

Theresa Mah declares victory in 2nd State Rep District

CHICAGO (March 16, 2016)--Progressive independent Democratic candidate Theresa Mah declared victory in the hotly contested primary in the 2nd state representative district on Tuesday night.

“Today, the diverse communities of the 2nd District came together around the simple idea that we all deserve progressive, independent Democratic leadership who will fight for our families’ needs,” said Mah. “This victory is a step on a path of changing what is possible when communities engage in the democratic process to elect leaders who are committed to serving the needs of working families instead of politics-as-usual.”

Mah won with 51.22% percent of the vote, in a ward that includes the Pilsen, Chinatown, Bridgeport, McKinley Park, Brighton Park and Back of the Yards neighborhoods.

Mah thanked her endorsers, including Congressman Luis Gutierrez (D-IL), Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky (D-IL), State Senator Daniel Biss (IL-9), Cook County Commissioner Jesus “Chuy” Garcia, Chicago City Council Latino Caucus Chair Ald. George Cardenas (12), Ald. Susan Sadlowski Garza (10), Ald. Raymond Lopez (15) as well as Ald. Carlos Ramirez-Rosa (35).

Mah Campaign Manager Carl Camacho said the campaign was excited about the record turnout in the 2nd District. More than 20,000 voters casted their ballots, including many first time Chinese Americans. “The 2nd District electorate has an appetite for fresh ideas, independent leadership and progressive policies,” said Camacho. “Together, all neighborhoods of the 2nd District will be represented in Springfield.”

As a child of immigrants, Mah has fought tirelessly for working families, focusing on education, job growth, and immigration reform. As a former senior policy adviser to Gov. Pat Quinn, Mah’s leadership helped to create job and education opportunities for working families including many immigrants. Mah was on faculty at the University of Chicago and as an effective advocate, rallied the Chinese American community to push for single district in the last round of redistricting to gain a more unified voice. Mah also successfully advocated for a new state-of-the-art public library branch and field house in Chinatown and lobbied to successfully restore the 31st Street bus route. As a Local School Council member at Thomas Kelly High School, Mah’s leadership has transformed the lives and improved the academic outcomes of Hispanic and Asian American students.

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