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CITY COUNCIL

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June 19, 2014

Thank you for being a registered voter. Although there are more than 51,000 Asian Americans who are U.S. citizens residing in Philadelphia, only a small fraction are both voters and identified as "Asian American". Unfortunately, because this number is small, it adversely affects the services that are provided to the community and that, in turn, limit's our city's growth and prosperity.

On May 5th, my office initiated a historic 21-day Asian American Voter Registration Drive. Over 74 volunteers committed their time to registering new Asian American voters throughout Philadelphia. We'll do this every year.

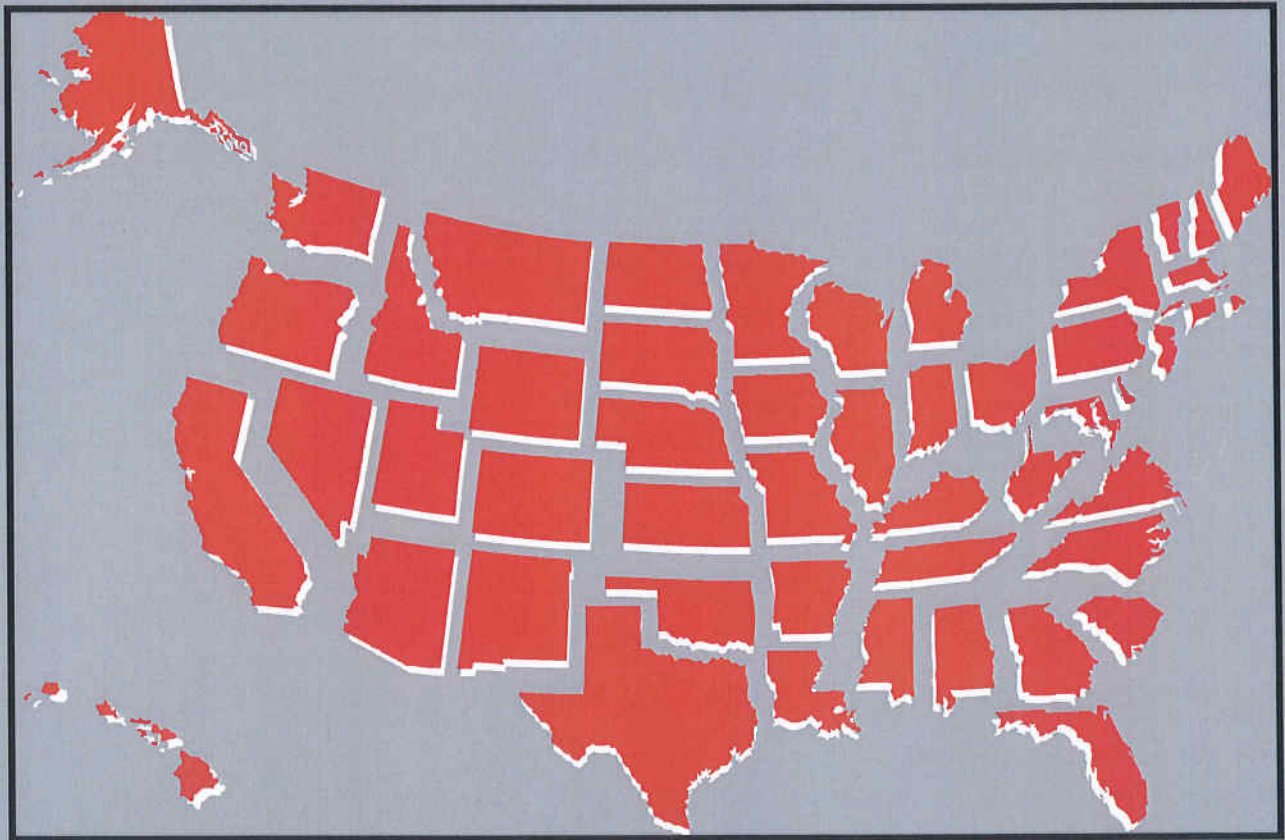
We need your help to let other Asian Americans know how important it is to be engaged in the life of our city by voting. Please encourage your fellow Asian Americans by getting family and friends involved. Have them write in "Asian" on the voter registration forms. Translated voter registration forms are currently available in Korean, Vietnamese, Chinese, Tagalog and Japanese. We'll add more languages as soon as we can. If you need translated material concerning voter registration, please contact my office at (215) 686-3452.

Our voices are stronger when we lift them together. Let's make Philadelphia a better city for us all.

Sincerely,

David Oh
Councilman At-Large

Register To Vote In Your State
By Using This
Postcard Form and Guide



For U.S. Citizens

Top Reasons Why Voter Registration Is Important

1. Your Opinion Matters

Your vote is your voice as an American citizen. It's your opportunity to be heard, to hold elected officials accountable for their decisions and to have a say in important issues that affect your community. On Election Day, every vote matters.

