Our Time to “Get Woke”

The Power of Civic Engagement and Coalition Building

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What is AAPI Data?
Main Takeaways

Growing Importance of Asian Americans

But, there is a big gap in leadership and civic engagement

Integrated Voter Engagement Means...

Organizing

Coalition Building
Growing Importance of Asian Americans
Rapid Population Growth

2000 to 2010

- Asian: 43%
- Latino: 43%
- NHPI: 36%
- Black: 11%
- White: 1%

2010 to 2015

- Asian: 18%
- Latino: 12%
- NHPI: 4%
- Black: 5%
- White: 0%
Sharp Changes in Migration Flows

- First in legal permanent residents (2004)
- First in foreign born inflows (2007)
- Rapid growth in Asian unauthorized since 2000
- Dominance in H1B visa category
  - Silicon Valley, but also universities, medicine
Growing Share of Foreign Born

Source: Pew Research Center

Asian: 5, 11, 19, 23, 23, 26, 29, 32, 34, 34, 31, 38
Latino: 25, 36, 44, 48, 47, 43, 40, 37, 36, 38, 38, 38
Important Part of Immigrant Vote

**National**
- White: 25%
- Latino: 33%
- Asian: 11%
- Black: 1%
- All other: 30%

**California**
- White: 20%
- Latino: 44%
- Asian: 2%
- Black: 1%
- All other: 33%

*Source: 2016 Current Population Survey*
Purchasing Power

in millions

1990: 113
2000: 274
2010: 599
2020: 1100
Wealth Generation

Net worth relative to Whites

Source: St. Louis Federal Reserve
Business Formation

Total:
- 2002: 1,103,587
- 2007: 1,549,559
- 2012: 1,917,902

Over $1 million:
- 2002: 49,636
- 2007: 78,086
- 2012: 104,621

Source: U.S. Census Bureau
So What’s The Problem?
Problem #1: Model Minority Myth

- People assume that our community doesn’t need help or support

- Data disaggregation is vital
  - Without data, we cannot make our case
# Bachelor's Degree or Higher (Asian Am)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ethnicity</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Taiwanese</td>
<td>75%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Asian Indian</td>
<td>74%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mongolian</td>
<td>59%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sri Lankan</td>
<td>57%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Malaysian</td>
<td>55%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Korean</td>
<td>54%</td>
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<td>Pakistani</td>
<td>53%</td>
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<td>Chinese</td>
<td>53%</td>
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<td>Japanese</td>
<td>50%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Filipino</td>
<td>48%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bangladeshi</td>
<td>48%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Indonesian</td>
<td>48%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thai</td>
<td>44%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nepalese</td>
<td>43%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vietnamese</td>
<td>27%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Burmese</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hmong</td>
<td>17%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cambodian</td>
<td>17%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Laotian</td>
<td>14%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bhutanese</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Analysis of 2015 American Community Survey Microdata
Bachelor’s Degree or Higher (Pacific Islanders)

- Melanesian: 19%
- Native Hawaiian: 17%
- Guamanian: 16%
- Fijian: 15%
- Samoan: 14%
- Tongan: 11%

Source: Analysis of 2015 American Community Survey Microdata
Limited English Proficiency

- Bhutanese: 78%
- Burmese: 77%
- Vietnamese: 60%
- Thai: 58%
- Nepalese: 57%
- Chinese: 57%
- Korean: 56%
- Cambodian: 54%
- Japanese: 53%
- Mongolian: 51%
- Taiwanese: 49%
- Laotian: 48%
- Bangladeshi: 48%
- Indonesian: 44%
- Hmong: 43%
- Malaysian: 42%
- Filipino: 34%
- Pakistani: 33%
- Sri Lankan: 30%
- Asian Indian: 27%

