

= Margaret Chin =

Margaret Chin (born May 26 , 1954) is the Council member for the 1st District of the New York City Council . A Democrat , she and Queens Council member Peter Koo comprise the Asian American delegation of the city council .

The district includes all or parts of Battery Park City , Chinatown , Civic Center , East Village , Ellis Island , Financial District , Governors Island , Greenwich Village , Liberty Island , Little Italy , Lower East Side , NoHo , Nolita , SoHo , Tribeca , and the West Village .

= = Life and career = =

Born on May 26 , 1954 in Hong Kong as the third of five children and the only daughter in the family , Chin immigrated to the United States from Hong Kong in 1963 . Her father , who arrived to the U.S. before his family did , was an undocumented worker , working as a waiter in the Bronx ; his experiences inspired her to advocate for immigration reform during her political tenure .

Chin grew up in Chinatown and graduated from the Bronx High School of Science and the City College of New York with a degree in education . She worked for 14 years at LaGuardia Community College 's Division of Adult and Continuing Education . She is married to Alan Tung , a public school teacher . Their son , Kevin , also graduated from the Bronx High School of Science . He completed his studies at Syracuse University , and is now studying photography in Santa Barbara , California .

Chin has been a member of several public service groups and organizations . In 1974 , she was a founding member of Asian Americans for Equality , a group dedicated to " empowering Asian Americans and others in need " , and she served as the board 's president from 1982 to 1986 . She was the chairperson of the New York Immigration Coalition , a policy and advocacy organization which works on issues concerning immigrants and refugees . She was a board member of the Association for Neighborhood and Housing Development , an affordable housing non @-@ profit organization . Chin was also a founding member of the Chinatown Partnership Local Development Corporation , a group that was formed in 2006 to " rebuild Chinatown following 9 / 11 , and to preserve the neighborhood 's unique culture while ensuring its vitality in the future . "

In local and state politics , Chin was a member of Manhattan Community Board 1 and Manhattan Community Board 3 , and was elected to the New York State Democratic Committee for two terms from 1986 to 1990 .

Chin speaks Cantonese , Mandarin , and Taishanese , and has stated that her ethnicity helped her win the district that includes Chinatown . In her words , many new immigrants and seniors do not speak English , and appreciated that they could speak to her directly and " talk to a City Council member without having to go through an interpreter . " Hunter College professor and sociologist Peter Kwong , who has written books on Chinese Americans , said that Chin 's election victory was a " milestone in an increasingly active Asian American community " and a " special moment in Chinatown history " . Margaret Fung , head of Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund , a national Asian American civil rights group , described Chin 's win as a " significant step forward for Asian American political representation " .

= = New York City Council = =

Prior to winning the 2009 city council election , Chin had run and lost in the Democratic Party primary election for the District 1 seat in 1991 , 1993 , and 2001 .

In a primary that had a small turn @-@ out , she won the Democratic nomination with 39 % of the vote , ousting two @-@ term incumbent Alan Gerson . Chin earned 4 @,@ 541 votes to Gerson 's 3 @,@ 520 ; the other three candidates , PJ Kim , Pete Gleason , and Arthur Gregory won 1 @,@ 927 votes , 1 @,@ 293 votes , and 235 votes , respectively . Campaigning on the issues of affordable housing , improving infrastructure , immigration reform , and better services for senior citizens , Chin won the general election held on November 3 against Republican candidate Irene Horvath in a landslide victory , carrying 86 % of the vote .

In 2013 , Council Member Chin ran for reelection for the New York City Council . She received an endorsement from the Stonewall Democratic Club of New York prior to the September 2013 Democratic Party Primary . She was challenged in the primary by Democrat Jenifer Rajkumar , a Lower Manhattan District Leader , in a widely publicized race . Chin won with 58 @. @ 5 % of the vote . Chin is a member of the Progressive Caucus , and the Women 's Caucus . Chin has twice been elected by her colleagues to serve as an executive member of the Black , Latino , and Asian Caucus

= = = Committee assignments = = =

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