



Oregon Secretary of State Translation Advisory Council Meeting

Meeting Date/Time: July 22, 2026, 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Microsoft Teams Virtual Meeting

Magda Bejarano, Chair;

Vacant, Vice Chair

Attendees	
Council Members	
Name	Council Position
Lowell Alik	Translator, Marshallese
Magda Bejarano	At-Large, Spanish (Chair)
Hector Buenaventura	Translator, Tagalog
Tamara Burkovskaia	Translator, Russian
Meng-Lun Chen-Pinkham	Translator, Traditional Chinese
Natasha Emery	Translator, Russian
Lois Feuerle	Translator, German
Li Gui	Translator, Simplified & Traditional Chinese
Tetyana Horner	Translator, Ukrainian
Hoang Hua	Translator, Vietnamese
Khanh Le	Translator, Vietnamese
Angeles Muller	Translator, Spanish
Chantal Portillo	Translator, Spanish
Fleur Prade	At-Large, French
May Saechao	Translator, Lu Mien
Nasirullah Safi	Translator, Farsi
Polina Sergeev	At-Large, Russian
Sutapa Svetamani	Translator, Thai
Tatiana Terdal	Translator, Ukrainian
Lihong Zheng	Translator, Simplified Chinese
Absent	
Eman Abbas	At-Large, Arabic
Sahar Bassyouni	Translator, Arabic
Rhania Bensafia	Translator, French
Ritu Dhungana	Translator, Nepali
Katerina Ingraham	Translator, Russian
Hanae Kaneko	Translator, Japanese
Seong Yun Kim	Translator, Korean
Kiyoan Lee	Translator, Korean
Binh Nam Nguyen	Translator, Vietnamese
Phearom Phouk	Translator, Khmer
Sydney Taggart	Translator, Korean
Aida Taracena	Translator, Spanish



Secretary of State Staff	
Kelly Mills	Translation Policy Program Administrator, Elections
Rebecca Manger	Administrative Specialist, Elections
Carol Moreno Cifuentes	Senior Policy Analyst, Executive Office

Guests	
Paty Vasquez Pacheco	Translation Coordinator, Multnomah County Elections

Agenda Topics, Highlights, & Outcomes	
Agenda and Housekeeping	The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:02 PM. She welcomed all attendees and reviewed housekeeping items and the agenda.
Attendance Roll Call	The Chair took a verbal roll call of members in attendance to establish quorum for voting on agenda items.
Welcome from the Secretary of State's Executive Team	Carol Moreno Cifuentes welcomed the Translation Advisory Council membership and outlined her role on the SOS Government Relations and Legislative teams and in promoting language access. She emphasized the need for clear voter information and translations, highlighting the Council's work on translated glossaries, the style guide, and county support. She emphasized expansion of multilingual voter education resources including the availability of SOS Elections Tool Kits, recruiting new Council members, and Oregon's leadership in providing accessible and culturally relevant voter information.
Appreciation for outgoing Translation Advisory Council members	Kelly Mills acknowledged the work of members leaving the Translation Advisory Council this month: Eman Abbas Meng-Lun Chen-Pinkham Ritu Dhungana Katerina Ingraham Lloyd Lee Fleur Prade Sydney Taggert Aida Taracena Mira Wymer



	Lihong Zheng She encouraged them to add a few parting words in the chat or during the scheduled Community Time.
Approval of December 3, 2025, Minutes	The Chair confirmed a quorum of members was present. No amendments to the minutes were requested. Fleur Prade made the motion to approve the December 3, 2025, minutes, and Natasha Emery seconded the motion to approve the minutes. A quorum of members verbally voted 'yes' to approve the minutes. There were no votes in opposition. The motion to approve the minutes passed.
Election of a New Vice Chair of the Translation Advisory Council	Before the Vice Chair election, the Chair summarized the December 2025 voting results, which ended in a three-way tie and a decision to postpone the election until the current meeting. She confirmed the slate consisted of two previously nominated candidates Natasha Emery and Li Gui following Fleur Prade's pending departure from the Council, noted that member biographies had been distributed with the meeting materials, and invited additional nominations. No further nominations were received. Natasha Emery and Li Gui each made brief statements in support of their candidacy. A member requested clarification about policies governing the use of state resources for Council communications, citing a campaign email sent after the December 2025 meeting by one candidate using an official state email address, logos, and a quotation that could be interpreted as State endorsement of the campaign or of political views. The member noted that quotations may be interpreted differently across cultures and emphasized the importance of maintaining the Council's apolitical role. The Chair clarified that neither candidate was endorsed by the State. Staff noted that some members may have their agency's authorization to use official email for Council business and reminded members they are public officials subject to Oregon ethics laws and training. The candidate stated the email was sent in good faith in her capacity as a public official and reaffirmed the importance of remaining apolitical. The Chair reiterated public meetings law and transparency requirements and voting protocols and conducted a verbal roll call. Votes:



	Lowell Alik: Natasha Emery Hector Buenaventura: Li Gui Tamara Burkovskaia: Natasha Emery Meng-Lun Chen-Pinkham: Li Gui Natasha Emery: Natasha Emery Li Gui: Li Gui Tetyana Horner: Li Gui Hoang Hua: Natasha Emery Khanh Le: Li Gui Angeles Muller: Li Gui Fleur Prade: Li Gui May Saechao: Li Gui Nasirullah Safi: Natasha Emery Polina Sergeev: Natasha Emery Sutapa Svetamani: Li Gui Tatiana Terdal: Li Gui Lihong Zheng: Li Gui Magda Bejarano: Li Gui Votes were tallied during the SOS Elections Division Staff Report for announcement before the meeting break. The Chair addressed a question submitted in the meeting chat regarding whether members who joined after the voting roll call would be included in the results. The Chair confirmed that a quorum was present when voting occurred and that each vote during roll call would be recorded in the meeting minutes. The Chair announced that Li Gui was elected Vice Chair of the Translation Advisory Council with 12 votes, while Natasha Emery received 6 votes.
SOS Elections Division Staff Report	Kelly Mills reported on the addition of Rebecca Manger to SOS staff supporting the Council and gave a summary of 2026 Council membership and recruitment. She acknowledged eleven members are retiring from the Council and there are fourteen reappointments by the Secretary. She gave an overview of the practical language reviewer needs for voters' pamphlets, including the need for additional members of Somali, Lu Mien, and Japanese, and confirmed appointments for Arabic, Traditional and Simplified Chinese, Korean, Nepali and Somali vacancies. Recruitment to fill



	Korean and Lu Mien openings continues through various recruitment methods. Rebecca reported on web page analytics of translated language and county page views, comparing 2024 and 2026 Primary Elections. Highlights include a 109% increase in voters viewing webpages. Only two counties had a small decrease in views, and Multnomah views increased the most. Graphs also showed strong viewer increases in Deschutes, Yamhill, and Umatilla counties and significant increases in views of Japanese, Spanish, Thai, Ukrainian, and Vietnamese language pages. Notably, 21% of all May 2026 Primary Election views were for the six new languages added after the May 2024 Primary Election. Staff agreed to provide copies of the webpage analytics to members and also provided links to SOS Election Tool Kits, available in Spanish, Chinese, Vietnamese, Korean, and Russian. Finally, Kelly highlighted 2026 accomplishments and improvements, including a 24% increase in translated pamphlets in six new languages, added pamphlet graphics and compliance with federal accessibility law, improved program data tracking, and a streamlined review process for translated federal and statewide candidate statements. Staff also provided individual technical support to Council members in 2026.
Break	
Breakout Rooms Small Group Discussion	Planned breakout groups by language did not function as anticipated due to technical difficulties. Staff agreed to schedule virtual small group meetings over the next few days, with a goal to return Glossary and Style Guide reviews and comments by Friday, July 24, 2026. The Chair moved on to Community Time agenda item.
Community Time	The Chair opened discussion to the whole Council, and invited members to share follow-up questions about the SOS Staff report, recognize the work of departing members, or bring additional Council and election-related thoughts or concerns. Li Gui appreciated the Council and thanked colleagues for electing her to the Vice Chair position. She shared a story



	about being supported by the interpreter community as a new arrival to the US. Meng-Lun Chen-Pinkham inquired about the potential for the Secretary of State to create a clearinghouse of calendar of events of voter education group activities throughout the state to inform communities. Staff anticipated that this would be difficult to sponsor since the SOS must remain nonpartisan but agreed to review the idea further. Tatiana Terdal shared that while using an AI tool for translation help, she was pleased it referenced the Ukrainian Elections Glossary that the Translation Advisory Council assisted to develop. Natasha Emery reassured the Council the intent of her email, shared her commitment to political neutrality and personal inspiration from the shared quote, and thanked the Council. Lowell Alik added his thanks to the Council, staff, and the Chair, congratulated Li Gui on her election, and recommitted to voter education and outreach efforts within the Marshallese community as the Executive Director of MANIT.
Announcements & Adjourn	Kelly reminded the Council of upcoming translation reviews and deadlines for the November General Election and Glossaries. The Chair thanked everyone and reminded them to fill out the post-meeting evaluation survey. The meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM

Meeting Handouts

07.22.26 TAC Meeting Agenda

12.03.25 Meeting Minutes

TAC Member Bios 2026

TAC Calendar August & G2026