

LINGUISTIC DIVERSITY IN GEORGIA

Data Report

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ASIAN AMERICANS
**ADVANCING
JUSTICE**
ATLANTA

INTRODUCTION

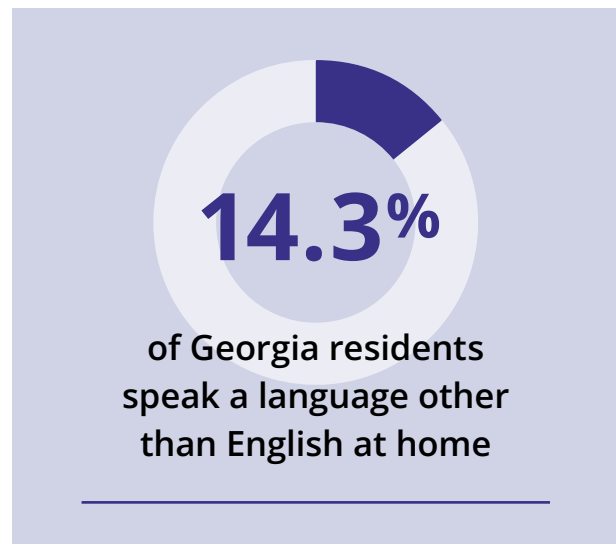
LANGUAGE USE AND DIVERSITY

IN GEORGIA



More than 1.4 million (14.3%) Georgia residents speak a language other than English at home.¹ More than 5 percent of people in the state also self-reported that they are “limited English proficient,” meaning that they speak English “less than very well,” and many more are Non English-Language Preference (NELP), meaning that they primarily use languages other than English for reading, writing and speaking, regardless of their English proficiency.² Every Georgian should have access to healthcare, educational opportunities, and the democratic process regardless of which languages they speak and read.

The purpose of this document is to raise awareness about Georgia’s linguistic diversity for community organizations,



advocates, legislators, county and state administrators, and the media. This data can be used to identify policy priorities around language access and equity, advocacy efforts, and community needs for translation and interpretation.

¹ 2017-2021 [ACS Narrative Profile | Georgia](#). U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, Table DP02, Selected Social Characteristics in the United States.

² The term “non-English language preference” (NELP) is an alternative to the more widely used term, “Limited English proficiency” (LEP), in reference to individuals who do not speak, read, or write English as their primary language, and who report speaking English. Whereas the term LEP’s focus on proficiency is vague and ethnocentric in its assumption of English as the “primary language” in the United States, the term NELP focuses on individuals’ language preferences in a particular encounter, whether it be at school, when voting, or in a healthcare setting. See Ortega, Pilar, et al. 2022. “Rethinking the Term ‘Limited English Proficiency’ to Improve Language-Appropriate Healthcare for All.” *Journal of Immigrant and Minority Health* 24: 799-805.

Pastor Joseph, who leads the Morrow Vietnamese Alliance Church in Forest Park, Georgia, says that language access is one of the challenges he sees with his church members. Because many of the members of his congregation feel more comfortable communicating in Vietnamese, and

Vietnamese translation and interpretation is limited, they rely on each other for help and support. Many of the adults in his congregation rely on the English-speaking ability of their children to navigate certain systems. Pastor Joseph says better language access is needed “at all levels.”

“

Better language access is needed ‘at all levels.’

- Pastor Joseph,
Morrow Vietnamese
Alliance Church,
Forest Park, Georgia

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- Language access and linguistic representation is important even to those who self-report as speaking English “very well.”
- In 38 counties, at least 10 percent of the population speaks a language other than English at home.
- Georgia’s linguistically diverse population is not exclusively concentrated in the state’s most populous counties. In Webster County, population 2,328, nearly 19 percent of residents speak a language other than English at home.
- There are six counties with a population of less than 10,000 where the percentage of residents who speak a language other than English at home is 10 percent or more of the greater population.
- More than one third of people living in Gwinnett County speak a language other than English at home, and 15 percent of Gwinnett residents report that they speak English “less than very well.”
- More than 800,000 Georgians speak Spanish, making up 8 percent of Georgia’s total population.
- To account for gaps in available Census data, stakeholders should look to other sources, such as school data, for more detailed data about languages spoken in a given jurisdiction.
- The top three Asian languages spoken in Georgia are Vietnamese, Chinese (including Mandarin and Cantonese), and Korean.

