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PRESS RELEASE

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ASIAN AMERICANS IN LOS ANGELES SUPPORT OBAMA ON ELECTION DAY

Healthcare, Immigration Among Most Important Issues to Emerging Electorate

LOS ANGELES, November 6, 2008 – Asian American voters in Los Angeles County supported Barack Obama on Election Day, according to exit poll data released today by the Asian Pacific American Legal Center. Preliminary findings from the exit poll show 68% of Asian American voters countywide cast ballots for the President-elect, with 24% of Asian American Republicans crossing party lines to support Obama. Approximately 62% of unaffiliated Asian Americans also voted for Obama.

“Asian Americans played an important role in this watershed moment in American history,” said Stewart Kwoh, President and Executive Director of APALC. “Our communities now expect this new administration to address needs and concerns that have long been neglected.”

Healthcare and immigrant rights were among the most important issues that determined Asian American voters’ choice of candidates. Those surveyed expressed strong support for universal healthcare, with 76% backing programs to improve the healthcare system for everyone, regardless of immigration status, and 56% willing to pay an increase in taxes to achieve it. Immigrant rights also played an important role in guiding the choices Asian American voters made on Election Day, with many supporting an increase in programs to help immigrants learn English and opposing a continuation of immigration raids at worksites.

Asian Americans make up roughly 11% of all registered voters and 9% of those casting ballots in Los Angeles County. “As the Asian American population grows, so does the Asian American electorate,” said Dan Ichinose, Director of APALC’s Demographic Research Project. “This poll helps raise the visibility of a community that is often ignored by elected officials and other policy makers.”

The exit poll surveyed over 4,000 voters in Los Angeles and Orange Counties on Election Day, collecting data on over 1,200 Chinese, Filipino, Indian, Japanese, Korean, Vietnamese and other Asian American and Pacific Islander voters.

Preliminary findings from the 2008 Southern California Voter Survey can be found online at www.apalc.org.

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