Building Tools to Expand Access:

The Voting Information Project

- The data and tech team for The Voting Information Project for many years, Democracy Works is now the project's official home.
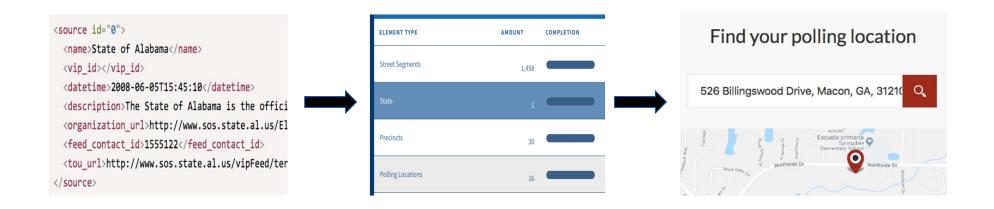
What is the Voting Information Project?

- The Voting Information Project (VIP) works with state and local election offices to provide official information about where to vote and what's on their ballots to voters via the internet.
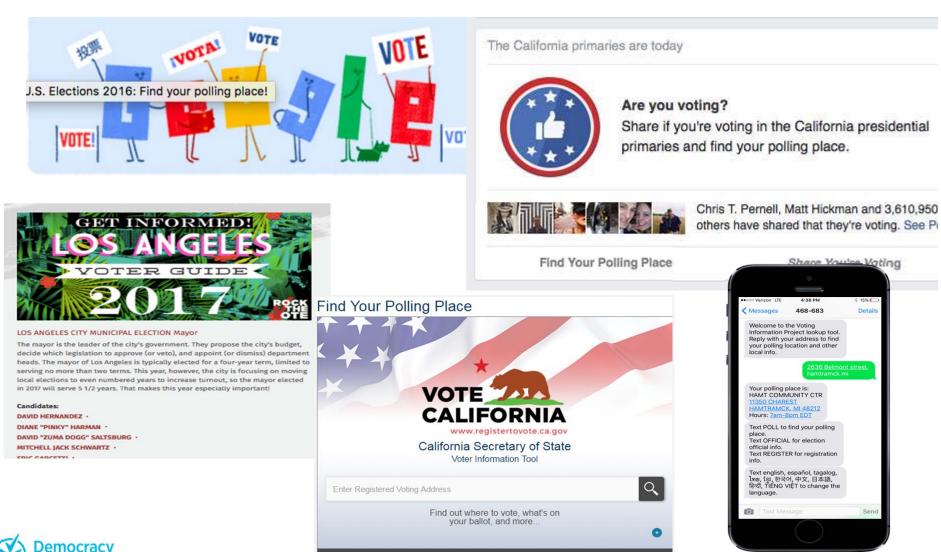
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How does VIP work?

- VIP Staff coordinate with State or county election offices as an Counties produce election approaches.

- States and Counties create exports of polling location & contest data, and upload them to VIP.

- VIP Staff do quality assurance & formatting work.

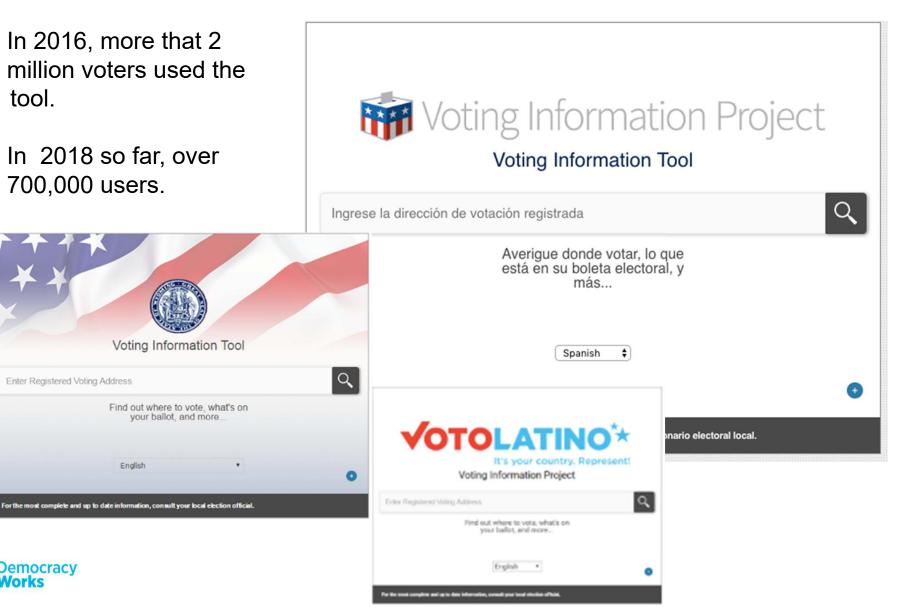- State Election offices review the data to ensure accuracy.

- VIP Data is published!

