

# APA Asian Pacific American Legal Resource Center

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# LRC

## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **ASIAN AMERICAN ELECTION PROTECTION PROJECT AND MULTILINGUAL EXIT POLL FOR VIRGINIA, MARYLAND, AND WASHINGTON, DC**

#### ***Groups remind voters of their rights on Election Day***

(Washington, DC) A coalition of groups spearheaded by the Asian Pacific American Legal Resource Center (APALRC) and Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF) will announce details of its Asian American Election Protection Project and nonpartisan multilingual exit poll for the November 4, 2008 elections.

Over 300 volunteer attorneys, law students, and community volunteers will cover approximately 80 poll sites in Virginia, Maryland and Washington, DC where there has been a surge in newly-registered Asian American voters, high numbers of voters are limited English proficient, or where Asian Americans have reported voting barriers or intimidation in recent elections.

Myron Dean Quon, APALRC Executive Director, said, "With high interest in the outcome of this year's Presidential election, APALRC will work to ensure that every vote is counted, including those of Asian American voters - many who historically have had language-access barriers to the right to vote."

APALRC is coordinating the local effort of AALDEF's overall Election Protection Project, where AALDEF plans to poll 15,000 Asian American voters on Election Day in 11 states, including New York, New Jersey, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Michigan, Texas, Nevada, and Louisiana.

#### **VOTERS' RIGHTS ON ELECTION DAY**

The groups will remind voters on ways to protect their right to vote.

- If voters' names are missing or their records have incorrect information on the lists of voters, they may ask for provisional ballots to vote. This is their right under the federal Help America Vote Act. And contact AALDEF to ensure their ballots were counted.
- If voters do not read English, they may bring a friend, family member, or official interpreter (but not their employers or union representatives), into the voting booth to translate the ballot for them. This is their right under the federal Voting Rights Act.
- If poll workers rush voters inside the booth or try to influence their votes, the voters may complain. This is the voters' rights under local and state laws.
- Report any voting problems to AALDEF at 1-800-966-5946 or email [votingrights@aaldef.org](mailto:votingrights@aaldef.org). In Chinese (Mandarin, Cantonese, Toisan), Korean, Tagalog, and Gujarati.

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***APALRC: Ensuring Access to Justice for Asian Pacific Americans for 10 Years***

[www.apalrc.org](http://www.apalrc.org)

## MULTILINGUAL EXIT POLL

AALDEF and APALRC will conduct a nonpartisan exit poll of Asian American voters in 11 languages: Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese, Khmer, Japanese, Arabic, Bengali, Hindi, Punjabi, Urdu, and Gujarati. Voters will be asked their preferences in the Presidential and local races, top reasons for their choices, party affiliations, whether they are first-time voters, English proficiency and the need for Asian-language voting assistance, and specific problems encountered at the polls. The exit poll reveals vital information about Asian American voting patterns that is often overlooked in mainstream voter surveys.

In the 2006 Midterm election, APALRC and AALDEF polled 546 Asian American voters in the Greater DC area (225 in Virginia, 264 in Maryland, and 57 in Washington, DC).

In 2008, volunteers will be stationed at 22 poll sites in the area (13 in Virginia, 7 in Maryland, and 2 in Washington, DC). A list of poll sites follows.

## POLL MONITORING

AALDEF and APALRC will monitor 60 poll sites for compliance with the Voting Rights Act and the Help America Vote Act. Volunteer attorneys check to see whether Asian-language voting assistance is provided and whether required signs stating voter's rights and instructions in how to vote are adequately posted.

Glenn D. Magpantay, AALDEF staff attorney, said, "In the 2006 midterm elections, Asian Americans had to overcome numerous obstacles to exercise their right to vote. AALDEF volunteers identified interpreter shortages that led to Asian American voters being turned away and poll workers who made hostile and racist remarks about Asian American voters. AALDEF will guard against the disenfranchisement of new citizens and limited English proficient voters."

AALDEF and APALRC are partnering with several groups to mobilize volunteer attorneys, law students, college students and community activists on Election Day:

### National Co-Sponsors

Asian Pacific Islander American (APIA) Vote!  
Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance  
Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights  
National Asian American Association of Professionals  
National Asian Pacific American Bar Association  
National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum  
Nat'l Korean American Service and Education Consortium  
North American South Asian Bar Association  
OCA  
South Asian Americans Leading Together

### Local Co-Sponsors:

American Univ. College of Law, Human Rights Clinic  
Asian American LEAD – DC  
Asian Pacific American Bar Association of Greater DC  
Conference for Asian Pacific American Leadership – DC  
Coalition of Asian Pacific American of Virginia  
Korean American Coalition – DC  
Korean Community Service Center of Greater DC  
National Association of Korean Americans – DC  
South Asian Bar Association of DC  
Univ. of Maryland, Asian American Studies Program  
Vietnamese American Initiative for Development – MD  
Vietnamese American Mutual Association – MD

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The Asian Pacific American Legal Resource Center (APALRC) is the DC region's nonprofit legal advocate dedicated to advancing the legal and civil rights of low-income and limited English proficient Asian Pacific Americans through direct legal services, community education, and advocacy.

The Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF), founded in 1974, is a national organization that protects and promotes the civil rights of Asian Americans. By combining litigation, advocacy, education and organizing, AALDEF works with Asian American communities across the country to secure human rights for all.

**APALRC/AALDEF Exit Poll Locations**

November 4, 2008

**MARYLAND** - 7 poll sites

Rockville

Richard Montgomery High School, 250 R. Montgomery Dr.  
St. Elizabeth School, 917 Montrose Road

Silver Spring

Westover Elementary School, 401 Hawkesbury Lane  
Galway Elementary, 12612 Galway Driver  
White Oak Middle School, 12201 New Hampshire Ave

Gaithersburg

Lakeland Park Middle School, 1200 Main Street  
WSSC Gaithersburg Depot, 111 W. Diamond Ave.

**WASHINGTON, DC** – 2 poll sites

Chinatown

MLK Library, 901 G Street

Columbia Heights

Church, 16th St. & Oak St., NW

**VIRGINIA** – 13 poll sites

Annandale, Fairfax Co.

Annandale Fire Station, Co. #8, 7128 Columbia Pike, Annandale

Falls Church, Fairfax Co.

Baileys Elementary School, 6111 Knollwood Dr.

Arlington Co.

Central Library, 1015 North Quincy Street, Virginia Square

Springfield, Fairfax Co.

Garfield Elementary School, 7101 Old Keene Mill Rd., Springfield  
West Springfield High School, 6100 Rolling Rd., Springfield

Fairfax, Fairfax Co.

Mosby Woods Elementary School, 9819 Five Oaks Rd., Fairfax  
Fairhill Elementary School, 3001 Chichester Lane, Fairfax

Centreville, Fairfax Co.

Centreville Adult Education Center, 5775 Spindle Ct., Centreville

Arlington Co.

Fire Station #10, 1559 Wilson Blvd., Rosslyn

Henrico Co.

Deep Run High School, 4801 Twin Hickory Road, Glen Allen

Chesterfield Co.

Midlothian High School, 401 Charter Colony Parkway, Midlothian VA

Virginia Beach

Kempsville Presbyterian Church, 805 Kempsville Rd., Virginia Beach, VA  
Providence Elementary School, 4968 Providence Rd., Virginia Beach, VA