

Resolution for Widespread Translation Services

WHEREAS over 20% of Santa Clara County residents are identified as Limited English Proficient (LEP), and 54% of families speak a language other than English at home; and

WHEREAS a 2024 Board of Supervisors meeting in Santa Clara County concerning the potential closure of the only trauma center in East San Jose vital to the recovery of Latino residents, was unable to be fully comprehended by Spanish-only speaking attendees due to the lack of translation services, preventing them from participating in a decision directly affecting their health and safety; and

WHEREAS individuals who struggle with English that do not receive proper translation accommodations can face language barriers that impede them from gaining access to healthcare services, legal aid, and participation in civic discussions; and

WHEREAS cities that supplied multilingual translations in regards to health guidelines, testing details, and vaccination instructions during COVID experienced higher compliance rates and public trust in health initiatives;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Santa Clara County Democratic Party will advocate for translation services to be provided in the language(s) most commonly spoken in the affected community (e.g., Spanish, Chinese, Vietnamese, Tagalog, Farsi, and Russian) at all meetings of governing boards that are open to the public, including City Councils, the Board of Supervisors, and school boards, as well as requiring websites supplying community services in health, law, and education to include a translation option; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors, Santa Clara County Public Health Department, Santa Clara County Board of Education, and city councils in the county.

Submitted by Caroline Zhang

Adopted by the Youth Delegates and Ratified by the Central Committee on July 10, 2025