. The draft updated Justice's list of covered jurisdictions to take into

account new Section 203(c) coverage determinations published by the Bureau of the Census on June 25, 1984. The draft showed that a total of 375 political subdivisions are covered by the language minority requirements. Alaska was counted as having 23 covered political subdivisions. However, in obtaining a mailing list for the covered jurisdictions from the Federal Election Commission, we were provided addresses for four election districts in Alaska. This resulted in an actual mailing universe of 356 substate jurisdictions.

The questionnaire was mailed November 16, 1984. To increase response rate, follow-up letters were sent to nonresponding jurisdictions on December 12 and mailgrams were sent on January 17, 1985. We received responses from 318 jurisdictions, for an 89 percent response rate. Alaska provided a consolidated response for the entire state, which we excluded from our substate questionnaire analysis and included as part of state level responses to a letter sent separately to covered states.

While reviewing the returned questionnaires, we found that some respondents had not received bills for the election prior to their responses. In addition, some questionnaires included inconsistent responses to questions.

To resolve these problems, we called jurisdictions to obtain missing data and to correct inconsistencies. We called 200 respondents initially. For the remaining 118 respondents, we randomly selected and called 40. We used the cost information for these 40 to project costs for the group of 118. For noncost questions, we used the revised answers for the sampled group of 40 and the original answers of the remaining 78 respondents.

Because the projections for additional costs incurred to provide written and oral assistance are in part based on the sample of 40 jurisdictions, we calculated at the 95 percent confidence interval the range of error that could occur in these figures. The projected additional costs for assistance and estimated error ranges are shown in table I.1.

Table I.1
Sampling Errors for Written and
Oral Assistance Cost Estimates

	<u>Estimate</u>	<u>Lower limit</u>	<u>Upper limit</u>
Additional cost for written assistance	\$388,000	\$228,000	\$548,000
Additional cost for oral assistance	\$30,000	\$22,000	\$38,000

In order to analyze the written comments provided by many jurisdiction officials, we first reviewed the comments and developed coding classifications. We applied these classifications to several samples of questionnaires until we had achieved approximately 80-percent consistency in coding among independent coders. After coding all questionnaires with the written comments, we checked another sample and found approximately 78-percent consistency.

Exit polls

Since we had learned that local election officials would have limited information on the use of minority language assistance, we contracted with the Southwest Voter Registration Education Project (SVREP) for an election day exit poll regarding use of minority language assistance. The poll included the questions shown in appendix III.

Because SVREP is active in Hispanic voter registration efforts, precautions were taken to counter potential bias that might be introduced in the polling results. We controlled the design of the questions to be asked regarding the use of minority language assistance. SVREP agreed that no references to SVREP would appear on materials used during the polling operation. Finally, we attended a training session for pollsters in Texas in which SVREP officials stressed to the pollsters the need to maintain neutrality and strict adherence to the polling design to assure integrity in the results. We did not monitor the actual polling operation on election day.

Exit polling was conducted in Texas, Los Angeles, Miami, New York City, and New Jersey precincts near New York City. The polling operations in Los Angeles, Miami, New York, and New Jersey were conducted in judgmentally selected precincts containing high concentrations of Hispanic voters. Only results of the Texas polls are included in this report since results from the other polls could not be projected and represented a narrow selection of voters.

Our Texas sample was designed to be representative of 1,012 precincts which contained 75 percent of the 858,625 Spanish surnamed voters registered in the state as of August 1983. Each of the 1,012 precincts had at least 100 registered voters and of these voters, at least 20 percent had Spanish surnames.

The sampling design consisted of a two stage probability sample of voters. In the first stage, the universe of 1,012 precincts was sorted into 9 cells comprising a cross-tabulation of Spanish surname voter density by total registered voters, as shown in table I.2. Next, a total of 50 precincts were selected by drawing independent samples within each cell at rates shown in table I.3.

Table I.2
Precincts by Spanish Surnamed Registered
Voter Density and Number of Registered Voters

Total registered voters	Spanish surname density			Total
	20-49%	50-79%	80%+	
100-499	139	54	32	225
500-999	136	76	61	273
1,000+	218	153	143	514
Total	493	283	236	1012

Table I.3
Sampling Rates for Precinct
Selection by Sampling Cell

Total of registered voters	Spanish surname density		
	20-49%	50-79%	80%+
100-499	1/40	1/20	1/10
500-999	1/40	1/20	1/10
1,000+	1/40	1/20	1/10

To draw samples within each cell, precincts were ordered first by the number of Spanish surnamed registered voters. Next, subcells of 10, 20, or 40 precincts were created. Groupings of 10 precincts were used in cells sampled at the rate of 1 in 10, 20 precincts were used in cells sampled at the rate of 1 in 20, and groupings of 40 precincts were used in cells sampled at the rate of 1 in 40. One precinct was randomly selected from each complete group of precincts. Thus, the resulting sample of 50 precincts was deeply stratified by (1) overall size, (2) Spanish surnamed registered voter density, and (3) the number of Spanish surnamed registered voters. The distribution of selected precincts by major sampling cell is presented in table I.4

