



Asian Pacific Islander Coalition of Washington State
Celebrating Unity and Civic Participation

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Contact: Candace Inagi, Hong Chuor
Phone: 206-695-7600

**Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders Mobilize Voters in Washington State
September 15 Statewide Summit includes Gubernatorial Candidate Forum**

With the spotlight on civic participation in this important election year, two thousand Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, the country's fastest growing racial minority group, will gather in Tacoma for the statewide Asian American and Pacific Islander Democracy Summit on September 15, 2016. The Asian Pacific Islander Coalition (APIC), a statewide network of Asian and Pacific Islander community groups organizing the summit, expects this to be one of the largest events of its kind in the nation.

"We are bringing Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPIs) together to celebrate our cultural diversity and promote greater engagement in our democracy among our rapidly growing communities," said Diane Narasaki, Co-Chair of King County APIC and Executive Director of Asian Counseling and Referral Service in Seattle. "The summit will demonstrate the Asian American and Pacific Islander community's strength, unity and diversity, educate our voters, and inspire our community to vote. It is part of the Asian American Pacific Islander Democracy Initiative, which is mobilizing Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders through voter registration, voter education, candidate forums, phone banking, door knocking and ballot parties to enable AAPI voters to make a difference in this critical election year and beyond. Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders can be the margin of victory in close elections."

Showcasing Asian and Pacific Islander cultural entertainment and organizations, the summit will bring together registered voters who speak more than 20 languages and will help register additional voters. Martha Choe, Co-Chair of the Asian American and Pacific Islander Democracy Initiative's Honorary Committee, will be the keynote speaker. The summit will feature a gubernatorial candidate forum with interpretation in those languages.

"Governor Jay Inslee and Bill Bryant will participate in the candidate forum; Robert Mak will moderate," said Narasaki.

Participants are expected from all over Washington, including King, Pierce, Snohomish, Yakima, Spokane, and Thurston counties. To date, over 80 organizations have endorsed the summit.

Who: A free event open to all Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders – immigrants, refugees, and American-born youth, adults, and seniors.

What: 2016 Asian American Pacific Islander Democracy Summit: Celebrating Unity & Civic Engagement

When: Thursday, September 15, 2016 from 10AM - 2PM

Where: Tacoma Dome Exhibition Hall

For more information, contact: Diane Narasaki 206-695-7600 Tony Lee 206 795-9110 - King County Faaluaina Pritchard - Pierce County, 253-590-7457 | Van Dinh Kuno - Snohomish County, 425-388-9312 Dori Peralta Baker - Yakima Valley, 509-945-0891 | Vang Xiong X. Toyed – Spokane, 509-869-5660 Brian Lock - South Puget Sound, 360-771-2398 Lin Crowley - South Puget Sound, 360-951-1289

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