

From the Office of Secretary of the State Susan Bysiewicz

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For Immediate Release
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BYSIEWICZ FORMS HISPANIC ADVISORY GROUP ON SPANISH TRANSLATIONS

Agrees concern over voter text needs to be addressed

Secretary of the State Susan Bysiewicz says ensuring voting materials produced by her office are clearly understood by as many potential voters as possible is an ongoing priority, so she has formed an Hispanic advisory group to assist in translating English information into Spanish.

As an example, Spanish versions of state voter registration cards are required by federal law. Recent concerns over the integrity of that text prompted Bysiewicz to invite state Hispanic leaders and lawmakers to come together to help improve translations. A meeting of the group has been scheduled for this Thursday (*June 19, 11:00 a.m., Legislative Office Building Room 1A, Hartford*).

Executive Director Fernando Betancourt of the state Latino & Puerto Rican Affairs Commission and Edna Negrón Rosario, Regional Director of the Puerto Rico Federal Affairs Administration, have offered to help Bysiewicz improve translations and are scheduled to attend Thursday's meeting.

"Our challenge at the state level is to provide translated voting materials that are easily understood by all Hispanics," Bysiewicz said. "I am very grateful for the assistance being offered by Edna and Fernando and look forward to their guidance as we work together on this important issue."

Bysiewicz has also talked with Hispanic state legislators about translation concerns and agreed that improvement in Spanish language materials is needed.

"We are charged with encouraging involvement in our democracy and communication plays a major role," Bysiewicz said. "My job is to ensure that every voter is treated equally and that includes making ongoing improvements to our translated materials to better serve the Hispanic community."