

Dear Candidates,

Thank you for requesting an endorsement from Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon (APANO). APANO is a statewide 501(c)(4) political advocacy group uniting Oregon's Asian and Pacific Islanders to fight for social justice. Our members and partners work to advance social and racial justice and address the 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 January 7, 2020.

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 through this process are to:

1. Strengthen your relationship between APANO members, board, and staff
2. Educate elected officials and candidates on the issues APANO members and Asian & Pacific Islander (API) communities 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, Political Director, 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 inclusion in APANO's voter guide, financial contributions, social media outreach, mailings, 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 May 19, 2020 Primary Elections:

Statewide

- Oregon Secretary of State Democratic Primary

Portland and Multnomah County

- Portland Mayor (at-large)
- Portland City Council Position 1 (at-large)
- Portland City Council Position 4 (at-large)
- Multnomah County Commissioner 3 (SE Portland)
- Multnomah County Commissioner 4 (East County)
- Metro Council District 6 (NE/SE Portland)
- Multnomah District Attorney (at-large)

Beaverton and Washington County

- Oregon House District 28 (S Beaverton)
- Oregon Senate District 14 (Beaverton)
- Washington County Commissioner Position 1 (Central Beaverton)
- Metro Council District 3 (S Beaverton, Tigard, Tualatin)

Every committed 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 an APANO Endorsement Committee

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

ENDORSEMENT TIMELINE

Our process timeline will be as follows:

- December 19, 2020 -- announce Candidate Endorsement Process
- January 7, 2020 -- deadline for Candidate Questionnaires & Survey; Interview Request Form
- January 13-31, 2020 -- Conduct in-person candidate interviews
 - Please complete the Candidate Endorsement Interview Request form
 - We will follow up to schedule interview appointments
- Mid-February 2020 -- Announce APANO candidate endorsements for May 2020 Primary

For more information, please communicate with Robin Ye, Political Director at robin@apano.org or (971) 563-2564.

Sincerely,

Robin Ye
Political Director

Chi Nguyen
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 respectively have roughly 90,000 and 75,000 Asian and Pacific Islanders. Our communities have grown over 40% in the last decade. Asian and Pacific Islanders are disproportionately youth under the age of 18. In 2017, the Asian population became Oregon's fastest growing demographic, with Micronesian Islander 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 have signed a Compact of Free of Association (COFA). The compact provides for ongoing U.S. military presence in their countries in exchange for permission to work and live in the U.S. Despite paying the same taxes they face exclusions from many federal benefits including Medicaid and SNAP (food stamps).

- Asians (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 23% are in poverty, the highest rate in Oregon.
- From 2007 to 2013, the number of unemployed Asian Americans increased 83%, the highest increase 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 live in City of Portland. This is the second largest community after the 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 are 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 a statewide 501(c)(4) political advocacy group united with for Oregon's Asian and Pacific Islanders to fight for social justice. Our members and partners work to advance social justice and address the root causes of inequities. APANO is organized as both a 501(c)(4) & 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization that engages in legislative lobbying and political activity. APANO's total annual budget is \$2.5 million dollars and growing, and in June 2019 we held the grand opening of our \$2.77 million Roots to Rise Capital Campaign project, Orchards of 82nd, unveiling a 5,000 square foot Cultural Center, public plaza, 48-unit affordable housing (in partnership with Rose CDC) and new permanent home for APANO offices. In March 2020, APANO will open its first office in Beaverton, signaling the organization's increased organizing and programmatic activity in Washington County, a county with roughly 12% API population (the highest percentage in the state). In 2020, APANO will undergo Strategic Planning to roll out the organization's third roadmap for continued growth and development. APANO will also be heavily invested in the Hard to Count campaign effort, #WeCountOregon, for the Census 2020 count in Oregon.

For the May 2020 Primary Elections, APANO launched its fifth cycle of endorsements to affirm electoral organizing as a key component of our desired social justice theory of change. We began making candidate endorsements in May 2017 local school board elections, the May 2018 Primary and

November 2018 General Elections, and most recently the May 2019 local elections. APANO's 501(c)(4) has a demonstrated winning track record, and a program that continues to grow each cycle. For November 2018, APANO swept its entire endorsement slate, winning all 7 candidate races and all 7 ballot measure initiatives (4 statewide and 3 local positions in the Portland Metro Area). May 2018 had similar great victories including electing Jackie Leung, Salem City Council's first API and woman of color councilor, and Daniel Nguyen, Lake Oswego's first API city councilor.

To inform our 2020 goals of progress and fighting for a more equitable Oregon, APANO will look to the work done in the November 2018 cycle, which included three months of campaigning and more than 35,000 dials, 3,000 doors knocked, 300+ shifts filled, 14 canvasses, 8 multilingual phonebanks, 5 days of ballot assistance, and dozens of outreach events.

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. We work at the intersections of racial, social, economic, and gender justice. Examples of the issue areas that APANO works on include: childcare policy, health equity, economic justice, reproductive justice, immigrant rights, democracy reform and voting rights, housing, and potential increased forays into criminal justice reform and mental health care.

