



September 8, 2008

Dear NAPAWF members, chapters and allies,

Thank you for participating in our **National Voter Registration Day: Be Seen. Be Heard. VOTE!** on October 4, 2008. Now more than ever, our voices must be heard and our faces must be seen in this year's electoral process. Registering people to vote is a simple yet significant contribution to the historic elections that will take place this fall. On Saturday, October 4th, you can participate in a national movement to register hundreds of new voters throughout the country!

In the enclosed Voter Registration Orientation Packet, you'll find materials that will help guide you in the preparation and implementation of your local Registration Day. We will be referring to these materials during our conference call trainings next week. The dates are listed below.

The Who, What, When, Where and Why's of voter registration...

(Choose one date only. Same training will be repeated both days.)

- Tuesday, September 16, 2008 at 5pm PST/8pm EST
- Wednesday, September 17, 2008 at 9am PST/12pm EST

Call-in phone number: (888) 617-3400

Passcode: 664046

We look forward to talking with you next week and thank you in advance for a successful day on October 4th! If you have any questions and/or have not yet signed up for one of the calls above, please contact Lisa Fu at lfu@napawf.org or Bonnie Chan at bchan@napawf.org.

In solidarity,

Miriam W. Yeung
Executive Director



napawf
NATIONAL ASIAN & PACIFIC AMERICAN WOMEN'S FORUM

TOP 10 REASONS WHY ASIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER WOMEN SHOULD VOTE!

1. **Voting is a right.** Beginning as early as 1882, the Asian & Pacific Islander (API) community endured a long history of discrimination that stifled our voices in this nation. By 1965 Congress abolished the exclusionary laws that prevented API immigrants from entering the country, and passed the Voting Rights Act, providing people of color with meaningful access to the polls - a right previously won by white women in 1920. Congress also passed legislation in 1992 requiring election sites to provide language assistance for limited English proficient (LEP) voters. These major landmarks were huge victories for the API community.
2. **Be a part of the growing API voting population.** In 2006, APIs made up approximately 5% of the U.S. population and represents one of the fastest growing racial communities in the nation. With its increasing population, the API community is becoming a critical voting bloc in local, state and federal elections and can help advance the concerns and needs of our community.
3. **Voting for a candidate = voting for issues.** API women are greatly impacted by a number of the hotly debated issues this election season, particularly immigration and health care. Over 60% of APIs are foreign born, and 1 out of 4 Asian American women lack health insurance. According to a report by Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF), nearly every major API ethnic group surveyed shared concerns about the need for comprehensive immigration and health care reform. When we vote we are electing representatives who will create policies that reflect the needs of our community.
4. **Vote smart!** The President we elect in this upcoming election will have a significant impact on the future composition of the Supreme Court. The President will nominate Supreme Court Justices who, if confirmed, will serve life-time appointments and undoubtedly make influential decisions that will affect our lives for decades to come.
5. **Be a role model!** By voting, we instill the value of civic participation in younger and older generations.

6. **U.S. elections have global implications.** Asia makes up more than 60% of the world's total population and includes over 30 countries. The API community is still connected to parts of Asia and the Pacific through family, friends, and businesses. Because U.S. policies have an impact on the world, we must ensure that our global interests are appropriately represented.
7. **Every vote counts!** In 2006, API voters in Virginia played a critical role in electing Senator Webb to Congress by a very thin margin. Similarly, API women voters will play a pivotal role in major battleground states this November election.
8. **Build our power!** Statistics show that the API community has the lowest rate of voter participation among all racial groups, and that API women have the lowest rate of voter participation overall. As a result, the needs and concerns of API women are seldom heard or addressed. Although recent polls reveal that voter participation in the API community is increasing, our community is still far behind. We must vote to strengthen our voice and bring more visibility to the community.
9. **It's never too late to get involved!** According to a report by AALDEF, 38% of the API community and 40% of the API women who voted in the 2004 elections were first-time voters. If you have not voted before, don't be intimidated. Get plugged in with the community, learn about the issues, and vote.
10. **Break the stereotype that APIs are politically apathetic.** According to a report by APIA Vote, over 70% of APIs indicated they were "very much interested" or "somewhat interested" in following the campaigns in 2004.