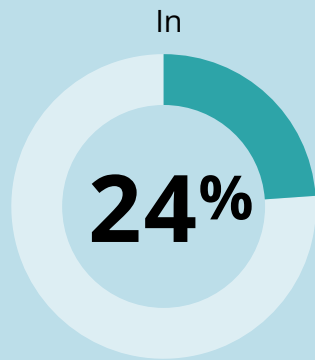
STATEWIDE SNAPSHOT

SPEAKERS OF LANGUAGES OTHER THAN ENGLISH ACROSS GEORGIA



Speakers of languages other than English live all across Georgia—in densely populated metro Atlanta and in the state’s rural regions. (See Appendix A for detailed information on metro Atlanta counties.) In 38 of Georgia’s 159 counties, at least

10 percent of the population speaks a language other than English at home. In Gwinnett, Atkinson, and Stewart counties, at least 15 percent of residents report that they speak English less than very well.



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at least

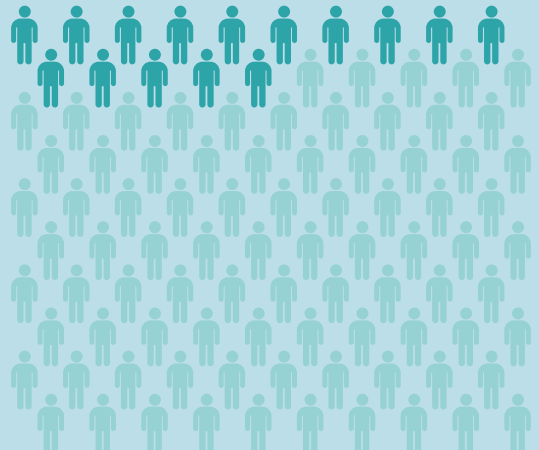
10 percent of the population

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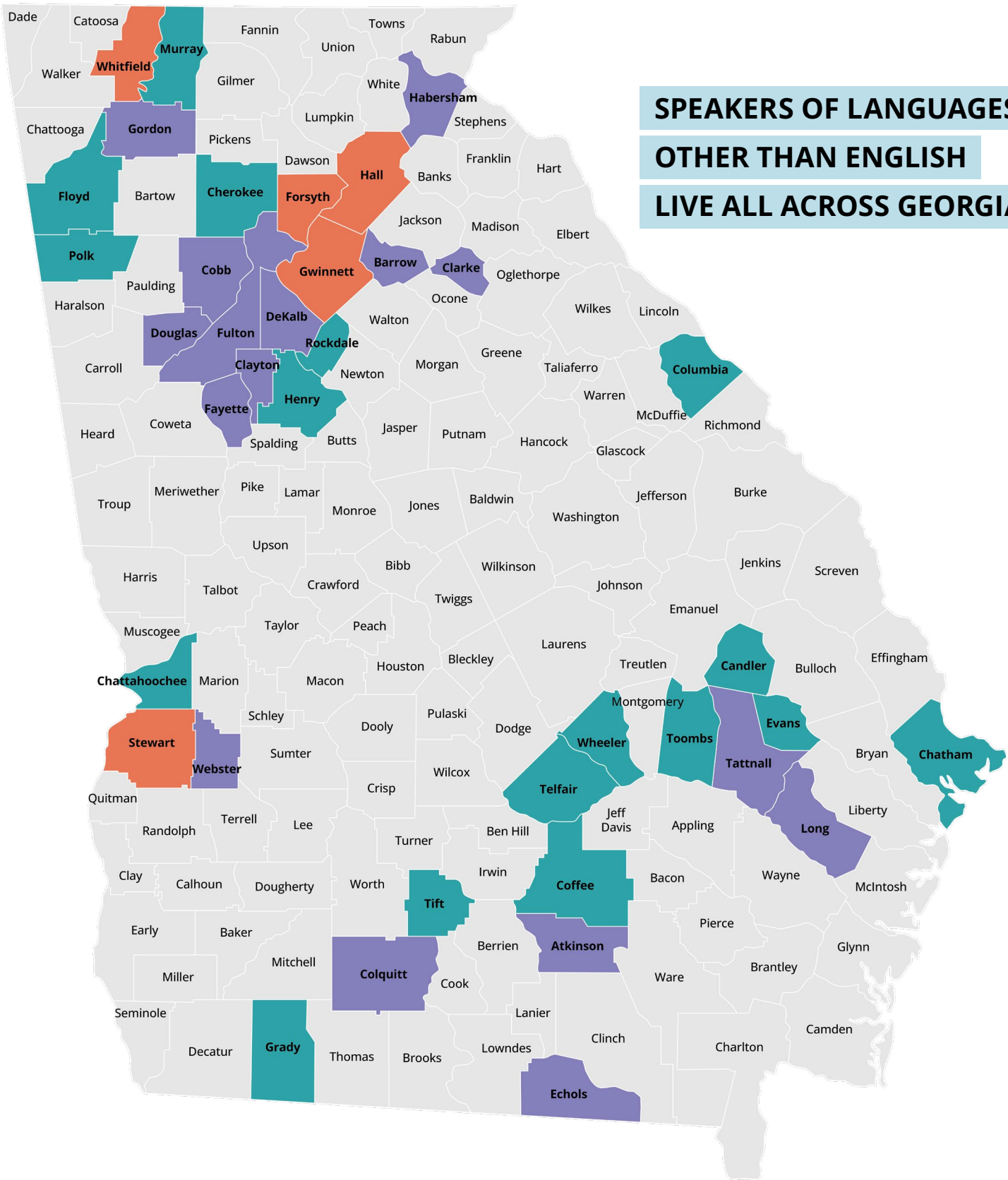
In Gwinnett, Atkinson, and Stewart counties,

