

80-20 Marks 10th Anniversary Today!

By Dr. Edward Lin, Founding Patron, Life Member and 80-20 Board Member

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A DECADE OF POLITICAL EMPOWERMENT BEARS FRUIT

Ten years ago today in 1999, 80-20 Initiative was born—based on a vision that in spite of being a small minority group, Asian Americans (AsAm) CAN flex a BIG political muscle through unity and bloc voting. Against all odds, 80-20's Founders and early supporters faced mountain-sized challenges and a near-impossible goal. Undeterred by ridicule, obstacles and attacks from detractors and naysayers, they steadfastly pushed forward by sheer will and faith. And made history.

COMPARED TO NATIONAL AVERAGE, AsAm HAVE THE LEAST CHANCE (45%) OF RISING TO MANAGEMENT RANKS in private industries, universities and the Federal government despite having the highest educational attainment. . See: http://www.80-20initiative.net/action/equalopp_washingtonpost_wpad.asp

Out of the 864 federal judges, only 8 (0.9% instead of 5%) are AsAm even though we have proportionally more legal professionals and scholars.

80-20 has steadfastly engaged in principled political battles using carrots and sticks: rewarding politicians who promise to address our rightful civil rights grievances by electing them and defeating those who don't.

In the 2008 Presidential Election, 80-20 made landmark progress in gaining written iron-clad promises from President Obama to take concrete action to remedy the dismal inequality facing AsAm. See: http://www.80-20initiative.net/news/preselect2008_obama.asp

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN AMERICAN HISTORY, an unprecedented number of AsAm are serving our nation at some of the highest levels of government. For example:

Sr. White House Advisor: Peter Rouse (Mother is Japanese American)

Cabinet Secretary: Chris Lu, the point contact person to all the cabinet secretaries.

Steven Chu: Secretary of Energy

General Eric Shinseki: Secretary of Veterans Affairs

Gary Locke, Commerce Secretary;

Aneesh Paul Chopra, Federal Chief Technology Officer

Ivan K. Fong, General Counsel (Deputy Secretary in rank), Homeland Security Dept.

Harold Hongju Koh, Legal Counsel (Deputy Secretary in rank), State Department

Howard Koh, Assistant secretary for Health & Human Services

Rajiv Shah, Chief Scientist USDA & Under Secretary for Research, Education and Economics

Tina Tchen, Executive Dir. of the White House Ofc of Public Engagement

Richard Rahul Verma, Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, State Department

Rajiv Shah, Under Secretary for Research, Educ. & Economics, USDA

Eugene Kang, Special Assistant to the President

Rajen Anand, Exec. Director, USDA Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion (CNPP)

WHEN EXECUTIVE ORDER 11246 IS ENFORCED, we will all stop being second-class citizens; 800,000 AsAm government workers, and many more at universities and private enterprises will finally have a fair shot at promotions based on meritocracy.

HELP ENSURE A BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR OURSELVES AND OUR CHILDREN

As we reflect on the 10th Anniversary of 80-20, let us give thanks to its visionary Founders including Dr. SB Woo (Former Lt. Governor of DE), Dr. Larry Ho (Professor Emeritus of two endowed chairs at Harvard) and the late Dr. Chang-Lin Tien (Chancellor of UC Berkeley). Together, along with steadfast 80-20 supporters like you, we have moved political mountains.

These great AsAm and patriots have shown us a hard-fought birthright and a principled path to equal opportunity—charting our destiny through political empowerment. We must each take the civil rights

challenges and opportunities that face this nation as our own, to make America a more perfect Union.

THE TOUGHEST FIGHT FOR EQUAL OPPORTUNITY HAS ONLY JUST BEGUN.

It requires unity, dollars, commitment and perseverance from ALL of us to get the government to DELIVER what has been promised. If you have been with us in our long struggle, 80-20 expresses its gratitude for your commitment and support.

If not, please do your share and join our Civil Rights Movement!

Become a dues-paying member TODAY at <http://www.80-20initiative.net>

Not sure if you are a member? Find out here:

<http://www.80-20initiative.net/about/membership.asp>

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Equal Opportunity and Justice for ALL Asian Americans

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Encourage Inspire Empower

"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.

We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny.

Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly."

Martin Luther King, Jr.

"You must be the change you wish to see in the world"

Mahatma Gandhi