Reaching Voters

Tools for Reaching Voters

- In 2016, more that 2 million voters used the tool.
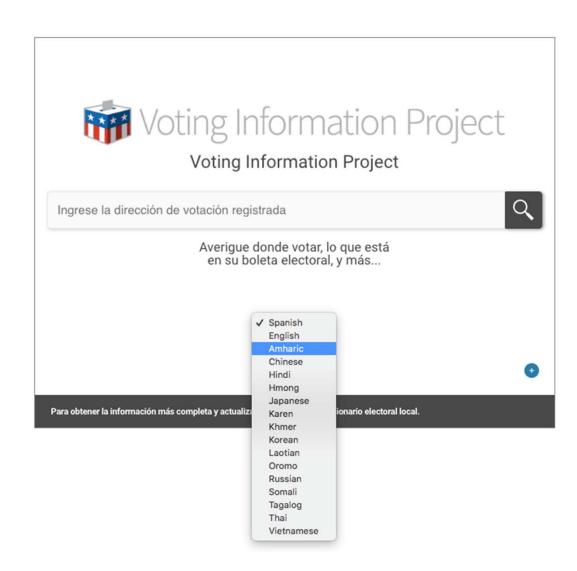
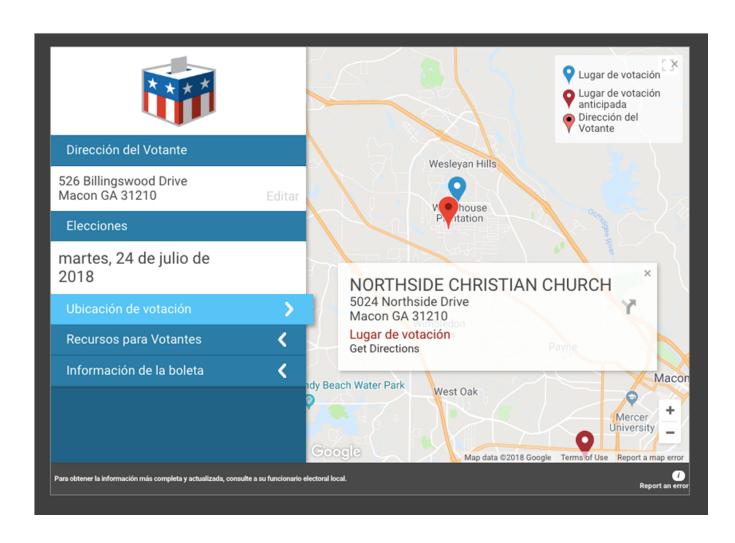- In 2018 so far, over 700,000 users.

Translating the Voting Information Tool

- VIP relied on partnerships with participating elections offices for translations.

- VIP's embeddable tool is available in 17 Languages: English, Spanish, Amharic, Chinese, Hindi, Hmong, Japanese, Karen, Khmer, Korean, Laotian, Oromo, Russian, Somali, Tagalog, Thai, and Vietnamese.

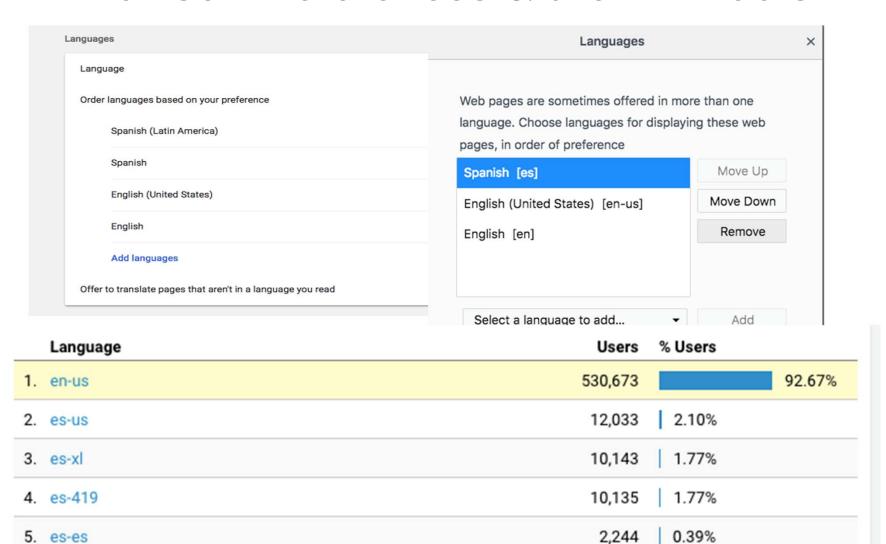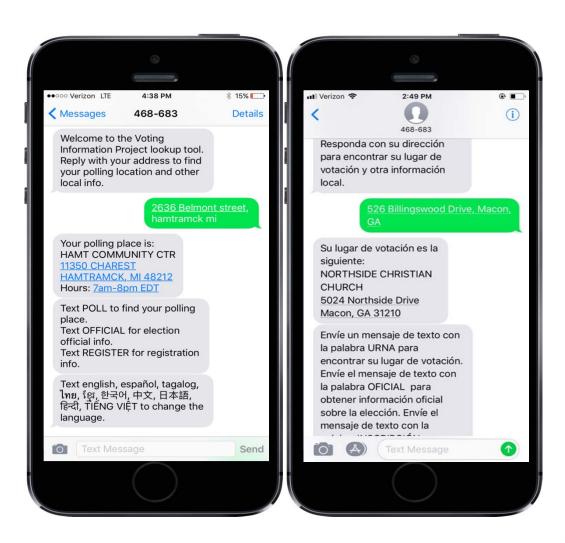# Tools for Reaching Voters