As Asian and Pacific Islander women, our right to vote carries a deeper meaning and represents an even greater victory! To learn more about Get Out the Vote opportunities, contact NAPAWF at (301) 270-4440 or APIA Vote at www.apiavote.org.

NAPAWF's mission is to build a movement to advance social justice and human rights for Asian and Pacific Islander women and girls.



Election Year Do's and Don'ts As a NAPAWF Member

All 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations are strictly prohibited from participating or intervening in any federal, state, or local candidate campaign activity. NAPAWF is a nonprofit organization and subject to the same rule, therefore members should refrain from using NAPAWF resources—such as chapter listservs, chapter meetings, and NAPAWF materials—to endorse or oppose a particular candidate, or distribute information with a partisan viewpoint about a candidate (such as a newsletter from a Political Action Committee).

On the other hand, NAPAWF members and chapters may engage in non-partisan voter education activities, such as organizing Get Out The Vote activities such as voter registration drives, distributing voter education guides, and educating other NAPAWF members or the public about election issues (such as immigration reform, the war in Iraq, or health care reform) and ballot propositions. Be careful though! If you want to educate other NAPAWF members or the public about a particular issue, don't do it in a way that would favor one candidate over another. Look at the circumstances; if it *appears* that you're trying to compare candidate position as "good" or "bad" on a particular issue, then you're trying to influence your audience's vote and that's prohibited!

As a NAPAWF member:

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• DO target underrepresented communities and encourage people to register to vote• DO distribute information about ballot propositions and their impact on API women.• DO conduct training sessions on how individuals can participate in the political process.• DO organize GOTV (get out the vote) drives so that more people participate in the democratic process. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• DON'T send out an email inviting NAPAWF members to a fundraising event for a political candidate, even if the candidate is your best friend and an amazing API woman.• DON'T organize GOTV (get out the vote) drives for a particular candidate or party.• DON'T wear a candidate T-shirt or button to a NAPAWF meeting or event.• DON'T distribute a voter education guide or legislative scorecard that clearly favors a particular candidate. |
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Remember, individual members may engage in political campaign activities for a candidate as long as she does so as a private individual, does not use any NAPAWF resources and does not act as a representative of NAPAWF during the activity.

For more information, please refer to the Alliance for Justice website for the following materials: "Permissible Election Activities Checklist" and "Election Activities of Individuals Associated with 501(c)(3) Organizations," or contact Priscilla at phuang@napawf.org.

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General Instructions

Who Can Use this Application

If you are a U.S. citizen who lives or has an address within the United States, you can use the application in this booklet to:

- Register to vote in your State,
- Report a change of name to your voter registration office,
- Report a change of address to your voter registration office, or
- Register with a political party.

Exceptions

Please do not use this application if you live outside the United States and its territories and have no home (legal) address in this country, *or* if you are in the military stationed away from home. Use the Federal Postcard Application available to you from military bases, American embassies, or consular offices.

New Hampshire town and city clerks will accept this application only as a request for their own absentee voter mail-in registration form.

North Dakota does not have voter registration.

Wyoming law does not permit mail registration.

How to Find Out If You Are Eligible to Register to Vote in Your State

Each State has its own laws about who may register and vote. Check the information under your State in the State Instructions. All States require that you be a United States citizen by birth or naturalization to register to vote in federal and State elections. Federal law makes it illegal to falsely claim U.S. citizenship to register to vote in any federal, State, or local election. You **cannot** be registered to vote in more than one place at a time.

How to Fill Out this Application

Use both the Application Instructions and State Instructions to guide you in filling out the application.

- First, read the Application Instructions. These instructions will give you important information that applies to everyone using this application.
- Next, find your State under the State Instructions. Use these instructions to fill out Boxes 6, 7, and 8. Also refer to these instructions for information about voter eligibility and any oath required for Box 9.

When to Register to Vote

Each State has its own deadline for registering to vote. Check the deadline for your State on the last page of this booklet.

How to Submit Your Application

Mail your application to the address listed under your State in the State Instructions. Or, deliver the application in person to your local voter registration office. The States that are required to accept the national form will accept copies of the application printed from the computer image on regular paper stock, signed by the applicant, and mailed in an envelope with the correct postage.

