Schedule

11:00 - 11:15 AM  Welcome
■ Congresswoman Judy Chu
■ Madalene Xuan-Trang Mielke, President & CEO, APAICS

11:15 - 12:00 PM  Panel #1: The Candidate
This panel highlights the challenges facing candidates, told through the experiences of currently elected AAPI women. The panel will cover the importance of sisterhood, how to build a winning team, and confronting bias, racism and sexism on the campaign trail as an AAPI woman.
■ Michigan State Senator Stephanie Chang
■ Ohio State Senator Tina Maharath
■ Massachusetts State Representative Maria Robinson
■ Moderator: Aditi Hardikar

12:00 - 12:30 PM  Breakout Sessions
■ The Image of Authentic Leadership: In this discussion, Rosana Vollmerhausen, DC Style Factory Founder and Chief Stylist, brings her expertise dressing high-profile clients including U.S. politicians. She will discuss what it means to define an image of authenticity especially for women in public-facing roles.
  ■ Rosana Vollmerhausen, Founder and Chief Stylist, DC Style Factory
■ So You Think You Want to Run?: This breakout session will feature a discussion with two experts from organizations dedicated toward helping women run for public office. The format will be a candid Q&A session for attendees to discuss what they need to know to run for office.
  ■ Sarah Curran, Director of Programs & Partnerships, Women’s Public Leadership Network (WPLN)
  ■ Jarinete Santos, Political Pipeline Director, She Should Run

This Breakout Session Sponsored by: EMILY’S LIST

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The Intersection of Race, Gender and Power in Political Processes: Microaggressions make navigating the political sphere as women of color particularly challenging. Microaggressions also have harmful effects in the self-esteem, well-being and likelihood to run for office among women of color. Dr. Villamil will unpack the concepts of microaggressions and discuss self-advocacy strategies to identify and interrupt these microaggressions while engaging with different political constituents.

Dr. Astrid Villamil, Assistant Professor, University of Missouri-Columbia (Department of Communication)

12:30-1:00 PM  Panel #2: The Decision Maker
(Crossover programming with “APAICS in Conversation” series)
This discussion, as part of the APAICS in Conversation weekly series, will feature the Honorable Lucy Koh, Judge - U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California. Attendees will have the chance to learn directly from her journey and engage in a Q&A session.

- The Hon. Lucy H. Koh, Judge, U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California
- Moderator: The Hon. Elaine Lu, Judge, Los Angeles Superior Court Judge

1:00-1:15 PM  Break

1:15-2:00 PM  Panel #3: The Elected
This panel, featuring elected AAPI women, highlights navigating the political process, crafting policy, agenda setting and building strategic alliances to pass effective policies.

- Michigan State Representative Padma Kuppa
- Guam Senator Régine Biscoe Lee
- New York State Assemblymember Yuh-Line Niou
- Oakland City Councilmember Sheng Thao
- Moderator: Christina Kuo, Senior Strategist, Grassroots Solutions

2:00-2:30PM  Breakout Sessions
- The Double Standard: This breakout session will allow attendees to have a candid Q&A session with specialists on the challenges women face when running for office. The discussion will cover dealing with family obligations and balancing expectations of women in a public-facing role.
Amanda Hunter, Research and Communications Director, Barbara Lee Family Foundation

Liuba Grechen Shirley, Founder & CEO, Vote Mama

Let’s Debate: Strategies for Campaign Debate Preparation: Participating in a political debate or forum during a campaign can bring a mixed sense of uncertainty, dread, and excitement to get your message out to voters. This session will discuss the opportunities and challenges of debating a campaign opponent and highlight key communication strategies to keep in mind when preparing for a debate so that you can be successful in your next debate/forum.

Dr. Mitchell S. McKinney, Professor of Communication and Director of the Political Communication Institute, University of Missouri

2:30 - 2:45 PM Break

2:45 - 3:30 PM Panel #4: The Pipeline
This panel highlights building a movement for women of color to run, the power of allyship and leveraging successful partnerships.

