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Obama Volunteers Help with Voter Registration

With presidential candidate Obama's success in the presidential race becoming increasingly clear, his campaign office has begun to mobilize for the general election ahead. On May 10, Obama's New York campaign office held a city-wide "Vote for Change" event, with many Obama volunteers of Chinese descent dispersed between Manhattan and Flushing setting up temporary voter registration locations, in order to help voters of Chinese descent register to vote. At these locations were Chinese, Korean, and English language versions of the voter registration instructions so as to allow more people of Asian Pacific descent to register to vote, and thus increase voter turnout.

Obama campaign's temporary voter registration coordinator Fan Kailing [Caroline Fan?] said that because many people of Asian descent are very busy and also because there is a language barrier, they give up upon their precious right to vote. Thus, the campaign coordinated with Asian American festivals and events to set up voter registration locations, with bilingual volunteers to help people of Asian descent fill out the voter registration forms and to provide relevant information to voters. More than 10 people filled out new voter registration forms.

Fan Kailing pointed out that Obama understands not only the needs of the residents of the community and the issues that disadvantaged and minority groups bravely face but also, for people of Chinese descent concerned with health insurance and small-business development, Obama holds the same views as them. When he becomes president he will be able to attend to the needs and welfare of the Chinese community.

For nineteen year old Miss Wu, who came to America from China eight years ago, this is her first time voting. She thought that having temporary voter registration locations that provide correct information to the people and clarify the voting process helped a great deal. Before leaving, she took four voter registration forms in order to help her family members register to vote.