at least

15 out of 100 residents report that they speak English less than very well



**SPEAKERS OF LANGUAGES
OTHER THAN ENGLISH
LIVE ALL ACROSS GEORGIA**



- Counties with over 23% of residents who speak a language other than English
- Counties with 13-22% of residents who speak a language other than English
- Counties with 10-13% of residents who speak a language other than English

COUNTIES WHERE AT LEAST 10% OF PEOPLE SPEAK LANGUAGES OTHER THAN ENGLISH AT HOME³

County	Percent of Residents who Speak a Language Other than English	Total Residents	Number of Residents who Speak a Language Other than English	Percent of Residents Who Speak English "less than very well"
Gwinnett	35.4	888,727	314,529	15.5
Whitfield	30.0	96,479	28,987	14.4
Hall	29.6	188,967	24,225	12.8
Forsyth	23.9	231,540	55,376	5.9
Stewart	23.5	5,244	1,230	19.1
Echols	22.3	3,414	761	3.2
Atkinson	22.6	7,756	1,169	15.1
Cobb	20.6	717,211	147,450	7.1
DeKalb	19.2	707,405	35,529	8.4
Clayton	19.0	272,726	51,699	8.9
Webster	18.7	2,328	435	7.6
Colquitt	18.3	42,796	7,813	8.4
Fulton	16.4	995,127	163,283	4.8
Gordon	16.5	53,876	8,888	7.3
Habersham	16.0	43,056	6,882	7.4
Clarke	15.2	121,812	18,463	4.9
Barrow	15.1	76,721	11,570	5.7
Douglas	14.0	134,928	18,828	4.7
Tatnall	13.6	22,074	2,997	4.3

³ American Community Survey (2021) 5-Year Estimates | Table DP02: Selected Social Social Characteristics in the United States.

COUNTIES WHERE AT LEAST 10% OF PEOPLE SPEAK LANGUAGES OTHER THAN ENGLISH AT HOME

County	Percent of Residents who Speak a Language Other than English	Total Residents	Number of Residents who Speak a Language Other than English	Percent of Residents Who Speak English "less than very well"
Fayette	13.2	112,622	14,829	3.9
Long	13.0	15,376	1,994	3.9
Cherokee	12.9	247,260	12,698	5.1
Coffee	12.9	40,171	5,168	5.6
Evans	12.2	10,071	1,233	5.5
Chattahoochee	12.0	8,743	1,131	3.9
Grady	11.8	24,858	2,944	5.8
Polk	11.5	39,848	2,078	5.2
Tift	11.5	38,365	4,430	3.0
Candler	11.3	10,237	1,161	5.0
Toombs	11.1	25,080	2,794	4.6
Murray	11.0	37,355	1,528	4.1
Rockdale	11.4	87,729	4,490	5.1
Floyd	10.8	92,423	9,971	4.9
Telfair	10.7	12,356	1,327	9.5
Henry	10.2	223,233	7,582	3.4
Columbia	10.1	144,705	5,225	3.6
Chatham	10.0	276,907	28,449	3.5
Wheeler	10.0	7,206	719	9.8