Glynda Carr, Co-Founder, Higher Heights for America and Higher Heights Leadership Fund

Stephanie G. Lopez, Program Manager, LatinasRepresent

Madalene Xuan-Trang Mielke, President & CEO, APAICS

Prairie Rose Seminole, National Trainer, Advance Native Political Leadership

Moderator: Grisella Martinez, Vice President of Government Relations, National Association of Broadcasters (NAB)

3:30 - 3:45 PM Guest Speakers

3:45 - 4:00 PM Closing
Meet the Speakers

Panel 1: The Candidate

STEPHANIE CHANG (Panelist)
State Senator, Michigan

Sen. Stephanie Chang, the first Asian American woman to be elected to the Michigan Legislature, worked as a community organizer in Detroit for nearly a decade before serving two terms in the Michigan House of Representatives.

She served as state director for NextGen Climate Michigan, alumni engagement and evaluation coordinator for the Center for Progressive Leadership in Michigan, deputy director for the Campaign for Justice and as an organizer for Michigan United/One United Michigan. She also worked as a community engagement coordinator for the James and Grace Lee Boggs School and assistant to Grace Lee Boggs, an activist, writer and speaker.

The Senator also is a co-founder and past president of Asian and Pacific Islander American Vote-Michigan, and she served as a mentor with the Detroit Asian Youth Project.

In the state House, Sen. Chang led the way on air quality protection, education, criminal justice reforms, improving economic opportunities and affordable, safe drinking water. She passed bipartisan legislation on a range of issues including female genital mutilation, nitrous oxide “whip-its”, reentry services for wrongfully convicted individuals who were exonerated and more. She quickly earned her colleagues’ respect and was named chair of the Progressive Women’s Caucus in her second term. She also served on the leadership team for the House Democratic Caucus both terms and was a co-founder of the Asian Pacific American Legislative Caucus.

Chang earned her bachelor’s degree in psychology and master’s degrees in public policy and social work from the University of Michigan. She lives in Detroit with her husband, Sean Gray, and their young daughter.

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State Senator Tina Maharath (D-Columbus) is serving her first term in the Ohio Senate after being elected to the General Assembly in November 2018. She represents the 3rd Senate District, which encompasses areas of Franklin County, including Whitehall, Gahanna, Westerville, New Albany, Groveport, Canal Winchester, the Hilltop and parts of Columbus. She is the first Asian American woman elected to the Ohio Senate.

A native of Whitehall, Tina chose to dedicate her life to public service at a young age, inspired by her upbringing as the daughter of refugee parents from the Southeast Asian nation of Laos. Her father served the U.S. Army under the Laos Army while her mother worked as a nurse in the Laos Army.

A warrior for underserved, troubled youth, Tina has had to live through a number of adverse events. She lost her mother and two brothers in a fatal car accident while she was still a young teen studying in France. Tina leaned on her community to overcome such a tragedy and decided to return that support by devoting herself to that very same community.

Before being elected to office, she helped organize Columbus’ annual Asian Festival as the chair for the Volunteer Committee. She served on the Lao Volunteer Donation Association’s advisory board and on the organizing committee for Ohio’s Asian American and Pacific Islander Legislative Day, an event she went on to chair.

She volunteers for various organizations throughout central Ohio, including Legacies of War, Ohio Asian American Health Coalition, Community Refugee Immigration Services, Community Shelter Board and Asian American Community Services. In her free time, she also mentors young adults who, like her, have had rough upbringings and advocates for issues that impact people facing trauma.

Despite all the trauma she faced at such a young age, Tina used her strength to complete her secondary and higher education.

Tina currently resides in Canal Winchester with her son, Teng.
MARIA ROBINSON (Panelist)  
State Representative, Massachusetts

Maria Duaine Robinson is the first Korean American elected to the General Court of Massachusetts. Previously, she led Advanced Energy Economy’s program on wholesale markets, including engagement at FERC and the regional transmission organizations. Prior to that, she focused on regulatory issues relating to energy and air, including leading the organization’s state Clean Power Plan campaign, which covered over two dozen states across the country. She managed report development and data-driven analysis at the state and national level. Maria was employed by Navigant Consulting in the renewable energy and energy efficiency practices, supporting the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in analyzing and procuring contractors for statewide renewable energy and energy efficiency projects. She interned with the U.S. EPA’s office of Water and with former U.S. Representative, now Governor, Jay Inslee.