Table I.4
Number of Precincts Selected
by Sampling Cell

<u>Total registered voters</u>	<u>Spanish surname density</u>			<u>Total</u>
	<u>20-49%</u>	<u>50-79%</u>	<u>80%+</u>	
100-499	3	2	3	8
500-999	4	4	6	14
1,000+	6	8	14	28
Total	13	14	23	50

In the second stage of the sample selection, voters were selected randomly as they emerged from designated voting locations. Sampling rates among the precincts differed on the basis of the total number of persons registered in the precinct. Sampling rates were designed to produce approximately 50 completed exit interviews per precinct and a minimum of 20 Hispanic respondents. The sampling rates for each precinct were calculated assuming a maximum refusal rate of 50 percent and a turnout rate of 50 percent of registered voters.

Counts of Spanish surnamed registered voters for selecting the sample were obtained from the Office of the Secretary of the State of Texas. The Office identified Spanish surnamed voters by matching surnames of all registered voters in the state with a list of 12,500 Spanish surnames. This procedure used voter registration lists current as of August 1983, the most recent list available at the time our sample was developed. Counts of Spanish surnamed individuals who actually voted on election day were obtained from the voter sign-in rosters maintained in each precinct.

We received polling results from 47 of the the 50 selected precincts. In addition, we deleted results from one precinct because updated information indicated it fell outside our sampling frame. Thus, our final sample included 46 precincts.

Interviews were completed with 2,061 Hispanic individuals. The Hispanic response rate to our poll varied from 39 to 99 percent among the 46 precincts, with a median response rate of 72.5 percent. The responses can be projected to represent approximately 283,000 Hispanics who voted on November 6, 1984, in Texas. The range of accuracy for projections made with the exit poll data varies according to the question being analyzed. Ranges at the 95-percent level of confidence for data utilized in this report are presented in tables I.5 through I.13.

Table I.5
Sampling Errors for Percentage Estimates in Table 7.1
(95 Percent Confidence)

Version of the ballot used	Reading ability			
	Percent ^a			
	Sampling errors in parentheses			
	Read only Spanish or Spanish better than English	Read both about the same	Read only English or English bet- ter than Spanish	Do not read
English only	9 (+ 1.7)	37 (+ 3.2)	53 (+ 2.8)	1 (+ .5)
Spanish only	60 (+ 8.1)	25 (+ 8.3)	10 (+ 4.6)	5 (+ 2.0)
Both	20 (+ 5.1)	49 (+ 5.4)	29 (+ 5.8)	2 (+ 1.8)

^aRounded to nearest full percent.

Table I.6
Sampling Errors for Percentage Estimates in Table 7.2
(95 Percent Confidence)

Version of the ballot used	Speaking ability		
	Percent ^a		
	Sampling errors in parentheses		
	Speak only Spanish or Spanish better than English	Speak both about the same	Speak only English or English better than Spanish
English only	13 (+ 2.2)	51 (+ 3.7)	36 (+ 3.0)
Spanish only	71 (+ 6.2)	23 (+ 7.3)	6 (+ 4.7)
Both	30 (+ 6.7)	50 (+ 7.3)	20 (+ 5.3)

^aRounded to nearest full percent.

Table I.7
Sampling Errors for Percentage Estimates in Table 7.3
(95 Percent Confidence)

	Version of the ballot used		
	Percent ^a		
	Sampling errors in parentheses		
<u>Reading Ability</u>	<u>English only</u>	<u>Spanish only</u>	<u>Both</u>
Only Spanish or Spanish better than English	44 (+ 6.5)	32 (+ 5.7)	24 (+ 5.0)
Both about the same	72 (+ 5.0)	5 (+ 1.7)	23 (+ 4.5)
Only English or English better than Spanish	87 (+ 3.2)	2 (+ .9)	11 (+ 2.9)
Do not read	46 (+ 17.2)	27 (+ 8.3)	27 (+ 16.3)

^aRounded to nearest full percent.

Table I.8
Sampling Errors for Percentage Estimates in Table 7.4
(95 Percent Confidence)

	Version of ballot used		
	Percent ^a		
	Sampling errors in parentheses		
<u>Speaking Ability</u>	<u>English only</u>	<u>Spanish only</u>	<u>Both</u>
Only Spanish or Spanish better than English	47 (+ 6.6)	27 (+ 5.0)	26 (+ 4.6)
Both about the same	78 (+ 4.2)	4 (+ 1.2)	18 (+ 4.0)
Only English or English better than Spanish	87 (+ 3.7)	1 (+ .9)	12 (+ 3.7)

^aRounded to nearest full percent.