First Time Voters Who Register by Mail

If you are registering to vote for the first time in your jurisdiction and are mailing this registration application, Federal law requires you to show proof of identification the first time you vote. Proof of identification includes:

- A current and valid photo identification or
- A current utility bill, bank statement, government check, paycheck or government document that shows your name and address.

Voters may be exempt from this requirement if they submit a **COPY** of this identification with their mail in voter registration form. If you wish to submit a **COPY**, please keep the following in mind:

- Your state may have additional identification requirements which may mandate you show identification at the polling place even if you meet the Federal proof of identification.
- Do not submit original documents with this application, only **COPIES**.

If You Were Given this Application in a State Agency or Public Office

If you have been given this application in a State agency or public office, it is your choice to use the application. If you decide to use this application to register to vote, you can fill it out and leave it with the State agency or public office. The application will be submitted for you. Or, you can take it with you to mail to the address listed under your State in the State Instructions. You also may take it with you to deliver in person to your local voter registration office.

Note: The name and location of the State agency or public office where you received the application will remain confidential. It will not appear on your application. Also, if you decide not to use this application to register to vote, that decision will remain confidential. It will not affect the service you receive from the agency or office.

Application Instructions

Before filling out the body of the form, please answer the questions on the top of the form as to whether you are a United States citizen and whether you will be 18 years old on or before Election Day. If you answer no to either of these questions, you may not use this form to register to vote. However, state specific instructions may provide additional information on eligibility to register to vote prior to age 18.

Box 1 — Name

Put in this box your full name in this order — Last, First, Middle. Do not use nicknames or initials.

Note: If this application is for a change of name, please tell us in **Box A** (*on the bottom half of the form*) your full name before you changed it.

Box 2 — Home Address

Put in this box your home address (legal address). Do **not** put your mailing address here if it is different from your home address. Do **not** use a post office box or rural route without a box number. Refer to state-specific instructions for rules regarding use of route numbers.

Note: If you were registered before *but* this is the first time you are registering from the address in Box 2, please tell us in **Box B** (*on the bottom half of the form*) the address where you were registered before. Please give us as much of the address as you can remember.

Also Note: If you live in a rural area but do not have a street address, *or* if you have no address, please show where you live using the map in **Box C** (*at the bottom of the form*).

Box 3 — Mailing Address

If you get your mail at an address that is different from the address in Box 2, put your mailing address in this box. If you have no address in Box 2, you **must** write in Box 3 an address where you can be reached by mail.

Box 4 — Date of Birth

Put in this box your date of birth in this order — Month, Day, Year. *Be careful not to use today's date!*

Box 5 — Telephone Number

Most States ask for your telephone number in case there are questions about your application. However, you do **not** have to fill in this box.

Box 6 — ID Number

Federal law requires that states collect from each registrant an identification number. You must refer to your state's specific instructions for item 6 regarding information on what number is acceptable for your state. If you have neither a drivers license nor a social security number, please indicate this on the form and a number will be assigned to you by your state.

Box 7 — Choice of Party

In some States, you must register with a party if you want to take part in that party's primary election, caucus, or convention. To find out if your State requires this, see item 7 in the instructions under your State.

If you want to register with a party, print in the box the full name of the party of your choice.

If you do **not** want to register with a party, write "no party" or leave the box blank. Do **not** write in the word "independent" if you mean "no party," because this might be confused with the name of a political party in your State.

Note: If you do not register with a party, you can still vote in general elections and nonpartisan (nonparty) primary elections.

Box 8 — Race or Ethnic Group

A few States ask for your race or ethnic group, in order to administer the Federal Voting Rights Act. To find out if your State asks for this information, see item 8 in the instructions under your State. If so, put in Box 8 the choice that best describes you from the list below:

- American Indian *or* Alaskan Native
- Asian or Pacific Islander
- Black, *not of* Hispanic Origin
- Hispanic
- Multi-racial
- White, *not of* Hispanic Origin
- Other

Box 9 — Signature

Review the information in item 9 in the instructions under your State. Before you sign or make your mark, make sure that:

- (1) You meet your State's requirements, and
- (2) You understand **all** of Box 9.