Maria is a member of the Framingham Democratic Committee and was a member of Town Meeting. She is an award-winning music director in the Greater Boston region and enjoys playing piano for shows. Originally from Northeastern Pennsylvania, Maria is an international transracial adoptee who was raised Irish-German Catholic. She lives in Framingham with her husband, Matt, her parents (whom she convinced to become reluctant New Englanders), her soon-to-be-adopted daughter and their dog.

ADITI HARDIKAR (Moderator)

Aditi Hardikar is the former Associate Director of the White House Office of Public Engagement and Intergovernmental Affairs, where she served as President Obama’s primary liaison to the LGBT and AAPI communities. She is a veteran of the 2012 and 2016 presidential campaigns, as well as the Democratic National Committee. Aditi is a board member of the Tegan and Sara Foundation, is a graduate of the University of Michigan and resides in Chicago.
Judge Lucy H. Koh was nominated by President Barack Obama on January 20, 2010 to the United States District Court for the Northern District of California. The Senate confirmed Koh in a 90–0 vote on June 7, 2010. She is the first Asian American United States district court judge in the Northern District of California, the first district court judge of Korean descent in the United States, the first female Korean American Article III judge and the second Korean American federal judge, after Herbert Choy of the Ninth Circuit.


Elaine Lu was appointed to the Los Angeles Superior Court in 2007. She presides over a general jurisdiction civil court. Judge Lu serves on the L.A. Superior Court’s Education Committee and has taught seminars for fellow bench officers on a variety of topics in civil and criminal law. As Co-Chair of the Los Angeles Superior Court’s Power Lunch Subcommittee, Judge Lu helps organize Power Lunches to bring high school students, lawyers, judges and court staff members together at courthouses throughout the county to discuss career choices and the legal system. Judge Lu also presides over the Pasadena Teen Court program through which selected juvenile offenders are questioned, judged and sentenced by a jury of Pasadena High School students. Judge Lu will be joining in leadership of the California Judges Association and will be sworn in as a member of CJA’s Executive Board for a three-year term commencing in September 2020.

Prior to joining the bench, Judge Lu served as an Assistant United States Attorney in the Central District of California for ten years. While at the United States Attorney’s Office, she was assigned to the Major Frauds section, prosecuting white-collar, securities fraud and bank fraud cases, and then served as Deputy Chief of the General Crimes Section.

Earlier in her legal career, Judge Lu served as a judicial law clerk for the Honorable Rudi M. Brewster of the United States District Court in the Southern District of California, and subsequently, for the Honorable A. Wallace Tashima of the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. Judge Lu attended Stanford University, then earned her law degree at Harvard Law School.
Panel 3: The Elected

PADMA KUPPA (Panelist)
State Representative, Michigan

State Rep. Padma Kuppa is serving her first term representing Michigan’s 41st House District, which encompasses the cities of Troy and Clawson.

Kuppa came to the U.S. from India at the age of four and grew up in America before moving to India as a teenager. After receiving her bachelor’s degree in mechanical engineering from the National Institute of Technology Warangal, Kuppa moved home to the U.S. for graduate school.

Kuppa moved to the 41st district more than 20 years ago. Since then, she has worked as an engineer and project manager with a career that spans the automotive, financial and IT industries. Throughout her life, Kuppa has sought to bring people together to solve problems both in the professional world and in the community.