Table I.9
Sampling Errors for Percentage Estimates in Table 8.1
(95 Percent Confidence)

	Speaking ability		
	Percent ^a		
	Sampling errors in parentheses		
Received assist- ance in <u>Spanish</u>	Speak only Spanish or Spanish better than English	Speak both about the same	Speak only English or English better than Spanish
Yes	33 (+ 5.1)	48 (+ 4.4)	19 (+ 3.9)
No	15 (+ 2.7)	48 (+ 3.3)	37 (+ 3.7)

^aRounded to nearest full percent.

Table I.10
Sampling Errors for Percentage Estimates in Table 8.2
(95 Percent Confidence)

	Reading ability			
	Percent ^a			
	Sampling errors in parentheses			
Received assist- ance in <u>Spanish</u>	Read only Spanish or Spanish better than English	Read both about the same	Read only English or English bet- ter than Spanish	Do not read
Yes	24 (+ 5.0)	37 (+ 6.0)	36 (+ 5.0)	3 (+ .9)
No	11 (+ 2.2)	38 (+ 2.6)	50 (+ 3.2)	1 (+ .5)

^aRounded to nearest full percent.

Table I.11
Sampling Errors for Percentage Estimates in Table 8.3
(95 Percent Confidence)

<u>Speaking ability</u>	<u>Received assistance in Spanish</u> <u>Percent^a</u> <u>Sampling errors in parentheses</u>	
	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Only Spanish or Spanish better than English	53 (+ 5.9)	47 (+ 5.9)
Both about the same	33 (+ 4.9)	67 (+ 4.9)
Only English or English better than Spanish	21 (+ 5.9)	79 (+ 5.9)

^aRounded to nearest full percent.

Table I. 12
Sampling Errors for Percentage Estimates in Table 8.4
(95 Percent Confidence)

<u>Reading ability</u>	<u>Received assistance in Spanish</u> <u>Percent^a</u> <u>Sampling errors in parentheses</u>	
	<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>
Only Spanish or Spanish better than English	53 (+ 6.0)	47 (+ 6.0)
Both about the same	33 (+ 4.7)	67 (+ 4.7)
Only English or English better than Spanish	26 (+ 6.6)	74 (+ 6.6)
Do not read	68 (+ 7.1)	32 (+ 7.1)

^aRounded to nearest full percent.

Table I.13
Sampling Errors for Use of Written and Oral Assistance^a

<u>Estimated number of Hispanics using written assistance</u>	<u>Error range</u>	<u>Estimated number of Hispanics using oral assistance</u>	<u>Error range</u>
69,000	+ 11,000	85,000	+ 13,000

^aAll numbers have been rounded to the nearest thousand.

Information obtained from states

Because some state governments also provide minority language election services, either directly to voters or to local governments that are covered by the language minority requirements, we sent letters to the 21 states containing covered political subdivisions. We asked for information on the minority language services that the states provided during 1984, the costs incurred to provide these services, whether the state or any other entity had studied the cost or use of minority language election services, and whether state laws or regulations existed that required minority language election services. We received information from 19 states.

INFORMATION ON INDIVIDUAL JURISDICTIONS

The following table presents information on whether written and oral assistance were provided, the additional costs to provide it, and the total November 6, 1984, election costs for 240 jurisdictions. These are jurisdictions that we called to review questionnaire responses. Subtotals are presented by state. The final total also includes the projected costs for 78 responding jurisdictions that we did not call.

Table II.1
Information on Individual Jurisdictions

<u>Jurisdiction name</u>	<u>Written assistance provided</u>	<u>Additional cost^a</u>	<u>Oral assistance provided</u>	<u>Additional cost^b</u>	<u>Total election cost</u>
<u>ARIZONA</u>					
Apache	Yes	Unknown	Yes	\$ 0	\$ 45,200
Coconino	Yes	\$ 3,918	Yes	1,380	55,000
Gila	Yes	Unknown	Yes	173	40,000
Graham	Yes	Unknown	Yes	572	27,778
Greenlee	Yes	Unknown	Yes	0	15,000
La Paz	Yes	2,458	Yes	0	9,000
Maricopa	Yes	Unknown	Yes	0	1,100,000
Mohave	Yes	Unknown	No	Not applicable	43,312
Pima	Yes	81,550	Yes	4,200	500,000
Pinal	Yes	Unknown	Yes	0	40,000
Yavapai	Yes	8,400	Yes	0	49,000
Yuma	Yes	2,592	Yes	0	37,996
		<u>\$ 98,918</u>		<u>\$6,325</u>	<u>\$1,962,286</u>
<u>CALIFORNIA</u>					
Fresno	Yes	\$ 12,732	Yes	\$ 0	\$506,912
Imperial	Yes	2,179	Yes	0	55,000
Kings	Yes	11,876	Yes	1,147	50,300
Madera	Yes	4,656	Yes	0	52,660
San Benito	Yes	1,888	Yes	0	24,912
Tulare	Yes	Unknown	Yes	0	209,573
Yuba	Yes	Unknown	Yes	269	35,000
		<u>\$ 33,331</u>		<u>\$ 1,416</u>	<u>\$934,357</u>