2. You Should Vote Because You Can

Voting is a tremendous gift. Believe it or not, young people just like you in other countries actually fight and even die for this right; a right that so many youth in democratic nations take for granted. You should vote because you can, if you don't you may one day wake up in a country where you can't.

3. Democracy Only Works If Its citizens, young and old, are active participants

A government by the people, for the people just can't work without the people. This is a simple fact; a democracy without voters is just a shell and has no power. While it is easy to say "one vote doesn't make a difference" the reality is that every vote counts. Also you have to remember that as an individual your vote may seem to be little more than a whisper but when your vote is combined with the votes of others who share your views it becomes a voice and the more like-voters there are the louder that voice grows.

4. Voting can change communities

Do you ever wonder why one neighborhood gets passed over for things it needs, while another seems to get it all? One big reason is voting. When we vote, we can get results that we can actually see.

5. Voting is a way of honoring our history

As long as our country has existed, there have been people who didn't want us to vote. There were several freedom fighters that stood up for the right to vote. Well, those times may seem ancient, but there are still people today who don't want us to vote. It's now our turn to stand up and vote to preserve the honor of those who went before us.

6. If you don't vote you really have no right to complain about government decisions you don't like

If you don't vote it is like saying you don't care how your country is run, so if you don't care where do you get the idea that you can complain when something happens that you don't like? If you don't vote you really have no right complaining

about anything the government does. If you want the right to complain to the powers that be when they make a controversial or disagreeable decisions, you should exercise your right to vote.

7. Vote to represent children

Because our children can't vote, we have to do it for them. That's how we make our concerns about schools, safety, housing, and other issues heard. When we vote, we are looking out for our kids, and their futures.

8. Registering to Vote Is Easy

It only takes a few steps and a few minutes to register. It's also free.

9. Be informed

Register and vote for the candidates who share your opinion on the issue you care about most. Registering could be a stepping stone to learn more about the political world.

10. Vote to Effect Change

It was through elections that we voted in officials who were champions for civil rights.

Voting is our chance to make a difference in our own lives and within the world.

Frequently Asked Questions When Registering To Vote in PA

1. Q: In regards to the Voter ID Law, what are acceptable forms of photo ID?

A: There are a number of acceptable forms of photo ID that you may use when voting. View a complete list and description of [acceptable IDs](#).

Q: Will I be required to show a photo ID when I vote?

A: No. Voters will be asked, but not required, to show an acceptable photo ID at the polls.

Q: If I do not currently have an acceptable photo ID, will I be charged by PennDOT or the Department of State to obtain one?

A: No. Photo IDs for voting purposes are FREE of charge.

Q: In regards to the Voter ID Law, what if I have a religious objection to being photographed?

A: You can still vote by presenting a valid without-photo driver's license or a valid without-photo ID card issued by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT).

Q: Who can vote in Pennsylvania?

A: Pennsylvania citizens are eligible to vote if they are at least 18 years old, have been a U.S. Citizen for at least one month and have lived in Pennsylvania and their election district for at least 30 days. [Learn more about voter registration requirements](#).

Q: How do I register to vote?

A: There are a number of ways you can register to vote, including downloading a form, in person, by mail, at PennDOT or at government agencies. [Learn more about how to register to vote](#).

Q: How do I find my polling place?

A: If you are a registered voter in Pennsylvania, your polling place will appear on your confirmation issued by the County Voter Registration Office. You can also locate your polling place online. [Locate your polling place](#).

Q: When is my polling place open?

A: In Pennsylvania, polls are open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Q: Who may vote by absentee ballot?

A: People who may opt to cast an absentee ballot include college students, those with a physical disability or illness that prevents them from going to the polling place, members of the military, or people who may have a conflict due to the celebration of a religious holiday. Learn more about [absentee ballots](#).

Q: What is an alternative ballot?

A: An alternative ballot is a paper ballot that is completed as an alternative to physically going to the polling place. Any registered voter who has a disability OR who is 65 years of age or older, regardless of disability and who has been assigned to a polling place that has been designated "inaccessible" by the County Board of Elections, has the right to vote by an alternative ballot. Learn more about [alternative ballots](#).

Q: I'm unsure of whether I am registered to vote – how can I find out?

A: You can determine your registration status online or contact your County Board of Elections. [Confirm your registration online](#).

12. Q: How can I get more familiar with the voting system used in my county?

A: You can view an online demonstration of the type of voting system used in your zip code or county. [View voting system demonstrations](#).

Q: What is HAVA?

A: In an effort to correct the problems encountered during the November 2000 Presidential Election, the United States Congress in October 2002 enacted the Help America Vote Act of 2002. HAVA is applicable to all federal elections and outlines seven major requirements:

Creates standards for all voting systems used by the states.