Kuppa has been a civic leader, volunteering with the PTA throughout her children’s K-12 education, founding the Troy-area Interfaith Group, created to bring people of all faiths together, and serving on Troy’s Planning Commission. She is currently President of the Troy Historical Society and a board member of the Michigan Roundtable for Diversity and Inclusion. As the first Indian immigrant and Hindu in the State Legislature, she hopes to bring a fresh perspective to the State House.
RÉGINE BISCOE LEE (Panelist)
Senator, Guam

Born and raised on Guam, Régine Biscoe Lee is a Strategic Communications/Marketing professional and community advocate and has served in both the public and private sector. In 2009, Régine was named one of the “100 Most Influential Women in the U.S.” by the Filipina Women’s Network for her work on behalf of the rights of WWII Filipino Veterans. In 2011, she received a FLAG (Filipino Ladies Association of Guam) Sampaguita Award and was elected delegate for Guam to the 2012 Democratic National Convention. In January 2015, Régine was named the Guam Chamber of Commerce’s 2014 Reina A. Leddy Young Professional of the Year. In May 2016, she was again elected delegate for Guam to the 2016 Democratic National Convention.

In 2016, Régine was elected to serve as senator in the 34th Guam Legislature. She served as Legislative Secretary, Chairperson of the Committee on Rules, and Chairperson of the Committee on Innovation and Economic, Workforce and Youth Development.

Régine was re-elected to serve as a senator in the 2018 election. She currently serves as Chairperson of the Committee on Rules and Chairperson of the Committee on Federal and Foreign Affairs, Telecommunications, Technology and Labor in the 35th Guam Legislature.
Yuh-Line Niou has spent her career working on legislative and advocacy campaigns. In 2016, Yuh-Line was elected to serve the 65th Assembly District, representing the following lower Manhattan neighborhoods: the Lower East Side, Chinatown, South Street Seaport area, Financial District and Battery Park City.

Yuh-Line Niou began working on state policy issues while in college, eventually accepting a position with the Washington State House Health Committee Chair. While there, she helped develop policies to expand senior access to prescription medication, improve women’s health care and expand health coverage for low-income families. Yuh-Line then went on to work as an advocate and organizer on anti-poverty issues, where she helped build a broad coalition to fight predatory lending and assist low-income families build financial assets.

She then served as Chief of Staff for New York State Assemblymember Ron Kim, where, under her leadership, the office assisted thousands of immigrants, small-business owners, teachers, seniors, workers and students. She has drafted legislation to expand language access for immigrant communities, and has fought for more affordable housing and expanded services for seniors.

In the Assembly, Yuh-Line has continued her advocacy work around financial empowerment. She has pushed to improve financial protections for consumers, particularly for unbanked communities. On housing, Yuh-Line has worked to secure funding for New York City Housing Authority (NYCHA) repairs, and has stood with tenant rights advocates for better housing regulations. Along with her colleagues, Yuh-Line helped form New York State’s first ever Asian Pacific American Legislative Task Force, which will focus on advancing issues impacting New York’s Asian American community.

Yuh-Line completed her Master’s degree in Public Administration at CUNY Baruch College as part of the National Urban Fellowship program, where she worked on regional and international environmental issues. Yuh-Line lives in the Financial District, in lower Manhattan.
SHENG THAO (Panelist)
City Councilmember, Oakland

Sheng Thao was elected November 2018 to the Oakland City Council, representing District 4 with 11,736 votes. She is the first Hmong American woman to be elected to City Council in the State of California and the first Hmong to be elected in the City of Oakland. Sheng Thao is the daughter of Hmong refugee parents from Laos. Sheng was born and raised in Stockton and is the 7th of 10 children. She is a domestic violence survivor and as a single mother, Sheng put herself through college while working and raising her son. She graduated as Valedictorian from Merritt College and transferred to U.C. Berkeley, where she earned her degree in Legal Studies. During her time at U.C. Berkeley, she helped establish the Bear Pantry, a food access program for students with families who could not afford to buy healthy food.

In her first year in office Councilmember Sheng Thao fought for more resources for Oakland’s unhoused community, won funding for marginalized and underrepresented youth, helped add transparency to the budget process, fought for wildfire prevention policies, including undergrounding utilities in high fire severity risk zones and ensuring the city prioritizes wildfire prevention, helped passed policies to incentivize immediate increase in housing options in Oakland, created equity programs and incentives for the changing cannabis industry, and more.