GEORGIA'S SPOKEN

LANGUAGES SPAN DIVERSE

COUNTRIES OF ORIGIN

Between 2000 and 2019, Georgia's immigrant population doubled, and as of 2021 the state is home to nearly 1.1 million people born outside of the United States.⁴ These immigrants and their families contribute to Georgia's vast linguistic diversity. After English, Spanish, Vietnamese, Chinese (including Cantonese and Mandarin), Korean, and French (including Cajun) are the five most widely spoken languages in the state.⁵

Language	Number of Speakers Statewide
Spanish	801,066
Vietnamese	54,826
Chinese (incl. Cantonese and Mandarin)	51,344
Korean	49,681
Yoruba, Twi, Igbo, or Other Languages of West Africa	37,433
French (including Cajun)	36,241
Hindi	32,575
German	23,174
Gujarati	23,142
Amharic, Somali, or other Afro-Asiatic Languages	22,711
Telugu	20,116
Portuguese	20,796
Tagalog	20,379

⁴ Source: Migration Policy Institute, Georgia Demographics Data on Naturalization. <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/data/state-profiles/state/demographics/GA#top>.

⁵ American Community Survey (2021): 5-Year Estimate for Language Spoken At Home by Ability to Speak English for the Population 5 Years and Over | Table B16001: Language Spoken at Home by Ability to Speak English for the Population 5 Years and Older

LANGUAGE ACCESS POLICIES IN GEORGIA



No single language has been established as the “official language” of either the United States or the State of Georgia. Still, language minority groups encounter significant discrimination for their linguistic practices. Proponents of English-only movements have advocated for local, state, and federal legislation that establishes English as the official language of the United States, and have challenged the legitimacy of language equity efforts that make translated materials more widely available to language minorities living in the United States.^{6,7}

In Georgia, some lawmakers have repeatedly tried to pass English-only legislation in the state legislature. For example, during the 2011-2012 legislative session, [HB 72](#) proposed requiring the Department of Driver Services to only offer English-language exams. Additionally, several House and Senate bills, including [SR 1031](#) (2013-2014); [SR 675](#)

(2015-2016); and [SR 587](#) & [SR 613](#) (2017-2018), have proposed amendments to the State constitution that would establish English as Georgia’s official language—making it so that no state agencies would be able to translate or provide materials in languages other than English. So far, attempts to pass English-only legislation through the Georgia legislature have failed, but they are illustrative of anti-immigrant sentiment among Georgia lawmakers and the barriers that language minorities face in their day-to-day encounters with state agencies.

In spite of an often hostile climate, governmental and nongovernmental entities across Georgia have begun to develop and implement policies and processes to address language-related inequities in access to basic rights and services. Elections and voting is an area where federal policy aims to protect the rights of language minorities.

⁶ Woolard, Kathryn. 1989. “Sentences in the Language Prison: The Rhetorical Structuring of an American Language Policy Debate.” *American Anthropologist* 16(2): 266-278.

⁷ Tucker, James Thomas. 2016. *The Battle Over Bilingual Ballots: Language Minorities and Political Access Under the Voting Rights Act*. Routledge.

ELECTIONS & VOTING

Section 203 Coverage in Georgia

Section 203 of the Voting Rights Act (VRA) requires jurisdictions to provide language assistance to voters “if more than five (5) percent or 10,000 voting-age citizens are members of a single-language minority” and do not “speak or understand English adequately enough to participate in the electoral process.” Jurisdictions covered by Section 203 must provide all election materials related to the electoral process — i.e. ballots, registration forms, notices, instructions, and assistance documents — in the language of the protected language minority group in addition to English. The law applies to all elections conducted within a covered jurisdiction including primary and general elections, bonds elections and referenda, and elections of each municipality, school district, or otherwise special purpose district within the jurisdiction.⁸

Counties Approaching the Section 203 Threshold

In accordance with the Voting Rights Act, the Census Bureau made the most recent determinations for Section 203 coverage on December 8, 2021. In Georgia, Section 203 covers Hispanic voters in Gwinnett

County, requiring Gwinnett County to make all election materials — including notices, ballots, and forms — available in Spanish as well as English.

Based on data from the Census Bureau’s 2021 Section 203 Public Use Dataset, Asian Americans Advancing Justice-AAJC (Advancing Justice-AAJC) has also classified Whitfield County, Georgia as a “just-missed” jurisdiction that is close to meeting Section 203 coverage for Hispanic voters. Whitfield County may very well meet the threshold during the next round of determinations in 2026. Advancing Justice-AAJC recommends these just-missed jurisdictions can, and should, proactively begin to provide some level of language assistance to these language groups before the next determinations.⁹

County Level Language Access Policy

Beyond complying with federal policies, local jurisdictions have also recognized the need to ensure that Georgians who use languages other than English can access rights and services. Below we highlight two Georgia counties’ recent efforts.

