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Chinese American Citizens Alliance

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1044 Stockton Street, San Francisco, California 94108 • Telephone/Fax (415)829-9332

National Lodge
ESTABLISHED 1895

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Chinese American Citizens Alliance Celebrates National Voter Registration Day as an Exercise of Citizenship and an Opportunity for Civic Unity

San Francisco, September 26, 2017—Today, the Chinese American Citizens Alliance (C.A.C.A.) joins the observance and celebration of National Voter Registration Day. Since 2012, National Voter Registration Day has been held on the fourth Tuesday of September and has grown in popularity as a national holiday celebrating American democracy.

Thousands of volunteers and organizations are mobilized on a single day to facilitate voter outreach across the 50 states through community and public events and technology- and media-driven efforts. The objective is to assist the millions of Americans who find themselves unable to vote because they missed a registration deadline, have not updated their registration, or are unfamiliar with the registration process.

“The history of marginalization against Chinese Americans through legislative action shows us the importance of the vote in a democratic society,” states C.A.C.A. National President Davace Chin. “From the time of the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, Chinese Americans suffered injustices resulting from deliberate efforts to deny them citizenship and its privileges, such as the right to vote.”

In 1943, Congress passed the Chinese Exclusion Repeal Act, which lifted the Federal policies that had barred immigrants of Asian descent from entry into the United States and a path toward naturalization. The Immigration and Nationality Act of 1952, also known as the McCarran–Walter Act, eliminated race as a basis for naturalization. Passed in 1965, the Immigration and Naturalization Act (Hart-Celler) created the current immigration system, focusing on family relationships with citizens or U.S. residents and on immigrants’ skills.

The passage of the Voting Rights Act signed into law by President Lyndon Johnson in 1965 prohibited racial discrimination in voting. However, this had not prevented legislative attempts to discriminate against minority and new voters by restricting voting rights and access. National Voter Registration Day is promoted as a day of civic unity and an opportunity to set aside differences and celebrate democracy and the rights and opportunities shared by all Americans. For more information on National Voter Registration Day, visit nationalvoterregistrationday.org.

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The Chinese American Citizens Alliance, established in 1895, is among the oldest civil rights organizations in the United States. Headquartered in San Francisco with chapter/lodges in Albuquerque (NM), Boston (MA), Chicago (IL), Greater San Gabriel Valley (CA), Greater New York (NY), Houston (TX), Las Vegas (NV), Los Angeles (CA), Mississippi, Oakland (CA), Peninsula (CA), Portland (OR), Phoenix (AZ), Salinas (CA), San Antonio (TX), San Francisco (CA), Seattle (WA) and Washington, D.C., the Alliance addresses issues regarding voter education, political participation, racial discrimination and hate crimes, youth leadership training programs and equal employment opportunities for all Chinese Americans.