Sheng has been appointed by her colleagues to serve in a leadership position as the Chair of the Rules and Legislation Committee, and is a member of the Finance, Public Works, Education Partnership and City/Port Committees. Sheng has also been appointed to be a representative for the City of Oakland at the Alameda County Transportation Commission. Sheng lives in Oakland’s Laurel District and enjoys spending time with her 13-year-old son, Benedict, who is an avid cellist. They enjoy biking through Joaquin Miller Park, a world-famous park in her district, and camping in the Stanislaus and El Dorado forests with her family. Sheng continues to speak throughout California around her experience as a survivor of domestic violence and her road to becoming California’s first Hmong Woman Councilmember in hopes to inspire, bring awareness, educate and support others.
CHRISTINA KUO (Moderator)
Senior Strategist, Grassroots Solutions

Christina Kuo is a Senior Strategist with Grassroots Solutions in Michigan. She brings over 18 years of advocacy, civic engagement and campaign experience into her work with clients to help them better understand and expand the impact of their civic engagement and public engagement work through strategy development and evaluation.

Prior to joining Grassroots Solutions, Christina was the State and Local Campaigns Manager for the U.S. Green Building Council, where she worked with members of USGBC’s state-based chapters to develop strategic grassroots and grasstops advocacy programs in key states. In addition, she educated and directly lobbied policymakers in state legislatures and at the local government level on energy efficiency related policy and green affordable housing. Before USGBC, she was the Deputy Political Director at OFA Michigan for President Obama’s 2012 re-election campaign working with political and celebrity surrogates to educate voters about President Obama’s achievements, as well as organizing the Michigan Women for Obama volunteer and voter outreach effort.

She began her career in issue advocacy and campaigns, while at the University of the Michigan, as a community organizer for reproductive rights. She has worked on numerous advocacy campaigns on campaign finance reform, redistricting and issues concerning the nonprofit sector that have bridged community organizing, grassroots advocacy, civic engagement and legislative lobbying strategies.

She holds a law degree from Thomas M. Cooley Law School in Michigan, with a concentration in administrative law, and is a licensed attorney in Michigan. She received her B.As. in Political Science and Women’s Studies from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. She was named to the 2017 40 Under 40 for the National Association of Asian Americans in Politics and Public Affairs.
Panel 4: The Pipeline

GLYNDIA CARR (Panelist)
Co-Founder, Higher Heights for America and Higher Heights Leadership Fund

Political strategist Glynda C. Carr is the co-founder of Higher Heights for America and Higher Heights Leadership Fund, the leading national organizations dedicated to building Black women’s collective political power from the voting booth to elected office. She is the co-creator of the #BlackWomenLead movement which is creating the environment for Black women to vote, run and lead.

Glynda is the former Executive Director of Education Voters of New York, a leading independent voice for school reform in the state. Prior to Education Voters, she was Chief of Staff to New York State Senator Kevin Parker (Brooklyn) where she also served as campaign manager for two of his successful re-election campaigns.

Glynda has also held senior management positions with key national organizations including: the Thurgood Marshall Scholarship Fund and Big Brothers Big Sisters of America.

A sought-after speaker and trainer, she has also contributed to TheRoot.com, Ebony.com and the Huffington Post. In 2018, she appeared on “Essence” magazine’s second annual Woke 100 list, saluting female changemakers.

STEPHANIE GABRIELA LOPEZ (Panelist)
Program Manager, LatinasRepresent

Stephanie Gabriela Lopez is the Program Manager at LatinasRepresent, an initiative of the National Hispanic Leadership Agenda (NHLA), which focuses on increasing Latina civic engagement and political representation. Prior to joining LatinasRepresent, Stephanie worked at Kids in Need of Defense (KIND), a children’s rights and immigrant advocacy organization. She earned a Master’s degree in Latin American Studies from the University of Cambridge, while on a Gates Cambridge Scholarship, and holds an undergraduate degree in political science and mass communication and journalism from California State University, Fresno.
MADALENE XUAN-TRANG MIELKE (Panelist)
President & CEO, APAICS

Madalene Xuan-Trang Mielke is the President & CEO of the Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies (APAICS) and Founder and Principal of Arum Group, LLC. She brings nearly 25 years of experience working in political campaigns and specializes in political/non-profit fundraising and political training. Ms. Mielke began her professional career working at the Democratic National Committee (DNC) in the Training Division of the Political Department and later for the Clinton/Gore Coordinated ’96 campaign as a Regional Field Director in Pennsylvania.

