



# CITY OF PALM DESERT

## Office of the City Clerk Memorandum

From: Anthony J. Mejia, City Clerk

Date: April 10, 2026

**Subject: SB 707 Applicable Languages Determination, City of Palm Desert**

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This memorandum documents the City's review of applicable language requirements under Government Code section 54953.4.

The Palm Desert City Council is an eligible legislative body for purposes of section 54953.4. For a city council, the applicable geography is the city itself. Accordingly, this analysis was conducted using Palm Desert, California, as the selected geography.

The data source used for this review was the U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2024 ACS 5-Year Estimates Detailed Tables, Table C16001, "Language Spoken at Home for the Population 5 Years and Over," Palm Desert, California.

Under Government Code section 54953.4, a language is considered an applicable language only if both of the following conditions are met:

1. The language is spoken by 20 percent or more of the applicable population, and
2. 20 percent or more of the people who speak that language speak English less than "very well."

For Palm Desert, the total population age 5 and over is 50,559. The 20 percent threshold is therefore 10,112 persons.

The language calculations are as follows:

- **Spanish:** 8,499 speakers, representing 16.8% of the population age 5 and over. Of those speakers, 2,174 (25.6%) speak English less than "very well."
- **French, Haitian, or Cajun:** 412 speakers, representing 0.8% of the population age 5 and over. Of those speakers, 78 (18.9%) speak English less than "very well."
- **German or other West Germanic languages:** 174 speakers, representing 0.3% of the population age 5 and over. Of those speakers, 27 (15.5%) speak English less than "very well."
- **Russian, Polish, or other Slavic languages:** 383 speakers, representing 0.8% of the population age 5 and over. Of those speakers, 36 (9.4%) speak English less than "very well."
- **Other Indo-European languages:** 811 speakers, representing 1.6% of the population age 5 and over. Of those speakers, 216 (26.6%) speak English less than "very well."
- **Korean:** 241 speakers, representing 0.5% of the population age 5 and over. Of those speakers, 168 (69.7%) speak English less than "very well."

- **Chinese, including Mandarin and Cantonese:** 326 speakers, representing 0.6% of the population age 5 and over. Of those speakers, 217 (66.6%) speak English less than “very well.”
- **Vietnamese:** 142 speakers, representing 0.3% of the population age 5 and over. Of those speakers, 105 (73.9%) speak English less than “very well.”
- **Tagalog, including Filipino:** 420 speakers, representing 0.8% of the population age 5 and over. Of those speakers, 131 (31.2%) speak English less than “very well.”
- **Other Asian and Pacific Island languages:** 159 speakers, representing 0.3% of the population age 5 and over. Of those speakers, 80 (50.3%) speak English less than “very well.”
- **Arabic:** 254 speakers, representing 0.5% of the population age 5 and over. Of those speakers, 94 (37.0%) speak English less than “very well.”
- **Other and unspecified languages:** 112 speakers, representing 0.2% of the population age 5 and over. Of those speakers, 53 (47.3%) speak English less than “very well.”

Based on this analysis, no language meets both statutory thresholds. While several language groups exceed the second threshold, no language reaches the first threshold of 20 percent of the City’s population age 5 and over. Spanish is the largest non-English language group identified, but at 8,499 speakers, it represents only 16.8% of the applicable population.

**Determination:** The Palm Desert City Council is an eligible legislative body under Government Code section 54953.4. Based on the 2024 ACS 5-Year Estimates for Palm Desert, there are currently no applicable languages requiring agenda translation under SB 707.