Requires voting systems to be accessible to individuals with disabilities and those using alternative languages.

Requires the use of provisional ballots.

Implements identification requirements for those who vote for the first time after registering by mail.

Requires states to create a list of all registered voters and to update it regularly.

Provides for a board to establish standards for what constitutes a vote.

Requires states to conduct election system programs for voters with disabilities.

General Instructions

Who Can Use this Application

If you are a U.S. citizen who lives or has an address within the United States, you can use the application in this booklet to:

- Register to vote in your State,
- Report a change of name to your voter registration office,
- Report a change of address to your voter registration office, or
- Register with a political party.

Exceptions

Please do not use this application if you live outside the United States and its territories and have no home (legal) address in this country, *or* if you are in the military stationed away from home. Use the Federal Postcard Application available to you from military bases, American embassies, or consular offices.

New Hampshire town and city clerks will accept this application only as a request for their own absentee voter mail-in registration form.

North Dakota does not have voter registration.

Wyoming law does not permit mail registration.

How to Find Out If You Are Eligible to Register to Vote in Your State

Each State has its own laws about who may register and vote. Check the information under your State in the State Instructions. All States require that you be a United States citizen by birth or naturalization to register to vote in federal and State elections. Federal law makes it illegal to falsely claim U.S. citizenship to register to vote in any federal, State, or local election. You **cannot** be registered to vote in more than one place at a time.

How to Fill Out this Application

Use both the Application Instructions and State Instructions to guide you in filling out the application.

- First, read the Application Instructions. These instructions will give you important information that applies to everyone using this application.
- Next, find your State under the State Instructions. Use these instructions to fill out Boxes 6, 7, and refer to these instructions for information about voter eligibility and any oath required for Box 9.

When to Register to Vote

Each State has its own deadline for registering to vote. Check the deadline for your State on the last page of this booklet.

How to Submit Your Application

Mail your application to the address listed under your State in the State Instructions. Or, deliver the application in person to your local voter registration office. The States that are required to accept the national form will accept copies of the application printed from the computer image on regular paper stock, signed by the applicant, and mailed in an envelope with the correct postage.

First Time Voters Who Register by Mail

If you are registering to vote for the first time in your jurisdiction and are mailing this registration application, Federal law requires you to show proof of identification the first time you vote. Proof of identification includes:

- A current and valid photo identification or
- A current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck or government document that shows your name and address.

Voters may be exempt from this requirement if they submit a **COPY** of this identification with their mail in voter registration form. If you wish to submit a **COPY**, please keep the following in mind:

- Your state may have additional identification requirements which may mandate you show identification at the polling place even if you meet the Federal proof of identification.
- Do not submit original documents with this application, only **COPIES**.

If You Were Given this Application in a State Agency or Public Office

If you have been given this application in a State agency or public office, it is your choice to use the application. If you decide to use this application to register to vote, you can fill it out and leave it with the State agency or public office. The application will be submitted for you. Or, you can take it with you to mail to the address listed under your State in the State Instructions. You also may take it with you to deliver in person to your local voter registration office.

Note: The name and location of the State agency or public office where you received the application will remain confidential. It will not appear on your application. Also, if you decide not to use this application to register to vote, that decision will remain confidential. It will not affect the service you receive from the agency or office.

Application Instructions

Before filling out the body of the form, please answer the questions on the top of the form as to whether you are a United States citizen and whether you will be 18 years old on or before Election Day. If you answer no to either of these questions, you may not use this form to register to vote. However, state specific instructions may provide additional information on eligibility to register to vote prior to age 18.

Box 1 — Name

Put in this box your full name in this order — Last, First, Middle. Do not use nicknames or initials.

Note: If this application is for a change of name, please tell us in **Box A** (*on the bottom half of the form*) your full name before you changed it.

Box 2 — Home Address

Put in this box your home address (legal address). Do **not** put your mailing address here if it is different from your home address. Do **not** use a post office box or rural route without a box number. Refer to state-specific instructions for rules regarding use of route numbers.

Note: If you were registered before but this is the first time you are registering from the address in Box 2, please tell us in **Box B** (*on the bottom half of the form*) the address where you were registered before. Please give us as much of the address as you can remember.

Also Note: If you live in a rural area but do not have a street address, or if you have no address, please show where you live using the map in Box C (*at the bottom of the form*).

Box 3 — Mailing Address

If you get your mail at an address that is different from the address in Box 2, put your mailing address in this box. If you have no address in Box 2, you **must** write in Box 3 an address where you can be reached by mail.

Box 4 — Date of Birth

Put in this box your date of birth in this order — Month, Day, Year. *Be careful not to use today's date!*

Box 5 — Telephone Number

Most States ask for your telephone number in case there are questions about your application. However, you do not have to fill in this box.