Source: Analysis of 2015 American Community Survey Microdata
No Health Insurance

- Nepalese: 22%
- Korean: 20%
- Pakistani: 19%
- Burmese: 19%
- Thai: 19%
- Malaysian: 19%
- Bangledeshi: 17%
- Indonesian: 17%
- Bhutanese: 17%
- Cambodian: 16%
- Laotian: 16%
- Vietnamese: 16%
- Hmong: 14%
- Chinese: 12%
- Sri Lankan: 11%
- Filipino: 10%
- Asian Indian: 9%
- Taiwanese: 8%
- Japanese: 6%

Source: Analysis of 2015 American Community Survey Microdata
Protest in Rhode Island
Protest in Rhode Island
Lessons on Data Disaggregation

- We have to continually engage and educate
  - Internally
  - Externally

- We have to fight
  - We need learn from others
Lessons on Data Disaggregation

Judge Mike Kwan (UT): “Truth is the greatest casualty of the current times. Don't like the facts? Just call them fake and ignore them. Don't like the messenger? Call them stupid liars.

The simple truth that every community advocate who has ever sought funding for the community knows is that DATA = DOLLARS.

If you cannot demonstrate through data that a particular group is in need of assistance, they won't get any.”
Problem #2: Low Civic Engagement

Consequences

- Our economic contributions not recognized
- Perpetual foreigner
- Leadership and talent hit “bamboo ceiling”
Making Economic Contributions

Transcontinental railroad depended on Chinese immigrants
Written Out of History
U.S. Immigration Law was Built on Asian Exclusion

- 1862 - Anti-Coolie Act (CA tax)
- 1875 - Page Act (Asia)
- 1879 - California Constitution revision (Article 19)
- 1882 - Chinese Exclusion Act
- 1907 - Gentleman’s Agreement (Japan)
- 1913 - Alien Land Law (CA, more states later)
- 1917 - Asiatic Barred Zone
- 1935 - Filipino Repatriation Act
- 1942 - Exec Order 9066 (Japanese Am internment)
Economic Anxiety + Scapegoating = Anti-Asian Violence

Anti-Chinese riots (Denver, 1880)

Srinivas Kuchibhotla (Kansas, 2017)

Vincent Chin (Detroit, 1982)
White Supremacy Hurts Us Directly

“When two-thirds or three-quarters of the CEOs in Silicon Valley are from South Asia or from Asia, I think . . .

A country is more than an economy. We’re a civic society.”
Hate Crimes Early 2017
## Family Visas Under Attack

### People obtaining legal permanent resident status by broad class of admission, Asian Origin (2015)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Immediate Relatives</th>
<th>Other Family</th>
<th>Employment</th>
<th>Diversity</th>
<th>Refugees &amp; Asylees</th>
<th>Other</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vietnam</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bangladesh</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>52%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>1%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pakistan</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>4%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Philippines</td>
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<td>28%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>36%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td></td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Taiwan</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thailand</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Korea</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>56%</td>
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<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nepal</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Burma</td>
<td>5% 4%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>89%</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Bhutan</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>9%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All Other Asian</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Percentages may not add up to 100% due to disclosure requirements

Low Participation Means Less Influence, Less Respect
The AAPI community is the fastest-growing minority in America, but it’s still -- (applause) -- well, that's good to cheer about, but it's still significantly underrepresented at the ballot box.

In 2012, just 56 percent of eligible AAPI voters were registered to vote.
Participation is Key To

Building Power
Fighting Racism
Being Seen As American
We’ve Got a LOT of Work to Do
Racial Gaps in Voting

2016 Election

- White: 65
- Black: 59
- Asian Am: 49
- Latino: 48
- Pacific Islander: 48

## Asian Americans and the 2016 Election

**Registration**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Indian</td>
<td>56%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japanese</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Filipino</td>
<td>48%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vietnamese</td>
<td>55%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Asian</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chinese</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
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</table>

**Voting**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>Indian</td>
<td>62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japanese</td>
<td>62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Filipino</td>
<td>50%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Vietnamese</td>
<td>46%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Asian</td>
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<td>Korean</td>
<td>46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chinese</td>
<td>41%</td>
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</table>

*Source: Analysis of Nov 2016 Current Population Survey data*
How Do We Get to Parity?