<b>Language Spoken at Home for the Population 5 Years and Over</b>		<b>United States<sup>®</sup> Census Bureau</b>
<b>Note: The table shown may have been modified by user selections. Some information may be missing.</b>		
<b>DATA NOTES</b>		
TABLE ID:	C16001	
SURVEY/PROGRAM:	American Community Survey	
VINTAGE:	2024	
DATASET:	ACSDT5Y2024	
PRODUCT:	ACS 5-Year Estimates Detailed Tables	
UNIVERSE:	Population 5 years and over	
MLA:	U.S. Census Bureau. "Language Spoken at Home for the Population 5 Years and Over." American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates Detailed Tables, Table C16001, <a href="https://data.census.gov/table/ACSDT5Y2024.C16001?q=C16001+Palm+Desert,+California">https://data.census.gov/table/ACSDT5Y2024.C16001?q=C16001+Palm+Desert,+California</a> . Accessed on 10 Apr 2026.	
FTP URL:	None	
API URL:	<a href="https://api.census.gov/data/2024/acs/acs5">https://api.census.gov/data/2024/acs/acs5</a>	
<b>USER SELECTIONS</b>		
TABLES	C16001	
GEOS	Palm Desert city, California	
<b>EXCLUDED COLUMNS</b>		
	None	
<b>APPLIED FILTERS</b>		
	None	
<b>APPLIED SORTS</b>		
	None	
<b>PIVOT &amp; GROUPING</b>		
PIVOT COLUMNS	None	
PIVOT MODE	Off	
ROW GROUPS	None	
VALUE COLUMNS	None	
<b>WEB ADDRESS</b>		
	<a href="https://data.census.gov/table/ACSDT5Y2024.C16001?q=C16001+Palm+Desert,+California">https://data.census.gov/table/ACSDT5Y2024.C16001?q=C16001+Palm+Desert,+California</a>	

Table: ACSDT5Y2024.C16001

<b>TABLE NOTES</b>	
Key Table Information	
Table Title	Language Spoken at Home for the Population 5 Years and Over
Table ID	ACSDT5Y2024.C16001
Survey/Program	American Community Survey
Year	2024
Dataset	ACS 5-Year Estimates Detailed Tables
Source	U.S. Census Bureau, 2024 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates
Dataset Universe	The dataset universe of the American Community Survey (ACS) is the U.S. resident population and housing. For more information about ACS residence rules, see the ACS Design and Methodology Report. Note that each table describes the specific universe of interest for that set of estimates.
Methodology	
Unit(s) of Observation	American Community Survey (ACS) data are collected from individuals living in housing units and group quarters, and about housing units whether occupied or vacant. For more information about ACS sampling and data collection, see the ACS Design and Methodology Report.
Geography Coverage	<p>ACS data generally reflect the geographic boundaries of legal and statistical areas as of January 1 of the estimate year. For more information, see <a href="#">Geography Boundaries by Year</a>.</p> <p>Estimates of urban and rural populations, housing units, and characteristics reflect boundaries of urban areas defined based on 2020 Census data. As a result, data for urban and rural areas from the ACS do not necessarily reflect the results of ongoing urbanization.</p>
Sampling	The ACS consists of two separate samples: housing unit addresses and group quarters facilities. Independent housing unit address samples are selected for each county or county-equivalent in the U.S. and Puerto Rico, with sampling rates depending on a measure of size for the area. For more information on sampling in the ACS, see the <a href="#">Accuracy of the Data</a> document.
Confidentiality	The Census Bureau has modified or suppressed some estimates in ACS data products to protect respondents' confidentiality. Title 13 United States Code, Section 9, prohibits the Census Bureau from publishing results in which an individual's data can be identified. For more information on confidentiality protection in the ACS, see the <a href="#">Accuracy of the Data</a> document.

Table: ACSDT5Y2024.C16001

<p>Technical Documentation/Methodology</p>	<p>Information about the American Community Survey (ACS) can be found on the ACS website. Supporting documentation including code lists, subject definitions, data accuracy, and statistical testing, and a full list of ACS tables and table shells (without estimates) can be found on the Technical Documentation section of the ACS website.</p> <p>Sample size and data quality measures (including coverage rates, allocation rates, and response rates) can be found on the American Community Survey website in the Methodology section.</p> <p>Data are based on a sample and are subject to sampling variability. The degree of uncertainty for an estimate arising from sampling variability is represented through the use of a margin of error. The value shown here is the 90 percent margin of error. The margin of error can be interpreted roughly as providing a 90 percent probability that the interval defined by the estimate minus the margin of error and the estimate plus the margin of error (the lower and upper confidence bounds) contains the true value. In addition to sampling variability, the ACS estimates are subject to nonsampling error (for a discussion of nonsampling variability, see ACS Technical Documentation). The effect of nonsampling error is not represented in these tables.</p> <p>Users must consider potential differences in geographic boundaries, questionnaire content or coding, or other methodological issues when comparing ACS data from different years. Statistically significant differences shown in ACS Comparison Profiles, or in data users' own analysis, may be the result of these differences and thus might not necessarily reflect changes to the social, economic, housing, or demographic characteristics being compared. For more information, see Comparing ACS Data.</p>
<p>Weights</p>	<p>ACS estimates are obtained from a raking ratio estimation procedure that results in the assignment of two sets of weights: a weight to each sample person record and a weight to each sample housing unit record. Estimates of person characteristics are based on the person weight. Estimates of family, household, and housing unit characteristics are based on the housing unit weight. For any given geographic area, a characteristic total is estimated by summing the weights assigned to the persons, households, families or housing units possessing the characteristic in the geographic area. For more information on weighting and estimation in the ACS, see the Accuracy of the Data document.</p> <p>Although the American Community Survey (ACS) produces population, demographic and housing unit estimates, the decennial census is the official source of population totals for April 1st of each decennial year. In between censuses, the Census Bureau's Population Estimates Program produces and disseminates the official estimates of the population for the nation, states, counties, cities, and towns and estimates of housing units and the group quarters population for states and counties.</p>
<p>Table Information</p>	
<p>API Information</p>	<p>American Community Survey (ACS) data is available via API. For more information on available APIs, please see <a href="#">Census Developers page at API Information</a>.</p>

Table: ACSDT5Y2024.C16001

Symbols	<p>Explanation of Symbols:- The estimate could not be computed because there were an insufficient number of sample observations. For a ratio of medians estimate, one or both of the median estimates falls in the lowest interval or highest interval of an open-ended distribution. For a 5-year median estimate, the margin of error associated with a median was larger than the median itself.N The estimate or margin of error cannot be displayed because there were an insufficient number of sample cases in the selected geographic area. (X) The estimate or margin of error is not applicable or not available.median- The median falls in the lowest interval of an open-ended distribution (for example "2,500-")median+ The median falls in the highest interval of an open-ended distribution (for example "250,000+").** The margin of error could not be computed because there were an insufficient number of sample observations.*** The margin of error could not be computed because the median falls in the lowest interval or highest interval of an open-ended distribution.***** A margin of error is not appropriate because the corresponding estimate is controlled to an independent population or housing estimate. Effectively, the corresponding estimate has no sampling error and the margin of error may be treated as zero.</p>
Data-Specific Notes	<p>In 2016, changes were made to the languages and language categories presented in tables B16001, C16001, and B16002. For more information, visit the 2016 Language Data User note.</p>
Additional Information	
Contact Information	<p>Contact the Census Bureau Customer Help Center at 1-800-923-8282 or submit a question at <a href="https://ask.census.gov">ask.census.gov</a>.</p>
Suggested Citation	<p>U.S. Census Bureau. "Language Spoken at Home for the Population 5 Years and Over" American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates Detailed Tables, Table C16001, 2024, <a href="https://data.census.gov/table/ACSDT5Y2024.C16001?q=C16001">https://data.census.gov/table/ACSDT5Y2024.C16001?q=C16001</a>: Accessed on April 10, 2026.</p>

Table: ACSDT5Y2024.C16001

	Palm Desert city, California	
Label	Estimate	Margin of Error
Total:	50,559	±312
Speak only English	38,626	±1,476
Spanish:	8,499	±1,414
Speak English "very well"	6,325	±1,037
Speak English less than "very well"	2,174	±557
French, Haitian, or Cajun:	412	±176
Speak English "very well"	334	±154
Speak English less than "very well"	78	±64
German or other West Germanic languages:	174	±91
Speak English "very well"	147	±73
Speak English less than "very well"	27	±36
Russian, Polish, or other Slavic languages:	383	±207
Speak English "very well"	347	±195
Speak English less than "very well"	36	±40
Other Indo-European languages:	811	±281
Speak English "very well"	595	±181
Speak English less than "very well"	216	±131
Korean:	241	±236
Speak English "very well"	73	±92
Speak English less than "very well"	168	±175
Chinese (incl. Mandarin, Cantonese):	326	±202

Table: ACSDT5Y2024.C16001

	Palm Desert city, California	
Label	Estimate	Margin of Error
Speak English "very well"	109	±81
Speak English less than "very well"	217	±156
Vietnamese:	142	±139
Speak English "very well"	37	±44
Speak English less than "very well"	105	±119
Tagalog (incl. Filipino):	420	±252
Speak English "very well"	289	±189
Speak English less than "very well"	131	±106
Other Asian and Pacific Island languages:	159	±92
Speak English "very well"	79	±54
Speak English less than "very well"	80	±62
Arabic:	254	±238
Speak English "very well"	160	±152
Speak English less than "very well"	94	±96
Other and unspecified languages:	112	±77
Speak English "very well"	59	±56
Speak English less than "very well"	53	±54