Box 6 — ID Number

Federal law requires that states collect from each registrant an identification number. You must refer to your state's specific instructions for item 6 regarding information on what number is acceptable for your state. If you have neither a drivers license nor a social security number, please indicate this on the form and a number will be assigned to you by your state.

Box 7 — Choice of Party

In some States, you must register with a party if you want to take part in that party's primary election, caucus, or convention. To find out if your State requires this, see item 7 in the instructions under your State.

If you want to register with a party, print in the box the full name of the party of your choice.

If you do not want to register with a party, write "no party" or leave the box blank. Do not write in the word "independent" if you mean "no party," because this might be confused with the name of a political party in your State.

Note: If you do not register with a party, you can still vote in general elections and nonpartisan (nonparty) primary elections.

Box 8 — Race or Ethnic Group

A few States ask for your race or ethnic group, in order to administer the Federal Voting Rights Act. To find out if your State asks for this information, see item 8 in the instructions under your State. If so, put in Box 8 the choice that best describes you from the list below:

- American Indian or Alaskan Native
- Asian or Pacific Islander
- Black, *not* of Hispanic Origin
- Hispanic
- Multi-racial
- White, *not* of Hispanic Origin
- Other

Box 9 — Signature

Review the information in item 9 in the instructions under your State. Before you sign or make your mark, make sure that:

- (1) You meet your State's requirements, and
- (2) You understand **all** of Box 9.

Finally, sign your **full** name or make your mark, and print today's date in this order — Month, Day, Year. If the applicant is unable to sign, put in **Box D** the name, address, and telephone number (optional) of the person who helped the applicant.

Voter Registration Application

Before completing this form, review the General, Application, and State specific instructions.

Are you a citizen of the United States of America? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Will you be 18 years old on or before election day? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If you checked "No" in response to either of these questions, do not complete form. (Please see state-specific instructions for rules regarding eligibility to register prior to age 18.)		This space for office use only.		
1	<input type="checkbox"/> Mr. <input type="checkbox"/> Miss <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs. <input type="checkbox"/> Ms.	Last Name	First Name	Middle Name(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Jr <input type="checkbox"/> II <input type="checkbox"/> Sr <input type="checkbox"/> III <input type="checkbox"/> IV
2	Home Address		Apt. or Lot #	City/Town
3	Address Where You Get Your Mail If Different From Above			State
4	Date of Birth		Telephone Number (optional)	ID Number - (See item 6 in the instructions for your state)
5	Month	Day	Year	
6	Choice of Party <small>(see item 7 in the instructions for your State)</small>		Race or Ethnic Group <small>(see item 8 in the instructions for your State)</small>	
7				
8				
9	I have reviewed my state's instructions and I swear/affirm that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I am a United States citizen • I meet the eligibility requirements of my state and subscribe to any oath required. • The information I have provided is true to the best of my knowledge under penalty of perjury. If I have provided false information, I may be fined, imprisoned, or (if not a U.S. citizen) deported from or refused entry to the United States. 		Please sign full name (or put mark) ▲ _____ Date: _____ Month Day Year	

If you are registering to vote for the first time: please refer to the application instructions for information on submitting copies of valid identification documents with this form.

Please fill out the sections below if they apply to you.

If this application is for a change of name, what was your name before you changed it?

A	<input type="checkbox"/> Mr. <input type="checkbox"/> Miss <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs. <input type="checkbox"/> Ms.	Last Name	First Name	Middle Name(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Jr <input type="checkbox"/> II <input type="checkbox"/> Sr <input type="checkbox"/> III <input type="checkbox"/> IV
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If you were registered before but this is the first time you are registering from the address in Box 2, what was your address where you were registered before?

B	Street (or route and box number)	Apt. or Lot #	City/Town/County	State	Zip Code
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If you live in a rural area but do not have a street number, or if you have no address, please show on the map where you live.

C	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Write in the names of the crossroads (or streets) nearest to where you live. • Draw an X to show where you live. • Use a dot to show any schools, churches, stores, or other landmarks near where you live, and write the name of the landmark. 	NORTH												
	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 25%;">Example</td> <td style="width: 5%;"></td> <td style="width: 25%;">Grocery Store</td> <td style="width: 45%;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Route #2</td> <td>Woodchuck Road</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Public School •</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td style="text-align: center;">X</td> </tr> </table>	Example		Grocery Store			Route #2	Woodchuck Road		Public School •			X	
Example		Grocery Store												
	Route #2	Woodchuck Road												
Public School •			X											

If the applicant is unable to sign, who helped the applicant fill out this application? Give name, address and phone number (phone number optional).

D	
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Mail this application to the address provided for your State.