Finally, sign your **full** name or make your mark, and print today's date in this order — Month, Day, Year. If the applicant is unable to sign, put in **Box D** the name, address, and telephone number (optional) of the person who helped the applicant.

Voter Registration Application

Before completing this form, review the General, Application, and State specific instructions.

Are you a citizen of the United States of America? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Will you be 18 years old on or before election day? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If you checked "No" in response to either of these questions, do not complete form. (Please see state-specific instructions for rules regarding eligibility to register prior to age 18.)				This space for office use only.			
1	(Circle one) Mr. Mrs. Miss Ms.	Last Name	First Name	Middle Name(s)	(Circle one) Jr Sr II III IV		
2	Home Address		Apt. or Lot #	City/Town	State		
3	Address Where You Get Your Mail If Different From Above			City/Town	State		
4	Date of Birth ____ / ____ / ____ Month Day Year		5	Telephone Number (optional)			
7	Choice of Party (see item 7 in the instructions for your State)		8	Race or Ethnic Group (see item 8 in the instructions for your State)			
6	ID Number - (See item 6 in the instructions for your state)						
9	I have reviewed my state's instructions and I swear/affirm that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ I am a United States citizen ■ I meet the eligibility requirements of my state and subscribe to any oath required. ■ The information I have provided is true to the best of my knowledge under penalty of perjury. If I have provided false information, I may be fined, imprisoned, or (if not a U.S. citizen) deported from or refused entry to the United States. 						
			Please sign full name (or put mark) ▲ Date: _____ Month Day Year				

If you are registering to vote for the first time: please refer to the application instructions for information on submitting copies of valid identification documents with this form.

Please fill out the sections below if they apply to you.

If this application is for a **change of name**, what was your name before you changed it?

A	Mr. Mrs. Miss Ms.	Last Name	First Name	Middle Name(s)	(Circle one) Jr Sr II III IV
B	If you were registered before but this is the first time you are registering from the address in Box 2, what was your address where you were registered before?				
	Street (or route and box number)		Apt. or Lot #	City/Town/County	State
	Zip Code				

If you live in a rural area but do not have a street number, or if you have no address, please show on the map where you live.

C	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Write in the names of the crossroads (or streets) nearest to where you live. ■ Draw an X to show where you live. ■ Use a dot to show any schools, churches, stores, or other landmarks near where you live, and write the name of the landmark. 				NORTH ▲
	Example _____ _____ Public School ●	Route #2	● Grocery Store Woodchuck Road _____ X		

If the applicant is unable to sign, who helped the applicant fill out this application? Give name, address and phone number (phone number optional).

D	
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Mail this application to the address provided for your State.

APPENDIX A:

Checklist for a voter registration campaign

Review all your resources

- Training manual
- Organization tools, etc.

Outreach to other AAPI groups in the community

- Make a GOAL! How many people are you going to register?
- What events would be successful in your community?
- Check your local calendar. What existing events or community resources would be helpful in your campaign?
- How can you enlist community support?
- Will your community leaders & members need training on how to conduct a voter registration drive?
- Create a field plan. Divide responsibilities and set time for next meeting.

Obtain all needed materials

- Contact your local Board of Elections or the Secretary of State (<http://www.canivote.org>) of your state about local rules for running a registration drive and collecting information at your station/ booth. (**Note:** Volunteers in Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Maryland, Nebraska and Texas must be deputized)
- Obtain your National Voter Registration forms online (http://www.fabnit.com/nvra_update.pdf) OR State forms are accessible at local election offices, post offices and libraries.
- Contact APIAVote Headquarters at the start of your Voter Mobilization Campaign, gotv@apiavote.org.

Organize your campaign

- Choose and designate your Coordinator who will be the point person throughout the drive.
- Figure out a place to do your voter registration. Remember to pick a location(s) that will be most visible and most accessible to your audience. Are there community events going on?
- Research your target audience. Do you need bilingual speakers and translated documents?
- Recruit volunteers, both in and out of your organization.
- Set shifts for voter registration drive.

