

Dear Candidates,

Thank you for requesting an endorsement from Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon (APANO). APANO (501c4) is the state's oldest and largest advocacy group for Oregon's 250,000+ Asian and Pacific Islanders. Our 6,000 members and partners work to advance social justice and address to root causes of inequities. This packet provides an overview of our endorsement process, information about our organization, our top priorities, and a required candidate questionnaire & survey due July 13, 2018.

APANO's political program is community-based, multi-issue and guided by APANO's mission, vision and values. Our endorsement process reflects our work and priorities in local, state and national politics, and is non-partisan.

Our goals are to:

1. Strengthen your relationship between APANO members, board and staff
2. Educate elected officials and candidates on the issues APANO members are facing
3. Expand opportunities for Asian and Pacific Islander political engagement

Please read through this packet and complete the Candidate Survey and Questionnaire found at the end of this packet, as well as the Candidate Endorsement Interview Request Form to begin scheduling an in-person interview with APANO's Endorsement committee. All completed materials [word document format] may be sent to Robin Ye, Lead Political Organizer, at robin@apano.org.

WHAT IS AN APANO POLITICAL ENDORSEMENT?

A political endorsement is an official statement of support from APANO for a particular candidate. It means the candidate's record, performance in office or promise of future relations align greatly with APANO's mission and values to better serve the Asian Pacific Islander community.

WHAT DOES AN APANO ENDORSEMENT MEAN TO CANDIDATES?

An APANO endorsement for a candidate means the candidate can tell voters they have the visible support and backing of the Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon. An APANO endorsement may also include additional financial, communication and field resources, including but not limited to financial contributions, social media outreach, mailing, phone banks, and campaign volunteers.

ENDORSEMENT PROCESS

APANO considers which electoral races to make "Priority Races" by using certain selection criteria to help the organization (staff, board, members) evaluate electoral opportunities in a consistent and transparent manner. APANO will be making candidate endorsements and focusing our efforts in the following "Priority Races" for the November 6, 2018 General Elections:

- Oregon Governor (Statewide)
- Oregon Senate District 19 (Lake Oswego/Tualatin/West Linn)

- Oregon House District 22 (Woodburn/N Salem)
- Oregon House District 37 (Tualatin/West Linn)
- Oregon House District 46 (SE Portland)
- Oregon House District 51 (Clackamas/Happy Valley)

Every viable candidate within one of APANO's Priority Races is welcome to participate in the 2-step process to determine our endorsements:

1. A written questionnaire and survey
2. One in-person interview with the APANO Endorsement Committee

Your policy vision and platform, questionnaire responses, interview and interaction with APANO members & staff, understanding of APANO's mission, and voting record will be considerations in our endorsement.

ENDORSEMENT TIMELINE

Our process timeline will be as follows:

- July 2, 2018 -- announce Candidate Endorsement Process
- July 13, 2018 -- deadline for Candidate Questionnaires & Survey; Interview Request Form
- July 23-31, 2018 -- Conduct in-person candidate interviews
 - Please Complete the Candidate Endorsement Interview Request Form
 - We will follow up to schedule interview appointments
- Mid-August, 2018 -- Announce APANO candidate endorsements for November 2018 General

For more information, please communicate with Robin Ye, Lead Political Organizer robin@apano.org or (971) 340-4861.

Sincerely,

Robin Ye
Lead Political Organizer

Chi Nguyen
Interim Executive Director

WHAT TO KNOW

250,000 Asian and Pacific Islanders in Oregon

Oregon has a long history of contributions from Asian and Pacific Islanders (APIs), who along with other communities of color have laid the foundation for the state's economy, culture and future. The story of these communities is marked by a struggle for equality and justice, prevailing over the adversity of incarceration, displacement and exclusion. As of 2015, there are approximately 220,000 Asian, and 30,000 Pacific Islanders residents, nearly 6% of the population, with an estimated 80,000 eligible to vote and 60,000 registered to vote. Over 70% live in the Tri-County region, although the fastest growth are in more rural parts of the state. Multnomah and Washington County each have roughly 70,000 Asian and Pacific Islanders. Our communities have grown over 40% in the last decade. Asian and Pacific Islanders are disproportionately youth under age of 18. In 2017 the Asian population became Oregon's fastest growing demographic, with Micronesian communities the single fastest growing ethnic minority.

