

# Hundreds of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders to Convene at Ohio Statehouse for AAPI Legislative Day

COLUMBUS - June 6, 2018 - The 8th annual Ohio Asian American/Pacific Islander (AAPI) Legislative Day, Ohio's largest statewide AAPI advocacy event, will take place on Wednesday, June 27, 2018, from 10:00 am - 4:30 pm at the Ohio Statehouse Main Atrium in Columbus.

The 2018 Ohio AAPI Legislative Day will feature remarks from AAPI elected officials and community organizers, legislative visits with Ohio's state senators and state representatives, and breakout sessions on combating hate crimes, mental health, increasing access to state services for DACA recipients, and gun control. This event is free and open to the public.

Media availability and opportunity for interviews will be during:

- 10:00-10:10am Welcome & Opening Remarks
- 10:15-11:15am Breakout Session 1 (Combating Hate Crimes OR Mental Health)
- 11:20-11:50am Panel with AAPI Leaders: How to Make a Difference
- 12:45-1:45pm Breakout Session 2 (Increasing Access to State Services for DACA recipients OR Gun Control)

Speakers at the 2018 Legislative Day Panel will include:

- Aftab Pureval, Hamilton County Clerk of Courts
- Ron Falconi, Mayor of Brunswick, Ohio
- Grace Pai, Senior Community Organizer, Midwest Region at Asian Americans Advancing Justice Chicago (AAJC Chicago)
- Zale Piepho, Co-organizer of Akron March for Our Lives
- Sam Shim, Vice President of Worthington Board of Education

Note: Other interviews available with advo-

catates for gun control, hate crimes legislation, mental health (suicide prevention/anti-bullying) programs, and rights of DACA recipients

"This is an opportunity for Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders to showcase the growth, diversity, and influence of our community in Ohio. The rapidly growing AAPI community, whose numbers increased 45% between 2000-2010, now comprise almost 3% of Ohio's population. Students, professionals, business owners, and concerned citizens will join in advocacy on issues that affect us all every day," said Ron Katsuyama, Chair of the 2018 Ohio AAPI Legislative Day. "This is our chance to make our voices heard!"

At least 300 are expected to attend; individuals of all ages, ethnicities, and occupations are invited to participate, including students. More event details and registration can be found at oah-coalition.org.

### About Ohio Asian American Health Coalition (OAAHC)

The OAAHC strives to eliminate social inequities that contribute to disparities in the quality of life of Ohio's AAPIs through community research, education and advocacy for improved access to personalized, culturally and linguistically competent healthcare.

About Ohio Asian American/Pacific Islander Advisory Council (OAAPIAC)

First established by Governor Ted Strickland in 2010, the OAAPIAC promotes Asian American Pacific Islanders' (AAPIs') rights and well-being through education and mobilization of Ohio's AAPI communities, government agencies, and the general public.

# Supreme Court's Decision to Uphold Ohio Voter Roll Purges Is Wrong

Cuyahoga County, OH - Cuyahoga County Executive Armond Budish issued the following statement in response to the U.S. Supreme Court's ruling to uphold Ohio's aggressive efforts to purge the state's voting rolls:

"Today, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the State of Ohio's program to purge thousands of 'infrequent' voters from the registration rolls. This is a giant step backwards in supporting our citizens' right to vote.

This ruling diminishes our democracy. The government should be making it easier, not harder, for people to vote. Voting, that most basic of our rights, should not be difficult and barriers should not be put in place if someone misses voting in a few elections for whatever reason.

The County Charter declares that as County Executive I am charged to protect the right to vote and to undertake measures to promote voter

registration. I take that mandate very seriously.

Here at the County, we have worked to encourage our residents to register to vote by partnering with the Cuyahoga County Public Libraries to message their constituents, letting them

know they can register to vote online.

We have also hired a Voter Right's Coordinator who works on increasing access to those we come into contact with day in and day out as they come to us for Health and Human Services.

I urge everyone to register if you have not done so. It's

easy and critical for the strength of our local and national democracy and you can register online. If you don't know whether or not your registration is current, you can check here: <https://boe.cuyahogacounty.us/en-US/my-voting-information.aspx>."



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