Execute your campaign

- Follow up with any voter registration forms that were completed **INCORRECTLY**.
- Copy/Fax copies of the voter registration forms to APIAVote **EXCEPT** for the following states: Alabama, Arizona, California, Georgia, or Washington where it is illegal.
- Black out Social Security numbers after copying the forms for **Colorado and Virginia**.
- Let people know you are copying the form in **Nevada** or the **District of Columbia**.
- Turn in the completed voter registration forms to the correct Secretary of State **within 48 hours** from the completion of our event! **REMEMBER:** If you wait too long, the applications will become **INVALID**.
- Send all forms in with the project report form and completed pledge cards.

Follow up with your voters and with APIAVote and other coalition partners

- Email data from pledge cards and event evaluation forms to APIAVote, gotv@apiavote.org.

APPENDIX B:

Voter Registration Tips

1. Know your Audience

- a. Demographics
- b. Language
- c. Issues They Care About

2. Understand the Voter Registration Card & Process

a. Remember people need to re-register with their new address if they moved or re-register if they changed their name.

3. Have signs and name tags starting you are a volunteer registering voters.

4. If you are tabling never sit behind a table, approach people with a clipboard at your side (not cross armed at your chest, body language is important).

a. Remember if you don't approach people, you miss opportunities.

5. You can directly ask people to register to vote, but if that is not working...

- a. Capture your audience.
- b. Link self-interest with voting.
- c. Approach individuals with questions about problems our communities face.

6. Do the form with people to make sure that they fill it out correctly. If you are registering more than one person at a time, work with them as a group.

7. Have them turn their cards in to you or in to the state. If they want to turn it in themselves, persuade them as much as you can to have you do it.

8. Ask everyone to sign a pledge card and to volunteer.

9. _____

10. _____

Common Mistakes:

- Is it legible?
- Is the form signed?
- Is there a phone number?
- Did they have their ethnicity box checked?
- Did they write today's date where the form asked for a birth date?
- Did they confuse "County" with "Country" and write in "USA"?

APPENDIX C: Voter Registration Script

1. Be Creative With Your **Approach**
2. Explain and **Engage** Based on Their Answer.
3. Don't Forget to **Ask**.
4. **Push Back** If They Say 'No'.
5. **Register** a new voter or change someone's address/name.
6. Have them fill out a **Pledge Card**, promising to vote on Election Day.
7. Ask Them To **Volunteer**.

Sample 1:

Direct Ask to Register To Vote

Approach: *Are you registered to Vote?*

Engage: *Take a few minutes to register to vote and change the course of nation or take hours fusing over your health care system (insert issue of your choice).*

The Ask: *Will you register to vote and change how our health care system works?*

Push Back based on their answer

Ask them to volunteer: *Will you volunteer to increase Asian American registration levels so they are one of the highest in the country not lowest?*

Sample 2:

Ask Questions Right Away

Approach:

Did you know that Asian Americans have the lowest voter registration levels in the country?

Or

Are you worried about (fill in an important issue to the community) affecting your (time, energy, money, opportunities)?

Engage: *Take a few minutes to register to vote and change the course of nation or take hours fusing over your health care system (insert issue of your choice).*

The Ask: *Will you register to vote and change how our health care system works?*

Push Back based on their answer

Ask them to volunteer: *Will you volunteer to increase Asian American registration levels so they are one of the highest in the country not lowest?*

APPENDIX D:

Responding to Common Excuses

When people do not wish to register to vote, it is often because they may not understand how voting can affect their lives. It is your job to try to find out why they do not want to register and to help them determine why it is important that they register and vote.

Below are some suggestions for how to do this. It is important, however, for you to use your own words and creativity to express your desire to help others register to vote. You are out there because on some level you believe in the importance of voting.

Why is it so important to you? **Be yourself** and share this honestly with those to whom you are talking.

1. Find out why he/she are saying “no.”

Remember an excuse may hide a more basic reason. For example, she may say, “I really don’t have time,” when, in fact, she really means, “I don’t want to take the time to register because I don’t believe voting matters.”

Listen carefully. Is it a real reason or just an excuse? If it is an excuse, what question will you use to uncover the real reason for not wanting to register?

