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PRESS RELEASE

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ONE IN TEN ORANGE COUNTY VOTERS IS ASIAN AMERICAN, ACCORDING TO NEW REPORT

VOTER MOBILIZATION EFFORT TO TARGET ASIAN AMERICAN, PACIFIC ISLANDER VOTERS

(Santa Ana, CA) April 8, 2008: Over one in ten voters in Orange County is Asian American, according to a report released today by the Orange County Asian and Pacific Islander Community Alliance (OCAPICA) and the Asian Pacific American Legal Center (APALC). Based on an analysis of data from the Orange County Registrar of Voters, *Asian Americans at the Ballot Box* found that 14% of all registered voters and 11% of those casting ballots countywide in the 2006 General Election were Asian American.

Asian Americans made up a much larger proportion of the electorate in some parts of Orange County. In Westminster, 48% of registered voters and 43% of those casting ballots in the 2006 General Election were Asian American. The report is the only to track Asian American voter registration and turnout in Orange County.

"Orange County is home to one of the fastest growing Asian American and Pacific Islander populations in the state," said Dan Ichinose, Director of APALC's Demographic Research Project and author of the report. "This report shows that Asian Americans are now becoming a political force in the region."

While the report noted significant numbers of Asian American voters countywide, it also noted the potential for greater participation across Asian American ethnic groups. In an effort to increase the political participation of Asian Americans and Pacific Islander voters, OCAPICA announced the launch of Project API Vote, an initiative aimed at educating and mobilizing Chinese, Filipino, Korean, Samoan, South Asian, and Vietnamese voters in Orange, San Bernardino, and Riverside Counties.

"Voting is critical if communities are to effectively voice their concerns to elected officials and other policy makers," said Mary Anne Foo, Executive Director of OCAPICA. "By educating our community and making sure everyone casts a ballot, Project API Vote will help Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders realize their full potential as participants in the political process."

Project API Vote is a partnership between OCAPICA and the Asian Pacific American Legal Center, Asian American Senior Citizens Service Center, Asian-American Resource Center of San Bernardino, League of Korean Americans of Orange County (LOKA-OC), Orange County Korean American Health Information and Education Center, and Riverside Asian American Community Association.

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The Orange County Asian and Pacific Islander Community Alliance (OCAPICA) is dedicated to enhancing the health, and social and economic well-being of Asians and Pacific Islanders in Orange County, California. Established in 1997, OCAPICA works to improve and expand the community's opportunities through service, education, advocacy, organizing and research. These community-driven activities seek to empower Asians and Pacific Islanders to define and control their lives and the future of their community.

Selected highlights of *Asian Americans at the Ballot Box: The 2006 General Election in Orange County* include:

- Voter Registration and Turnout: Orange County

Overview

- Nearly 209,000 Asian Americans were registered to vote and nearly 85,000 Asian Americans cast ballots in the 2006 General Election.
- Asian Americans made up 14% of registered voters and 11% of voters countywide.
- Between the 2002 and 2006 General Elections, the number of Asian American voters grew 18%. In contrast, the number of all voters countywide grew only 14% over the same period.

By Ethnic Group

- 40% of Asian Americans registered to vote cast ballots.
- 37% of Asian Indian, 29% of Cambodian, 42% of Chinese, 41% of Filipino, 58% of Japanese, 35% of Korean, and 46% of Vietnamese American registered voters cast ballots.

By Geography

- Asian Americans made up one-quarter or more of registered voters in four cities countywide: Westminster (48%), Garden Grove (38%), Fountain Valley (27%), and Irvine (25%).
- Asian Americans made up one-quarter or more of those casting ballots in two cities countywide: Westminster (43%) and Garden Grove (35%).

By Nativity

- Among Asian American registered voters, 78% were born outside the United States.
- Among Asian Americans casting ballots in the 2006 General Election, 80% were born outside the United States. 79% of Asian Indian, 66% of Cambodian, 75% of Chinese, 68% of Filipino, 18% of Japanese, 86% of Korean, and 96% of Vietnamese Americans casting ballots were foreign-born.

Use of Absentee Ballot

- Among Asian Americans who voted, 61% cast absentee ballots. In contrast, only 48% of all voters countywide cast absentee ballots.
- 34% of Asian Indian, 45% of Cambodian, 54% of Chinese, 45% of Filipino, 57% of Japanese, 57% of Korean, and 72% of Vietnamese Americans who voted cast absentee ballots.

Note: Registered voters are those who were registered to vote by October 23, 2006 and eligible to vote in the 2006 General Election. Voters are registered voters who cast ballots in the 2006 General Election. Voter turnout is the percent of registered voters who cast ballots in the 2006 General Election.

Asian Americans at the Ballot Box: The 2006 General Election in Orange County can be found online at www.apalc.org.

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