Information on Individual Jurisdictions

<u>Jurisdiction name</u>	<u>Written assistance provided</u>	<u>Additional cost^a</u>	<u>Oral assistance provided</u>	<u>Additional cost^b</u>	<u>Total election cost</u>
<u>COLORADO</u>					
Alamosa	Yes	Unknown	Yes	\$ 0	\$ 16,598
Archuleta	Yes	Unknown	Yes	0	14,000
Bent	Yes	Unknown	Yes	83	5,440
Conejos	Yes	\$ 0	Yes	0	15,000
Las Animas	Yes	Unknown	Yes	0	22,610
Otero	Yes	Unknown	Yes	0	16,668
Pueblo	Yes	2,183	Yes	0	100,000
Rio Grande	Yes	238	Yes	0	10,925
		<u>\$ 2,421</u>		<u>\$83</u>	<u>\$201,241</u>
<u>CONNECTICUT</u>					
Bridgeport	Yes	Unknown	Yes	\$ 0	\$24,453
Hartford	Yes	Unknown	Yes	596	45,000
				<u>\$596</u>	<u>\$69,453</u>
<u>FLORIDA</u>					
Collier	Yes	\$ 9,367	Yes	\$ 0	\$ 60,528
Hardee	Yes	675	Yes	1,016	5,788
Hendry	Yes	1,676	Yes	358	11,231
Hillisborough	Yes	719	Yes	0	126,279
Monroe	Yes	1,400	Yes	0	32,000
		<u>\$ 13,837</u>		<u>\$1,374</u>	<u>\$235,826</u>
<u>HAWAII</u>					
Hawaii	Yes	Unknown	Yes	\$ 0	\$51,392
Maui	Yes	Unknown	Yes	778	45,000
				<u>\$778</u>	<u>\$96,392</u>
<u>IDAHO</u>					
Minidoka	Yes	\$204	Yes	\$0	\$10,951
		<u>\$204</u>		<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$10,951</u>
<u>MASSACHUSETTS</u>					
Chelsea	Yes	Unknown	Yes	\$0	\$11,000
				<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$11,000</u>
<u>MICHIGAN</u>					
Clyde	Yes	No answer	Yes	\$0	\$ 612
Buena Vista	Yes	\$ 0	Yes	0	460
Fennville	No	Not applicable	Yes	0	451
		<u>\$ 0</u>		<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$1,523</u>
<u>NEW JERSEY</u>					
Hudson	Yes	\$ 21,000	Yes	\$0	\$389,300
Passaic	Yes	980	Yes	0	151,400
		<u>\$ 21,980</u>		<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$540,700</u>

Information on Individual Jurisdictions

<u>Jurisdiction name</u>	<u>Written assistance provided</u>	<u>Additional cost^a</u>	<u>Oral assistance provided</u>	<u>Additional cost^b</u>	<u>Total election cost</u>
<u>NEW MEXICO</u>					
Bernalillo	Yes	Unknown	Yes	\$ 0	\$315,370
Chaves	Yes	\$ 8,450	Yes	0	30,000
Cibola	Yes	Unknown	Yes	436	16,500
Colfax	Yes	Unknown	Yes	0	9,166
De Baca	Yes	1,148	Yes	0	5,841
Dona Ana	Yes	Unknown	Yes	0	80,000
Grant	Yes	Unknown	Yes	0	17,302
Guadalupe	Yes	Unknown	Yes	0	Unknown
Harding	Yes	Unknown	Yes	0	6,900
Hidalgo	Yes	Unknown	Yes	0	8,185
Luna	Yes	0	Yes	0	12,000
McKinley	Yes	Unknown	Yes	1,200	23,722
Mora	Yes	848	Yes	0	8,666
Quay	Yes	2,204	Yes	0	9,000
Rio Arriba	Yes	4,953	Yes	0	53,200
Roosevelt	Yes	2,991	No	Not applicable	11,604
Sandoval	Yes	3,010	Yes	370	17,000
San Juan	Yes	Unknown	Yes	7,259	36,900
Santa Fe	Yes	Unknown	Yes	0	30,000
Socorro	Yes	Unknown	Yes	0	35,458
Torrance	Yes	2,567	Yes	0	14,054
Valencia	Yes	Unknown	Yes	Unknown	Unknown
		\$ 26,171		\$ 9,265	\$740,868
<u>NORTH CAROLINA</u>					
Jackson	Yes	Unknown	Yes	\$80	\$10,449
				\$80	\$10,449
<u>NORTH DAKOTA</u>					
Sioux	No	Not applicable	Yes	\$0	\$4,500
				\$0	\$4,500
<u>OKLAHOMA</u>					
Adair	No	Not applicable	Yes	\$63	\$6,945
				\$63	\$6,945
<u>SOUTH DAKOTA</u>					
Dewey	No	Not applicable	Yes	\$ 0	\$ 7,404
Shannon	No	Not applicable	Yes	355	5,761
				\$355	\$13,165

