

ASIAN AMERICAN POLITICAL EMPOWERMENT INITIATIVE 2002

**HOLDING PUBLIC OFFICIALS ACCOUNTABLE
TO THE ASIAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY:
A REPORT CARD ON KEY ELECTED OFFICIALS**

COMPILED BY THE
ASIAN AMERICAN INSTITUTE

Founded in 1992, the Asian American Institute is a pan-Asian, not-for-profit organization whose mission is to empower the Asian American community through education, research, coalition-building and advocacy.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction to the Asian American Political Empowerment Initiative	2
Background Information on the Report Card	3
Grading Criteria	4
Methodology	5
Acknowledgments	5
Report Card Results	6
Responses to Survey Questionnaires	10
Governor George H. Ryan	10
Lieutenant Governor Corrine Wood	16
Attorney General Jim Ryan	19
Secretary of State Jesse White	21
State Comptroller Daniel W. Hynes	23
State Treasurer Judy Baar Topinka	25
State Senator Ira Silverstein	27
State Senator Lisa Madigan	28
State Representative Lou Lang	29
State Representative Richard Bradley	31
State Representative John Fritchey	32
State Representative Rosemary Mulligan	33
State Representative Elizabeth Coulson	35
Cook County Board President John H. Stroger	37
Cook County State's Attorney, Richard A. Devine	39

INTRODUCTION

*“Government of the people, by the people and for the people shall not perish from this earth.”
– Abraham Lincoln’s 2nd inaugural address.*

Over the last two decades, the Asian Pacific American population in Illinois has more than tripled. Today, Illinois has over 423,000 residents who trace their ancestry to over 20 Asian countries. According to 2000 Census Bureau data, over 61% of Asian American Illinoisans live in Cook County, and approximately 8% of DuPage County residents. The number of Asian Americans in McHenry County tripled.

Since the early 1970’s, Asian Americans have sought to be included in the political system. A number of Asian American individuals have run for political office, with limited success. Throughout the 1980’s and 1990’s, the Asian American community fought for Asian American representation and access to government institutions at all levels. This effort resulted in a few cabinet level position appointments, and the creation of liaison positions for Asian Americans in various public offices, which are charged to work with their respective Asian American advisory committees.

However, as the Asian American community begins the 21st century, it is not clear if any significant gains have been made since the doors of public offices were first cracked open in the 1980’s. Despite the explosive growth in the Asian American population and the increasing level of sophistication in its community organizations, there are still less than a handful of Asian Americans elected or appointed to significant public offices, and there is no longer an Asian American cabinet appointment at the state level. Only recently have gains been made in the judicial branch. Rena Van Tine was appointed as an Associate Judge, and Sandra Otaka became the first Asian American appointed by the Illinois Supreme Court to serve as a full Circuit Judge in Cook County.

- * **How can the Asian American community hold elected officials accountable to their campaign promises?**
- * **What expectations should Asian Americans have of various government offices with regard to decision-making participation and sharing of public resources?**
- * **Who truly represents the best interests of the Asian American community in the public arena?**

These are the questions that the Asian American Political Empowerment Initiative seeks to answer through its first assessment of key public officials holding key statewide office or representing areas where there are large concentrations of Asian Americans.

ASIAN AMERICAN POLITICAL EMPOWERMENT INITIATIVE: A Report Card on Key Elected Officials

BACKGROUND

As the Asian American community continues to grow at a tremendous rate in recent decades, a number of needs have become evident. Important among these is the need for political representation by elected officials. Sparked by the success of a candidates' forum and other efforts organized by the Asian American Coalition in 1998 and 1999 under the leadership of C.W. Chan, the Asian American Institute's Political Empowerment Committee initiated this project as a means for formally voicing expectations and standards for public officials:

1. Asian Americans should be given the opportunity to serve Illinois communities through elected office or key appointments at all government levels, including the judiciary system.
2. The Asian American community should have access to a fair share of public resources in proportion to the Asian American population.
3. Public officials should have a sufficient understanding of Asian American community issues, such as economic development, immigration, hate crimes and discrimination, and should make efforts to effectively address these concerns.
4. During redistricting, Asian American populations must be kept intact in order to protect community interests and to maximize voting potential.
5. Asian American Advisory Councils should serve an important and substantive function to office holders. Councils by design should assist the officeholder by providing a broader perspective of issues facing the APA community.
6. It is critical that the role of liaison to the community is a genuine and accepted access point to the office and officeholder. A liaison who is integrated into the greater framework of the office can best serve the official as well as the community.

In March of 2000, Asian American Institute (AAI) compiled and released this first survey of public officials. The original survey asked 55 office holders with significant APA populations at the federal, state, county and city levels to respond to a questionnaire. The 23 respondents' answers were evaluated by a diverse panel of community leaders.

Due to restraints on time and resources, this report does not encompass as many levels of government as the last one. This second effort only focuses on state and county officials. Fifteen of the 28 public officials, who were sent questionnaires, chose to participate. In the future, the project will again look at the government officials on the federal, and city levels, and strive to have the full participation public officials.

GRADING PANEL

Nanta Buranakanchana, President, Thai Association of Illinois

C.W. Chan, Chicago Chinatown Chamber of Commerce

Vida Gosrisirikul, Asian American Bar Association

Prem Lalvani, Chairman, Asian American Coalition 2003

Ben Lumicao, FilCRA

Ashraf Manji, Producer and Director, ConversAsians

Calvin Manshio

Christine Takada, Asian American Alliance

GRADING CRITERIA

Each official was evaluated by all the panelists according to their satisfaction about the response. The panel then all met to discuss and come to consensus on the final grades and comments in the report.