⁸ United States Department of Justice. “Language Minority Citizens,” <https://www.justice.gov/crt/language-minority-citizens>

⁹ American Community Survey (ACS) 5-Year Estimates for Selected Social Social Characteristics in the United States | DP02: Selected Social Social Characteristics in the United States.

DeKalb County

In response to advocacy efforts from community organizations and DeKalb residents, in 2020 DeKalb County became the first county in Georgia to voluntarily provide key election information and sample ballots in Spanish and Korean. Translated materials included sample ballots, voter FAQs, polling location changes, dropbox locations, absentee voter guides, and instructions for LEP voters, as well as instructions for how to contact Asian American Advancing Justice - Atlanta's Voter Hotline. To codify the county's commitment to language access, in September 2022, the DeKalb County Board of Commissioners passed a friendly resolution urging the Department of Voter Registration and Elections to adopt policies and procedures related to the translation of election materials, including making translated election materials available for each single language group that has 1,500 or more LEP DeKalb County residents.

2022년 결선투표
조지아의 연방 상원의원을 뽑으세요

결선 투표일
화요일 2022년 12월 6일

사전투표일정
2022년 11월 28일 - 12월 2일
카운티마다 사전 투표일정이 다를 수 있습니다. 카운티 선거 관리 사이트를 참조하여 정확한 날짜를 확인하십시오

부재자투표 요청 마감일
2022년 11월 25일
최대한 빨리 부재자 투표지를 보내세요

부재자 투표지는 선거사무소에 선거일 오후 7시까지 도착해야 합니다
11월 5일까지 유권자 등록을 하지 않으면 이번 선거에 투표하실 수 없습니다. 유권자 등록 확인 : www.mvp.sos.ga.gov

투표 관련 더 자세한 정보
더 자세한 정보는 bit.ly/aaajvote 또는 유권자 핫라인 404-955-7322

ASIAN AMERICANS
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JUSTICE
ATLANTA

Advancing Justice - Atlanta in-language GOTV Poster

邮寄投票 基本说明
信封是像這樣的

조지아주 부재자 투표 방법
투표 용지, 보호 용지, 반송용 봉투 및 지침이 있습니다

Advancing Justice - Atlanta's in-language vote by mail instructional material

Gwinnett County

Since 2021, the Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners has made a commitment to addressing language barriers in the electoral process. In addition to compliance with the Section 203 mandate in effect for Spanish-speaking voters in Gwinnett County, the county also provides some translated election materials in traditional Chinese script, Korean, and Vietnamese, including a consolidated sample ballot in the four languages. The Gwinnett Voter Registration and Elections Board has formed nonpartisan language collaboration groups for Chinese

(Mandarin and Cantonese), Korean, Spanish, and Vietnamese. The language collaboration groups provide feedback on translated materials, assist with public outreach, and help recruit bilingual poll officials. (For more detailed information on linguistic diversity in Gwinnett County, see Appendix B.)

Ruth Youn, a Gwinnett County resident, was so excited to see people wearing the multilingual “I Voted” sticker the county distributes after people vote. After seeing a manager at Target wearing one during the voting period in 2022, she said she “immediately made time to go vote.” Youn is fluent in English and a heritage speaker of Mandarin Chinese. She says, “even something as small as a voting sticker is really significant. Because it’s something small, but our cultures are represented there.” She wants policymakers to know, “Asian-Americans have had a presence in the U.S. for hundreds of years, and we are an integral part of the American landscape.... We should be a part of the political process and included wherever decisions are made.”



“

Asian-Americans have had a presence in the U.S. for hundreds of years, and we are an integral part of the American landscape.... We should be a part of the political process and included wherever decisions are made.

- Ruth Youn,
Gwinnett County resident

LANGUAGE ACCESS IN GEORGIA BEYOND THE BALLOT

Beyond elections and voting, agencies and organizations across Georgia are increasingly committed to providing linguistically and culturally accessible programs and services.

At the city-level, [iSpeakATL](#), is Atlanta's Language Access Plan to ensure that no Atlantian is excluded from participation in, denied benefits of, or subjected to discrimination in the receipt of city services on the basis of race, ethnicity, country of origin, or language. Through iSpeakATL, individuals can request interpretation services when they visit City of Atlanta departments. They can also make translation requests for vital documents and find additional resources for language assistance.

