

How the 80-20 Empowered Asian Americans (Part II) - MabuhayRadio

Written by Dr. S. B. Woo

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The 80-20 has empowered the Asian-American community in two ways. One was to empower us with equal opportunity to rise to our maximal potentials.* The other is to empower our community's spirit. Of the two, the second is paramount. Here is how:

Times were that our community considered the elected officials as our parents, which was a feudal tradition in Asia. We respected and feared them. We were often subservient to them.

Six years ago, a well-known Asian-American political leader publicly and proudly asserted the following: "The ONLY way Asian Americans will become equal citizens of America is if we serve top government officials' election or re-election needs (i.e., give money) with such devotion that they will be moved to help us back." That subservient mentality made many rich Asian-American individuals display pictures with top officials at home which they "bought" with huge amount of money with NO return benefits for our community.

The 80-20 advocates the diametric opposite.

The 80-20's position: In a democracy, officials are public servants regardless of their ranks. We, as voters, are the bosses. If the officials share our rightful concerns, we reward them. Otherwise, we punish them! However, talk is cheap. Other enlightened Asian-American organizations have advocated similar principles.

Where the 80-20 is unique: The 80-20 goes beyond talk. The 80-20 demonstrates to YOU how the above principle works in America's elections.

In the current election, the 80-20 has firmly pressed the presidential candidates, including Senators Clinton and Obama, to make iron-clad commitments to give us equal opportunity, if elected. To see the signed commitments, visit <http://www.80-20initiative.net/news/preselect20>

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That was how the 80-20 has empowered our community, indeed all of us, in spirit. We changed from a subservient mentality toward elected officials to that of a good boss. **

Please do your part. Inform your friends and relatives of this column's message. To give your feedback, visit our poster board at

<http://www.80-20educationalfoundation.org/politicaledu/posterboard.asp> .

* Go to EF's Poster Board to see its last email -- "How the 80-20 Has Empowered Asian Americans - Part I." It talks about "A rising tide raises all ships." Indeed, the 80-20 empowers even those Asian Americans who oppose the 80-20.

** Note that a good boss always respects and understands the difficulties of his/her employees. However, if an employee doesn't share your rightful concerns, then fire the employee. # # #

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