4=A Excellent. The public official:

- Has demonstrated a strong understanding of APA issues
- Has initiated outreach and programs to assist the community, including active recruitment of APA staff and participation in programs
- Has been supportive of APA issues/community members

3=B Good. The public official

- Has a good understanding of APA issues
- Has initiated outreach to assist the community
- Has generally responded positively to support APA issues when approached

2=C Satisfactory. The public official

- Has some understanding of APA issues
- Has been open to meeting with APA community/individuals
- Has not been consistently supportive APA issues

1=D Below average. The public official

- Has limited understanding of APA issues
- Has not been responsive to meeting APA community
- Has been generally unsupportive of APA issues

0=F Failed to respond to the questionnaire

METHODOLOGY

In January 2002, survey questionnaires were mailed out to Illinois Constitutional Officers; State Senators and Representatives, who have large numbers of APAs in their districts and/or represent APA communities (Chinatown, Albany Park, Argyle Street Market, and Devon); the Cook County Board President and State's Attorney; and the DuPage County Chairman and State's Attorney. The cover letter sent to each official explained that a **failure to respond to the questionnaire would be interpreted as a lack of interest in his or her Asian American constituents, and would receive the lowest possible evaluation.** The mailings were followed up with phone calls and faxes reminding elected officials about the deadline and urging them to provide their responses.

The Asian American Institute convened a politically and ethnically diverse panel of Asian American community leaders to assess the officials' responses and prepare the report cards. While grading was based largely on the officials' written responses, panel members' direct experience with the officials was also taken into account. .

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We sincerely thank the many elected officials who took the time to respond to the survey despite the many pressing demands of their offices. We also thank Joanna Su, Rupal Dalal, Victoria Chou, BickVanh Cam, and Susan Huang for compiling questions and responses in this report. Finally, we are indebted to the Grading Panel members who gave their time and expertise to this project.

Every effort has been made to reprint the responses as they were submitted to the Political Empowerment Committee. Any editing has been done for the benefit of the reader's understanding and has been noted as such by brackets [].

Elected Official (District*—Key neighborhood)	% of Asian Pacific Americans in District**	Overall Grade	Comments
Governor George Ryan	3.4	B-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governor Ryan Chicago office shows affair number of APAs in significant positions of responsibility, and the community has benefited from the Illinois First program. • However, he needs to improve his accessibility to the community. He should also develop more awareness of APA issues.
Lieutenant Governor Corrine Wood	3.4	C	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lt. Governor Wood has made a good start with the formation of her working groups. • However, she has not demonstrated a good understanding on the community's issues, and needs to do more outreach to the community.
Attorney General Jim Ryan	3.4	C-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • While he has supported APA domestic violence organizations, Attorney General Ryan needs to do more to support organizations that provide assistance to the APA community in other ways, such as consumer affairs matters. • He needs to improve in many areas, including the representation and participation of APAs in his office, as well as his outreach to the community. • His office also needs to develop outreach materials in Asian languages.
Secretary of State Jesse White	3.4	C+	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secretary White's outreach to the community has been good, however, it needs to be taken to the next level by offering more substantive programming. • The literacy funding has a wide breadth of APA organizations, but the levels need to be increased to more adequately reflect the extent to which the APA community needs support for ESL programs. • He needs to improve in the area of hiring.
Comptroller Daniel Hynes	3.4	B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comptroller Hynes has a very good understanding of community issues, and gets high marks for his initiative. • However, his office should hire more APAs, and improve awareness about his office within the community.

*Based on Legislative Maps effective in 2000. After the 2001 Redistricting process, some officials may have different district numbers, or be running for different offices.

** Based on 2000 Census, before Redistricting

Elected Official (District*—Key neighborhood)	% of Asian Pacific Americans in District**	Overall Grade	Comments
Treasurer Judy Baar Topinka	3.4	B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Treasurer Topinka's Chicago office has APAs with significant levels of responsibility. She also should be praised for her outreach to the community about programs; however, materials should be made available in more Asian languages. The state's deposits in APA-owned banks need great improvement.
Senator Margaret Smith (3 rd District—Chinatown)	12.1	F	Failed to Respond
Senator Ira Silverstein (8 th District—Albany Park, Devon, Rogers Park)	19.5	B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overall, Sen. Silverstein has been supportive of the community and key legislative issues. However, with the largest number of APAs in any senate district, he could be more proactive in advocating the community's concerns. He could also improve his sensitivity to the community's concerns about redistricting.
Senator Carol Ronen (9 th District—Argyle, Edgewater)	10.2	F	Failed to Respond
Senate Minority Leader Emil Jones (14 th District)	.3	F	Failed to Respond
Senator Lisa Madigan (17 th District—Argyle)	8.1	A-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sen. Madigan should be commended for her co-sponsorship on legislation significant to APAs, as well as for her support of the community. She should continue her personal approach to government.
Senate President James "Pate" Philip (23 rd Legislative District)	9.0	F	Failed to Respond
Representative Lovana "Lou" Jones (5 th District—Chinatown)	7.6	F	Failed to Respond

*Based on Legislative Maps effective in 2000. After the 2001 Redistricting process, some officials may have different district numbers, or be running for different offices.

