**Questionnaire for candidates for Los Angeles County Supervisor in the Fifth District**

We are the **Asian Pacific Policy & Planning Council (A3PCON)**, an association of forty five Asian Pacific Islander (API) community-serving organizations in Los Angeles County, with emphasis on serving lower income, immigrant, refugee and other disadvantaged populations. As a 501(c)3 nonprofit we do not endorse candidates for public office, but we do publish a voter guide on ballot measures and promote civic engagement.

We send this questionnaire to share our concerns and to learn about your ideas and plans to work with API communities. You may insert your answers into this Word document and return to Mark Masaoka, A3PCON Policy Director, at mmasaoka@A3PCON.org.

**Questionnaire**

Asian Pacific Islanders (APIs) have contributed much to the growth of the Los Angeles region as a global center of commerce, culture and innovation, but there are challenges in the provision of human services to these communities. Of the 10 million people in L.A. County, 15% are Asian American and 1% are Pacific Islander

In the Fifth Supervisorial District there are 278,000 Asian Americans (18.7% of district) and 2,700 Pacific Islanders (.2%). Asian Pacific Islanders (APIs) are diverse in ethnicity and culture, language, education, socio-economic class and immigration experiences. In L.A. County, 39% of Asian Americans and 10% of Pacific Islanders are Limited English Proficient. One fourth of Asian Americans and 31% of Pacific Islanders are classified low-income. Many depend upon the safety net programs and the public and nonprofit community providers for culturally and linguistically appropriate services. There are significant differences between API ethnic groups; Tongans, Bangladeshi and Cambodians have higher poverty rates than Latinos and African Americans: other APIs have lower rates. Countywide, APIs own 180,000 businesses with 356,000 employees; the vast majority are very small businesses.

**1**. As Asian Pacific Islander community organizations, our relationships with the Supervisors’ offices are very important. The current and past Supervisors have all had meetings with the leaders of A3PCON and our member organizations.

**If elected County Supervisor, what steps would you take to strengthen or build your relationships with Asian Pacific Islander communities and organizations?**

**2**. **With the diversity of APIs needing human services, do you support the strengthening of culturally and linguistically appropriate services by L.A. County? Please share any experiences or observations you have had on these issues.**

**3**. Much of the social services grant funding by Los Angeles County is distributed to nonprofits who perform work within specific SPAs, Supervisorial Districts or other regional districts. But for API communities, there are problems with grants being confined to specific subdivisions within the County. Limited English Proficient APIs follow a pattern to going to trusted community providers who specialize in their specific culture and language, and which are often located in their historic community enclaves of Chinatown, Filipinotown, Little Tokyo, Cambodia Town, Little India, etc. Over the years, A3PCON has worked with County Supervisors, DCFS and DMH to release County-wide API RFPs/contracts that allow API service providers to collaborate in a single umbrella grant to serve their respective communities throughout the County.

**Do you support continuing and strengthening these practices in the County system?**

**4**. APIs serving on the staffs of County Supervisors have played a valuable role in keeping Supervisors informed on API community issues, and in bringing an API perspective on how County decisions can impact API communities.

**Will you commit to hiring APIs on your staff who are familiar with the API communities?**

Please send reply to Mark Masaoka, A3PCON Policy Director at mmasaoka@A3PCON.org.

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