Browser Preferences & the VIP Tools

SMS Tool

- Available in 10 languages, the VIP SMS tool allows voters to find information about polling locations via text message.

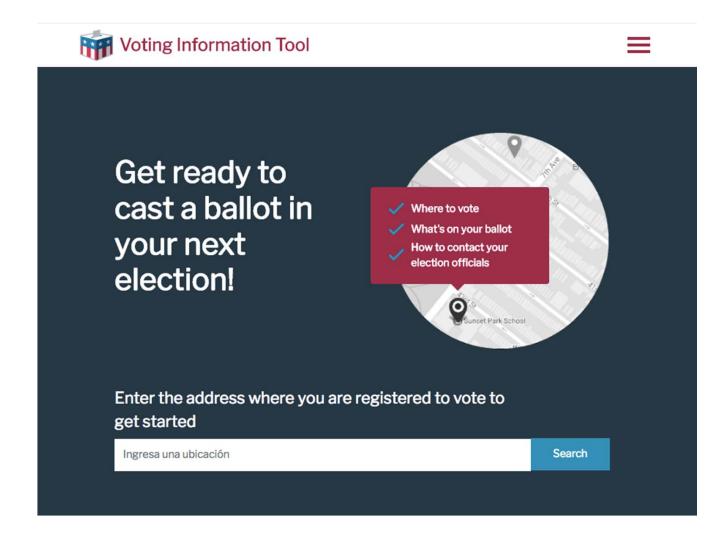- In 2016, the tool had around 200,000 uses.

Data Standards & Language Access

- The translated tool was a resource that could be shared across jurisdictions (and with community groups, campaigns, and media organizations) because all elections offices that participate in VIP supply data in a common data format, the VIP Specification.

- In the VIP 5.1 Specification, we can go farther, using internationalized text to translate objects in the data as well as in the tool.
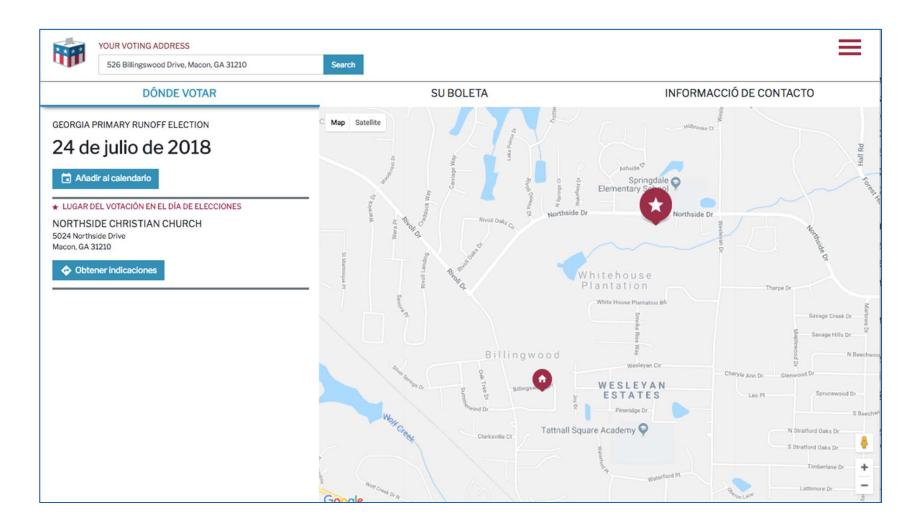
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4         <Text language="en">Governor of Virginia</Text>
5         <Text language="es">Gobernador de Virginia</Text>
6       </BallotTitle>
7       <ElectoralDistrictId>ed60129</ElectoralDistrictId>
8       <Name>Governor</Name>
9       <NumberElected>1</NumberElected>
10      <OfficeId>off0000</OfficeId>
11      <VotesAllowed>1</VotesAllowed>
12  </CandidateContest>
```

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New tools for 2018!

New tools for 2018

Want to help with translations, use the Voting Information Tool or just have questions about VIP?

Reach out to me at:

maria@democracy.works

Or visit:

www.votinginfoproject.org

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