** Based on 2000 Census, before Redistricting

Elected Official (District*—Key neighborhood)	% of Asian Pacific Americans in District**	Overall Grade	Comments
Representative Shirley M. Jones (6 th District--Chinatown)	15.9	F	Failed to Respond
Representative Joseph Lyons (15 th District—Albany Park)	16.3	F	Failed to Respond
Representative Louis Lang (16 th District—Northern Chicago, Skokie, Niles, Lincolnwood)	22.7	B+	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rep. Lang has been supportive and accessible to the community. He also has proven to be aware of community issues. • With the highest number of APAs of any House district, he needs to translate that understanding into more action to pursue the needs of the APAs in his district.
Representative Harry Osterman (17 th District--Argyle, Edgewater)	10.6	F	Failed to Respond
Representative Richard Bradley (20 th District--Albany Park)	6.8	B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rep. Bradley has been generally supportive of the community and key legislative issues. • He needs to improve his outreach.
Speaker of the House Michael Madigan (22 nd District)	1.2	F	Failed to Respond
Representative John A. Fritchey (33 rd District--Albany Park)	5.7	B-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rep. Fritchey has supported key legislation on immigration and hate crimes. • He needs to improve his awareness of the APA community and his outreach.
Representative Larry McKeon (34 th District--Argyle, Edgewater)	10.7	F	Failed to Respond
House Minority Leader Lee Daniels (46 th Representative District)	5.6	F	Failed to Respond

*Based on Legislative Maps effective in 2000. After the 2001 Redistricting process, some officials may have different district numbers, or be running for different offices.

** Based on 2000 Census, before Redistricting

Elected Official (District*—Key neighborhood)	% of Asian Pacific Americans in District**	Overall Grade	Comments
Representative Rosemary Mulligan (55 th District--North Suburban Cook County)	13.4	B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rep. Mulligan is sincere in her outreach efforts, which have increased. She is good on issues on immigration services and hate crimes. Her scholarship program has benefited APAs and should be praised. She needs to better her understanding of the community.
Representative Elizabeth Coulson (57 th Representative District— North Suburban Cook County)	8.9	B	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rep. Coulson is accessible and has good contact with APAs in her district. She is supportive of immigration services, and hate crimes legislation. Her legislative scholarships that have benefited APAs should be praised. She needs to improve her understanding of issues.
Cook County President John Stroger	4.8	B-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> President Stroger should be commended for the percentage of APA contracts, and has good representation of APAs in his administration. However, he has not been very accessible to the community, nor very supportive. He also needs to be more supportive in political efforts such as redistricting.
Cook County State's Attorney Richard Devine	4.8	A-	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> State's Attorney Devine should be commended for his proactive work with the APA community. He is accessible and responsive to community needs. His internship programs, and outreach on hate crimes should also be praised. He needs to have more information available in Asian languages.
DuPage County Chairman Robert J. Schillerstrom	7.9	F	Failed to Respond
DuPage County State's Attorney Joseph Birkett	7.9	F	Failed to Respond

*Based on Legislative Maps effective in 2000. After the 2001 Redistricting process, some officials may have different district numbers, or be running for different offices.

** Based on 2000 Census, before Redistricting

Governor

The Governor is the chief executive of the state responsible for administration of all areas of the Executive Branch not under the authority of other constitutionally elected officials. The Governor:

- * Appoints administrators and department directors, subject to approval by the Illinois Senate. The Governor also has general administrative responsibility over a large number of semi-independent boards and commissions.
- * Appears before the General Assembly annually to propose a budget for State Government operations and report on the condition of the state, setting priorities and direction.
- * Grants, pardons and reprieves, calls special legislative sessions, approves or vetoes legislation and approves state construction contracts. The Governor is commander-in-chief of the state's military forces.

George H. Ryan

1. How many persons are employed by the State?

a. What percentage of State employees is Asian Pacific American (APA)?

State Workforce

*Total	66,240
Asian	1,275

Census 2000 Summary File 1 (SF 1) 100-Percent Data

Illinois	
Total population	12,419,293
Asian	423,603

*Data source CMS Summary of Workforce 1/1/02

** This number represents all the workforce under the Governor and all constitutional officers in the State of Illinois.

In the Governor's Chicago Office, six of the thirty-eight staff are Asian Americans.

Ms. Anna Hui, Senior Legal Counsel

Ms. Elizabeth Gaffney, Policy Advisor for Health and Human Services

Mr. Jimmy Lee, Assistant to the Governor for Asian American Affairs

Mr. Rick Guzman, Assistant Policy Advisor to Deputy Governor of Criminal Justice and Homeland Security

Mr. Arun Reddy, Assistant to Policy Advisor for Economic Development

Ms. Melissa Inpanbutr, Assistant to Office of the First Lady

Mr. David Lin, Assistant to the Director of Legislation

Ms. Nina Wu, Staff – Governor's Commission on the Status of Women.

2. Have you appointed any APAs to any boards or commissions in the past two years?

a. Please list their names and positions.

These are the Asian Americans currently on boards and commissions for the State of Illinois. (52 Asian Americans on State of Illinois boards and commissions)

Ms. Ranjana Bhargava
Futures for Kids Advisory Council

Ms. Sue Ling Gin
Illinois Economic Development
Board

Mr. Robert Boey
Northern Illinois University – Trustee

Ms. Grace Hou
Futures For Kids Advisory Council

Dr. Sakhawat Hussain
Illinois Human Rights Commission

Mr. Cecil Lue-Hing
Environmental Regulatory Review
Commission

Dr. James Kahn
Illinois Science and Technology
Advisory Committee

Mr. Jim Law
Illinois State Fair Advisory Board

Elissa Rhee-Lee
Governor's Criminal Code Rewrite
Committee

Mr. Chunka Mui
VentureTech

Mr. Hassan Najib
Illinois Science and Technology
Advisory Committee

Mr. Mathew J. Olickal
Illinois Toll Highway Authority Advisory
Comiittee

Mr. Edilberto Ortiz
Illinois Public Accountant Registration
Committee – Department of Professional
Regulation

Kompha Seth
Future for Kids Advisory Council

Mr. Niranjan Shah
Northeastern University – Trustee

Ms. Smita Shah
Illinois Arts Council

Mr. Parry Singh
VentureTech

Ms. Christine Takada
Judicial Inquiry Board

Mr. Bill Yoshino
Governor's Commission on
Discrimination and Hate Crimes

Jae Sang Yoo
Drycleaner Environmental
Response Trust Fund Council

Mr. Asif Yusuf
Banking Board of Illinois, State

Ms. Julia Zhu
Governor's Commission on the
Status of Women

Mr. Ross Harano
Business Enterprise Council for
Minorities, Females, and
Persons with Disabilities

Ms. Brenda Arskey
State of Illinois Universal Pre-School
Task Force

Ms. Erica Chung
State of Illinois Quarter Design Task
Force

Ms. Cha-Hee Stanfield
Commission on the Rewrite of
School Codes.