POLICY PRIORITIES

Policies that Advance Racial Justice

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

APANO members inform our policy priorities every two years. Some of our policy wins and priorities in the Oregon legislature from 2019 and previous sessions:

- **Stable Homes for Oregon Families** - Securing tenant protections in the form of just cause eviction standards, relocation assistance, and limiting rent increases to prevent economic evictions.
- **Paid Family and Medical Leave** - Oregon's paid family and medical leave (PFML) act enables 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 policy has been recognized as one of the strongest in the country, with an expansive definition of family that includes the diverse needs of API communities and a progressive wage replacement structure.
- **Revenue** - Addressing decades of disinvestment in K-12 public education that have disproportionately impacted communities of color by equalizing the tax code to ensure corporations pay their fair share towards education.
- **Driver's Licenses for All** - Approximately, 130,000 undocumented people live in Oregon; 20,000 of whom are Asians and Pacific Islanders. Undocumented people are disproportionately employed in low-wage jobs, which requires them to drive to get to work, school, and other appointments. APANO prioritized Driver's Licenses for All to ensure that our undocumented population has the means to take their children to school, to work, and their places of worship, and are able to be active members within our communities.
- **Healthy Equity** - 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, and rural and working class Oregonians.
- **Oregon Voting Rights Act** - The Oregon Voting Rights Act creates a system that will amplify the voices of communities of color by giving them equal opportunity to elect a candidate of their choice on local school boards. Increased representation will result in school boards with deeper knowledge of student, family, and community needs, supporting the achievement of students of color and increasing family engagement.
- **Reproductive Health Equity Act** - The Reproductive Health Equity Act, passed in 2018, ensures that all Oregonians, regardless of income, residency status, or gender identity have access to the full range of preventative reproductive health services, empowering them to decide whether having children is right for them and their families.

- **English Language Learner Reform** - Passing English Language Learner implementation measures and interventions to support low-performing school districts, sharing best practices, and increasing academic outcomes for ELL students.
- **Ethnic Studies** - Seeing through implementation of an ethnic studies within Oregon's K-12 social studies standards, and implementing ethnic studies curriculum and courses across all schools and districts. APANO's youth leaders played a key role in the passage of this legislation.

APANO will continue to build on its victories in these key areas. Our emerging priorities include childcare, economic justice and opportunity, and criminal justice, and we are actively identifying issues prioritized by API communities, as well as partnerships to address the priorities of black, indigenious, and other communities of color.

APANO also has a track record campaigning on statewide and local ballot measures. In 2018, APANO was a core contributor to the efforts to defeat **Measure 105**, the attempted repeal of of anti-racial profiling law and Oregon's sanctuary state status), **Measure 106**, an attack on abortion rights in Oregon, and pass the **Portland Clean Energy Fund**, new revenue funding for green jobs and healthy homes to Portlanders who are most impacted by climate change but have been excluded from the emerging low-carbon economy.

CANDIDATE SURVEY (For Submission)

CANDIDATE INFORMATION

Name:

Office Sought:

Party Affiliation:

Primary Contact Person:

Phone Number:

Email:

CAMPAIGN PROFILE

Campaign Staff Hired & Anticipated:

Total Amount of Anticipated Campaign Expenditures:

Total Amount Raised to Date:

Campaign Finance/Treasury Vendor:

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 May 2020 Election.

Signature (typed signature accepted via email)

CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE (For Submission)

INSTRUCTIONS

- Please write your responses to the following 8 required questions. Please limit your responses to 200 words or less per question response.
- Questionnaires are designed to illuminate 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 excerpts of candidate responses to questionnaires. By applying for an endorsement, a candidate campaign must give their written consent in the candidate survey above for APANO to use candidate responses for APANO press. If you have questions, please email 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 held in the office you are running for.

WHY WE ASK THESE QUESTIONS

Our questions demonstrate some of the ideas and concepts that our staff and members continually confront through our work. The following 8 questions are derived from our pillars of work, reflective of APANO's major program 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):** APANO, through its work in the Jade District and east Washington County, 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. Why are you running for your office and what is your top priority on which you're campaigning?
2. 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?
3. APANO works 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?
4. What does being "community accountable" mean to you? How will you engage as an elected official to work with community-based organizations?
5. What is your understanding of the model minority myth frequently applied to Asian Americans, and how does it influence government decision-making and personnel choices, including allocations of resources and policy prioritization?
6. How has your own racial/ethnic identity impacted your understanding of racial equity and how you have incorporated it into your own work and leadership?? How have those identities inform your desire to seek elected office?
7. There has been a spike in the number of hate speech incidents and hate crimes over the past few years across the United States, including in Oregon. One of APANO's priorities is strengthening policies and resources to safeguard our community members. Do you consider hate speech to be "free speech"? What do you see as the role of government in defending or limiting hate speech? What are two ways you will address hate incidents in your district?
8. A lack of affordable childcare limits the wellbeing of families across the state. In Asian and Pacific Islander communities, families are committed to caring for multiple generations and use an expansive definition of family. This can limit economic opportunity for working families, and even youth who have responsibilities to care for other children. How do you see this impacting API communities, and what strategies would you use to increase access to affordable childcare?