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# Chinese American Citizens Alliance

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**National Lodge**  
ESTABLISHED 1895

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**DATE: November 6, 2018**

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## **C.A.C.A. Encourages Exercising the Right to Vote on Election Day**

San Francisco – Tuesday, November 6, is Election Day across the nation. While it was reported that more than 36 million Americans have already voting early by mail, millions more will cast their ballots when polls in their communities open to vote for or against new laws, new taxes and elected representatives on national, state and local levels. The Chinese American Citizens Alliance (C.A.C.A.) strongly encourages all eligible Americans to exercise one of the most fundamental and hard-won rights of a democratic society.

“The eligibility to vote was granted by the Constitution but for minority residents in the United States, citizenship would not come easy,” states C.A.C.A. National President Davace Chin. “For Chinese Americans, the right to vote was confronted by institutional racism enforced by legislation.”

Federal curbs on Chinese immigration to the U.S. became official in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century with the government’s passage of the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882. The legislation barred Chinese from entering the U.S. and denied them the right to become citizens, which effectively denied them the vote. This was not corrected for the Chinese until the Magnuson Act of 1943, but a spin-off of the exclusion remained for Asians in the immigration law as “aliens ineligible for citizenship” until the McCarran-Walter Act of 1952.

Recent challenges to landmark protections afforded through the Voting Rights Act of 1965, which was aimed at ending racial discrimination in voting, herald troubling times ahead for universal enfranchisement. Says Mr. Chin: “Today when we go to our polling stations to vote, we are fulfilling a principal tenet of the Alliance’s Purposes and Objectives: practicing and defending American citizenship and American patriotism.”

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Web: [www.CACAnational.org](http://www.CACAnational.org)  
Chinese American Citizens Alliance

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, and supports youth leadership training programs and equal employment opportunities for all Chinese Americans.