Governor's Asian American Advisory Council Members:

Mr. Arthur Wong
Ms. Bernarda Wong
Ms. Cathy Wang
Ms. Cha-Hee Stanfield
Ms. Christine Takada
Mr. Chun-Wah Chan
Mr. Edilberto Ortiz
Dr. Ho Luong Tran
Mr. Inchul Choi

Mr. Jay Jung II Kim
Mr. John Lai
Mr. Kenneth Kim
Mr. Leonard Louie
Ms. Lourdes Mon
Ms. Ming-Ming Tong
Ms. Nancy Tom
Mr. Mathew J. Olickal
Dr. Pipit Chiemmongkoltip

Mr. Prem Lalvani
Mr. Rajinder Mago
Dr. Sakhawat Hussain
Ms. San O
Ms. Smita Shah
Ms. Suchitra Surapiboonchai
Ms. Suzy Kang
Dr. Tariq Butt

A luncheon was sponsored by the Governor and Mrs. Ryan on February, 2001 in Springfield to honor the Asian American appointees in the State of Illinois. State Agency directors were in attendance and met with the appointees.

3. Who is the highest-ranking APA in your administration?

a. Please list his or her name, title and major job duties.

My senior staff consists of four Asian Americans serving in the Office of the Governor.

Ms. Anna Hui, Senior Legal Counsel, Office of the Governor

Ms. Elizabeth Rim Gaffney, Policy Advisor for Health and Human Services

Mr. Jimmy Lee, Assistant to the Governor for Asian American Affairs

Mr. Rick Guzman, Assistant Policy Advisor for Deputy Governor for Criminal Justice and Homeland Security

4. What programs or initiatives, if any, have your office, APA liaison or APA council carried out that directly target Asian Pacific Americans?

a. Please indicate who carried out each activity and when.

Programs and initiatives for the APA community in the State of Illinois

- Under Governor George H. Ryan, many efforts were instituted through Executive Orders that contribute to the advancement of the minority community – including the Asian American Community here in the State of Illinois.

1.) Governor George H. Ryan filed an executive order reaffirming his commitment to quality and diversity in higher education faculty by charging the Board of Higher Education to create a strategy to attract more minority faculty.

2.) Governor George H. Ryan signed Executive Order No. 2 to establish a universal certification process to help minorities, women and persons with disabilities to fully participate in the state and local government procurement process.

3.) Governor George Ryan signed Executive Order No. 15 directing the Department of Human Rights, the Department of Central Management Services, the Department of Employment Security and other state agencies to develop a recruitment plan that will reach all populations during efforts to fill vacancies.

Each agency has designated a management level person to be responsible for coordinating the recruitment efforts. The Department of Human Rights is responsible for monitoring and assessing the agencies in their recruitment and hiring efforts and in reporting the information to the Governor on their progress.

• Internships in the Office of the Governor

2000-2002

Through the James H. Dunn Memorial Fellowship Program and Vito Marzullo Internship Program , students will be:

1.) Offered a governmental initiative to meet the public sector's future need for competent administrators

2.) Provide a public sector management training program that encourages talented college graduates to consider careers in state government.

3.) Enable college graduates to supplement their academic backgrounds with practical experiences in areas such as policy analysis and program administration.

4.) Achieve affirmative action through the nomination of qualified minorities, women, and persons with disabilities.

Outreach information for these internships were sent to all universities and colleges, Asian American community organizations, and Asian American Ethnic media.

In the last two years, the Office of the Governor has employed five Asian Americans through the James H. Dunn Fellowship Program and the Vito Marzullo Internship program.

• **Pollution Prevention Award** **2000**

On October 27, 2000, Governor George H. Ryan named 17 companies winners of the Governor's Pollution Prevention Awards for their achievements in reducing hazardous, solid and liquid wastes and toxic air emissions.

One of the companies who received an award was ChemNova Technologies, Inc., a Northern Illinois University spin off company. ChemNova Technologies was established as a partnership between NIU chemistry professor Chhiu-Tsu Lin and the University. Currently Professor Lin is serving as the president of the company. He has been a chemistry professor at NIU since 1985 and was awarded the Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching Award in 1999.

• **"Doing Business With the State"** **2001**

A program/workshop conducted by the Office of the Governor, Asian American Advisory Council to the Governor and the Department of Central Management Services-Business Enterprise Program to inform the community on becoming minority contract vendors to the State of Illinois.

• **"Tourism Workshop"** **2001**

Workshop conducted by the Office of the Governor and the Department of Commerce and Community Affairs regarding grants available for tourism through the State of Illinois.

• **\$2 million in grants to address Special Health Problems for Women** **2001**

Asian Human Services, Chicago	Osteoporosis	\$34,000
Korean American Community Services	Health behaviors	\$50,000

• **\$1.6 million dollars funded to the Illinois coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights to improve access to benefits for foreign-born residents who speak little English.** **2001**

•  **to Asian American Community Meeting** **2002**

KidCare is a state health insurance program that offers health coverage to children and pregnant women. KidCare also helps to pay premiums to employer-sponsored or private insurance plans.

Information meetings were conducted with Asian American community and Asian American Ethnic Media regarding information on KidCare.

Four organizations were contracted by the State of Illinois to become KidCare Outreach coordinators. These organizations will be responsible for locating and enrolling targeted populations.

