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Inside this issue :

1. Boston Bilingual Ballots finally became law, it is a Historic Victory.
2. Historical Overview of Chinese Bilingual Ballots in Boston

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Boston Bilingual Ballots finally became law, It is a Historic Victory

Jian Hua Tang

In September 2003, there were some kinds of negative defects in some polling stations. Some voters filed complaints to the City of Boston, and asked for bilingual ballots. In 2005, US Department of Justice comes to Boston to observe the special election and interview voters from different immigrant communities about their voting rights. In October, US District Court finalizes a Memorandum of Agreement between the City of Boston and DOJ to provide increased bilingual assistance to Chinese and Vietnamese-speaking voters, and to launch Chinese and Vietnamese bilingual ballots. However the agreement ended in 2008.

Bilingual Ballots Union led Chinese voters to participate in various lobbying activities. Voters hold a sign with we need bilingual ballots. Even if the weather was bad, voters went to demonstrations, rallies, lobbying government officials. ----- Now, bilingual ballot bill passed by the Massachusetts House of Representatives on July 20th. Bilingual ballot bill pass by Massachusetts Senate on July 21st. An Act Relative to Certain Ballots in the City of Boston signed into law by Governor Deval Patrick and witnessed by members of the Coalition for Asian American Voting Rights. It will take effect next January.

After voters worked hard, Boston bilingual ballot finally became law. It is a historic victory! It is Boston Chinese voters' right to vote.

It is not easy to get the victory, Chinese voters should cherish it, and we should come to vote in the future.



State representative Aaron Michlewitz and Senator Sonia Chang-Diaz celebrated the victory with Chinatown voters.