Asian American Pacific Islander Economic Justice

“There is growing poverty, a bimodal distribution of income, and widening inequality among AAPIs. For example, the 2014 poverty rate for AAPI elderly is nearly twice as high as that for non-Hispanic whites and 1.5 times as high as for the total population. Poor AAPI elderly tend to be immigrants with minimal retirement benefits. There are also pockets of very high poverty among Southeast Asian and PI children. So while AAPI buying power could exceed $1.25 trillion by 2040, a significant number of AAPIs could be trapped in poverty. If the current poverty rate continues, then the number of AAPIs (alone) in poverty will grow from an estimated 2.2 million in 2015 to 3.7 million in 2040. To address the potential of an even greater widening divide, it is important to invest in the future, by training and retraining AAPIs with marketable skills, raising the minimum wage, reinstating a more progressive tax system, offering subsidies and tax supports, and supporting policies that address the fundamental forces that create, and perpetuate, economic inequality.”

-Professor Paul Ong, UCLA

No Data, No Justice: Moving beyond the Model Minority Myth in K-12 Education

"We are encouraged by the incentives that the current administration has given states to further disaggregate data and reveal the disparities in educational outcomes within our diverse Asian American and Pacific Islander communities. Further disaggregating data is a step in the right direction towards a more nuanced understanding of who America’s children are and what they need to succeed in our public schools, drawing attention and urgency where there may have been none before. Being visible within the public education system is not enough, however — we urge policymakers for more equitable funding of education and full transparency of how resources are allocated to eliminate the disparities caused by poverty, trauma, language, and cultural barriers."

-Rita Pin Ahrens, Southeast Asian Resource Action Center (SEARAC)

Educational Opportunity and the Missing Minority in Higher Education: Changing the National Narrative of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders by 2040

"AAPIs are among the most diverse, and most misunderstood groups in America. Given the increased number of AAPIs who experienced poverty in the US over the last decade, and the anticipated growth of AAPI students who will need to enroll in, and complete, college by 2040, when college completion becomes the "new normal" attention must be made to Asian American Native American Pacific Islander Serving Institutions (AANAPISIs), the "missing minority" in education. We must challenge the model minority stereotype and adequately fund AANAPISIs."

-Neil Horikoshi, Asian & Pacific Islander Scholarship Fund (APIASF)

Asian American Workers and Unions: Current and Future Opportunities for Organizing Asian American Pacific Islander Workers

“AAPI workers have become the fastest growing unionized workforce in the country, APALA urges policy makers to continue supporting bills like the Raise the Wage Act (S. 1150) to ensure working families
maintain access to safe working conditions, respect on the job, and higher wages. By continuing to invest in the organizing of AAPI workers and as we approach 2040, APALA sees endless opportunities to bring historically unorganized and nontraditional sectors of the workforce into the labor movement, to grow our power exponentially and ensure working people will have a pathway to the middle class.”

-Gregory Cendana and Kim Geron, Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance - AFL-CIO (APALA)

Reimagining Immigration for a New Generation

"Over the last few years, Asian immigration has surpassed that of Latino immigration, and the Census Bureau projects a continuation of high levels of net migration for Asians. To address the future needs of AAPIs by 2040, we must reimagine the purpose of immigration. Immigrants will continue to be a large portion of the AAPI community and we need flexible and humane immigration policies. We should recommit ourselves to an immigration system that prioritizes family unity, due process and humanitarian relief, while also bolstering our businesses and economies. AAPIs have much at stake in the immigration debate and we should use our growing political power to realize meaningful reform for our community."

-Erin Oshiro

Forging a Path Toward Health Equity in 2040

“To address the current and future health needs of AAPIs, policy makers need to support and use disaggregated data, continue to defend the Affordable Care Act, and most importantly, expand coverage and policies beyond the ACA to improve overall health and economic well-being, by revising and reintroducing the Health Equity and Accountability Act of 2014, which takes an intersectional, social determinants of health approach to addressing health. The AAPI health community also wants our policymakers to support/advance legislation that intersects the achievement of health and health equity, to include, but not limited to, immigration reform, affordable housing, and environmental justice.”

- Priscilla Huang, Asian Pacific Islander American Health Forum (APIAHF)

Aging in America: Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders 2040

“To ensure the quality of life for AAPI older adults by 2040, the implementation of the Older American’s Act of 1965, as amended, must address disaggregated data collection to understand the diverse needs and variations between AAPI subpopulations, accessible and person-center planning and service delivery that are culturally and linguistically appropriate, and the unique cultural and linguistic needs of AAPI older adults and their families throughout innovation and the development of mainstream solutions for long-term services and support.”

- Wesley Lum, National Asian Pacific Center on Aging (NAPCA)

Asian American Pacific Islander Environmental Leadership for 2040

“The fight for the future is now. Climate change is an unprecedented issue that shapes the era in which we now live. AAPIs are disproportionately impacted by climate change. Our global carbon footprint, one which PIs have done little to cause, are already at dangerous levels. The effects are already being felt, and it will only be worse in 2040 unless we seize the moment to control greenhouse gas admissions
now The development of leaders is key, as seen, and amplified, by the Village de l'Est response to Hurricane Katrina, and multicultural coalition's ability to pass SB 535 in California. SB 535 mandates that at least 25% of the state's Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund investments go to projects that benefit disadvantaged communities, with a minimum of 10% going to projects located in those communities.”

- Charles Lee

**From Citizens to Elected Representatives: The Political Trajectory to Asian American Pacific Islanders by 2040**

“The number of AA voters will double by 2040, and the number of PI voters will also grow, which will enable AAPIs to become a sought-after and decisive vote, as well as the margin of victory, in an ever-increasing number of elections. As AAPIs become more politically engaged they've also becoming more emboldened. There's been a jump in the number of AAPI commissioners, appointees and elected officials, and development in growing the pipeline for AAPI judicial nominations including the US Supreme Court Justice. To address the future of political engagement of AAPIs, we need our policy makers to pass voter legislation that protects, and enhances, the ability of AAPIs to vote with in-language protection and support. We also need to pay attention to ensuring a complete count during the decennial census, because that data is used for redistricting and reapportionment.”

- Christine Chen, APIAVote

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