Chinese American Service League
310 W. 24th Place
Chicago, IL 60616
Executive Director: Ms. Bernarda Wong

Chinese Mutual Aid Association
1016 W. Argyle Street
Chicago, IL 60640
Executive Director: Ms. Grace Hou

Korean American Community Services
4300 N. California Ave.

Vietnamese Association of Illinois
5252 N. Broadway, 2nd Floor

Chicago, IL. 60618
Executive Director: Mr. Inchul Choi

Chicago, IL. 60640
Executive Director: Mr. Tam Duc Nguyen

Along with these four organizations, the following organizations were contracted with the State of Illinois to become KidCare Application Agents. KidCare Application Agents partner with the State of Illinois and encourage all residents who are eligible to contact these organizations if you need help in filling out your applications.

Pui Tak Center
2216 S. Wentworth Ave.
Chicago, IL. 60616
(312) 328-1188

Southeast Asia Center
1134 W. Ainslie
Chicago, IL. 60640
(773) 989-6927

Cambodia Association of Illinois
2831 W. Lawrence
Chicago, IL. 60625
(773) 878-7090

Indo American Center
6328 N. California Street
Chicago, IL. 60659
(773) 973-4444

- **“Celebrating the Asian American Heritage”** **2001**
Co-Sponsored by the Office of the Governor and NBC-Chicago 5.

During May, 2001 – Asian American Heritage Month, the Office of the Governor invited community organizations to the James R. Thompson Center for a day of celebration and exhibition.

In conjunction with “Illinois Reads” the Office of the Governor worked with community organizations to donate over a 1000 books to various schools across the State of Illinois about the Asian American heritage and written by Asian American Authors.

- **Asian American Studies Conference with University of Illinois** **2002**

The Office of the Governor, along with the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign hosted a conference for universities and colleges across the State of Illinois on a discussion and dialogue on Asian American Studies in the State of Illinois.

- **Illinois First Grants to Asian American Community Organizations** **2000-2002**

Cambodian Association of Illinois	\$350,000.00
Mid America/China Management	\$250,000.00
Southeast Asia Center	\$100,000.00
Korean American Resource and Community Center	\$9,000.00
Uptown Chamber of Commerce	\$10,000.00
Korean American Senior Center	\$15,000.00
Vietnamese Association of Illinois	\$10,000.00
Devon North Town Business And Professional Association	\$5,000.00
Watered Garden Support Group for Parents of Disabled Korean Americans	\$9,000.00
Vietnam Women's Memorial of Illinois	\$15,000.00
National Vietnam Veterans Art Museum	\$553,000.00
Chinese American Service League	\$1,000,000.00

- **Addressing Racial Backlash** **2001**

Sponsored with the Immigration and Natural Services (INS), the Office of the Governor sponsored a meeting to address concerns by the Community on racial tension after the September 11, 2001 tragedies.

- **Meeting with Asian American Ethnic Media to address Racial Backlash.** **2001**

Meetings were established between the Asian American Ethnic Media and the Office of the Governor to address community concerns after the September 11, 2001 tragedies.

Statements addressing the tragedy and the racial tensions were disseminated by the Illinois Hate Crimes Commission and the Asian American Advisory Council to the Governor.

- **Hate Crimes Backlash – Meeting with IL Federal Agencies** **2001**

Organized by the Office of the Governor, a meeting was sponsored with the United States Department of Justice to address concerns in communities regarding racial tensions after the September 11, 2001 tragedies.

- **Community Technology Grants** **2002**

Community Technology grants were given to organizations to aid in technology assistance

Two of those organizations were Asian American:

Korean American Community Services	\$49,000
Cambodian Association of Illinois	\$41,000

- 5. Do you support changing the current Illinois Driver's License pre-requisite of a social security card for identification where other forms of identification are available?**

a. Please explain.

At the present time, the support of such legislation becomes difficult when you must consider many national requests for a drivers license. It would be impossible for us to prove the validity and comparability of the person requesting a license without uniform identification.

- 6. Do you support the following legislation to amend the Criminal Code:**
- a. HB0136, which creates the offense of conspiracy against civil rights?**
 - b. HB3214, which creates the offense of theft of advertising services?**
 - c. Please explain.**

a. HB0136 has not passed the State Senate and is currently in the Senate Rules Committee. Our office will review the bill in its final form when it has passed the Senate.

b. Governor Ryan signed HB3214 and it became effective on August 17, 2001

- 7. Did you support funding legislation for:**
- a. Citizenship assistance programs?**
 - b. Interpretation services for non-English speaking individuals?**
 - c. Continuing services at health clinics for immigrant communities?**

a. Yes, we support funding for citizenship assistance programs.

b. Yes, we support interpretation services for non-English speaking individuals

c. Yes, we support continuing services at health clinics for immigrant communities.

8. What did you do to involve the APA community in the County's redistricting process?

My position as Governor of the State of Illinois does not allow me to participate in matters regarding redistricting.

9. Have you supported the candidacy of any APAs who have run for office in the past two years?

a. Please list their names and positions.

The Office of the Governor is a non-partisan office dedicated to serving all the people of the State of Illinois. As a result, our office has not taken any position of support for any candidates.

10. What outreach materials, if any, do you make available in Asian languages?

a. Please list the materials and the languages in which they are available.

All agencies under the direction of the Governor have outreach materials printed in languages that is most needed by the communities that utilize their services.

There are about 80 state agencies under the jurisdiction of the Governor.

Lieutenant Governor

The Lieutenant Governor leads "Women's Health Illinois," an initiative to better inform the public about State Government programs for women and more effectively deliver state health services unique to women. She also leads the state's efforts to improve economic opportunities for women as honorary chair of the Governor's Commission on the Status of Women.