A Community of Contrasts

- Asian and Pacific Islanders owned over 13,500 businesses in 2007, an increase of 40% since 2002, employing more than 27,000 people with \$535 million in annual payroll. Between 2000 and 2014, Asian and Pacific Islander buying power grew 153% to over \$6.4 billion, and projected to grow to \$8.3 billion by 2019.
- 52% of Asians and 23% of Pacific Islanders are foreign-born. Between 2004 and 2014, nearly 200 members were deported, with Vietnam the top receiving country.
- Oregon has the fourth largest population of migrants coming from Micronesian nations that signed the Compacts of Free of Association (COFA). The compact provides for ongoing U.S. military presence in their countries in exchange for permission to work, live and pay taxes in the U.S., although face exclusions from many federal benefits including Medicaid.
- Asian (87%) and Pacific Islanders (88%) are less likely to hold a high school diploma or GED than Whites (92%). Laotian (65%), Cambodian (76%) and Vietnamese (76%) face the most significant disparities.
- Nearly 50% of Pacific Islanders are low-income, and with 23% in poverty, the highest in Oregon.
- From 2007 to 2013, the number of unemployed Asian Americans increased 83%, the highest in Oregon.
- Asian and Pacific Islanders are less likely to be homeowners than Whites, and over 60% of Pacific Islanders are renters.
- Korean (19%) and Vietnamese (16%) are less likely to have health insurance.
- At least 55,000 API in City of Portland; Second largest community next to Latinx community..
- Concentration of Asians are mostly in NE, SE, and outer East Portland, with percent populations of 11%, 10%, and 9% respectively.
- East Portland has the largest concentration of foreign-born people (over 20%).
- Over 40 languages spoken at Portland Public Schools, one of the largest school districts in the Pacific Northwest.
- Of the at least 73,701 Asian and Asian Americans in Washington County, 57% are immigrants.
- There are at least 5,538 Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander communities in Washington County. They are the fastest growing community both in the US and in Washington County, having grown by approximately 60% between 2010 and 2015.

Sources: *The Portland Plan Demographic Information, Multnomah County: Unsettling Profile Report, Coalition of Communities of Color, Leading with Race: Washington County, Asian Americans Advancing Justice “Community of Contrasts” 2015 report. Portland Public School District website.*

ABOUT APANO

APANO is the state’s oldest and largest advocacy group for Oregon’s 250,000 Asian and Pacific Islanders. Our members and partners work to advance social justice and address root causes of inequities. APANO is organized as a 501(c)4 & 501(c)3 (APANO Communities United Fund is our 501c3) tax-exempt organization that engages in legislative lobbying and political activity. APANO’s total annual budget is \$1.6 million dollars, and growing, and in 2016 began a \$2.77 million Roots to Rise Capital Campaign to support a once-in-a-generation campaign to redevelop the Jade/APANO Multicultural Space (JAMS) into a 5,000 square foot Cultural Center, public plaza, and permanent home for APANO.

For the May 2018 Primary Elections, APANO launched its second cycle of endorsements to affirm electoral organizing as a key component of our desired social justice theory of change. We began candidate endorsements in May 2017 local school board elections.

Mission

The Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon (APANO) is a statewide, grassroots organization, uniting Asians and Pacific Islanders to achieve social justice. We use our collective strengths to advance equity through empowering, organizing and advocating with our communities.

Vision

We envision a just and equitable world where Asians and Pacific Islanders are fully engaged in the social, economic and political issues that affect us.

