

SEIU AAPI Caucus

Asian Pacific Islander Caucus



SEIU Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) Caucus Launched!

Some 36 AAPI leaders from 14 SEIU locals with a high concentration of AAPI members met April 16 in Los Angeles to re-launch our SEIU AAPI caucus. At the meeting we reaffirmed our commitment to engage our AAPI members on key issues facing our members and communities.

Here are powerful reasons why:

1) The growing AAPI vote is key to a progressive agenda and winning reforms on health care, good jobs, a safe environment, immigration reform and an economy that works for all.

AAPI Voting Snapshot Right Now:

- *18.9 million Asian American Pacific Islanders live in the U.S.*
- *There are 9 million AAPI eligible voters*
- *5.1 million AAPI voters did not go to the polls in 2014*
- *There are 2.5 million AAPI legal residents.*

States With Highest AAPI Population of Eligible, Registered and Expected Voters

Eligible Voters as of 2012	Registered Voters in 2012	Expected Voters in 2014
CA – 3,297,000	1,790,000	1,499,000
NY – 783,000	414,000	354,000
TX – 542,000	220,000	220,000
IL – 333,000	243,000	204,000
FL – 308,000	194,000	179,000
WA – 349,000	236,000	223,000

A large percentage of AAPI voters also live in Arizona, Colorado, Minnesota, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Virginia and Georgia.

2) The growing AAPI unionization rate means we can have a far greater impact on our nation and communities. While other groups have seen a decrease in union membership in recent years, AAPI union membership rose by **9.4%** in 2013 and **10.4%** in 2014.

68.7% of AAPI unionized workers are immigrants while the overall workforce is just **16%** immigrant. A large percentage of AAPI women are employed in health care, while a large percentage of AAPI men work in restaurants. The public sector is also a major AAPI employer.

3) There are many new, exciting ways to bring AAPI workers into the social justice movement:

- As we saw in the recent Fight For \$15 actions, many AAPI workers are passionate about taking a stand against income inequality.
- Last year, AAPI members participated in the People's Climate March and other environmental actions because many AAPI countries are disproportionately affected by rising sea levels and deadly typhoons. We are deeply proud of our SEIU projects in the Philippines that have helped rebuild communities, and economic livelihoods after super storm Haiyan devastated the island.

- Immigration reform and President Obama's Executive Actions are vital for keeping AAPI families together and bringing workers out of the shadows.
- And the recent nationwide demonstrations against police brutality registered the urgency for our government to ensure safety, rights and respect for every community.

4) Large Numbers of AAPI immigrants are eligible for DACA/DAPA. States with the greatest numbers are:

California - 1,214,000; Texas -594,000; New York – 258,000; Illinois – 214,000; Florida – 181,000; New Jersey – 150,000; Georgia – 130,000; North Carolina – 122,000.

SEIU AAPI leaders left our April 16 meeting hopeful and deeply inspired.

We hope to build activist AAPI caucuses in Locals and strengthen existing ones.

We recognized the urgent need to have more AAPI faces in leadership roles in our union.

We pledged to help each other achieve our goals through regional meetings, social media, networking and monthly calls.

We expressed our support for our SEIU Local 1107 in their struggle to preserve all their contract gains as they face major cutbacks.

We are proud of the budding partnership between IAMERICA, Nevada APALA chapter and Mi Familia Vota to organize our communities in Nevada in a civic engagement pilot program that will propel both communities in the forefront of general elections in 2016.

Finally, we hope to organize activities in May to celebrate Asian Heritage Month.

We look forward to building the leadership, expanding the member involvement of our AAPI Caucus, and to growing the movement for social and economic justice.

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