After returning from the ’96 campaign, Ms. Mielke worked for the Co-Executive Director at the Presidential Inaugural Committee and later on Vice President Gore’s team. Ms. Mielke started fundraising while working at the New Democrat Network PAC and she returned to her roots as the Training Director for the Ron Brown-Paul Tully Institute (BTI), the training arm of the DNC. In 2002, Ms. Mielke started her political consulting firm, specializing in fundraising and political training. Madalene has collaborated with national organizations and federal campaigns of all levels to raise millions of dollars to empower communities of color.

Madalene is a proud graduate of Tulane University, Newcomb College. She serves as a mentor through a variety of collegiate mentoring programs including the Newcomb College Institute Women to Women Mentoring Program and Georgetown University’s Politics Mentorship Program.
PRAIRIE ROSE SEMINOLE (Panelist)
National Trainer, Advance Native Political Leadership

Prairie Rose Seminole is a citizen of the Three Affiliated Tribes of ND, descendent of the Sahnish/Arikara, Northern Cheyenne and Lakota Nations.

Seminole has been involved in ND state politics and has served in appointed public office for over 20 years. Seminole has led campaigns to elect candidates and organized and trained on issues from health care, racial and gender justice and marriage equality.

Currently Prairie Rose serves as a Program Manager for Advance Native Political Leadership and the Economics Policy Analyst for the Indigenous Environmental Network. Serving American Indian, Alaska Native communities around the United States as an educator, and advocate, deconstructing colonial systems of oppression.

Seminole served on the Fargo Human Relations Commission in Fargo and most recently with the Midwest Advisory Council to the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis. She has held faculty appointments with the Tri-College NEW Leadership Institute since 2005 and is a national trainer with Advance Native Political Leadership and Vote Run Lead, non partisan organizations that train candidates, campaign workers, advocates and activists.

Independently Seminole speaks to Indigenous theology, Indigenous history, leadership and advocacy.
GRISELLA MARTINEZ (Moderator)
Vice President of Government Relations, National Association of Broadcasters (NAB)

Grisella M. Martinez serves as Vice President of Government Relations at the National Association of Broadcasters where she represents radio and television broadcasters before Congress and within the media and telecom industry. She is a trusted resource for members of Congress and their staff on broadcasting issues and has long-standing expertise on issues related to immigration, homeland security and appropriations.

She previously served as policy director for the House Democratic Caucus under Chairman Xavier Becerra (D-CA). In addition to her leadership duties, she was his liaison to the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, the Smithsonian Board of Regents, The Smithsonian Latino Center and the National Museum of African American History and Culture (NMAAHC) Council.

Prior to her tenure on the Hill she worked for both the National Immigration Law Center and the National Immigration Forum, where she was the director of Policy and Legislative Affairs. Martinez holds an LL.M. from Washington College of Law at American University, a J.D. from Catholic University of America Columbus School of Law and a B.A. in English and Political Science from James Madison University.

She is passionate about mentorship, advocating for diversity and inclusion, and supporting fine arts and the performing arts. She currently serves on the Board of Directors for the Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies (APAICS) and GALA Hispanic Theatre in Columbia Heights.
Rosana Vollmerhausen is founder and chief stylist of DC Style Factory—Washingtonian Magazine’s top personal styling company in the D.C. area.

She has 20 years’ fashion retail and styling experience, including owning, running and buying for an award-winning boutique in Washington, D.C. She was subsequently handpicked to be part of Stacy London’s team of Style for Hire wardrobe consultants. Since launching DC Style Factory 10 years ago, she has developed and honed an organized system of closet, shopping and styling appointments designed to save her clients time and money.