Wood acts as the state's advocate for rural areas as chair of the Governor's Rural Affairs Council and the Illinois Rural Bond Bank, an agency that assists smaller communities in obtaining financing for local infrastructure. As chair of the Illinois River Coordinating Council, Wood directs the state's strategy in protecting the Illinois River Watershed and its tributaries. She worked to double funding for a voluntary incentive program to remove eroding lands from farm production and now leads Illinois Rivers 2020, a bold, long-range initiative to restore Illinois waterways. She also chairs the Illinois Main Street Council, which provides assistance to communities in restoring their downtown and historic areas.

Corinne Wood

1. How many persons are employed by the State?

a. What percentage of State employees is Asian Pacific American (APA)?

According to the Department of Central Management Services, there were 65,804 persons employed in the Illinois state workforce in 2000; of those, 1,199 (1.8 percent) were Asian.

2. Have you appointed any APAs to any boards or commissions in the past two years?

a. Please list their names and positions.

Yes, as members of Lt. Governor's Ethnic Advisory Council
C.P. Chang, council member

Eric Chang, council member
Raymond Chin, council member
Naren Desai, council member
Kwang Dong Jo, council member and working group member
Junior Hsu, council member
Leo Huang, council member
Sara Lin, council member
Veronica Leighton, council member
Joe Mauricio, council member
Ek-Anant Sunggoraneewan, council member
Bernie Wong, council member
Derek Wu, council member and working group member
Julia Zhu, council member

3. Who is the highest-ranking APA in your administration?

a. Please list his or her name, title and major job duties.

The Lt. Governor's office has approximately 30 employees between the Chicago office and the Springfield office. We have hired interns from the Asian community. College students of Asian heritage have worked for our office during summers. Through our ethnic advisory council we reached out to hire interns from all ethnicities.

a. Currently we do not have an APA in our immediate office. As Governor, I plan to change that.

4. What programs or initiatives, if any, have your office, APA liaison or APA council carried out that directly target Asian Pacific Americans?

a. Please indicate who carried out each activity and when.

In May of 2000 I hosted a salute to the Asian community. Our ethnic advisory council meets quarterly and our working groups meet more often and have projects that they are actively working on.

I hosted a reception for Elaine Chao, Secretary of Labor in October of 2001.

I had the honor of being honored as "Friend of the Filipino" in January of 2001.

Establishment of the Ethnic Advisory Council in 1998 (see information below).

a. Director of Ethnic Affairs of my office carries out and executes my initiatives in ethnic affairs

Ethnic Advisory Council

The Council is comprised of a diverse membership representative of Illinois ethnic communities. Currently, the Council consists of 103 members. New members are continually being added to include representatives from every ethnic and minority community in Illinois.

Based on a survey that was conducted by the LTG's office in conjunction with the various ethnic communities, specific issues were identified as universal concerns within the ethnic and minority communities. LTG subsequently formed working groups to address these issues.

Working Group 1

INS

Healthcare

Initiatives to preserve cultural heritage

Procurement of grants/funding

Working Group 2

Job training, career development/entrepreneur education

Initiatives to preserve cultural heritage
Procurement of grants/funding

Working Group 3

Discrimination, human rights issues
Affordable housing, recreational facilities, senior assistance
Initiatives to preserve cultural heritage
Procurement of grants/funding

Working Group 4

Children's advocacy
Crime prevention
Initiatives to preserve cultural heritage
Procurement of grants/funding

The Ethnic Advisory Council is actively working on issues of concern. The working groups meet monthly. The LTG meets quarterly with the Council. Some projects the working groups have planned under the Lt. Gov.'s direction are:

Working Group 1 with the assistance of Working Group 3

Informational materials, which will serve to assist ethnic and minority people of Illinois, on where to get assistance on various problems that they face. A brochure of 8 to 10 questions is being compiled with answers that will produce productive assistance to ethnic and minority concerns. Estimated completion date Fall/Winter of 2001. Costs incurred may cover printing of brochure – which may be donated.

Working Group 2

Educational and cultural programming facilitated through the Lieutenant Governor's office. A book fair to be held on ground level of JRTC. The book fair will include all ethnic and minority communities in IL. The LTG will have a booth w/literature and project from working group 4. A kick-off reception/press conference will be held before or after the first day's commencement. Either at noon on the concourse or 5:30 on concourse level. Costs may only require food for reception – it might be donated.

Working Group 4

Children's book of essays allowing ethnic and minority children a chance to voice their feelings, hopes and aspirations. Two culturally diverse Chicago Public Schools have been targeted to solicit essays. A traveling roundtable discussion conducted by EAC members to give explanation and direction to the project (publicity as well). LTG will preface the book that will include details of the roundtable.

5. Do you support changing the current Illinois Driver's License pre-requisite of a social security card for identification where other forms of identification are available?

a. Please explain.

I would like to have more dialogue regarding this issue

6. Do you support the following legislation to amend the Criminal Code:

a. HB0136, which creates the offense of conspiracy against civil rights?

b. HB3214, which creates the offense of theft of advertising services?

c. Please explain.

a. Yes I do not support discrimination of any kind, and I think legislation like this sends the message that we will not tolerate intimidation, threats, or the use of violence against any individual based on their ethnicity, religion, or any other factor. As Lieutenant Governor, I urged Congress to pass the Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act, which would make it easier for federal authorities to assist state and local law enforcement efforts with respect to hate crimes.

b. Yes, and I am pleased that HB 3214 was passed by the General Assembly and signed into law last year (2001). Newspapers and magazines have advertising guidelines, and individuals and businesses are required to pay to promote their products and services. Individuals and/or organizations that try to circumvent these rules should not be able to get away with it. It's unfair to the publishers, not to mention unfair to the individuals, businesses, and other organizations who are following the appropriate process to advertise their goods and services.

