



## A Team for Asian Americans & Pacific Islanders in Pennsylvania

Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPIs) living in Pennsylvania can make history this November 4<sup>th</sup>. With each election, the AAPI community has made its presence felt by turning out to vote in increasing numbers. Thousands of AAPI small businesses contribute to Pennsylvania's local economy and more and more AAPIs participate in civic organizations, local boards, school committees & chambers of commerce.

Our state is a "must-win" for either candidate. So the AAPI vote can be a decisive factor.

Barack Obama is no stranger to our AAPI communities. He grew up and went to high school in Hawaii – the only state with a majority AAPI population. He lived for a number of years in Indonesia and has Asian American family members and friends. Never before have we had a candidate from any major party who – through these life experiences – can claim to knowing AAPIs on a close personal basis. Here are reasons to support Senator Barack Obama for president:

- **Invest in Education:** Barack Obama will reform and fund No Child Left Behind. He will hold schools accountable for teaching English-language learners. Obama supported the College Cost Reduction and Access Act of 2007, which provided millions for education. His \$4,000 tax credit to college students will help make college affordable for all. McCain talks about supporting education –yet he opposed legislative efforts to increase Pell grants and reduce student debt. Obama would double funding for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers (CCLC) funding afterschool programs, to serve one million more youth.
- **Provide Universal Health Care:** Nationwide, there are nearly 2.2 million AAPIs without health insurance. Barack Obama is committed to ensuring that all Americans have affordable health care coverage. Obama's plan will save an average American family up to \$2,500 every year on health care costs.
- **Reform Immigration:** Barack Obama has been a leading voice for the comprehensive reform of our immigration system by securing our borders, providing a path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants, and fixing the broken immigration bureaucracy. As president, he will fight to keep families together and improve the H1-B visa program. Obama cosponsored the Citizenship Promotion Act to reduce citizen application fees. A one-time supporter of the DREAM Act, John McCain has flip-flopped on immigrant rights. When faced with a vocal group of anti-immigrant voters, he quickly rejected the DREAM Act and continues to reject this important legislation.
- **Let's reclaim the American Dream:** Growing unemployment has affected us here *in* Pennsylvania. Barack Obama will restore fairness for middle class families by creating a "Making Work Pay" tax credit of up to \$1,000 for middle class families, and new tax cuts for college, retirement and child care. AAPIs own more than 1.1 million small businesses. Barack Obama supports federal programs that invest in minority-owned businesses, provide technical assistance to small business owners and reduce discrimination in lending.
- **Help Pennsylvania Move Forward:** Increasing traffic congestion, high gas prices and aging highways, bridges, rail and other transportation infrastructure has affected the quality of life in Pennsylvania. Barack Obama will create a National Infrastructure Reinvestment Bank that will increase transportation investments to create new jobs and stimulate economic activity.
- **Fight Discrimination and End Racial Profiling:** As a community organizer, constitutional law professor and a civil rights lawyer Barack Obama has fought to end all forms of discrimination. In the Illinois State Senate, he passed a law to identify and combat racial profiling. He has recognized the great wrong done to Japanese Americans during World War II. John McCain voted against the redress & reparations bill that provided justice for survivors of the Japanese American relocation.

<http://my.barackobama.com/page/content/aapihome>



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