DC Style Factory dresses hundreds of men and women in the D.C. area each year with a client roster that includes high-profile U.S. politicians, lobbyists, corporate executives and more.

Rosana also conducts style talks and workshops in Maryland, Washington, D.C. and Virginia. She has produced personal stylist training seminars, teaching and advising future stylists. Her style tips, and expertise have been featured in The New York Times, The Washington Post, Washingtonian, Bethesda Magazine, Northern Virginia Magazine, the Boston Globe and more. She has provided expert style insight on BBC World News, NPR, WJLA News Channel 7 and NBC News Channel 4.
Sarah Curran is the Director of Programs and Partnerships for Women’s Public Leadership Network. In her role she leads the coalition-building efforts to grow and connect women’s campaign training organizations with each other for maximum impact nationwide. She oversees the development of all online and in-person training curriculum for candidates, nonprofit development and preparing newly elected officials for office.

Sarah is a sought after campaign strategist who has recruited and trained hundreds of women to run for office. A political and digital professional with over a decade working at home and abroad, she is a proven operator who has helped candidates win and change the debate. She lives in Virginia with her husband and son.
JARINETE SANTOS
Political Pipeline Director, She Should Run

Jarinete Santos serves as the Political Pipeline Director for She Should Run. She oversees our programs, reaching thousands of women to improve their leadership potential and inspire them to run for office. She is passionate about normalizing female leadership for the present and for the rising generation. Jarinete joined She Should Run after several years at the Partnership for Public Service, where she led management and facilitation for a series of programs targeted at improving the leadership capabilities of the federal workforce, specifically among the IT community. Additionally, Jarinete has varied experience ranging between community engagement, diversity and inclusion training and working on Capitol Hill.

Jarinete Santos holds a BS in Political Science from Brigham Young University-Idaho and received her MPA from George Mason University. In addition to her work at She Should Run, she is an online adjunct professor for International Relations, a SCUBA diver, an avid traveler, a cat mom, and a very proud aunt.
Breakout Session #3: The Intersection of Race, Gender, and Power in Political Processes

ASTRID VILLAMIL
Assistant Professor, University of Missouri-Columbia (Department of Communication)

Astrid M. Villamil (Ph.D., University of Kansas) is an assistant professor in the Department of Communication at the University of Missouri-Columbia. Astrid’s research focuses on underrepresented voices in organizational contexts and the way structural and organizational policies affect the well-being of individuals from these groups. In addition, Astrid is part of a grant-funded leadership program that serves women from the Middle East, North Africa, Central and South Asia regions. Prior to her current appointment, Astrid was the Associate Director of Professional Development for the division of Inclusion, Diversity, & Equity at University of Missouri-Columbia and the Senior Learning & Development Consultant for the University of Missouri System.

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Breakout Session #4: The Double Standard

AMANDA HUNTER
Research and Communications Director, Barbara Lee Family Foundation

Amanda Hunter promotes the Barbara Lee Family Foundation’s mission to advance women’s representation in American politics by leading our research and communications efforts. She oversees the communications team for the Foundation, including its digital strategy and media relations.

Prior to joining the Barbara Lee Family Foundation, Amanda served as Director of Marketing and Communications at The Phillips Collection in Washington, D.C., America’s first museum of modern art. Previously, she served as Senior Press Representative at The John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, leading media relations efforts on events like The Mark Twain Prize for American Humor and Kennedy Center Honors. She also served as Deputy Communications Director at the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA), the trade association for record companies, and Manager of Public Relations for the Distilled Spirits Council of the United States (DISCUS).

Amanda graduated Summa Cum Laude with a B.A. in English and Communications from St. Joseph’s College of Maine.
LIUBA GRECHEN SHIRLEY
Founder & CEO, Vote Mama

Liuba is the Founder and CEO of Vote Mama, the nation’s first organization dedicated to electing mothers up and down the ballot and expanding the use of campaign funds for childcare for all candidates running for office. Vote Mama is working at the individual, cultural and structural levels to remove the barriers mothers face while running for office and legislators face while passing family friendly legislation.