- 7. Did you support funding legislation for:**
- a. Citizenship assistance programs?**
 - b. Interpretation services for non-English speaking individuals?**
 - c. Continuing services at health clinics for immigrant communities?**

Yes, I believe we need to continue to support services that will assist immigrants in their efforts to become naturalized citizens, as well as initiatives that assist non- or limited-English speaking individuals who may apply for public benefits. Health care has been a top priority for me as Lieutenant Governor, and I support continued funding for suburban health clinics that provide primary care and mental health services to uninsured immigrant families.

- 8. What did you do to involve the APA community in the County's redistricting process?**

This is not my jurisdiction.

- 9. Have you supported the candidacy of any APAs who have run for office in the past two years?**
- a. Please list their names and positions.**

I hosted a reception for Elaine Chao, Secretary of Labor for the United States in October, 2001.

- 10. What outreach materials, if any, do you make available in Asian languages?**
- a. Please list the materials and the languages in which they are available.**

This is not my jurisdiction and if I am elected Governor, I will pledge to do more to have materials available in languages in accordance with population.

Attorney General

The Attorney General is the chief law enforcement officer in Illinois, coordinating crime-fighting activities with state, county and local authorities. He also is the state's chief legal officer, representing other elected state officials, departments and agencies in court.

Jim Ryan

- 1. How many Assistant Attorneys General are employed in your office?**
- a. What percentage of Assistant Attorneys General are Asian Pacific American (APA)?**

Our office employs 298 assistant attorneys general. We have seven (7) Asian Pacific American assistant attorneys general.

- 2. Who is the highest-ranking APA in your administration?**
a. Please list his or her name, title and major job duties.

Prior to his recent return to the criminal revenue bureau of the office, James Song had served as Assistant to the Attorney General for Asian-American Affairs. Each of the assistant attorneys general, including Mr. Song hold a similar ranking in the office.

- 3. What programs or initiatives, if any, have your office, APA liaison or APA council carried out that directly target APAs?**
a. Please indicate who carried out each activity and when.

James Song has spent a great deal of time meeting with various Asian American organizations communicating information regarding the services of the Office of the Attorney General related to: Crime Victim Compensation, Consumer Fraud, and Health Care. Mr. Song also worked with media outlets within the Asian American community to keep them abreast of issues, services and accomplishments of the office.

- 4. What is the total amount of funding from your office that goes to victim assistance?**
a. What percentage of this funding goes to APA organizations?

This office distributes approximately \$6 million dollars annually in Violent Crime Victims Assistance grants. In the past fiscal year this office distributed \$82,653 dollars to organizations serving the Asian American community. Since taking office in 1995, Attorney General Ryan has distributed \$546,523 in grants to Asian American organizations. This money is in addition to grants made to organizations that serve the needs of all communities on specific issues such as domestic violence, disability rights, children's advocacy and senior citizen services.

- 5. What is the total amount of funding from your office that goes to domestic violence services?**
a. What percentage of this funding goes to APA organizations?

Since taking office in 1995, Attorney General Ryan has committed more than \$13 million in Violent Crime Victims Assistance grant dollars to the issues of domestic violence and sexual assault. The Korean American Women in Need organization has received \$141,594 since 1995 for this purpose. The YWCA of Metropolitan Chicago also received \$50,000 for an Asian Services Program related to these issues.

- 6. Do you inquire about the immigration status of those who file complaints with your office?**

This office does what is required by law

- 7. Have you supported the candidacy of any APAs who have run for office in the past two years?**
a. Please list their names and positions.

As this questionnaire is directed to the governmental services of the Office of the Attorney General, it would not be appropriate to use state resources to respond to this political question. Attorney General Ryan's campaign committee can be contacted for an answer to this question.

- 8. What outreach materials, if any, do you make available in Asian languages?**
a. Please list the materials and the languages in which they are available.

At present, none of this office's materials are available in Asian languages.

Secretary of State

The Secretary of State's office provides direct service to more Illinois citizens than any other public agency. The office issues vehicle license plates and titles, registers corporations, enforces the Illinois Securities Act, investigates vehicle theft and odometer fraud, licenses drivers and maintains driver records. As State Librarian, Secretary White oversees the State Library literacy programs, and as State Archivist, he maintains records of legal or historic value.

Jesse White

1. How many persons are employed in your office?

a. What percentage of your staff is Asian Pacific American (APA)?

Currently, the Office of the Secretary of State employs 3,893 people. About 1 percent of our employees are of Asian descent.

2. Who is the highest-ranking APA in your administration?

a. Please list his or her name, title and major job duties?

Carmen Estacio, Senior & Community Services Asian Liaison

As the Asian Liaison for the Office of the Secretary of State, Mrs. Estacio:

- provides support and assistance to the Secretary of State's office regarding issues and concerns that affect the Asian American community, and serves as a SOS representative to various Asian American organizations.
- attends cultural events, festivals and parades with the Secretary of State and provides a briefing to the Secretary on the nature of the event, as well as the history and background of the community sponsoring the event.
- brings information about the office of Asian organization meetings and takes information gathered at these meetings back to the office.
- serves as a member or on the board of various community, social service and law enforcement agencies to enhance networking and outreach. Mrs. Estacio currently serves on the board of the Filipino American Council of Greater Chicago (FACC), is President of the Filipino American Voters of the Midwest (FAVLM), is a Member of the Asian American Coalition (AAC), a Board Member of the Chicago Diamond Lions Club, a Board Member of the Filipino American Law Enforcement organization and a Board Member of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce.
- works with members of the Asian Organization and helps to coordinate special events.
- works with the Secretary of State Advisory council to inform, identify and prioritize the unfulfilled needs of the Asian community and to discover feasible solutions to the problems currently challenging the Asian American community.

