

Asian Americans For Jesse Jackson

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Steering Committee*

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ASIANS CONTRIBUTE TO JESSE JACKSON'S WIN IN NEW YORK CITY

REFLECTS GROWING ASIAN POLITICAL PRESENCE

"Asian Americans for Jesse Jackson is proud to have been part of the process of building bridges in our city," said Rockwell Chin, spokesperson for Asian Americans for Jesse Jackson, "Working together with the different ethnic communities within the larger Asian population, we were able to help move the campaign forward in voter education, fundraising, and getting out the vote."

"We won the multicultural capital of the world," declared Jesse Jackson at his campaign celebration on Tuesday, April 19, 1988. The New York campaign brought together a coalition of many diverse groups, from labor to Latinos, from youth to senior citizens.

Through two Super Tuesday houseparties held by Asian Americans in New York, a reception organized by Korean Americans For Better Racial Relations, and a banquet sponsored by the Chinese American Political Action Association in Flushing, Asian Americans for Jesse Jackson amassed over \$130,000 (including matching funds) for New Yorkers for Jesse Jackson.

On April 19, the day of the New York Primary, Asian Americans for Jesse Jackson volunteers covered over 20 Electoral Districts that carry the most registered Asian voters in the 61st and 62nd Assembly Districts in Manhattan. Garment workers, students, teachers, and other working people helped open and close voting places, and watched the polls so that many first-time Chinatown residents could exercise their right to vote. Other volunteers gave out leaflets and palm cards, and rode in sound trucks urging people in Chinese and English to get out and vote.

*For identification purposes only.

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Jackson won in the 62nd Assembly District, which covers half of Chinatown and part of the Lower East Side in Manhattan. He ran a close race with Michael Dukakis in the polling sites covered by Asian Americans for Jesse Jackson. Jackson delegates May Ying Chen and alternate delegate Leslee Inaba Wong pulled a significant number of votes, but it will be several weeks before the delegate election and selection process is completed.

On the eve of the primary, Jesse Jackson stopped in Chinatown at the NY Chinatown Senior Citizens Coalition Center, and was greeted by over 600 spirited Asians, including Chinese and Japanese seniors, young students from neighborhood schools, youth, and working people.

Asian Americans for Jesse Jackson activities attracted coverage from local, national, and even Japanese, Taiwanese, Canadian and European print and television media.

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