In 2018, Liuba ran a historic congressional campaign to represent New York’s 2nd District in the U.S. House of Representatives. She received the highest vote share of any Democrat to run against Peter King in 25 years. Liuba raised over $2 million with no corporate PAC money and built a grassroots movement of volunteers that knocked over 250,000 doors. She became the first woman to receive federal approval to use campaign funds for childcare. The decision, which gained support from Hillary Clinton and 25 members of Congress, was unanimously approved by the Federal Election Commission. Following her historic win, 46 federal candidates used her FEC ruling to spend campaign funds for childcare—and candidates across the country followed her lead and petitioned their state and local governments for the same right.

She has spent her career leading organizations to empower working families both at home and abroad. She has worked for the UN Foundation and was selected as a Global Champion for Women’s Economic Empowerment by UN Women. Together with UN Women, she launched the #IAmParent campaign for Parental Leave.

Liuba has forged partnerships between government, businesses and nonprofits to tackle issues including economic development, access to health care and paid family leave. She has worked with diplomats, healthcare workers and government leaders across four continents, and fought to make the use of international aid funds more accountable and less corrupt.

She has been featured and published in outlets, such as the NY Times, Washington Post, CNN, Chris Hayes, The Today Show and TIME Magazine, was selected as one of Long Island’s 100 Most Powerful People by City & State and was named to the Long Island Business News 40 Under 40 list. Liuba holds an MBA with specializations in Management and Economics from New York’s University’s Stern School of Business, and a BA in Politics and Russian from NYU. She lives on Long Island with her husband Christopher and children, Mila, Nicholas and Andrew.
Breakout Session #5: Let’s Debate: Strategies for Campaign Debate Preparation

DR. MITCHELL S. MCKINNEY
Professor of Communication and Director of the Political Communication Institute, University of Missouri

Dr. Mitchell S. McKinney is Professor of Communication and Director of the Political Communication Institute at the University of Missouri. He received B.A. degrees in Speech Communication and Government from Western Kentucky University, his M.A. in Communication Studies from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and his Ph.D. in Communication Studies from the University of Kansas.

Dr. McKinney is recognized by his academic peers and the national media as one of our nation’s preeminent scholars of presidential debates. He served as an advisor to the U.S. Commission on Presidential Debates where his work was instrumental in developing the presidential Town Hall debate and other innovations in the structure and practice of televised presidential debates in the U.S. Dr. McKinney also has served as an advisor to the national election commissions in other countries, including South Korea, Germany, Great Britain and New Zealand, as these nations developed and implemented their own televised presidential and party leader debates.

At the state and local level, he has served as a moderator for gubernatorial and congressional televised debates; and consulted with numerous civic organizations in planning state and local candidate debates and forums. Additional research interests include political campaigns, media and politics, and presidential rhetoric. McKinney is the author or co-author of eight books and more than 100 journal articles and book chapters. His research has been funded by the Pew Charitable Trusts, the Ford Foundation and the Donald W. Reynolds Foundation.

Dr. McKinney has combined practical political experience with his training as a political communication scholar, having served as a staff member in the U.S. Senate and at the White House. McKinney is a frequent commentator for national and international news media, and has provided expert political commentary for such national media as the New York Times, the Washington Post, USA Today, CNN and NPR.

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About APAICS

Founded by former Secretary Norman Y. Mineta in 1994, The APAICS is a national non-partisan nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to building the Asian Pacific American (APA) political pipeline at all levels, from community advocacy to elected office. APAICS programs focus on leadership development and filling the political pipeline for AAPIs to pursue public office at the local, state and federal levels, as well as other careers in public policy.

APAICS

Building the Asian Pacific American political pipeline at all levels, from community advocacy to elected office.

INSPIRE
identifying future leaders for tomorrow

EDUCATE
building public policy knowledge

EMPOWER
developing individual leadership

CONNECT
bridging local, state, and national politics & AAPI community

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