



WHAT'S AT STAKE?

Speak out on issues that affect the Asian Pacific Islander American community!

Jobs and the Economy

Many APIA communities continue to suffer from unemployment and underemployment as employment opportunities have decreased nationally in the last four years. Moreover, low wages prevent many APIAs from earning enough income to support their families. This is particularly true for undocumented workers whose legal status is easily exploited by employers. Also, the lack of affordable housing is reaching crisis proportions, particularly in major urban areas and states where the majority of APIAs reside. Your vote can help raise the minimum wage so that it will support our working families, protect against the abuse of undocumented workers, and assure affordable housing opportunities for low-income APIAs.



Health Care

Immigrant communities are in special need of health care services and benefits, as we face multiple barriers in receiving services. Barriers include lack of insurance, lack of trained bilingual service providers, limited availability of trained interpreters, and laws that place extra burdens on immigrants who are here legally but continue to be denied resources. Additionally, we need to protect data collection that tells us which segments of our population need services and programs. Your vote is needed to improve government health programs that serve the needs of our communities.

Immigration

An estimated 1.5 million-plus APIA U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents wait years, sometimes even decades, in order to reunite with their families in the United States. Also, there are roughly one million Asian undocumented immigrants living, working, or studying in the U.S. They work hard and pay taxes, yet live in fear and hiding with no hope of gaining a path to legal permanent resident status. Undoubtedly the lengthy backlogs in family immigration and the lack of access to legal immigration status encourage undocumented immigration. Your vote can help mend the broken immigration system by demanding comprehensive immigration reform that includes family reunification and legalization.



Education

The "model minority" stereotype suggests that APIA students do not require help to succeed in school. Contrary to this belief, K-12 and higher education institutions are often not accessible to the APIA community. There is a substantial need for programs and funding to assist APIA students from low-income and immigrant communities, particularly those with limited English proficiency. Your vote can call attention to lack of resources for K-12 institutions, cuts in college grants and loans, rising college tuition, and inadequacies in the public education system.

Hate Crimes

APIAs are often targets of racially motivated hate crimes. Particularly, anti-Asian violence against South Asians rose after the Sept. 11 attacks. Perpetrators of hate crimes victimize individuals because of their bias or hate towards a person's race, religion, national origin, ethnicity, gender, disability, or sexual orientation. These incidents are particularly damaging because they often engender fear in entire communities. Current federal hate crime laws are too narrow and limit federal prosecutors' ability to take legal action against criminals unless the victim engages in a "federally-protected activity" such as serving on a jury, attending a public school, or voting. Federal laws also do not cover the prosecution of violent crimes committed by persons who are motivated by their hate towards their victim's sexual orientation, gender, or disability. Your vote can bring attention to the need for more comprehensive hate crimes laws and grants for state and local hate crime prevention programs.



GET REGISTERED, GET INVOLVED, AND GET OUT TO VOTE!

info@apiavote.org • www.APIAVote.org • 1-888-API-VOTE (toll free)

Every APIA Vote Counts!

DID YOU KNOW...

- There are over 13 million APIAs in the US, making up 4.2% of the total population?
- APIAs are present in every region of the country?
- The APIA population is expected to double by 2010 and triple by 2050?

As the APIA population has been growing rapidly, the potential growth of the APIA vote is even more dramatic...

- APIAs are one of the **fastest-growing ethnic groups in the country**.
 - But many APIAs who were born outside the US **still remain ineligible to vote** because they are unable to meet the citizenship requirement for voter registration.
- However, **more than 80% of Asian immigrants become citizens**.
 - And once APIAs actually become registered to vote, they are the **most likely voters to go to the polls on Election Day!**

WHY SHOULD I VOTE?

APIA votes matter!

- APIA voters have proven to support candidates who speak to APIA issues
- In the 2000 election, the APIA voting population was greater than the difference that captured the electoral votes in **nine states!**

In the 2000 election:

- 4.7 million APIAs were eligible to vote.
- Over 2.5 million APIAs registered to vote.
- Slightly more than 2 million actually voted.

APIAs still have room for improvement!

State	Number of votes determining the capture of State in the 2000 election	Number of APIA citizens eligible to vote
New Mexico	366	14,000
Florida	537	163,000
Iowa	4,000	16,000
Wisconsin	5,700	32,000
Oregon	6,800	65,000
Nevada	22,000	66,000
Hawaii	67,000	636,000
Washington	139,000	214,000
California	1.3 million	2.2 million

HOW DO I VOTE?

What are the qualifications I need to vote in a national election?

If you are 18 years of age, a United States citizen, and have registered.

How do I register to vote?

- Go to www.APIAVote.org, it's fast, easy, and secure!
- Use the National Voter Registration Form available at <http://www.fec.gov/votregis/pdf/nvra.pdf>.

Don't forget to immediately mail in the application when it has been completed!

After you have completed a registration form via one of these methods, you will receive a notice from your local election office, which will direct you to the voting site you should go to on Election Day. Registration deadlines for most states are 30 days before the Election Day.

What if I am not proficient in English? Can I still register?

Several states are covered under laws that require them to provide bilingual assistance to voters who are not proficient in English. This includes the provision of election materials including ballots and voter registration forms. Check with your local election office or with APIAVote to see if your county is required to provide bilingual voter assistance.

Your Vote Makes a Difference – VOICE YOUR VOTE!

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APIAVote is a national coalition of non-partisan nonprofit organizations encouraging civic participation and promoting a better understanding of public policy and the electoral process among the APIA community. Our objective is to effectively engage the APIA community in the political process by coordinating outreach and educational activities and programs. APIAVote's national partners are: APIA Greek Alliance, Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies, Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance, Hmong National Development, National Asian American Student Conference, National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum, National Coalition for Asian Pacific American Community Development, National Korean American Service and Education Consortium, Organization of Chinese Americans, Sikh Mediawatch and Resource Task Force, and South Asian American Voting Youth.