Registration is 2x the Effect

Not Just Voting
Contacting Public Officials

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group</th>
<th>Contacting Public Officials</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pac Islander</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overall</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian American</td>
<td>9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Latino</td>
<td>7%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Japanese</td>
<td>19%</td>
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<td>Indian</td>
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Source: 2016 National Asian Am Survey
Campaign Donations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ethnicity</th>
<th>Donation Rate</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
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<td>Hmong</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: 2016 National Asian Am Survey

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Consumer Activism

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>White</th>
<th>Black</th>
<th>Overall</th>
<th>Pacific Islander</th>
<th>Asian Am</th>
<th>Latino</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>24%</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>28%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: 2016 National Asian Am Survey
**Attending Public Meetings**

- **Pacific Islander**: 35%
- **Black**: 30%
- **White**: 26%
- **Overall**: 24%
- **Latino**: 24%
- **Asian Am**: 14%
- **Cambodian**: 30%
- **Indian**: 27%
- **Japanese**: 16%
- **Vietnamese**: 16%
- **Hmong**: 15%
- **Filipino**: 14%
- **Korean**: 11%
- **Chinese**: 7%

*Source: 2016 National Asian Am Survey*
Protest Activity

Source: 2016 National Asian Am Survey

@naasurvey @karthickr @aapidata
NO MUSLIM BAN
NO WALL
Protesters Rally In Seattle

Keep Families TOGETHER!
#AAPIAction

Students Protest In Maryland
Protesters March On Washington, D.C.

#AAPIAction

STEPHEN BOBB PHOTOGRAPHY
How Do We Improve Coalition Possibilities?
Part of It is Tactical

- Get on radar screens
  - State Voices
  - Strategic investment in state tables, issue-specific tables

- Voting is important, but need to go *beyond voting*
  - Campaign contributions
  - Attending public hearings
  - Volunteering, public service
Many Areas of Convergence

- Presidential voting (exit polls)
- Universal health care (NAAS 2008, 2012)
- Preserving social safety net (Pew, NAAS 2012)
- Support higher taxation (NAAS 2012)
- Support pathway to citizenship (NAAS 2012*)
- Support affirmative action (NAAS12, Field14, APIAVote/AAJC14)
Growth of Eligible Voters

- Nevada, 14%
- Washington, 11%
- New Jersey, 10%
- Maryland, 7%
- Virginia, 7%
- Oregon, 6%
- Minnesota, 5%


Share of Eligible Voters
Focus on our civic responsibility

- AAPIs get 1% of philanthropy dollars
- But, we need to step in giving, too

Asians 32% of pop in SF and SM counties
28% of those with incomes > $100,000
2.7% of major donors; about 1% of giving
Focus on *our* civic responsibility

- **We need to step up in giving, too**
  - Charitable giving (56% for AA vs. 70% for whites)
  - Outreach by mainstream philanthropy would help
  - But we need to motivate, hold ourselves *accountable*

- **Culture and values**
  - How do parents define success?
  - Discussion of politics in household

- **Youth**

- **Learn from groups that are well organized**
Redefine Asian Success
Success Means Recognition, Influence

Political Participation

Civic Participation

Philanthropy

Success of our community AND larger society depends on it
Civic Engagement Pioneers

Wong Kim Ark, 1898
Established birthright citizenship

Congressman Saund, 1956
First AAPI elected to Congress
Heroes from all communities

Fred Korematsu
Kawaipuna Prejean
Grace Lee Boggs
Larry Itliong
Bhagat Singh Thind

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The Power of Coalitions
Democracy is not a spectator sport
Ultimately, our job is not just to fight for our own rights, but to fight for the rights of all people, everywhere…

And that means we have to be well-informed, we have to engage with our government, and we have to vote -- not just when it’s time to elect a president, every single election. School boards matter. County offices matter. State attorneys races matter. State legislative races matter.
Thank You!

karthick@aapidata.com

www.karthick.com