

Dear Candidates,

Thank you for requesting an endorsement from Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon (APANO). APANO (501c4) is a statewide political 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 **February 5, 2021**.

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 a zoom interview with APANO's Endorsement committee. All completed materials [word document format] may be sent to Marchel Hirschfield, Political Director at marchel@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 May 18, 2021 Local Elections:

- David Douglas School board

- North Clackamas School Board
- Hillsboro School District
- Beaverton School District
- Portland Community College
- Portland School District 1J
- Gresham-Barlow School District
- Multnomah County Services Education District
- Centennial school board
- Reynolds School Board
- Portland Public School Board
- Salem-Keizer School District
- Tualatin Hills Parks & Recreation District

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 zoom 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:

- January 22, 2021 -- announce Candidate Endorsement Process
- February 5, 2021 -- deadline for Candidate Questionnaires & Survey; Interview Request Form
- February 15-19, 2021 -- Conduct zoom candidate interviews
 - Please Complete the Candidate Endorsement Interview Request Form
 - We will follow up to schedule interview appointments
- Mid March, 2021 -- Announce APANO candidate endorsements for May 2021 Local

For more information, please communicate with Michelle Hicks, Field Manager
michelle@apano.org or (408) 466-2495.

Sincerely,

Marchel Hirschfield
Political Director

Michelle Hicks
Field Manager

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 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 a statewide political advocacy group for Oregon's 250,000 Asian and Pacific Islanders. Our members and partners work to advance social justice and address to root causes of inequities. APANO is organized as a 501(c)4 & 501(c)3 tax-exempt organization that engages and legislative lobbying and political activity. APANO's total annual budget is \$2.5 million dollars, and growing, and in May 2019 we opened 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.

For the May 2021 General Elections, APANO launched its sixth 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, and subsequently for both the May 2018 Primary and November 2018 General Elections.

Mission

The Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon (APANO) is a statewide, grassroots organization, uniting Asians and Pacific Islanders to build power, develop leaders, and advance equity through organizing, advocacy, community development, and cultural work.

Vision

We envision a just world where Asians and Pacific Islanders and communities who share our aspirations and struggles have the power, resources, and voice to determine our own futures, and where we work in solidarity to drive political, social, economic, and cultural change.

Our Values:

- **Self Determination:** We build the political, social, economic, and cultural power our communities need to thrive. We use our power to shape decisions and pursue intersecting forms of justice in order to create a vibrant, inclusive, and equitable world for all.
- **Solidarity:** We believe relationships are sources of strength, support, and power. We are committed to listening to allies, partners, and communities, especially those who identify as Black, Indigenous, and people of color, in their aspirations and struggles, and working together to cultivate trust and connections.
- **Integrity:** We strive to be true to our values in our work, to be accountable to our communities, and to treat ourselves and each other with dignity and compassion.
- **Care:** We practice care, compassion, and respect for ourselves, each other, and the earth to sustain ourselves and our efforts to uplift our community.
- **Belonging:** We create spaces and communities where we can feel a sense of belonging, where we can be ourselves and be visible, where our stories are amplified, and where our heritage and experiences are recognized.

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. Some of our ongoing priorities in 2021 and in the Oregon Legislative Session are:

- **Democracy Reform** - Ensuring that all Oregonians have equal access to having their voices heard in elections.
- **Climate Solutions** - Fighting for 100% state energy standard that pushes us toward energy that is just and community serving through a carve-out for community-base energy and improved standards for siting, decommissioning, and distribution system planning.

- **Childcare** - Building a targeted universal childcare program designed with a focus on BIPOC mothers, children, and providers by reforming the current Employment Related Day Care program and aligning all childcare programs under one agency that will ensure affordability by capping cost at 7% of family income and pay by enrollment ensuring that all families have access to affordable childcare.
- **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.

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 8 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. 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 michelle@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 8 questions are derived from our pillars of work, 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? How will your office seek to engage with this specific racial/ethnic group in Oregon and address their concerns?
2. With the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, education has been severely impacted and youth voices have been left out of the process. How are youth voices currently marginalized in decision-making and what are your concrete plans to engage with young people to respond to their solutions, ideas, and aspirations, outside existing bodies like youth commissions?
3. APANO is working to center anti-racist practices and calling out anti-Blackness within our communities and ourselves. If we were to endorse you as a candidate, we will hold you to the same standard. What does being “community accountable” mean to you? How do you plan on calling in and calling out your colleagues when their values are not aligned (e.g. being anti-Black/ xenophobic, etc.)?
4. What is your understanding of the model minority myth frequently applied to Asian Americans, and weaponized against other Black and Brown communities, and how does it influence government decision-making and personnel choices?
5. There has been a spike in the number of hate incidents and hate crimes over the spiking with the COVID 19 outbreak and throughout the past few years across the United States. Many of these hate crimes have been targeted against the Asian Pacific Islander Community. One of APANO’s priorities is strengthening policies and resource to safeguard our community members. What are two ways you will address hate incidents in your district?
6. 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 to students that are responsive to students of colors’ needs especially in this political climate?
7. In your elected capacity, how would you ensure that all students have access to an education that ensures they are able to make decisions about their bodily autonomy and future?
8. Where are areas in which you need to grow in? If APANO were to offer training for endorsed candidates (e.g. model minority, budgeting, anti-blackness, accommodations, etc.), what would you be interested in learning?