Following federal mandates requiring all agencies receiving federal assistance to reduce language barriers that could preclude meaningful access to LEP persons, several state and regional entities have completed language needs assessments and developed plans for implementing language assistance measures. For example:

- Georgia Department of Human Services - [Language Access](#)
- The Atlanta Regional Commission - [Limited English Proficiency Plan](#) (2017)
- Georgia Department of Community Affairs - [Language Access Plan](#) (2016 - 2021)

ADDITIONAL

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS



Despite some gains, many existing language policies provide only basic and limited coverage. Voluntary efforts to adopt language inclusive policies often stop short of providing full coverage. In DeKalb and Gwinnett Counties, for example, voluntarily translated election materials do not include translation of the official ballot used to vote. Additionally, voting sites often lack bilingual election staff to assist NELP voters at the polls.

Often, language minority groups must reach prohibitively high thresholds of LEP speakers before language protections come into effect. Not only do such thresholds make it difficult to address language-related inequities for smaller groups who may never meet predetermined thresholds, the Census and ACS often aggregate individual languages with smaller sample sizes into larger categories, making it difficult to locate detailed data about languages at the county level. Additionally, the language minority protections in Section 203 are limited to “American Indians, Asian Americans, Alaskan Natives, and

Spanish-heritage citizens — the groups that Congress found to have faced barriers in the political process.” Language access efforts thus often excludes significant populations of NELP individuals, Arabic speakers for example, who do not fall into one of these categories.

Moreover, while the Census and ACS primarily collect data on speakers, many language policies are focused on providing translated written communications. Best practices for realizing meaningful language access will differ across communicative contexts.

Finally, policies that focus narrowly on the number of LEP speakers within a given group also overlook the symbolic importance of bi- and multilingual language policies. In addition to reducing administrative burdens for NELP individuals in elections, healthcare, education, and other settings, expansive language access efforts can also have a positive symbolic impact on community engagement within language minority communities.

VOTE 투표 投票 đi bầu cử वोट ออกเสียง ووٹ



VOTING SZN

bit.ly/aaajvote



Advancing Justice - Atlanta's in-language billboard for Voting Season campaign

Keeping in mind the importance of making decisions grounded in data, we provide the following recommendations to do so while also prioritizing access and outreach:

- Create processes for continuous and critical evaluation of data, with particular attention to gaps in Census data due to data privacy-related restrictions and aggregate language categories
- Develop transparent protocol for determining thresholds for language coverage
- Make coverage determinations based on data on all speakers of a given language in a given district, jurisdiction, or constituency, regardless of self-reported English proficiency when making determinations about which language groups to cover
- Ensure that information about language services are accessible and easy to find
- Ensure resources towards language access efforts by allocating at least 1% of program budgets towards language services including staffing, translation, interpretation, and sustainable outreach
- Consider best practices for translation and interpretation that take into account the difference between written and oral communication
- Engage with community groups for recruitment of bilingual and multilingual volunteers and staff; for peer review feedback on translated materials and communications; and support outreach efforts
- Engage community groups to implement robust outreach initiatives to provide meaningful access
- Ensure inclusion of NELP populations that have been excluded from Section 203 coverage (i.e. Arabic speakers) when making determinations about which languages to cover

METHODS



This report is based on American Community Surveys (ACS) 1-year and 5-year estimates of individual-level language use in Georgia—statewide and at the county level—for the population above five years of age between January 1, 2017 and December 31, 2021. Population estimates at the county-level may differ depending on whether the data was taken from a table using 1-year estimates or 5-year estimates.

This report follows U.S. Census terminology and classification, in its usage of individual languages and language categories. In 2016, the Census Bureau updated its coding list to match the International Organization for Standardization’s ISO-639-3 standard. For the purposes of tabulation, the Census Bureau collapses languages into manageable categories following the linguistic classifications in “Ethnologue: Languages of the World, 19th Edition (Simons, G.F. and C.D. Fenning (eds.), 2016).

The data in this report draws primarily from data sets in the ACS that provide data about the languages people speak: Tables B16001 and C16001. Table B16001, “Languages Spoken at Home by Ability to Speak English for the Population 5 Years and Older” provides individual level estimates for 42 language categories and has the most in-depth detail about individual languages spoken in a given geography (i.e. nation, state, county, place etc.) Table C16001 is a collapsed table that provides individual level data for twelve language categories. Beginning in 2016, the U.S. Census Bureau applied new geographical restrictions to the 5-year estimates in table B16001 in order to protect the data privacy of speakers of smaller languages. Accordingly, post-2015 county and tract-level data for table B16001 is limited.¹⁰ Detailed individual-level language data in Table B16001 is only available for Gwinnett County (Appendix B).

