

250120 DRAFT

2026 SFEC Goal: Improve the Commission's Ability to Effectively Serve via Educational Opportunities (DRAFT LANGUAGE)

The Commission will engage in at least four educational sessions during 2026, which will increase commissioners' and the public's understanding of topics relevant to the Commission's purpose of ensuring that San Francisco elections are free, fair and functional, and better position commissioners to be effective in their public service.

COMMISSIONER NAME: Rebecca A. Bers

TOPIC: Barriers to Voting: Understanding Language Access Concerns for San Francisco Voters

GOAL(S):

- Community/advocate input
 - What unique challenges do limited English proficiency voters face in our electoral system?
 - Are there other barriers to voting that intersect with limited English proficiency?
 - What do advocates in the LEP voting community think the Department could/should do better?
- Legal Standards
 - What minimum standards do Federal and State law set for language access?
- Elections Department input
 - What services does the Elections Department already provide?
 - Who does the Department partner with in providing language access services?
 - Can we discuss some success stories?
- Bottom line takeaway for discussion:
 - What can we as Commissioners do to ensure that voting plans adequately address the needs of the LEP community?

PRESENTER(S):

- No speakers confirmed - will consult with former commissioner Kelly Wong regarding input from the LEP community and Deputy City Attorney Flores regarding discussion of legal standards.

WHEN TO HOLD THE SESSION. These preferences are based upon my availability and likelihood to be able to coordinate with any participating speakers before then - subject to confirming with speakers.

1. June
2. November
3. May