Information on Individual Jurisdictions

<u>Jurisdiction name</u>	<u>Written assistance provided</u>	<u>Additional cost^a</u>	<u>Oral assistance provided</u>	<u>Additional cost^b</u>	<u>Total election cost</u>
<u>TEXAS</u>					
Anderson	Yes	Unknown	Yes	\$ 0	\$ 13,645
Andrews	Yes	\$ 255	Yes	129	4,515
Angelina	Yes	Unknown	Yes	0	18,736
Aransas	Yes	Unknown	Yes	95	10,800
Archer	Yes	Unknown	Yes	0	4,892
Armstrong	Yes	Unknown	Yes	0	2,644
Atascosa	Yes	Unknown	Yes	0	20,398
Austin	Yes	698	Yes	Unknown	8,636
Bailey	Yes	Unknown	Yes	0	3,300
Bandera	Yes	Unknown	No	Not applicable	Unknown
Baylor	Yes	0	No	Not applicable	1,784
Bexar	Yes	12,600	Yes	0	350,000
Borden	Yes	Unknown	Yes	0	2,301
Bosque	Yes	399	No	Not applicable	4,159
Bowie	Yes	Unknown	Yes	0	30,808
Brazoria	Yes	Unknown	Yes	Unknown	47,517
Brazos	Yes	Unknown	Yes	0	28,700
Brewster	Yes	0	Yes	0	4,067
Brooks	Yes	Unknown	Yes	0	4,500
Brown	Yes	Unknown	Yes	0	15,500
Burleson	Yes	Unknown	Yes	Unknown	10,017
Calhoun	Yes	1,426	Yes	0	10,401
Cameron	Yes	Unknown	Yes	0	66,396
Camp	Yes	Unknown	No	Not applicable	5,654
Carson	Yes	Unknown	Yes	0	4,827
Cass	Yes	Unknown	No	Not applicable	12,847
Castro	Yes	Unknown	Yes	0	3,873
Childress	Yes	583	Yes	0	4,215
Clay	Yes	115	No	Not applicable	6,000
Coke	Yes	Unknown	Yes	0	5,360
Collin	Yes	Unknown	Yes	0	50,000
Collingsworth	Yes	Unknown	No	Not applicable	3,584
Comanche	Yes	Unknown	Yes	0	4,788
Concho	Yes	Unknown	Yes	0	1,841
Cooke	No	Not applicable	Yes	0	14,196
Coryell	Yes	Unknown	Yes	0	13,830
Cottle	Yes	213	Yes	0	1,910
Crockett	Yes	Unknown	Yes	0	2,000
Crosby	Yes	Unknown	Yes	0	5,207
Dallam	Yes	Unknown	Yes	0	4,307
Dawson	Yes	Unknown	Yes	0	11,048
Deaf Smith	Yes	195	Yes	0	7,839
Delta	Yes	Unknown	No	Not applicable	3,374

Information on Individual Jurisdictions

<u>Jurisdiction name</u>	<u>Written assistance provided</u>	<u>Additional cost^a</u>	<u>Oral assistance provided</u>	<u>Additional cost^b</u>	<u>Total election cost</u>
<u>TEXAS</u>					
Denton	Yes	Unknown	Yes	Unknown	\$ 50,000
Dickens	Yes	Unknown	Yes	\$ 0	3,047
Ector	Yes	Unknown	Yes	0	18,429
Edwards	Yes	\$ 0	Yes	0	2,935
Ellis	Yes	Unknown	No	Not applicable	34,168
Fisher	Yes	Unknown	No	Not applicable	6,945
Floyd	Yes	0	Yes	0	2,052
Fort Bend	Yes	Unknown	Yes	0	88,000
Frio	Yes	473	Yes	0	6,490
Garza	Yes	43	Yes	0	3,349
Gillespie	Yes	950	Yes	48	6,662
Glasscock	Yes	Unknown	Yes	Unknown	1,492
Goliad	Yes	Unknown	Yes	0	5,388
Gonzales	Yes	1,159	Yes	0	8,273
Gray	Yes	1,431	Yes	0	11,555
Grayson	No	Not applicable	Yes	0	20,537
Gregg	Yes	Unknown	No	Unknown	24,000
Grimes	Yes	Unknown	Yes	0	14,857
Guadalupe	Yes	950	Yes	0	26,024
Hale	Yes	Unknown	Yes	Unknown	13,638
Hall	Yes	Unknown	Yes	0	4,000
Harris	Yes	29,125	Yes	0	1,000,000
Hartley	Yes	Unknown	No	Not applicable	3,438
Haskell	Yes	Unknown	Yes	Unknown	6,103
Hidalgo	Yes	Unknown	Yes	0	90,000
Hockley	Yes	741	Yes	0	9,036
Hood	Yes	712	Yes	0	8,400
Howard	Yes	Unknown	Yes	0	11,685
Hunt	Yes	Unknown	No	Not applicable	24,056
Hutchinson	Yes	Unknown	Yes	110	6,975
Irion	Yes	Unknown	No	Not applicable	2,021
Jack	Yes	Unknown	Yes	0	5,117
Jackson	Yes	Unknown	Yes	0	7,548
Jasper	Yes	Unknown	No	Not applicable	16,643
Jeff Davis	Yes	0	Yes	0	1,573
Jefferson	Yes	351	Yes	0	65,000
Jim Wells	Yes	Unknown	Yes	0	13,639
Jones	Yes	Unknown	Yes	0	8,002
Karnes	Yes	Unknown	Yes	0	8,502
Kaufman	Yes	Unknown	Yes	0	22,916
Kendall	Yes	Unknown	Yes	240	6,005
Kenedy	Yes	Unknown	Yes	0	1,546
Kent	Yes	Unknown	Yes	0	1,652

