



August 18, 2020

Mr. Dean Logan
Los Angeles County Registrar-Recorder/County Clerk
12400 Imperial Highway
Norwalk, CA 90650

**Ensure Fair and Transparent Voting in the
November 2020 Elections for Korean American Voters**

Dear Mr. Logan:

Recently, Korean American voters faced: **(1)** 1,098 erroneous Korean-language sample ballots distributed for the primary election (CD 10), and **(2)** insufficient instructions on all Korean-language absentee ballots resulting in voter confusion and voter suppression during the 2020 March primary elections. As such, it is critical for the County to implement extra measures to plan, review and ensure a fair and transparent voting system for the upcoming November 2020 elections.

The Korean American Coalition - Los Angeles and our partner organizations¹ respectfully ask for your cooperation and commitment to:

- Provide the results of the investigation during the 2020 March elections detailing why and how 1,098 erroneous Korean language sample ballots were printed and mailed to only Korean-American voters.
- Hold accountable County employee(s) and the vendor responsible for the lack of careful review to distribute erroneous sample ballots affecting key Korean American candidates for the last 3 years. [Note that for the 2017 April elections and 2020 March elections, Korean-language erroneously-printed sample ballots were mailed out.]
- Develop an action plan working with the same/new vendor on how to prevent such a mistake from reoccurring to Korean American voters and other minority voters in the future.
- Ensure Korean-language sample ballots be distributed on the same timeline as English-language sample ballots accurate in translation of information and instructions.

¹ *Organizations in support: Anti Defamation League, Korean American Bar Association of Southern California, Asian Americans Advancing Justice Los Angeles, Center for Asian Americans United for Self Empowerment (CAUSE)



[Note that for the 2020 March elections, Korean-language sample ballots are received barely a week before the elections- insufficient time to review, understand and fill out ballots.]

Both the Supreme Court of the United States and the Supreme Court of California have made clear that “[t]he right to vote freely for the candidate of one's choice is of the essence of a democratic society, and any restrictions on that right strike at the heart of representative government.”² The Voting Rights Act protects the right to “vote freely,” and prohibits any “standard, practice, or procedure”³ that limits the opportunities of a class of citizens to participate in the political process and to elect representatives of their choice.⁴ Tragically, the County’s past efforts with regards to Korean Americans and others did exactly that.

We trust that the County will take these matters into serious consideration and take measurable actions to prevent voter irregularities from reoccurring in the Korean American community.

Sincerely,

Eunice Hur Song
Executive Director

Jeffrey I. Abrams
Regional Director



² [*See Peterson v. City of San Diego*, 34 Cal.3d 225, 230 \(1983\) \(quoting *Reynolds v. Sims*, 377 U.S. 533, 555 \(1964\)\).](#)

³ [*See* 52 U.S.C. § 10301\(a\).](#)

⁴ [*See* 52 U.S.C. § 10301\(b\).](#)



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Center for Asian Americans United for Self Empowerment