AFFIDAVIT OF ALTA EDISON

STATE OF ARIZONA  
COUNTY OF COCONINO  

1. Alta Edison, Navajo Outreach Coordinator for Coconino County Elections, do declare and state as follows:

1. I am the Navajo Outreach Coordinator for Coconino County Elections and have been employed in this position for sixteen years.

2. As the Outreach Coordinator, I am responsible for training Navajo translators for any election conducted on the Navajo Reservation. Coconino County has thirteen precincts on the Navajo Reservation. A minimum of two translators per precinct located on the Navajo Reservation is required on Election Day.

3. The Navajo language is an oral language. As a result, voters with limited English proficiency receive oral language assistance; no translations of federal and state ballots are provided in a written form for Navajo voters.

4. Translators at the polls are trained specifically for the election that is being conducted. Training materials include a written translation guide that is given to each translator for use on Election Day. Most of the election terminology is from the Navajo Glossary. The Glossary is a product of the three counties that cover the Navajo Reservation (Apache, Coconino, and Navajo), the Outreach Workers from these counties, and the Navajo Nation Election Administration. The purpose of the glossary is to create a uniform, consistent way of translating the name(s) of offices included in the election and other election terminology to Navajo voters.

5. The Glossary, which was first produced around 1990, is a working document. The three counties along with officials from the Nation Navajo Election Administration continue to work together, updating and adding to the Glossary. This group meets at least quarterly and sometimes more often during General Election years.

6. Some words in Navajo have no English equivalent. The Glossary provides guidance for general election terms, but the translators must provide an appropriate translation of many other words for each General Election.
7. Proper translation is important because without official translations through the written translation guide, a Navajo speaker who is not trained in the terminology may describe a term incorrectly, leaving a voter with an improper interpretation of the ballot.

8. To become a translator, it is required that the individual not only speak the Navajo language proficiently, but the individual must also be able to read Navajo. Since Navajo is not traditionally a written language, many Navajo citizens can speak Navajo but cannot read Navajo. Most translators have worked multiple elections; therefore, they have a higher degree of knowledge regarding the election process.

9. Because of the skill required for translating into Navajo, translators are paid a higher wage than other poll workers, similar that to of an Inspector (Chairman of a polling place).

10. Prior to an election, a substantial amount of time is dedicated to translating the ballot into the Navajo language. For the November 7, 2006 General Election, two individuals participated in the translation of the ballot used to assist Navajo voters. [The translation was then reviewed by the county outreach workers.] This process was completed on October 20, 2006. A copy of the translation is attached hereto.

11. Training for the Navajo Nation translators for the 2006 General Election Ballot was conducted in various locations throughout the county on the ten following dates: Monday October 23 thru Friday October 27, 2006 and Monday October 30 thru Friday November 3, 2006.

12. It takes approximately one hour to translate the November 7, 2006, General Election ballot.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing statement is true and correct.

Alta Edison

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO before my by Alta Edison on the day of February, 2007.

THERESA A. JOHNSON
NOTARY PUBLIC - ARIZONA
COCONINO COUNTY
My Commission Expires January 6, 2011

Notary Public
My Commission Expires: