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Author

Magpantay, Glenn D.

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AAPI Almanac

Ensuring Asian American Access to Democracy in New York City¹

Glenn D. Magpantay

Statement of Purpose

Like many minority voters in Florida in 2000,² Asian Americans in New York City have encountered a range of discriminatory barriers when they have exercised their right to vote. In past elections, some problems included mistranslated ballots that flipped party headings so that Democrats were listed as Republicans and vice versa, lack of interpreters to assist limited English-proficient Asian American voters, hostile poll workers, and outright discrimination.

Asian Americans are one of the fastest growing minority groups in New York City, numbering more than 800,000.³ Asian Americans are increasingly becoming citizens through naturalization. Yet they have had to overcome a series of barriers to vote⁴ due to limited English proficiency, the immigrant experience, and economic class.⁵

The Voting Rights Act requires that communities of color have equal access to the ballot and fair opportunities to cast meaningful votes.⁶ Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act forbids discrimination against racial, ethnic, and language minorities.⁷ Asian Americans are also afforded all the rights of voters under New York State Election Law and New York City Board of Elections policies and procedures. Through Section 2, the Act ensures that such laws, policies and procedures are uniformly applied, regardless of race and language.

The Language Assistance Provisions of the Voting Rights Act, codified as Section 203, mandates the availability of translated ballots and other voting materials, as well as oral language assistance.⁸ Pursuant to Census 2000, Section 203 specifically mandates the availability of Chinese-language ballots, voting materials, and oral assistance at poll sites in Queens, Brooklyn, and Manhattan,⁹

and Korean language assistance in Queens.¹⁰ In past years, the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF) exit polls documented that the real beneficiaries of language assistance were first-time voters and newly naturalized citizens.

AALDEF regularly monitors elections for compliance with the federal Voting Rights Act and state election laws to assess the use and effectiveness of language assistance. AALDEF found that many obstacles deny Asian Americans access to the vote. This article reviews AALDEF's methodology, findings, and recommendations for improvement from monitoring the 2002 Midterm Elections in New York City. It provides a practical model for other groups to ensure Asian American access to democracy.

Methods

AALDEF used several methods to collect, document, and report barriers to the vote. These included election monitoring of sixty poll sites, a multilingual voter hotline, a multilingual exit poll surveying more than 3,000 Asian American voters, voter registration and checking of voter rolls.

ELECTION DAY MONITORING

Election day activities focused on poll sites in Queens, Manhattan, and Brooklyn during the Primary Elections on September 10 and General Elections on November 5, 2002. During the two elections, AALDEF staff, volunteer attorneys, law students, and members of the Chinatown Voter Education Alliance, Asian American Bar Association of New York, and Young Korean American Service and Education Center observed first-hand a number of problems and also received complaints from Asian American voters, interpreters, and other poll workers.

The groups monitored fifty-six poll sites during the primary election and fifty sites during the general election. They monitored several of these sites during both elections. Polling sites were selected based on the number of Asian American voters, specifically Chinese, Korean, South Asian, and Indo-Caribbean voters, expectation of high voter turnout, and past complaints of racial discrimination, language barriers, and other voting problems.

AALDEF attorneys and volunteers inspected forty-one poll sites in Queens. Those sites were in Flushing (17), Bayside (5), Elmhurst/Jackson Heights (7), Woodside/Sunnyside (4), Jamaica/Briar-

wood (4), Richmond Hill (2), and Floral Park (2). AALDEF inspected five poll sites in Brooklyn—Sunset Park (3), Williamsburg (1), and Sheepshead Bay (1). They inspected thirteen poll sites in Manhattan, all in Chinatown. In Queens, they monitored every poll site in the 22nd Assembly District, the new Asian-majority district, drawn after redistricting, because a large number of Asian American candidates were running.

During both the primary and general elections, AALDEF attorneys and volunteers inspected twenty poll sites that were required to provide Korean language assistance. They also monitored fifty sites for Chinese language assistance. Fifteen sites were targeted for both Chinese and Korean language assistance. Appendix A is the list of poll sites and election districts, otherwise known as “precincts” in other parts of the country, that were monitored.

VOTER COMPLAINT HOTLINE

A multilingual voting hotline assisted voters with questions and recorded complaints of voting problems. Calls could be received in six languages and dialects: English, Cantonese, Mandarin, Toisan, Korean, and Tagalog. Through the hotline, AALDEF also received numerous complaints from voters, poll workers, and community groups such as the Young Korean American Service and Education Center.

MULTILINGUAL EXIT POLL

AALDEF conducted a multilingual exit poll of Asian American voters. The poll asked questions about the use of language assistance and voting problems. Appendix B is the survey instrument.

AALDEF surveyed 3,059 Asian American voters in at least fifteen Asian voter languages and dialects during the 2002 General Election. They surveyed voters at sixteen poll sites—Chinatown (4), Flushing (4), Elmhurst (2), Richmond Hill (2), Floral Park (2), and Sunset Park (2). These sites had large numbers of Chinese, Korean, Filipino, South Asian, and Indo-Caribbean voters. The non-partisan exit poll was cosponsored and staffed by members and volunteers from the Chinatown Voter Education Alliance, Korean American Voters’ Council, South Asian Youth Action!, Young Korean American Service and Education Center, as well as a number of Asian American law and undergraduate students.¹¹

NON-ELECTION DAY MONITORING

Monitoring of the Board of Elections Language Assistance Program extended beyond the election days.

Throughout the year, AALDEF registered new voters at the federal courthouse in Manhattan every week after naturalization swearing-in ceremonies. In 2002, AALDEF spot-checked the voter registration lists at the Board of Elections against copies of the voter registration forms submitted the year prior.

Over the summer, well before the election, AALDEF observed various poll worker trainings. Different kinds of trainings were offered for different kinds of election-day workers and were divided by borough. AALDEF observed trainings for site supervisors in Queens, general poll workers in Queens and Brooklyn, and interpreters in Manhattan.

After the elections, AALDEF confirmed the registrations, poll sites, and election districts of voters who reported specific problems by looking up the voters' names in the Board of Elections database of registered voters.

Before, during, and after the elections, AALDEF attorneys contacted the Board of Elections to remedy problems. AALDEF sent letters to the Board of Elections with detailed reviews of its findings in the hope the errors would be corrected before the next election.¹² This article highlights the barriers Asian American voters encountered during the 2002 Elections and makes concrete recommendations for improvement.

Profile of the voters

According to Census 2000, the Asian American population in New York City has increased 71 percent over the past decade. Asian Americans are now more than 10 percent of the city's population, numbering 872,777.¹³ The boroughs of Manhattan, Brooklyn, and Queens have the largest populations of Asian Americans. It is not surprising, therefore, that these boroughs are covered for Asian language assistance under Section 203 of the Voting Rights Act.

In Manhattan Asian Americans are concentrated in the neighborhoods of Chinatown and the Lower East Side in Lower Manhattan. In Brooklyn they are concentrated in Sunset Park. Most of the voters in these two boroughs are Chinese. In Queens Asian Americans are concentrated in the neighborhoods of Flushing,

Table 1 Overview of Voters

Area	Total Population	Asian Population	Asian Percent of Total	Total Growth Since 1990	Asian Growth Since 1990
New York City	8,008,278	872,777	10.9 %	9.4 %	71.1 %
-Manhattan	1,537,195	156,710	10.2 %	3.3 %	42.0 %
-Brooklyn	2,465,326	206,272	8.4 %	7.2 %	86.7 %
-Queens	2,229,379	433,553	19.4 %	14.2 %	82.5 %
-Bronx	1,332,650	48,502	3.6 %	10.7 %	38.5 %
-Staten Island	443,728	27,740	6.3 %	17.1 %	64.6 %

Includes those who checked "Asian" and no other race.

where most are Chinese and Koreans, with some South Asians; in Elmhurst, where most are Chinese, South Asians, and Filipinos; in Floral Park, where most are Indians and some Filipinos; and in Richmond Hill, where most are Indo-Caribbean and Indian.

AALDEF's exit poll assessed the need, use, and effectiveness of language assistance. For instance, the survey asked voters whether it was their first time voting in an election in the United States. It found that 19 percent were first-time voters.

It also asked voters about their ability to *read* English. Thirty-nine percent of Chinese voters and 35 percent of Korean voters responded that they did not read English well or at all. By contrast, an overwhelming majority of South Asian and Filipino voters, 83 percent and 94 percent respectively, reported that they read English very well.

It follows that Chinese and Korean voters needed language assistance to exercise their right to vote. Thirty-seven percent of Chinese voters and 43 percent of Korean voters used the assistance of translated materials. Thirty-three percent of Chinese voters and 46 percent of Korean voters used the assistance of interpreters.

Figure 1. Chinese Voters and English Proficiency

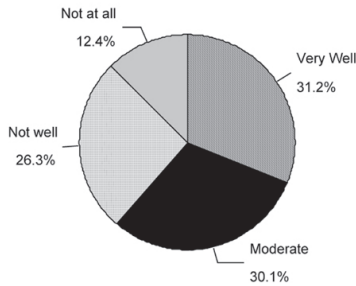
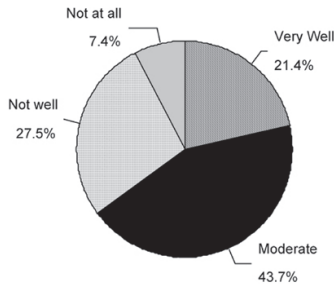


Figure 2. Korean Voters and English Proficiency



Voters were also individually asked if they encountered specific voting problems. The majority of survey participants did not report any problems, yet a number of them reported specific encounters. Thirty-five Asian Americans reported that poll workers were “discourteous,” and twenty-three said they were “hostile.” Seventy voters responded that their names were not on lists of regis-

Figure 3. Chinese Voters and Use of Translated Materials

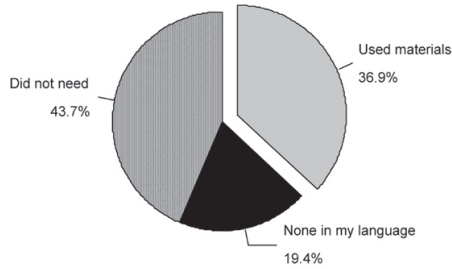


Figure 4. Korean Voters and Use of Translated Materials

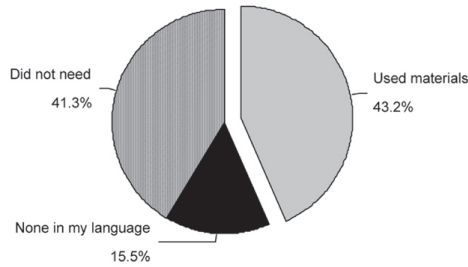


Figure 5. Chinese Voters and Use of Interpreter

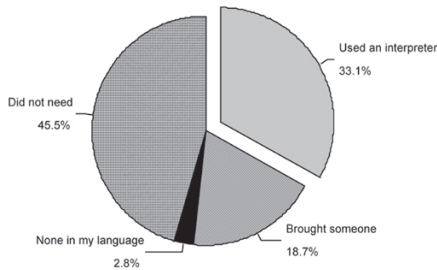
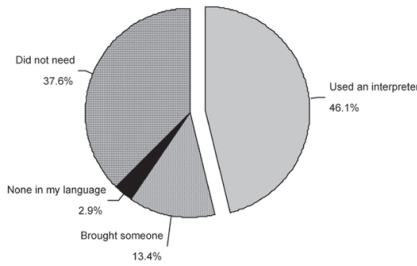


Figure 6 . Korean Voters and Use of Interpreter



tered voters at several election districts. Over one hundred Asian American voters reported confusion about their poll site.

Profile of the Voting Place

THE GENERAL VOTING PROCESS

While each state and locality in the country differs on particular requirements and procedures in voting, the overall system is pretty much standard, and New York is no different. Citizens eighteen years of age or older register to vote by completing voter registration forms and submitting them to the local board of elections by a certain time in advance of the elections. Before the election, that entity mails confirmation cards that notify voters of their poll sites, party enrollments, and election district assignments.

On election day voters go to their assigned site to vote. Poll sites in New York City typically house multiple election districts, with each having its own voting machine. When voters arrive at their designated poll site, they must check in with poll workers who look up their names on a list of registered voters. Sometimes voters have to check in twice, first by giving their addresses to locate to which election districts they were assigned and second, by giving their names before they vote. The mailed notice provides voters with their election district assignments and so voters may jump over the first check-in and go directly to their designated election district.

At the election district once the voters' names are found on lists of registered voters, they attest that they are the persons appearing on the lists. In New York State and City, voters need not provide any form of identification to make this attestation. They must only swear to it by signing in. Then, they may vote.

Actual voting greatly varies across the country. New York uses old-fashioned mechanical machines where voters depress levers to make their selections. Poll workers give basic instructions to voters on how to operate the voting machine.

Recognizing that some voters' names may be inadvertently omitted from the lists of registered voters, these individuals are allowed to cast their votes by provisional ballots, called "affidavit ballots." This usually occurs when voters come to the polls, believe they are registered to vote, but their names are not found. Elections are rarely redone and courts are loath to mandate new elections, even those wrought with inconsistencies, as *Bush v. Gore* demonstrated. These affidavit ballots preserve the voters' votes. After the election, if the registration of the voter is confirmed, then the ballot is counted.

To comply with Section 203, language assistance is provided to voters with limited English proficiency. Interpreters are on hand to translate between voters and poll workers. Ballots, voting instructions, and all other materials are translated. Voters may also select someone to enter the voting booth to assist them in casting their votes. These individuals may be friends, relatives, or interpreters—whomever the voter chooses.

This process seems relatively simple, but there were many junctures in which it went awry. Ballots were mistranslated, translated signs were not posted, and materials were hidden. There have been too few interpreters to assist the number of voters coming to vote. Poll workers have been rude, hostile, and occasionally racist. Sometimes they imposed completely new voting requirements, like identification and address checks. Voter registration forms have been mishandled. Voters' names have been missing from lists of registered voters, and voters were not notified of their poll site and election district assignments.

VOTING IN NEW YORK

New York is the nation's largest municipality. It has the nation's largest voter registration roll, with more than 3 million voters total, as well as the nation's largest Asian American population. These realities make New York City elections unique. They also magnify the potential and impact of problems.

To accommodate all these voters, and assuming that only a portion actually vote, there are 6,000 election districts. Each elec-

tion district gets one voting machine. Each election district has about 400 to 500 voters. There are hundreds of poll sites, which house anywhere from four to twelve election districts. In theory, 5,000 voters may vote at one particular poll site. To staff these sites, the Board of Elections recruits more than 30,000 election-day workers. The poll workers are not volunteers. They are compensated about \$300 for working a sixteen-hour day. Polls are open from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

The Board's Asian language assistance program is also enormous. Assistance is provided through interpreters and translated ballots, which are targeted to those poll sites and election districts with large numbers of Chinese and Korean voting-age citizens.

In total in 2002, there were 155 poll sites and 414 election districts in Brooklyn, Manhattan, and Queens, which were required to provide Chinese assistance. The Board had to recruit and assign 350 Chinese interpreters. For Korean language assistance, which was only required in Queens, twenty-eight poll sites and 156 election districts were targeted, and the Board had to recruit and assign sixty-two Korean interpreters.¹⁴ Seventy-three election districts were targeted for both Chinese and Korean assistance.

The following reviews AALDEF's findings from monitoring the 2002 Elections in New York City.

Complaints and Problems

BILINGUAL BALLOTS

Bilingual ballots are the cornerstones to making the vote accessible to language minorities. Yet translations on ballots were too small to read, the layouts of translations were misleading, and ballots had faulty transliterations of candidates' names.

Voters have repeatedly complained that the Chinese characters and Korean letters on the machine ballot facecard have been too small to read. This was a particular problem for the elderly who rely heavily on translated ballots to cast their votes. In the AALDEF survey of voters, 449 Asian American voters, or 27 percent of Chinese and thirty percent of Korean voters, complained of this problem.

The Board included magnifying sheets to help voters read the ballot, but AALDEF often found that these were not available for voters to use. In one instance, a poll worker in Bayside, Queens kept the magnifying sheet hidden. He kept it in the supply kit behind the voting machine because, he said, he did not want to lose it.

A second problem was the layout of the primary election ballot facecard. Certain candidates' transliterated Korean names were placed too close to the lever for the next candidate. AALDEF informally surveyed ten poll workers in Queens, asking them to identify the corresponding levers to the Korean names of candidates. Nine pointed to the lever for the wrong candidates. A simple line distinguishing the groupings of candidates' names would have clarified the association of names to the appropriate levers.

Third, the transliterations of candidates' names into Chinese and Korean were sometimes awkward. Some Asian American candidates have Chinese names, but their Chinese names, as they were known in the community, were not always used. *World Journal* newspaper reported that candidate names in English were oddly, if not comically, transliterated.¹⁵ In one example, Mary O'Donohue was translated as "Mary O' Party." One Chinese voter complained that it was difficult to connect the candidates with the transliterations of their names. In Flushing the Korean transliteration of incumbent Councilman John Liu's name, who was Asian American, was different from his name used in the Korean media. Mr. Liu had submitted the Korean transliteration of his name to the Board, but that name was not used.

Fourth, corrections of Korean mistranslations on ballots were faulty. There was a mistake in the Korean translation of the ballot instructions. The Board caught the mistake and pasted an errata slip over the mistranslation. However, the slip was placed upside-down on sample ballots at some sites. The slip included numbers on it, so anyone not proficient in Korean could tell that the translation was upside-down.

Election officials must take much more care in translating, proofreading, and typesetting ballots. The candidates' actual Asian names or the appropriate transliterations of their names should be used. Many of these problems are the result of carelessness or a cavalier attitude toward language assistance.

TRANSLATED SIGNS AND MATERIALS

The Voting Right Act requires that all voting signs and materials must be translated, posted, and made available to voters on election day. However, many poll sites and election districts did not have any Chinese and Korean language signs and materials or did not use them effectively. Often, these signs were not even taken

out of the Board of Elections Chinese and Korean Language Supply Kits.

TRANSLATED SIGNS

Numerous poll sites had very poor language signage. The Board translates sample ballots, two kinds of signs with instructions on how to operate voting machines, and two kinds of “Interpreter Available” signs. Voting machine instruction signs are large posters to post on walls and curtain cards to be hung on voting machines. One of the interpreter signs is designed for display outside poll sites at the building entrance, and the other kind are tent cards for interpreter tables inside sites at the entrance to the polling area. All of these signs must be posted in all the required languages.

Particular sites and election districts were missing some or all of the Chinese and Korean signs. Chinese- and Korean-language sample ballots were missing or posted far away. Voting machine instruction curtain cards were not hung or were posted in obscure locations. At one poll site in Jackson Heights, no Chinese curtain cards were posted, although Spanish cards were hung.

Almost no Korean-language voting machine instructions, either as curtain cards or large posters, were posted at sites in Woodside and Sunnyside, Queens. A Korean voting machine instruction poster was posted upside-down at one election district in Flushing. At another site in Bayside, Korean signs were posted in the back of the poll site, not at the main entrance. In Elmhurst one site supervisor did not even know that translated Korean signs existed.

Poll workers at poll sites in Flushing, Bayside, and Sunset Park were especially careless or unwilling to post all of the required Chinese signs. At two sites in Flushing and Elmhurst, all signs were kept in unopened packets.

A number of poll sites and election districts, particularly in Flushing, were targeted for both Chinese and Korean language assistance, but many of those had spotty signage in both languages. Two sites, in all of the election districts, had *either* the Korean or Chinese voting machine instructions but not both.

In fact, poll workers were unable to differentiate between Chinese and Korean materials and signs. At two sites in Flushing, poll workers thought the Korean and Chinese translated signs were interchangeable. When an AALDEF attorney monitor had

asked whether there was a Chinese curtain card, the poll worker pointed to the Korean curtain card. The AALDEF monitor mentioned that it was a different language, to which the poll worker responded, "Is there a difference?"

The lack of translated signs made poll sites inaccessible to limited English-proficient voters and was a violation of Section 203. The Board must specifically incorporate the posting of translated signs into its trainings of poll workers.

TRANSLATED MATERIALS

The Voting Rights Act requires the translation of all voting materials used on Election Day, including flyers with statements of voters' rights, voter registration forms, affidavit ballots and affidavit ballot envelopes. These materials are critical in helping limited English-proficient citizens vote.

Like the signs, Chinese and Korean language materials were often missing or inaccessible to voters. These were usually voter rights flyers, voter registration forms, affidavit ballots and affidavit ballot envelopes. At one site in Jamaica, the site supervisor did not even know what the voter rights flyer was. At another site in Sunset Park, all the election districts were missing voter registration forms.

At one site in Flushing, because the poll worker did not take any of the Korean materials out of the supply kit and was unprepared, a Korean voter left without voting. In another instance, another voter had to vote by paper ballot, but was not offered a Korean affidavit ballot envelope to complete and in which to place his ballot.

A number of sites in Flushing, Elmhurst, Jamaica, and Williamsburg were especially poor in making all language materials available to voters at all designated election districts. Materials were kept in their supply packets, hidden behind voting machines. At one site a poll worker said that the materials were kept under the table to cut down on "clutter."

Poll sites targeted for both Chinese and Korean language assistance often had poor availability of voting materials in both languages. Frequently, if the materials were out, they were in Chinese *or* Korean, not both.

Some poll workers also erroneously thought that the translated materials only had to be produced *if requested*. However, if

the materials were not out, voters did not know that they even existed to request them. Moreover, poll workers were usually not bilingual, so they needed voters to make the request for translated materials in English.

Indeed, some poll workers were completely unaware of what to do with translated materials. At one site in Elmhurst, the supervisor said he knew that they had the signs and materials in Chinese and Korean, but did not know that they had to be made available for voters.

Many poll workers were cavalier about the use and posting of translated signs and materials. They often kept materials hidden from view. Sometimes poll workers seemed more concerned with keeping a neat space than having bilingual materials readily available for voters. This attitude undermines the Board's efforts to make the elections accessible to limited English-proficient voters. AALDEF made numerous complaints about poll worker disregard for translated materials. Poll workers need better training and supervision in the use of translated materials and the posting of translated signs.

ORAL LANGUAGE ASSISTANCE

The Board of Elections provides interpreters to assist limited English-proficient voters and poll workers. Unlike observations in prior elections, most poll sites in 2002 were well staffed, sometimes even overstaffed, with interpreters. There were, nevertheless, a few problems. At a few sites, interpreters were totally missing or did not show up on election day. Some sites needed more interpreters. On a few occasions, interpreters were not allowed to assist voters.

MISSING INTERPRETERS

Interpreters were missing or there were too few to assist voters at particular poll sites in Jamaica/Briarwood, Flushing, Bayside, and Chinatown. Sometimes the interpreters spoke the wrong dialect of Chinese. At a few sites in Bayside and Flushing, none of the assigned interpreters showed up. In one instance, a Korean voter needed assistance, but no one could help. He left frustrated and did not vote.

INTERPRETER PERFORMANCE

AALDEF observed that a number of interpreters performed their duties poorly, if at all. They were inattentive to voters need-

ing assistance, misdirected voters, or did not understand election procedures.

At one site in Elmhurst, the interpreters did not actively help voters. Voters said they did not know whether there was anyone who could assist them in their language. One Chinese voter had come to vote, but because no one assisted him, he left without voting.

In Chinatown one Chinese interpreter was found asleep during the mid-afternoon. Another did not understand English. In Woodside a Korean interpreter did not know how to assist voters.

One voter in Chinatown complained that the interpreter misdirected the voter after the voter made only one selection. The voter lost her remaining votes.

In Elmhurst a Chinese interpreter did a poor job of answering voters' questions. A few voters wanted to vote for an Asian American whom they heard was running for office. However, this Asian candidate was running in a different district, and the interpreter did not know how to explain this situation.

A number of interpreters did not wear nametags. Nametags help inform voters from whom they can obtain nonpartisan assistance. In past elections bilingual candidate poll watchers were found interpreting for voters. They were observed as not only showing voters how to vote, but also for whom to vote. Nametags are essential, yet interpreters claimed that they did not receive any or enough interpreter badges. Others wore their badges, but their outer garments covered them.

Some interpreters were found doing other jobs instead of assisting limited English-proficient voters. For example, in Chinatown, Chinese interpreters were looking up non-Asian voters names in the book. During this time, Asian American voters were waiting for someone to assist them.

The Board must improve its efforts in training and selecting interpreters to ensure that interpreters understand proper election procedures and can effectively assist voters.

INTERPRETERS NOT ALLOWED TO ASSIST VOTERS

Poll workers blocked interpreters from assisting voters. Interpreters are allowed to assist voters, and the interpreters may enter voting booths with voters, if voters request such assistance. Most poll workers understood these procedures, but some inter-

ferred, did not trust, or were hostile toward interpreters. This often resulted in voters losing their votes.

One poll worker in Flushing did not trust the Korean interpreters. The poll worker allowed an interpreter to assist a Korean voter inside the voting booth, but the poll worker kept the curtain wide open so the poll worker could see the voter vote. The voter complained about the poll worker looking over her shoulder as she voted.

A poll worker at another site in Flushing would not allow voters to be assisted by persons of their choice. When voters brought friends to assist them, and the voters wanted their friends to accompany them inside the booth, this poll worker mixed up the rules and said that only official interpreters were allowed to accompany voters.

Another poll worker in Flushing told an elderly Korean voter that the interpreters were only allowed to speak with her in English. The voter complained that the poll workers treated her “very rudely” because of her inability to understand English. The voter’s daughter was with her and, at first, the poll workers would not allow the voter’s daughter to assist her either. After an argument, the voter was allowed to be assisted by her daughter, but she originally requested the assistance of an interpreter.

A voter in Sunset Park asked for an interpreter to assist her inside the voting booth. Both entered, but a poll worker removed the interpreter. The voter could not complete her vote and also complained that the poll worker was hostile toward her.

Poll workers must not interfere with legitimate nonpartisan language assistance. The Board should reiterate at poll worker trainings that interpreters are allowed to assist voters and that they may enter voting booths with voters, if the voters request such assistance. The Board should also investigate these specific situations and retrain specific poll workers.

POLL WORKER PROBLEMS

In addition to interfering with language assistance, AALDEF observed first-hand and received complaints from Asian American voters that certain poll workers demanded identification, were rude or hostile, or made racist remarks. Some of these problems can be traced back to poll worker trainings.

IMPROPER DEMANDS FOR IDENTIFICATION

A number of poll workers inappropriately required Asian American voters to show identification in order to vote. No form of ID is required to vote in New York. Over 300 Asian American voters responded in AALDEF's survey that they were required to provide identification.

Below are some of the more egregious complaints and observations. A number of these incidents also involved situations when voters' names did not appear in voter lists or poll workers could not find the names of voters. After the elections, AALDEF reviewed the Board of Elections' database of registered voters to confirm the registration of these voters.

One voter complained that his name was not listed, and the poll worker told him to return with three pieces of identification before he could vote.

A similar incident occurred in Williamsburg, where one poll worker demanded identification of all Asian American voters who were not listed in the book. Other voters in Chinatown and Flushing complained of the same.

In Flushing two voters complained that poll workers demanded identification, and when their names were not listed, the poll workers turned them away without giving them the options of completing affidavit ballots. One of these voters specifically complained that in the past, a poll worker asked for identification every time she went to vote, and one time specifically asked her for proof of citizenship. The voter was not listed, and she was turned away. After reviewing the database of registered voters, AALDEF found that the voter was indeed registered and at the correct poll site.

A Korean voter in Flushing complained that he had to show identification because the poll worker would not allow him to be assisted by an interpreter.

The Board must inform poll workers that identification is not required in order to vote.¹⁶

DISCRIMINATORY OR HOSTILE COMMENTS BY POLL WORKERS

There had always been a number of individuals who are ill suited to be poll workers. In AALDEF's survey thirty-five Asian Americans reported that poll workers were "discourteous," and twenty-three said they were "hostile." The following are incidents

where poll workers were inconsiderate, rude, hostile, discriminatory, or made disparaging remarks about language assistance and Asian American voters.

In Jamaica/Briarwood, one poll worker mocked Asian voters and made racist remarks and gestures. She pulled the corners of her eyes back and said, "I can tell the difference between a Chinese and a Japanese by their chinky eyes."

In Flushing one poll worker referred to South Asian voters as "terrorists."

In Woodside, a site supervisor remarked that translations were biased against "Americans" and that language assistance should not be a city law or regulation. He also stated that voters should not be allowed to have someone assist them inside the voting booth.

In Bayside a poll worker said she believed that only English voting materials should be used "because we're all Americans."

Voters complained that certain poll workers were rude or disrespectful. One of the complaints in Flushing came from a first-time voter who spoke little English and was not familiar with the voting process since it was her first time voting.

The hostility expressed by poll workers sometimes was coupled with refusals to allow Asian voters to receive assistance in-language. AALDEF monitors observed specific instances of this at poll sites in Chinatown, Flushing, Woodside, and Williamsburg.

Obviously, the Board should take the appropriate actions against these poll workers.

OTHER IMPROPER POLL WORKER CONDUCT

At one site in Flushing, poll workers tried to close their voting machine ten minutes early. Six voters came to vote just before 9:00 p.m.—two of whom were Chinese and two of whom were South Asians—and they were initially turned away.

At another site in Flushing, a voter complained that a poll worker told the voter to vote for a certain candidate because "he was good." The voter, nevertheless, voted for another candidate for whom she wanted to vote.

In Sunset Park poll workers did not allow voters to bring candidate palm cards into the voting machines for reference as they made their selections. This is the voters' right. One voter wanted to refer to a palm card to connect the candidates with the Chi-

nese transliterations of their names, but a poll worker said the voter could not match the names and if she tried, she would be fined and sent to jail. At another site one Chinese voter needed the pamphlet in order to remember a candidate's name. The voter insisted on keeping it so the poll worker tore the candidate's name off the pamphlet.

At one site in Richmond Hill, the site supervisor intervened when a voter's name was not on the list. The supervisor encouraged turning away the voter saying, "They don't want to vote by [affidavit] paper ballots. It's their choice. We know how to do our jobs." The supervisor never informed the voter of other options.

These poll workers did not understand proper election procedures or know how to look up voters' names in the lists of registered voters. In Flushing voters complained that poll workers did not make careful searches for their names. When poll workers could not find the voters' names, they tried to turn the voters away. But when the interpreters looked up the voters' names, the names were found. AALDEF reviewed the database of registered voters and found that these voters were indeed registered to vote and assigned to those election districts. At two other sites in Flushing, when poll workers did not find voters' names, they did *not* offer them affidavit ballots, as required by law. In all these instances, the voters were registered, listed, and at the correct poll site and election district, according to the Board of Elections' database of voters.

All these offending poll workers should be retrained.

POOR POLL WORKER TRAINING

Poll workers are trained over the summer well before the elections. AALDEF sat in on a number of poll worker training classes. Prior, AALDEF had urged that the trainings emphasize the rules and proper procedures regarding identification, interpreters and other persons by whom voters want to be assisted, and translated materials and signs. Some of these issues were reviewed in the trainings; others were completely overlooked.

Trainers glossed over the importance of posting translated signs. None of the trainings discussed the mandate that Korean was a language covered under the Voting Rights Act and that translated signs must be posted in as many as three languages at some poll sites—Spanish, Chinese, and Korean. Trainers only discussed the English signs.

Trainers explained that at the voters' request interpreters may enter voting booths with voters and without poll workers. However, one site supervisor trainer seemed uncomfortable with this. After he gave the instruction, he made comments suggesting that since poll workers did not know what the interpreters were saying, the interpreters were probably electioneering. There was also no mention during the training that voters could bring others, like friends or relatives, to translate for them inside the voting booth.

After one of the training classes, the trainer and two other training assistants made disparaging comments about language assistance. They said that people needed to learn English before they could vote. One said that non-English speakers should not be allowed to vote because they could not know about current events or understand politics. The trainer said that he was resentful that language assistance was provided in Chinese and Korean. The other staff person said that voters need to learn the "national language" and that he had a problem with upholding a law that required language assistance.

All poll workers need better training, particularly on the right to language assistance. Trainers must remind poll workers that (1) voters may receive language assistance from interpreters, friends, or relatives, and those individuals may also enter the voting booth with voters if requested, (2) translated signs must be posted, and (3) in Queens, Korean is a required language for voting materials and signs. Poll workers who are unable to conform to the law should be reprimanded, and if necessary, removed from their posts.

VOTER REGISTRATION AND VOTER ROLL BOOK PROBLEMS

There were numerous omissions of Asian American voters from the lists of registered voters at several election districts. Seventy voters in the general election reported that their names were not listed.

The problems of missing names and other discrepancies arose in part from data entry mistakes as voter registration forms were entered into computerized lists. AALDEF spot-checked the Board of Elections' database of registered voters against copies of more than 250 voter registration forms they collected and submitted in 2002. They found several errors when the Board entered those forms, as well as a number of forms which were never processed. These errors could well lead to many Asian Americans

being denied the right to vote.

The most frequent error involved not observing the particularity of Chinese and Korean names. First names usually contain two parts. Spacings between the two were ignored. Second parts of first names were abbreviated into middle initials. Other times, middle initials were never entered.

Voters' apartment numbers were not entered or street addresses were entered incorrectly.

Voters' preferred political party enrollments were sometimes ignored. One set of errors involved applicants who did not select any party on their forms, but they were assigned to a political party. The other set of errors occurred when voters clearly sought to enroll in particular parties, but those voters were never assigned to those parties. For example, Republicans were enrolled into the Democratic Party and vice versa.

Some voters' dates of birth were incorrectly entered, either in the year or day of the month. For example, a voter was born on 7/15/1947 but 7/15/1967 was entered.

Dozens of voter registration forms were entirely missing from the Board of Elections' database.

Voters who were not listed are entitled to cast their vote by affidavit ballots. On Election Day, a Chinese interpreter in Flushing commented that an unusually high number of Chinese voters had to complete affidavit ballots. If there were mistakes in the voters' registrations or their forms were lost, their ballots would be discarded.

New York State election law requires that voters who are not given affidavit ballots be given voter registration forms. This did not occur. For example, a voter in Flushing believed that she was registered to vote, but her name did not appear on the list, and she was turned away without being given either an affidavit ballot or voter registration form. Upon AALDEF's inspection of the Board of Elections' database of registered voters, AALDEF found no record for the voter. Had she been given a voter registration form, she would be able to exercise her right to vote in the next election.

The Board should also explore ways to remedy complaints that Asian voters' names are missing from the list of registered voters. One way is to review the database of registered voters and compare the information to the original voter registration forms. Another way is for the Board to use the information in affidavit

ballot envelopes to register new voters and simultaneously correct data entry errors. Therefore, when voters complete affidavit ballots, the affidavit ballot envelopes should double as voter registration forms.

If voters have taken all the necessary steps to register, corrective measures must be put into place so that the Board of Elections will count their votes. Using affidavit ballot envelopes as voter registration forms will help to remedy problems in future elections.

POLL SITE /ELECTION DISTRICT CONFUSION

There was much confusion over poll sites in the 2002 elections. Changes to poll sites were made because of redistricting, but this was extremely disruptive to the ability of Asian Americans to vote. In the 2002 elections poll workers did not direct voters to their new poll sites. When voters were at their correct poll sites, some poll workers sent them to the wrong election districts.

During the primary election, AALDEF received many complaints from voters who had to vote at different, more distant poll sites. Elderly voters in Flushing who lived in an apartment building next door to a poll site were sent across the park to another poll site. Because of other similar complaints, the Board made another set of changes to poll sites for the general election. AALDEF cautioned that this second change could lead to more confusion.

AALDEF and other community groups tried to inform voters of new poll sites. They asked for a conversion list of poll sites and election districts changes from the 2001 election. They were never given such a list. For the general election, the groups again asked for another list of changes. They needed to know whether to tell voters to go to the poll site where they voted *last year* for the general election or *last month* for the primary election. They never got this list either. Over 100 Asian American voters reported confusion about their poll site.

During the general election, there were many complaints in Chinatown. Many elderly voters in one housing complex were moved to another, more distant poll site. They could not make the long walk over to the other site.

Throughout Queens, voters complained that when they went to vote, they were told to go to another poll site. One voter in Flushing complained that she had voted at her site for the past ten years but was directed to another site several blocks away. A voter in

Floral Park complained that the poll workers could not find his name in the book of registered voters and gave him poor and incomplete instructions on finding where he could vote.

In Woodside one particular election district was supposed to be at a specific poll site. But on the morning of Election Day, it was discovered that it was moved to an entirely different site. Poll workers were never notified of this move. When voters arrived, poll workers did not know where to tell them to go.

Several voters complained that they never received notices from the Board of Elections about their new poll sites or that the notices they received were erroneous. When they arrived at their usual poll site, they were told to go to other sites. One voter said she was “unfamiliar” with the other site, and another said she did not know where the other site was located and would probably not vote at all. Two voters in Floral Park reported that they received an erroneous notice from the Board informing them to go to a different poll site to vote. At that other site they were told to return to the original site.

Voters also complained that poll workers misdirected them. We discovered these voters’ correct poll sites by looking up their names in the Board of Elections’ database of registered voters after the elections.

Poll workers did not tell voters where they could vote. One voter in Flushing complained that when he came to vote, he was not listed and was turned away without being told that he needed to go elsewhere to vote. Another voter was not listed, and the poll workers simply turned her away without informing her that her poll site had changed. A voter in Elmhurst said he had voted at his site for the past seven years, had never received notice from the Board about his changed poll site, and was simply told he could not vote.

Voters in Flushing, Elmhurst, and Floral Park went to their correct poll sites, were told to go elsewhere, and at the other location, discovered that they had to return to the first poll site.

Several voters at their correct poll sites complained that when they first checked in, poll workers misrouted them. They complained that they were bounced between different election districts at the same site while poll workers searched for their names. Some of these voters ultimately were told they could not vote and were turned away.

The Board must do a better job of informing voters of their correct poll sites. On Election Day, poll workers must direct voters either to the correct election district or their appropriate poll site if they are at the wrong site.

Changes to poll sites and election districts must be predicated on an analysis of where voters had previously voted and whether they are being sent to new sites. If it is revealed that those voters are sent to different sites and those sites are distant, then the changes should not be made.

Second, if changes must be made, then mailed notices must be supplemented by the placement of bilingual poll workers and translated signs at changed poll sites, directing voters where to go. Changes must also be publicized in the Asian-language media.

Third, even if voters are at the wrong poll sites or election districts, registered voters should be allowed to cast affidavit ballots and have their votes counted. For instance, voters who cast affidavit ballots at the wrong poll sites but are still in the congressional districts in which they reside should have their vote for Congress counted. Currently, if voters cast affidavit ballots at the wrong sites, their entire ballots are discarded. Voters should have their votes counted wherever possible.

OTHER PROBLEMS

On Election Day, a number of voting machines broke down. This occurred in Chinatown, Williamsburg, Flushing and Woodside. Sometimes more than one machine at each site was broken. Other times, machines were partially inoperative. At one site in Bayside, the lever for one of the congressional candidates did not work. Poll workers resolved simply to tell voters that the lever was broken. There was no interest in fixing the machine.

In late September, after the primary election, AALDEF observed movers contracted by the Board of Elections to transport voting machines. They observed that the movers did not use the street ramp but rather let the machine drop from the curb twice. The rough handling of the machines may be one reason so many machines broke down on Election Day.

Section 203 of the Voting Rights Act also requires that the Board publicize the availability of Korean language assistance. In August, one day after advertisements were placed in mainstream and Chinese newspapers about the upcoming primary election,

AALDEF asked if the Board would be placing advertisements in the Korean-language media. They were told that because of this one-day delay, it was too late. The election was still a few weeks away. The Board's media staff was cavalier about notifying the public about the availability of Korean language assistance.

Indeed, during the election, a Korean interpreter commented that if more Korean Americans knew there were interpreters and translated materials, more would have come out to vote. She said that many were embarrassed or "afraid to vote because they [didn't] speak English" very well. AALDEF urged the Board to expand its efforts in publicizing the availability of Korean language assistance.

Conclusion

This article makes a number of concrete recommendations to improve the administration of the elections and to comply with the Voting Rights Act. For example, reprimanding or removal poll workers who are hostile or discriminatory toward Asian American voters or obstruct or deny language assistance; improved trainings on election procedures and voters' rights to language assistance; better translations of ballots; concerted effort to ensure all voters' names are listed on voter registration rolls; and better notice and accuracy about poll sites and election district assignments.

These efforts can secure positive results. Because of problems in the 2000 and 2001 elections, the Board aggressively recruited more interpreters. By the 2002 elections, AALDEF found that voters could more easily access oral language assistance at most targeted sites.

What is most important in this article is an appreciation for the complex machinery of voting, and that there are numerous junctures for errors and mistakes. Community groups should be more engaged and monitor elections for problems and make recommendations for improvements. Such monitoring is even more helpful when it extends beyond Election Day.

Finally, there must be stronger cooperation between elections officials and community groups and advocates. Sometimes to the disbelief of elections officials, community groups and advocates do share the same goals with the officials—that is, facilitating the smooth and nondiscriminatory administration of elections. Ob-

servations of problems should not be taken as criticisms but as suggestions to improve elections.

Not too long ago, African Americans fought hard for the right to vote. The passage of the Voting Rights Act and its language assistance provisions has eliminated many prior barriers to the vote. Yet, elections still do not comply with the law. For Asian Americans, the struggle for the right to vote continues.

Notes

1. Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund, 99 Hudson Street, 12 floor; New York, NY 10013; www.aaldef.org; info@aaldef.org; www.aaldef.org; 212-966-5932. AALDEF, founded in 1974, is the first organization on the East Coast to protect and promote the civil rights of Asian American through litigation, legal advocacy, and community education. The author acknowledges the editing assistance of Margaret Fung, AALDEF Executive Director, and development of graphs and survey analysis by Nancy W. Yu, AALDEF Policy Analyst.
2. U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, *Voting Irregularities in Florida During the 2000 Presidential Election*, Chapter 9: Findings and Recommendations (June 2001), <<http://www.usccr.gov>>.
3. Census 2000 PHC-T-1, "Table 3. Population by Race Alone, Race in Combination Only, Race Alone or in Combination, and Hispanic or Latino Origin, for the United States: 2000," April 2, 2001.
4. Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund, *Asian American Access to Democracy in the NYC 2001 Elections*, An assessment of the NYC Board of Elections compliance with the Language Assistance Provisions of the Voting Rights Act, New York, New York (April 2002) [hereinafter AALDEF Section 203 Report 2001].
5. *Language Assistance Provisions of the Voting Rights Act*, Hearing on S. 2236 Before the House Subcomm. on Civil and Constitutional Rights, House Judiciary Committee, 102 Cong. at 1 (Apr. 1, 1992) (statement of Margaret Fung, Executive Director, Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund); Senate Report 102-315, Calendar No. 537, July 2, 1992, at 12 (on file with author) [hereinafter Fung, Testimony on Language Assistance Provisions].
6. Voting Rights Act of 1965, 42 U.S.C. §§ 1971-73 (2001).
7. Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, 42 U.S.C. §§ 1973, 1973(b)(f)(2) (2001).
8. *Minority Language Materials and Assistance*, 28 CFR §§ 55.14-55.21 (2001).
9. 67 Fed. Reg. No. 144, 48871-77 (July 26, 2002) (Notices).

10. Jurisdictions Covered under Secs. 4(f)(4) and 203(c) of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended, 28 CFR Part 55 Appendix (2001); see also Nature of Coverage, 28 CFR § 55.4 (2001).
11. Volunteer pollsters were also provided by the cosponsoring organizations and Asian Pacific American Law Student Associations at Brooklyn Law School, Columbia University School of Law, CUNY Law School at Queens College, New York Law School, New York University School of Law, Fordham University School of Law, and Rutgers University School of Law, Asian American studies classes at Columbia University, Queens College/ CUNY and Hunter College/ CUNY, Asian American Bar Association of New York (AABANY), and YWCA-Flushing Branch.
12. Letters from Margaret Fung, Executive Director, and Glenn D. Magpantay, Staff Attorney, AALDEF, to John Ravitz, Executive Director, NYC Board of Elections, Aug. 5, 2003 (reviewing problems and observations from the primary and general elections), July 18, 2003 (reviewing names of discriminatory poll workers), and May 7, 2003 (reviewing errors in the registration of new voters).
13. Census 2000 figures include race alone or in combination with one or more other races.
14. Because detailed census data was not available in time for the 2002 Elections, the targeting of Korean assistance was based on feedback from community-based organizations with a simple review of the Korean population by census tract.
15. "Candidate's translated names into Chinese on the ballot make people laugh. Names have no meaning, hard to understand, and creates confusion in voting," (translated headline), *World Journal*, September 6, 2002.
16. One must note that the new federal Help America Vote Act will change New York's prohibition against requiring voters to provide identification in order to vote. But this requirement only applies to first-time voters who register by mailing in their voter registration forms. Poll workers must be carefully trained that this new exception should be narrowly interpreted.

Appendix A: Sites monitored for compliance with the Voting Rights Act in 2002

Site	Address	Number of Targeted Election Districts
MANHATTAN		
Chinatown (12 sites)		
PS 1	8 Henry Street	2
Confucius Plaza	20 Confucius Plaza	4
PS 126	80 Catherine Street	6
Seward Park Annex	200 Monroe Street	6 / 7
Lands End II	275 Cherry Street	2
PS 2	122 Henry Street	6 / 3
PS 131	100 Hester Street	5
PS 130	143 Baxter Street	4
Mott St. Senior Center	180 Mott Street	5
Southbridge Towers	66 Frankfort Street	4
Civil Court	111 Centre Street	3
PS 63	121 East 3 Street	6 *
Rutger Houses	200 Madison Street	2 *
QUEENS (38 sites total)		
Flushing (17 sites)		
PS 20	142-30 Barclay Avenue	9
JHS 189	144-80 Barclay Avenue	9 / 8
PS 22	153-01 Sanford Avenue	2 / 3
Rosenthal Senior Center	45-35 Kissena Boulevard	9
Botanical Gardens	43-50 Main Street	5
IS 237	46-21 Colden Street	2 / 1
Flushing HS	35-01 Union Street	5
Latimer Gardens	139-10 34 Avenue	4
Flushing Hse.Res.for Adults	38-20 Bowne Street	4
Flushing Bland Center	133-36 Roosevelt Avenue	3
Queensboro Hill Library	60-05 Main Street	2
PS 120	58-01 136 Street	3
VFW Post 3427	136-06 Horace Harding Expressway	2
JHS 185	147-26 25 Drive	2 / 7
PS 163	159-01 59 Avenue	6 / 4
PS 154	75-02 162 Street	5
St. Andrew's Church	35-60 158 Street	7
Bayside (5 sites)		
PS 169	18-25 212 Street	9
Bayside HS	32-24 Corporal Kennedy Street	6 / 2
Benjamin Cardozo HS	57-00 223 Street	4
PS 46	64-45 218 Street	5
PS 162	201-02 53 Avenue	3

Elmhurst / Jackson Heights (7 sites)

Newtown HS	48-01 90th Street	8
PS 89	85-28 Britton Avenue	7
PS 69	77-02 37th Avenue	9
IS 145	33-34 80 Street	3
PS 7	80-55 Cornish Avenue	4
PS 13	55-01 94th Street	4
PS 219	144-39 Gravett Road	6

Woodside / Sunnyside (4 sites)

PS 11	54-25 Skillman Avenue	6
PS 150	40-01 43 Avenue	10
St. Sebastian's School	57-15 Woodside Avenue	7
PS 12	42-00 72 Street	7 *

Jamaica / Briarwood (4 sites)

PS 82	88-02 144 Street	2
JHS 217	85-05 144 Street	2
St. Nicholas Tolentine	150-75 Goethals Avenue	2
PS 117	85-15 143 Street	3

Floral Park (2 sites)

PS 115	80-51 261 Street	4 *
IS 172	81-14 257 Street	2 *

Richmond Hill (2 sites)

St. Paul's Church	127-27 102 Road	11
PS 55	131-10 97 Avenue	3 *

BROOKLYN (5 sites)**Sunset Park (3 sites)**

PS 94	5010 6th Avenue	5
PS 314	60th Street & 3rd Avenue	5
PS 105	1031 59 St. (at Ft. Hamilton Pkwy)	6 *

Williamsburg (1 site)

PS 250	108 Montrose Avenue	3 *
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Homecrest/Sheepshead Bay (1 site)

St. Brendan's House	1215 Avenue O	2 *
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Two election district numbers are listed if they changed between elections.

* denotes the site was monitored during only one election.

Appendix B: Asian American Voter Survey instrument

ASIAN AMERICAN VOTER SURVEY
GENERAL ELECTIONS, NOVEMBER 5, 2002
Confidential and anonymous (Chinatown)

- A. Are you: 1. Chinese 2. Korean 3. Asian Indian 4. Bangladeshi 5. Pakistani
6. Indo-Caribbean 7. Filipino 8. Vietnamese 9. Japanese 10. Other _____
- B. When did you become a U.S. citizen? 1. Born in the U.S. 2. 0-2 years ago 3. 3-5 years ago
4. 6-10 years ago 5. More than 10 years ago
- C. Is this your first time voting in an election in the U.S.? 1. Yes 2. No
- D. What is your native language/dialect?
1. English 2. Cantonese 3. Mandarin 4. Korean 5. Tagalog 6. Vietnamese
7. Japanese 8. Hindi 9. Bengali 10. Urdu 11. Gujarati 12. Punjabi 13. Malayalam
14. Other _____
- E. How well do you read English? 1. Very well 2. Moderate 3. Not well 4. Not at all
- F. In voting today, did you use an interpreter provided by the Board of Elections? 1. Yes.
2. No, brought someone to interpret. 3. No, none spoke my language. 4. No, did not need interpreter.
- G. Did you use any translated written materials provided by the Board of Elections?
1. Yes. 2. No, none in my language. 3. No, did not need them.
- H. Was it difficult to read the ballot because the translations were too small?
1. Yes 2. No 3. Not applicable.
- I. Your party affiliation: 1. Democrat 2. Republican 3. Not enrolled in any party
4. Other _____
- J. Who did you just vote for Governor? 1. George Pataki 2. Carl McCall 3. Tom Golisano
4. Other _____
- K. What was the one most important factor influencing your vote for Governor? (select only 1)
1. Crime 2. Education/Schools 3. Health Care 4. Housing
5. Jobs/Economy 6. Security/Anti-Terrorism 7. Other _____
- L. Are you or anyone in your household a Union Member? 1. Yes 2. No
- M. Did you encounter any of the following when you voted? (check all that apply)
1. required to show identification 2. name not in list of registered voters 3. voted by paper ballot
4. poll workers were discourteous 5. poll workers were hostile 6. poll workers gave wrong directions
7. no bilingual materials/signs 8. confusion over poll site/election district
9. Other _____

N. Have you or any member of your family experienced bias-related violence, harassment, or discrimination since the events of Sept. 11, 2001? 1. Yes 2. No (If "Yes," please provide details to surveyor.)

O. The boundaries of City Council districts will soon be changed. Which one other neighborhood do you think should be included with Chinatown for the new City Council district? (select only 1)

1. Battery Park City 2. Financial District 3. Lower East Side/ East Village 4. SoHo/TriBeCa

P. How would you rate George W. Bush's performance as President?

1. Good 2. Average 3. Poor 4. No opinion

Q. Do you consider yourself...? 1. Liberal 2. Moderate 3. Conservative

R. Your age: 1. 18-29 2. 30-39 3. 40-49 4. 50-59 5. 60-69 6. Over 70

S. Are you: 1. Female 2. Male

Thank you.

T. Polling Site (Chinatown): 1. PS 126 2. PS 2 3. JS 131 4. Confuc. Plz. 5. Other Chinatown _____

U. Assistance provided: 1. translated questions, lang./dialect _____ 2. read questions

3. other _____

Name of person conducting survey: _____ V. Time: _____

GLENN D. MAGPANTAY, ESQ. is staff attorney for the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF). AALDEF, founded in 1974, is the first organization on the East Coast to protect and promote civil rights of Asian Americans through litigation, legal advocacy and community education.

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