



To: Campaign Finance Board  
From: Taehyo Park, Executive Director of KALCA  
Date: Dec. 12, 2005  
Re: Written Submission of Comments

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Dear Members of the Board,

In the capacity of the executive director of the Korean American League for Civic Action and on behalf of the Korean American Voters' Council in cooperation with Asian American Legal Defense & Education Fund and Young Korean American Service and Education Center, I wish to deliver the following comments regarding the results of the Campaign Finance Board's efforts.

First, KALCA wishes to sincerely commend and support the efforts made by the CFB during election time in the past year. The translated materials in Chinese and Korean languages provided by the CFB have proven to be very effective in not only aiding the minority voters but creating incentives to participate. The subway advertisements on No.7 train displayed in multiple languages is one example that had a strong effect on drawing the attention of minorities to vote. We have heard that there have been some counter arguments regarding the necessity of these translated materials and voter guides. While we do understand the logic of those arguments that English should stand as the primary official language in use for public procedures, we think these arguments are misleading. It is ideal and desirable for all voters to be able to speak, read and write in English. However, the long term goal of educating minorities to overcome the language barrier should not be confused with the solutions offered by CFB for the immediate need of minority voters. New York City is still the world's center of immigration with an ever-growing population of Asian Americans. Whether they are first, 1.5 or second generation who speak English or not, the Korean and Asian American voters (and for that matter all voters from minority groups) are exercising their rights as American citizens and they regard voting as one of the few occasions they can assert their voices realizing the idea of American democracy. They are good and hard working American citizens who carry out their duties and responsibilities forming essential parts of the fabric of this society. They are earnest taxpayers showing faith in the government to secure their rights. Thus, KALCA urges the Campaign Finance Board to continue on its efforts in providing translated materials to ensure that the voices of all voters are properly heard.

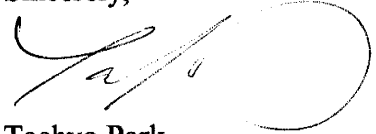
Korean American League for Civic Action,  
Inc.

149 West 24<sup>th</sup> Street, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, New York, NY 10011 • ☎ 212.633.2000 📠 212.633..0707 ✉ info@kalca.org

On those lines, while KALCA does believe the on-line voter guide is an effective tool, we recommend that the CFB provide translated versions of the essentials into multiple languages. Also, KALCA recommends that the Voter Guide should include other languages as well. In these matters KALCA and the Korean American Voters' Council assure that it will be in its utmost cooperation to improve the system through continuous voter education and new initiatives.

Once, again, we wish to thank the CFB for its continuous efforts, and during the difficult time which New York City will face in the following years due to new legislations and following systematic changes, I believe CFB can play one of the most vital roles in helping New York City voters equally secure their rights.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Taehyo Park', written over a faint circular stamp or seal.

Taehyo Park  
Executive Director

Korean American League for Civic Action,  
Inc.

149 West 24<sup>th</sup> Street, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, New York, NY 10011 • ☎ 212.633.2000 ☎ 212.633.0707 ✉ info@kalca.org