APANO is working towards a just world where:

- All our families have the rights, recognition and resources they need to thrive, and their life outcomes are not tied to identity or social determinants of health.
- Everyone has the social, economic and political power and resources to make healthy decisions for themselves about their bodies, genders, sexualities and families, in all areas of their lives, without fear of discrimination, exclusion or harm. This includes the ability to have children, not have children, and/or parent the children we have in safe and healthy environments.
- The health, well-being and survival of our communities and the natural world are understood as more important than individual profit, and supported through equitable distribution of wealth and resources.
- Institutions are built around the inherent worth and dignity of all people and are designed and function as systems of care and support, not systems of criminalization and control.

- Communities have the skills, capacity and resources to organize themselves for change, collectively self-determine their needs and solutions, and control their own destinies.
- We stand in solidarity with communities who experience oppression and recognize that our liberation is directly linked to theirs.

POLICY PRIORITIES

Policies that Advance Racial Justice

APANO organizes with youth and immigrants primarily in the Metro Portland and Salem areas, and with our members statewide to advance public policy and systemic change that achieve racial, gender and economic justice. We have a track record on English Language Learner, renter, reproductive health, community development, climate justice and policies that support working families.

APANO members inform our policy priorities every two years. We expect our priorities to shift in 2018-2019. Our ongoing priorities are:

- **Stable Homes for Oregon Families** - Securing tenant protections in the form of Just Cause Eviction standards, relocation assistance and lifting the pre-emption on rent stabilization measures for local cities.
- **Paid Family and Medical Leave** -- Oregon's proposed paid family and medical leave (PFML) act would enable all Oregon workers to take time off to care for their own health or the health of loved ones without the fear of losing their job or going into debt. The United States is the only industrialized country without a national paid leave policy. Oregon's existing Oregon Family Leave Act (OFLA) is unpaid.
- **Ethnic Studies** - Seeing through HB 2845, establishing ethnic studies within Oregon's K-12 social studies standards, and implementing ethnic studies curriculum and courses across all schools and districts.
- **Revenue** - Undoing decades of disinvestment that have disproportionately impacted communities of color by equalizing the tax code to ensure corporations pay their fair share towards education, health and public services our communities need.
- **Mend the Gap** - Closing the gap on access to health care, creating and investing in solutions to provide health insurance and culturally competent care for children, women and transgender persons who can get pregnant, undocumented immigrants, immigrants who have resided in Oregon less than 5 years, COFA Pacific Islanders, rural and working class Oregonians.
- **English Language Learner Reform** - Supporting the HB 3499 measures and interventions to support low performing school districts, sharing best practices, and increasing academic outcomes for ELL students.

CANDIDATE SURVEY (For Submission)

CANDIDATE INFORMATION

Name:

Office Sought:

Party Affiliation:

Primary Contact Person:

Phone Number:

Email:

CAMPAIGN PROFILE

Campaign Manager:

Total Amount of Anticipated Campaign Expenditures:

Total Amount Raised to Date:

Current/Anticipated Major Sources for Campaign Funding:

Notable Endorsements:

Previous Campaigns for Elected Office (please list all):

Top Three Issues of Candidate Platform:

ANTICIPATED REQUEST FOR RESOURCES (IF ENDORSED)

I, _____ (First & Last Name), give my written consent for APANO to publish my questionnaire responses as a part of APANO voter education efforts for the November 2018 Election.

Signature (typed and emailed is OK)

CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE (For Submission)

INSTRUCTIONS

- Please write your responses to the following 10 required questions. Please limit your responses to 250 words or less per question response.
- Questionnaires are designed to shed light on candidate's anticipated policy positions and political analysis on issues that matter greatly to the Asian and Pacific Islander communities in Oregon. APANO plans to publish candidate responses to questionnaires. By applying for an endorsement, candidate campaign's give their expressed written consent for APANO to use candidate responses for APANO press. If you have questions, please refer them to robin@apano.org
- Although we understand the purview and jurisdiction of each elected office is unique, please answer these questions to the best of your ability from the perspective of the powers vested in the office you are running for.