Information on Individual Jurisdictions

<u>Jurisdiction name</u>	<u>Written assistance provided</u>	<u>Additional cost^a</u>	<u>Oral assistance provided</u>	<u>Additional cost^b</u>	<u>Total election cost</u>
<u>TEXAS</u>					
Kerr	Yes	Unknown	Yes	\$ 0	\$ 19,993
Kimble	Yes	Unknown	Yes	0	2,554
King	No	Not applicable	No	Not applicable	500
Kinney	Yes	Unknown	Yes	0	2,500
Kleberg	Yes	Unknown	Yes	0	14,365
Knox	Yes	Unknown	Yes	0	3,935
Lamb	Yes	Unknown	Yes	0	1,289
Lampasas	Yes	Unknown	Yes	0	5,239
La Salle	Yes	Unknown	Yes	0	2,172
Lavaca	Yes	\$ 667	Yes	0	8,779
Lee	Yes	0	Yes	0	7,600
Limestone	Yes	Unknown	Yes	0	7,600
Lipscomb	Yes	Unknown	No	Not applicable	3,516
Llano	Yes	Unknown	No	Not applicable	8,874
Loving	Yes	0	No	Not applicable	2,667
Lynn	Yes	466	Yes	0	4,664
Madison	Yes	Unknown	No	Not applicable	5,718
McCulloch	Yes	Unknown	Yes	0	5,000
McMullen	Yes	Unknown	Yes	0	1,801
Medina	Yes	Unknown	Yes	0	11,000
Mills	Yes	Unknown	Yes	292	3,513
Mitchell	Yes	Unknown	Yes	0	5,052
Montgomery	Yes	Unknown	Yes	2,232	53,307
Moore	Yes	0	Yes	0	4,300
Morris	Yes	Unknown	Yes	52	8,000
Motley	Yes	No Answer	Yes	0	2,022
Nacogdoches	Yes	Unknown	Yes	0	9,521
Newton	Yes	Unknown	Yes	0	10,972
Nueces	Yes	Unknown	Yes	0	113,844
Ochiltree	Yes	Unknown	Yes	0	5,234
Orange	Yes	0	No	Not applicable	26,863
Panola	Yes	467	No	Not applicable	11,980
Parker	Yes	Unknown	Yes	0	17,000
Polk	Yes	Unknown	Yes	0	10,914
Potter	Yes	2,073	Yes	0	30,000
Presidio	Yes	60	Yes	0	5,000
Rains	Yes	Unknown	No	Not applicable	5,033
Reagan	Yes	Unknown	Yes	0	4,131
Real	Yes	Unknown	No	Not applicable	13,034
Red River	Yes	1,049	Yes	0	9,283
Reeves	Yes	Unknown	Yes	0	9,340
Refugio	Yes	Unknown	Yes	0	10,329
Roberts	Yes	0	No	Not applicable	2,000