¹⁰ American Community Survey “[Note for Language Spoken at Home from the 2016 American Community Survey.](#)” December 7, 2017.

APPENDIX A: *Linguistic Diversity in Five Georgia Counties*¹¹

COBB		
Language	Number of Speakers	Number of Residents Who Speak English “less than very well”
English Only	577,689	
Spanish	81,791	32,979
Other Indo-European ¹² Languages	22,785	7,522
Other Asian and Pacific Island Languages ¹³	11,533	5,359
Other unspecified languages ¹⁴	8,307	1,118
Chinese (incl. Mandarin and Cantonese)	5,917	2,920
French, Haitian, or Cajun	4,735	915
Arabic	3,315	731
Russian, Polish or Other Slavic Languages	2,860	885
German or Other West Germanic Languages	2,510	158
Tagalog	2,308	405
Korean	1,870	1,089
Vietnamese	1,716	1,082
Total Number of Residents	723,659	

¹¹ American Community Survey (2021): 1-Year Estimate for Language Spoken At Home for the Population 5 Years and Over | Table C16001: Language Spoken at Home for the Population 5 Years and Over

¹² The “Other Indo-European languages” classification includes Persian (incl. Farsi, Dari), Gujarati, Hindi, Urdu, Punjabi, Bengali, Nepali, Telegu, Tamil, Malayalam, and Kannada.

¹³ The “Other Asian and Pacific Island languages” classification includes Burmese, Hmong, Japanese, Khmer, and Thai.

¹⁴ The “Other Unspecified languages” classification includes Amharic, Somali, Yoruba, Twi, and other Afro-Asiantic and Western, Central, Eastern, and Southern African languages.

DEKALB		
Language	Number of Speakers	Number of Residents Who Speak English “less than very well”
English Only	565,554	
Spanish	49,319	25,436
Other unspecified languages ¹⁵	36,317	13,502
Other Indo-European ¹⁶ Languages	16,636	4,139
Other Asian and Pacific Island Languages ¹⁷	11,533	5,359
French, Haitian, or Cajun	10,572	2,575
Chinese (incl. Mandarin and Cantonese)	6,198	2,177
Russian, Polish or Other Slavic Languages	3,462	972
Korean	2,774	743
Arabic	1,749	877
Vietnamese	1,624	1,018
German or Other West Germanic Languages	1,519	53
Tagalog	1,424	714
Total Number of Residents	708,861	

¹⁵ The “Other Unspecified languages” classification includes Amharic, Somali, Yoruba, Twi, and other Afro-Asiatic and Western, Central, Eastern, and Southern African languages.

¹⁶ The “Other Indo-European languages” classification includes Persian (incl. Farsi, Dari), Gujarati, Hindi, Urdu, Punjabi, Bengali, Nepali, Telegu, Tamil, Malayalam, and Kannada.

¹⁷ The “Other Asian and Pacific Island languages” classification includes Burmese, Hmong, Japanese, Khmer, and Thai.

FORSYTH

Language	Number of Speakers	Number of Residents Who Speak English "less than very well"
English Only	183,944	
Spanish	17,621	5,386
Other Indo-European ¹⁸ Languages	15,104	1,914
Other Asian and Pacific Island Languages ¹⁹	14,646	2,506
Chinese (incl. Mandarin and Cantonese)	4,339	1,980
Korean	1,915	728
Other unspecified languages ²⁰	1,871	147
German or Other West Germanic Languages	1,823	251
Russian, Polish or Other Slavic Languages	1,696	494
French, Haitian, or Cajun	1,073	0
Vietnamese	993	547
Arabic	693	140
Tagalog	642	95
Total Number of Residents	246,178	

¹⁸ The "Other Indo-European languages" classification includes Persian (incl. Farsi, Dari), Gujarati, Hindi, Urdu, Punjabi, Bengali, Nepali, Telegu, Tamil, Malayalam, and Kannada.

¹⁹ The "Other Asian and Pacific Island languages" classification includes Burmese, Hmong, Japanese, Khmer, and Thai.

²⁰ The "Other Unspecified languages" classification includes Amharic, Somali, Yoruba, Twi, and other Afro-Asiatic and Western, Central, Eastern, and Southern African languages.