WHY WE ARE ASKING THESE QUESTIONS

Our questions demonstrate some of the ideas and concepts our staff and members continually confront through our work. The following 10 questions are derived from 5 categories, reflective of APANO's major work areas and organizational strategies to build Asian and Pacific Islander (API) power.

- **Community Organizing:** APANO's organizing is rooted in the belief that those most affected by an issue should be the ones shaping the solutions, co-creating and co-leading campaigns that address real issues in their community.
- **Leadership Development:** APANO offers year-round opportunities to cultivate members' skills and confidence to analyze community needs and solutions, and hold leadership roles at APANO and in the community.
- **Political Advocacy:** APANO's political advocacy seeks to elevate issues through community engagement, policy research, mobilizing voters, and coordinating grassroots advocacy.
- **Cultural Work:** APANO aims to advance a long-term cultural strategy to impact beliefs, actions and policies by centering the voices and experiences of marginalized Asian and Pacific Islanders to shift harmful narratives, envision alternatives, and foster movement building.
- **Community Development** (particularly in the JADE District): APANO and the Jade District are committed to advocating for policy changes that will mitigate the displacement effects of rising housing costs, a lack of affordable housing, and new public investments into the area.

QUESTIONS

1. As a result of being ethnically and racially aggregated with all Asians and Asian Americans, data centered on Pacific Islanders that could help identify critical employment, health and education-related issues and priorities are blurred or obscured by a monolithic narrative of

- “API”. What is your understanding of the issues facing “Pacific Islander” communities, and who specifically does that include in your district? How will your office seek to engage with this specific racial/ethnic group in Oregon and address their concerns?
2. APANO works extensively to support youth voice and leadership development in schools and the community. How is youth voice currently marginalized in decision-making and what are your concrete plans to engage with young people and Middle/High School youth to respond to their ideas and aspirations (outside existing bodies like Youth Commissions)?
 3. What does being “community-accountable” mean to you? What do you see as the relationship between grassroots communities and elected leadership in governing and fighting for political power?
 4. What is your understanding of the model minority myth and how it influences government decision-making and personnel choices?
 5. There has been a spike in the number of hate incidents and hate crimes over the past year across the United States, including in Oregon. Many of these hate crimes have been targeted against people of color. One of APANO’s priorities is strengthening policies and resources to safeguard our community members. What are two ways you will address hate incidents?
 6. What will you do to ensure a fairer elections process that expands access to the ballot and includes more diverse candidates and voters in our state politics? What are two concrete ways you would protect and enhance our democratic process?
 7. Mental health is a “silent epidemic” that is plaguing all communities, while acutely affecting API and immigrant communities. In what ways will you help deliver mental health services that are responsive to our current political moment and to the populations that mental health problems so disproportionately harm?
 8. In your elected capacity, what kind of policies would you advocate for to increase the supply of affordable housing, stabilize rising housing costs, and fight displacement of vulnerable communities and politically underrepresented geographies in Oregon?
 9. The United States is the only industrialized country without a national paid leave policy. In Oregon, the Oregon Family and Medical Leave Insurance (FAMLI) Act (HB 3087) provides job-protected leave for all state employees and employers with partial wage replacement, and would enable all Oregon workers to take time off to care for their own health or the health of loved ones without the fear of losing their job or going into debt. The act will be particularly beneficial for those who experience labor market discrimination, such as single mothers and women of color, and will help support those who have the least economic security. Do you support Oregon becoming the 6th state to enact Paid Family Medical Leave? Why or why not?
 10. Several anti-reproductive rights (IP 1) and anti-immigrant (IP 22) statewide ballot measures are likely to appear before voters on the November 2018 ballot. As you seek re-election/elected office, what do you see as your role in informing voters about IP 1 and IP 22? How would you recommend Oregon voters vote on these two important measures?