Information on Individual Jurisdictions

<u>Jurisdiction name</u>	<u>Written assistance provided</u>	<u>Additional cost^a</u>	<u>Oral assistance provided</u>	<u>Additional cost^b</u>	<u>Total election cost</u>
<u>TEXAS</u>					
Robertson	Yes	Unknown	Yes	\$ 0	\$ 9,204
Rockwall	No	Not applicable	No	Not applicable	8,607
Runnels	Yes	Unknown	Yes	415	6,442
Sabine	Yes	Unknown	No	Not applicable	5,000
San Augustine	Yes	Unknown	No	Not applicable	4,193
San Jacinto	Yes	Unknown	No	Not applicable	6,500
San Patricio	Yes	\$ 649	Yes	0	15,000
Schleicher	Yes	225	Yes	0	1,995
Scurry	Yes	Unknown	Yes	0	2,095
Schackelford	Yes	73	No	Not applicable	2,600
Smith	Yes	Unknown	Yes	0	34,925
Starr	Yes	Unknown	Yes	0	9,710
Sterling	Yes	234	Yes	59	3,000
Stonewall	Yes	Unknown	Yes	Unknown	3,530
Swisher	Yes	Unknown	Yes	0	4,904
Taylor	Yes	1,210	Yes	0	30,000
Terry	Yes	Unknown	Yes	0	6,093
Throckmorton	Yes	Unknown	No	Not applicable	2,787
Titus	Yes	Unknown	No	Not applicable	13,000
Travis	Yes	Unknown	Yes	Unknown	84,089
Tyler	Yes	Unknown	Yes	0	12,240
Val Verde	Yes	Unknown	Yes	0	2,443
Victoria	Yes	992	Yes	0	16,362
Waller	Yes	1,797	Yes	0	14,392
Ward	Yes	0	Yes	0	5,255
Washington	Yes	1,054	Yes	0	6,650
Wharton	Yes	1,821	Yes	0	12,124
Wheeler	Yes	199	No	Not applicable	4,000
Wichita	Yes	Unknown	Yes	0	35,374
Wilbarger	Yes	Unknown	Yes	0	8,156
Willacy	Yes	0	Yes	0	10,182
Wilson	Yes	Unknown	Yes	0	9,694
Winkler	Yes	0	Yes	0	4,147
Wise	Yes	Unknown	Yes	0	14,225
Wood	Yes	Unknown	No	Not applicable	14,000
Yoakum	Yes	Unknown	Yes	0	5,587
Young	Yes	Unknown	Yes	0	9,702
Zavala	Yes	Unknown	Yes	0	11,588
		\$ 65,455		\$3,672	\$3,442,347
<u>UTAH</u>					
San Juan	No	Not applicable	Yes	\$1,045	\$15,000
				\$1,045	\$15,000

Information on Individual Jurisdictions

<u>Jurisdiction name</u>	<u>Written assistance provided</u>	<u>Additional cost^a</u>	<u>Oral assistance provided</u>	<u>Additional cost^b</u>	<u>Total election cost</u>
<u>WISCONSIN</u>					
Komensky	No	Not applicable	Yes	\$ 0	\$250
Couderay	Yes	<u>\$ 75</u>	No	<u>Not applicable</u>	<u>300</u>
		\$ 75		\$ 0	\$550
Projected written and oral cost totals		<u>\$388,000</u>		<u>\$30,000</u>	

^aCosts were calculated by multiplying reported total written material costs by percent additional costs.

^bCosts were calculated by multiplying reported total poll worker costs by percent additional costs.

RESPONSE FREQUENCIES FOR EXIT POLL QUESTIONS

The questions used during the November 6, 1984, Texas exit poll for GAO and the estimated percent of responses by Hispanic voters in the 1,012 precincts are presented in this appendix. Voters were asked to complete a written questionnaire. Those who were unable or reluctant to complete the questionnaire were interviewed.

1. Are you of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Dominican, Central or South American, other Hispanic ancestry, or not of Hispanic ancestry?

Mexican	92%
Other Hispanic	8
Not Hispanic ¹	

2. Were you born in the continental U.S.?

Yes	92%
No	8

3. As far as you know, was a Spanish version of the ballot available today?

Yes	74%
No	10
Not sure	16

4. When voting today did you use the English version of the ballot, the Spanish version or both?

English only	75%
Spanish only	7
Both Spanish and English	18

5. As far as you know, was there a poll worker available to explain voting procedures in Spanish?

Yes	68%
No	14
Not sure	18

¹To avoid bias in polling results, voters were selected for interviews regardless of ethnic background. However, all statistics presented in this appendix are based solely on the responses of voters with Hispanic heritages.

6. Did a poll worker use Spanish to explain voting procedures or the ballot to you?

Yes	32%
No	68

7. Which of the following best describes your ability to speak Spanish and English?

Speak Spanish only	6%
Speak Spanish better than English	13
Speak both about the same	49
Speak English better than Spanish	28
Speak English only	4

8. Which of the following best describes your ability to read Spanish and English

Read Spanish only	6%
Read Spanish better than English	9
Read both about the same	38
Read English better than Spanish	36
Read English only	10
Do not read at all in Spanish or English ²	1

9. What is your current employment status?

Employed full time	54%
Employed part time	10
Unemployed, looking for a job	9
Full-time student	5
Full-time homemaker	12
Retired	8
Other	2

²Voters who were unable to complete the questionnaire were interviewed by the official administering the exit poll.

