

Asian American Community Coalition on Redistricting and Democracy

Established July 2011

Principles of Coalition

The Asian American Community Coalition on Redistricting and Democracy (ACCORD) is a non-partisan coalition of organizations and individuals committed to advancing the opportunities of Asian Pacific American and minority communities to meaningfully participate in the political process. ACCORD recognizes that redistricting plays a pivotal and fundamental role in these opportunities, and supports redistricting plans that keep together communities of interest that exist in and around ethnic neighborhoods across New York.

ACCORD affirms the following statements:

- ☐ New York State's redistricting processes have historically not resulted in elections where communities of color, including those of Asian Pacific Americans, have the opportunity to meaningfully participate in the political process and to elect representatives of their choice.
- ☐ Current district lines rarely reflect the compact neighborhoods and communities of interest where Asian Pacific Americans reside. In fact, many current district lines divide such neighborhoods and communities of interest into multiple districts and result in vote dilution for the minorities in those areas.
- ☐ By their nature, ethnic communities are likely to be communities of interest – and district plans should reflect this dynamic. These neighborhoods, or portions of these neighborhoods, contain residents sharing economic, social, political, cultural, linguistic, and educational concerns that deserve to be reflected in the results of the redistricting process.
- ☐ We expect our elected officials to uphold the Voting Rights Act of 1965, and consequently, in light of that Act, support district maps that keep together the communities of interest that exist either wholly or partly in, but are not limited to, the following neighborhoods:
 - o Elmhurst, Jackson Heights and Woodside
 - o Flushing, Bayside, Murray Hill, East Flushing and Queensboro Hill
 - o Sunset Park and Bensonhurst
 - o Richmond Hill and South Ozone Park
 - o Queens Village, Bellerose, Floral Park and Glen Oaks
 - o Briarwood and Jamaica Hills
 - o Chinatown and Lower East Side
- ☐ Any commission, task force or body responsible for New York State's redistricting process must act in a manner that is transparent and accountable to the people of New York. At a minimum, this should include printed materials and a website – each with translations or interpretation in compliance with the Voting Rights Act and Title VI – that offer the following:
 - o Detailed explanation of the agency's process of redistricting, including criteria used for drawing district lines
 - o Agency's timeline and schedule for redistricting
 - o Announcements of public hearings made no less than 90 days before the event
 - o Maps and data for proposed districts available no less than 90 days before public hearings

In addition, the locations, dates and times of public hearings should be arranged to maximize the public's participation.

ACCORD Members

As of 6/21/12

Asian American Bar Association of New York, Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund, Asian Pacific Americans for Progress New York, Chhaya Community Development Corporation, Chinese Progressive Association, Indo-Caribbean Alliance, Korean Americans for Political Advancement, Korean Community Services of Metropolitan New York, MinKwon Center for Community Action, OCA-NY, Queensboro Hill Neighborhood Association, Taking Our Seat, United Chinese Association of Brooklyn, YWCA of Queens, Dr. Carol Huang