

California Asian Pacific Islander agencies produce first statewide voter guide

By Lauren Gold, SGVN

twitter.com/laurengold

Posted: 10/31/2012 10:20:13 PM PDT

Updated: 11/01/2012 09:35:20 AM PDT

Asian and Pacific Islander advocacy groups across California have banded together this election season to create what they say is the first ever statewide voter guide for Asian-Americans.

The guide, spearheaded by the Asian Pacific Environmental Network and the Mobilize the Immigrant Vote Action Fund, takes a stance on all but two of the state ballot initiatives based on endorsements from 23 nonprofit organizations.

More than 75,000 copies of the guide have been printed and mailed to Asian-American households, and 10,000 in Los Angeles County alone. The guides were printed in English, Chinese, Korean, Lau, Vietnamese and Tagalog.

Amado Uno, of the Asian Pacific Environmental Network, said the guide is aimed to engage the API communities, who are largely overlooked during election season.

"We are interested in building power for the Asian-American and Pacific Islander community. We recognize that API voters are the fastest growing segment of California's population," Uno said. "We also recognize that the API community by and large is systematically ignored by mainstream parties and candidates."

Rebecca Apostol, of the MIV Action Fund, said the guide endorsed each ballot measures based on how it would impact the API communities. The guide does not take a stance on Propositions 31 and 38 because, Uno said, the groups could not reach a consensus.

"A lot of these propositions directly affect these communities and oftentimes they aren't educated about it," Apostol said.

An Le of the Asian Pacific American Legal Center said the collaborative voter guide helps messages from smaller advocacy organizations reach a larger audience.

APALC has been advocating for Propositions 30 and 34, but now the guide gives the organization resources to educate voters on issues that aren't part of its expertise, Le said.

Le said the guide goes hand-in-hand with APALC's "Your Vote Matters" campaign. Giving voters a cause, she said, is the most effective way to encourage them to get to the polls.

To view the voter guide online, visit www.18millionrising.org/voterguide/.
lauren.gold@sgvn.com, 626-657-0990 [API VoterGuide 2012 English 8.5x11 v2](#)