

For Immediate Release
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ETHNIC COMMUNITIES IN VIRGINIA HOST REDISTRICTING SEMINAR IN FAIRFAX

Fairfax, VA - On Friday January 7th, ethnic communities in Virginia will be hosting a Redistricting Seminar at 10:00am at the Fairfax Government Center Board Room, 12000 Fairfax Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, VA 22035.

Chairman Bulova of Fairfax County has graciously agreed to address the public about redistricting process in the state as well as in the county. Among presenters are Deputy Fairfax County Attorney Michael Long, and Mr. David Poole from the Virginia Public Access Project. Mr. James Whitehorne, Assistant Chief of the Redistricting Data Office at the Census Bureau will be offering supporting information. Senator Janet Howell, Chair of the VA Senate Redistricting Committee will be participating in a panel about how the process works. Northern Virginia state Senators and Delegates are invited to meet the public before starting their session in Richmond the second week of January.

While redistricting is an exciting democratic process, it can create lots of anxiety and confusion for uninformed citizens. Redistricting 2011 in Virginia, in particular, is happening in the same year as our 2011 General Assembly Elections. Besides the obvious fact that challenges will arise due to the time constraints, the significant population shifts resulting from foreclosures and anti-immigration laws being applied and enforced in Virginia, the most concern has been clashing of party lines.

Virginia is facing the toughest political balancing act in the country. Bipartisan or nonpartisan redistricting has long been a goal of good-government advocates, as partisan redistricting — in which a majority party can control the process — may lead to fewer competitive districts, lower voter turnout, and a deeper partisan divide among legislators.

The purpose of this community forum is to educate the public of the redistricting process, as well as to keep citizens informed of timelines and accessibilities of data, hearings, committees, to promote transparency and bipartisan redistricting. Ethnic communities also focus on protecting the boundaries of their community of interests.

The organizations hosting this event are Coalition of Asian Pacific Americans in Virginia (CAPAVA), League of Woman Voters of Virginia (LWV-VA), Virginia Coalition of Latino Organizations (VACOLAO), and Voice of Vietnamese Americans (VVA). Together with many other organizations, they have recently hosted The First Virginia Immigrant Advocates Summit on October 27th in Northern Virginia.

The event is free and open to the public. RSVP to redistrictingseminar@gmail.com

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