For example:

Volunteer: “Hi, I am concerned about affordable housing and am out here today registering people to vote. Would you like to register?”

Non-Voter: “Thanks anyway, but I don’t want to register.”

Volunteer: “Why not?”

Non-Voter: “Those politicians are all alike anyway. They don’t do anything for us once they get elected.”

2. Agree with him/her.

Make yourself her friend, not an opponent. Let her know that you heard what she said and that you share her concern.

What will you say to let her know you heard them and that you understand that they have a valid concern?

Volunteer: “Yeah, I know what you mean. Sometimes it seems like none of the politicians are working for you and me.”

3. Use her reason to convince him/her.

Explain how her concern is really a reason she should register.

Given her valid concern, what is a great reason for her to register now?

Volunteer: “That is why I am out here registering voters. I am fed up with politicians getting away with that just because people like us are not voting. You know, in the past some elections were decided by just a few hundred votes.”

4. Ask if you can help them fill out the registration form.

Let her know that you are a trained volunteer and can answer any voter registration questions that she may have.

Volunteer: “It takes just a couple of minutes to fill out the form. Can I give you a hand?”

More Common Excuses people give for not wanting to register — and sample responses you can give, using the 4-Step Strategy:

Excuse: “I don’t have time.”

Your response: “I know you are busy. That is why we are out here, to save you the time of going down to the registrar’s office. This way you will not have to give up your right to vote, and it will take less than a minute. Can I help you fill out this form?”

Excuse: “My candidates always lose anyway.”

Your response: “I know what you mean. I have been really frustrated the same way. And then I found out that many people did not vote last time. So people like you and me who are fed up have gotten together and we are going to register 5,000 people right here in town. Can I help you fill out this form?”

Excuse: “I think I’m already registered.”

Lots of people who think they are already registered have actually been taken off the registration rolls — usually because they moved. If someone tells you they have already registered, try “Great, have you moved or changed your name since you last registered?”

Excuse: “I’m homeless.”

A person has the right to vote no matter where they live, provided they meet other voter eligibility requirements. A location of residence must be indicated on the registration form so that officials may verify the precinct in which you live. A mailing address is used to send elections materials and keep the voter registration list current.

Excuse: “I have been convicted of a crime.”

Most people think that they cannot vote if they have been convicted of a crime, yet many states allow convicted felons to vote, either automatically after release from prison, parole, or probation or once they have applied for restoration of their voting rights. Ask your City/County Elections Office about your state’s laws on this topic.

**Final Step:
Turning Registered Voters into Volunteers**

If you have made sure that a person really is registered, is your job done? No! People who are already registered are your best prospects to become volunteers.

So what do you say once you know someone is already registered? “Great, but do not go away. Listen, it is people like you and me — people who understand how important it is for everyone to vote -- who are the heart of our campaign. You know we have an election coming up, and it could have a big impact on the future of housing, human services, jobs, and all kinds of issues. Do you think you could work with us for a few hours?”

Get their name, address, phone number, and email. At the very least, try to get them to refer their friends or family to the registration event!



napawf
NATIONAL ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN WOMEN'S FORUM

**NAPAWF National Voter Registration Day 2008: Be seen. Be heard.
VOTE!**

Evaluation Form

1. Your Name: _____

2. City/State: _____

3. Email: _____ 4. Phone number: _____

4. How helpful were the following tools:

a. Conference call training

Very helpful Somewhat helpful Not helpful at all Did not attend call

Comments: _____

b. Voter Registration Toolkit

Very helpful Somewhat helpful Not helpful at all

Comments: _____

5. What location(s) did you go to register folks to vote? _____

a. Why did you pick this location?

6. How many people did you register to vote? _____

7. What did you like the best about the Voter Registration Day?

8. What challenges did you encounter on Voter Registration Day and if they were addressed, how so?

9. Additional comments:

10. Can NAPAWF contact you for future events and announcements? Yes No

Please mail or email completed evaluation form to address below:

Priscilla Huang
NAPAWF
6930 Carroll Avenue, Suite 506
Takoma Park, MD 20912

OR

phuang@napawf.org

Thank you!