10. What is the highest grade in school you completed?

Some high school or less	29%
High school graduate	30
Some college	26
College graduate	10
Postgraduate	5

11. What is your sex?

Male	49%
Female	51

12. Which of the following groups includes your age?

18-25	23%
26-35	26
36-45	20
46-55	14
56-65	11
66 or older	6

13. Which of the following groups includes your total yearly household income from all sources before taxes?

Under \$5,000	20%
\$5,000-\$9,999	19
\$10,000-\$19,999	29
\$20,000-\$29,999	18
\$30,000-\$39,999	7
\$40,000-\$49,999	4
\$50,000 and over	3

CHARACTERISTICS OF VOTERS USING ASSISTANCE

The characteristics of voters who (1) used various versions of the ballot and (2) had the ballot or election procedures explained to them in Spanish are presented below. The ballot categories "used Spanish version only" and "used both the Spanish and English versions" represent use of written minority language assistance. On the basis of our November 6, 1984, Texas exit poll, we estimate that 69,000 Hispanics in 1,012 Texas precincts that our sample represented used written assistance. The category "explained in Spanish" represents use of oral minority language assistance. We estimate that 85,000 Hispanics received oral assistance in Spanish in the 1,012 precincts. The data presented in this appendix are estimated percents of responding Hispanic voters in the 1,012 precincts who would have exhibited the characteristics shown in each table. Appendix I explains the exit poll methodology.

1. Version of the ballot used compared to born in the U.S.

	Born in <u>U.S.</u>	Not born <u>in U.S.</u>
Used English version only	94%	6%
Used Spanish version only	77	23
Used both the Spanish and English versions	86	14

2. Version of the ballot used compared to reading ability.

	<u>Read Spanish only</u>	<u>Read Spanish better than English</u>	<u>Read both about the same</u>	<u>Read English better than Spanish</u>	<u>Read English only</u>	<u>Do not read either</u>
Used English version only	3%	6%	37%	42%	11%	1%
Used Spanish version only	38	22	25	9	1	5
Used both the English and Spanish	5	15	49	21	8	2

3. Version of the ballot used compared to speaking ability.

	<u>Speak Spanish only</u>	<u>Speak Spanish better than English</u>	<u>Speak both about the same</u>	<u>Speak English better than Spanish</u>	<u>Speak English only</u>
Used English version only	3%	10%	51%	31%	5%
Used Spanish version only	42	29	23	5	1
Used both the English and Spanish	8	22	50	19	1

4. Version of the ballot used compared to educational level achieved.

	<u>Some high school or less</u>	<u>High school graduate</u>	<u>Some college</u>	<u>College graduate</u>	<u>Post graduate</u>
Used English version only	24%	31%	29%	11%	5%
Used Spanish version only	73	16	6	2	3
Used both the English and Spanish	31	31	25	9	4

5. Version of ballot used compared to age group.

	<u>18-25</u>	<u>26-35</u>	<u>36-45</u>	<u>46-55</u>	<u>56-65</u>	<u>66 and over</u>
Used English version only	24%	28%	20%	13%	10%	5%
Used Spanish version only	11	13	17	19	24	16
Used both the English and Spanish	26	23	23	15	9	4

6. Poll worker explained the ballot or election procedures in Spanish compared to reading ability.

	<u>Read Spanish only</u>	<u>Read Spanish better than English</u>	<u>Read both about the same</u>	<u>Read English better than Spanish</u>	<u>Read English only</u>	<u>Do not read either</u>
Explained in Spanish	11%	13%	37%	29%	7%	3%
Did not explain in Spanish	4	7	38	39	11	1

7. Poll worker explained the ballot or election procedures in Spanish compared to speaking ability.

	<u>Speak Spanish only</u>	<u>Speak Spanish better than English</u>	<u>Speak both about the same</u>	<u>Speak English better than Spanish</u>	<u>Speak English only</u>
Explained in Spanish	13%	20%	48%	17%	2%
Did not explain in Spanish	4	11	48	32	5

8. Poll worker explained ballot or election procedures in Spanish compared to born in the U.S.

	<u>Born in U.S.</u>	<u>Not born in U.S.</u>
Explained in Spanish	87%	13%
Did not explain in Spanish	94	6

9. Poll worker explained ballot or election procedures in Spanish compared to schooling completed.

	<u>Some high school or less</u>	<u>High school graduate</u>	<u>Some college</u>	<u>College graduate</u>	<u>Post graduate</u>
Explained in Spanish	41%	29%	22%	6%	2%
Did not explain in Spanish	23	30	29	12	6

10. Poll worker explained ballot or election procedures in Spanish compared to age group.

	<u>18-25</u>	<u>26-35</u>	<u>36-45</u>	<u>46-55</u>	<u>56-65</u>	<u>66 and over</u>
Explained in Spanish	22%	22%	19%	15%	15%	7%
Did not explain in Spanish	24	28	20	14	9	5

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