FULTON		
Language	Number of Speakers	Number of Residents Who Speak English “less than very well”
English Only	843,413	
Spanish	55,129	15,681
Other Indo-European ²¹ Languages	26,876	3,487
Other Asian and Pacific Island Languages ²²	21,547	3,899
Other unspecified languages ²³	12,945	2,114
Chinese (incl. Mandarin and Cantonese)	13,776	5,471
French, Haitian, or Cajun	11,807	1,128
Korean	6,712	2,700
Russian, Polish or Other Slavic Languages	5,675	917
German or Other West Germanic Languages	4,408	183
Vietnamese	2,326	1,198
Arabic	1,995	408
Tagalog	1,305	313
Total Number of Residents	1,007,914	

²¹ The “Other Indo-European languages” classification includes Persian (incl. Farsi, Dari), Gujarati, Hindi, Urdu, Punjabi, Bengali, Nepali, Telegu, Tamil, Malayalam, and Kannada.

²² The “Other Asian and Pacific Island languages” classification includes Burmese, Hmong, Japanese, Khmer, and Thai.

²³ The “Other Unspecified languages” classification includes Amharic, Somali, Yoruba, Twi, and other Afro-Asiatic and Western, Central, Eastern, and Southern African languages.

GWINNETT COUNTY

Language	Number of Speakers	Number of Residents Who Speak English "less than very well"
English Only	570,270	
Spanish	173,054	80,856
Other Indo-European ²⁴ Languages	28,720	10,723
Korean	27,833	15,783
Vietnamese	22,477	12,142
Other unspecified languages ²⁵	21,990	2,732
Chinese (incl. Mandarin and Cantonese)	15,881	10,773
Russian, Polish or Other Slavic Languages	11,211	4,517
French, Haitian or Cajun	10,755	3,369
Arabic	9,090	2,345
Other Asian and Pacific Island Languages ²⁶	8,555	3,710
Tagalog	3,260	234
German or Other West Germanic Languages	2,532	353

Total Number of Residents 905, 628

²⁴ The "Other Indo-European languages" classification includes Persian (incl. Farsi, Dari), Gujarati, Hindi, Urdu, Punjabi, Bengali, Nepali, Telegu, Tamil, Malayalam, and Kannada.

²⁵ The "Other Unspecified languages" classification includes Amharic, Somali, Yoruba, Twi, and other Afro-Asiantic and Western, Central, Eastern, and Southern African languages.

²⁶ The "Other Asian and Pacific Island languages" classification includes Burmese, Hmong, Japanese, Khmer, and Thai.

APPENDIX B: Linguistic Diversity in Gwinnett County (detailed)²⁷

Language	Number of Speakers	Number who Speak English "Less than Very Well"
Spanish	173,054	80,856
Korean	27,883	15,783
Vietnamese	22,477	12,142
Chinese (incl. Cantonese and Mandarin)	15,881	15,881
Arabic	9,090	2,345
Yoruba, Twi, Igbo, or other languages of Western Africa	10,112	507
Amharic, Somali, or other Afro-Asiatic languages	7,737	1586
Haitian	6,504	2,879
Bengali	6,447	2,809
Serbo-Croatian:	7,184	
Hindi	4,669	1,397
French (incl. Cajun)	4,251	490
Urdu	3,520	841
Gujarati	3,457	1,449
Tagalog	3,262	234
German	1,951	252
Japanese	1,782	1,036
Russian	1,520	183
Persian (incl. Farsi and Dari)	1,480	766
Total Population	905,628	

²⁷ American Community Survey (2021): 5-Year Estimate for Language Spoken At Home by Ability to Speak English for the Population 5 Years and Over | Table B16001: Language Spoken at Home by Ability to Speak English for the Population 5 Years and Older



Asian Americans Advancing Justice-Atlanta is the first nonprofit legal advocacy organization dedicated to protecting the civil rights of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander (AANHPI) and Arab, Middle Eastern, Muslim, and South Asian (AMEMSA) communities in Georgia and the Southeast.

Through our work, we envision a social movement in which communities of color are fully empowered, active in civic life, and working together to promote equity, fair treatment, and self determination for all.

Founded in 2010 as the Asian American Legal Advocacy Center (AALAC), our organization became part of the Asian Americans Advancing Justice affiliation in 2014. Since then, we have re-organized our focus areas more specifically into four groups: Policy Advocacy, Civic Engagement & Organizing, Impact Litigation, and Legal Services.

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