3. How much money does your office give out in Literacy funding?

a. What percentage of this funding goes to APA organizations?

Data on the percentage of literacy grant funds allocated to APA organizations in FY02 is not currently available. The following includes the Secretary of State Literacy Grants funding total for FY01 and the amount of funding allocated to Illinois-based Asian organizations:

Total literacy grant funding for fiscal year 2001-- \$8.4 million

- Asian Human Services, Inc., received two grants totaling \$54,864
- Cambodian Association of Illinois received one grant of \$30,000
- Chinese American Service League received one summer grant of \$4,800
- Chinese Mutual Aid Association received three grants totaling \$64,800
- Indo American Center received two grants totaling \$34,800
- Korean American Senior Service Center received one grant of \$46,000
- Midwest Asian American Center received one grant of \$10,000
- Pui Tak Center received one grant of \$32,000
- South-East Asia Center received one grant of \$27,000
- Vietnamese Association of Illinois received two grants totaling \$34,800

Total funding in FY01 for Asian organizations was \$390,000. Of the students who studied English in literacy projects last year (FY01), 4,323 of them identified themselves as of Asian ethnicity.

4. What programs or initiatives, if any, have your office, APA liaison or APA council carried out that directly target Asian Pacific Americans?

a. Please indicate who carried out each activity and when.

Programs initiated by SOS APA Liaison, Carmen Estacio:

- SOS Asian American Advisory Council.
The Advisory Council meets every 3rd Tuesday of each month and the APA Liaison invites speakers that provide information to the Advisory Council on topics such as:

- a. Literacy Grants
- b. Parking Programs for Persons with Disabilities
- c. Services to seniors, etc.

- SOS Asian American Heritage Month Reception
Sponsored by: Secretary of State Jesse White
Thursday, May 18, 2000

- SOS Asian American Health and Community Picnic
Carried out by: SOS Asian Advisory Council
Saturday, July 2, 2001

- SOS Asian American Christmas Party
Carried out by: SOS Asian Advisory Council
Sunday, December 10, 2000

Upcoming program initiated by SOS Liaison and will be carried out by SOS Asian Advisory Council in 2002:

Asian American Senior Health Fair 2002
Saturday, August 10, 2002 (Tentative date)
Sponsored by
Secretary of State Jesse White's Department of Senior and Community Services and
Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley's Department of Aging and CAPS.

5. Do you support legislation (HB 3382) to change the current Illinois Driver's License pre-requisite of a social security card for identification when other forms of identification are available?

a. Please explain.

I do not support House Bill 3382. The driver's license has become one of the most widely used documents in this country for verifying a person's identity. Since September 11, identification standards have become the subject of national debate. It is an issue that Congress is considering at this time and we are following that debate closely in Illinois. I believe requiring applicants to show proof of a social security number in Illinois is a necessary identification requirement.

6. Have you supported the candidacy of any APAs who have run for office in the past two years?

a. Please list their names and positions.

Yes. Honorable Sandra Otaka for Circuit Judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County 9th Judicial Circuit.

7. What outreach materials, if any, do you make available in Asian languages?

a. Please list the materials and the languages in which they are available.

- The Secretary of State driving test is available in Korean.
- Mutli-lingual guides on organ and tissue donation in English, Spanish, Russian, Korean, Polish and Chinese are also available.

8. Do you screen all license plates for wording that is racially offensive to APAs and other groups?

Yes.

Comptroller

The Comptroller is the chief fiscal control officer of State Government, charged with maintaining the state's central fiscal accounts and ordering payments into and out of the appropriate funds. To fulfill these duties, the Comptroller has established accounting standards for use by all state agencies. Maintaining the official records regarding State Government's fiscal affairs, the Comptroller serves as a clearinghouse for financial information.

The office also ensures that units of local government prepare and submit reports regarding their financial status. In addition, the Comptroller enforces consumer protection statutes regarding the funeral and cemetery industry.

Daniel W. Hynes

1. How many persons are employed in your office?

a. What percentage of your staff is Asian Pacific American (APA)?

Of the 330 employees in the Office of the Comptroller, seven, or 2.1 % are of Asian descent. When I assumed office, there were only three Asian Americans on staff and none served in management positions. I have appointed four Asian Americans to senior and mid-level management positions.

2. Who is the highest-ranking APA in your administration?

a. Please list his or her name, title and major job duties?

Joyce Yaung, a Chinese-American, is the Director of information Technology in Chicago. She oversees all information systems and computer operations in our Chicago office. In addition, we have two Asian American managers, Aurea Abad, a Filipino-American in our Local Government Division and Percy Lucina, a Filipino-American in our Cemetery Care and Burial Trust Division. Previously, Rena Van Tine, who served as my Special Counsel and Director of Cemetery Care and Burial Trust, was the highest-ranking Asian American on my staff.

3. What programs or initiatives, if any, have your office, APA liaison or APA council carried out that directly target Asian Pacific Americans?

a. Please indicate who carried out each activity and when.

The most important initiative our office has undertaken in support of the Asian community was establishing the first-ever Asian American Advisory Council in the Office of the Comptroller in May, 1999. The Council, comprised of 31 Asian American leaders from a wide range of industries and backgrounds, meets twice annually. Council members provide invaluable information to my office regarding issues of concern to their communities and upcoming events.

Last year, I appointed Aurea Abad to serve as my Asian American Liaison after our former Liaison, Rena Van Tine, resigned her position as Special Counsel and Director of Cemetery Care and Burial Trust to become a judge. Aurea has continued the important work of communicating with Council members and monitoring activities in the Asian community.

My office annually hosts a reception to honor Asian American Heritage Month. As Comptroller, it is my privilege and responsibility to attend meetings, ceremonies and receptions in the Asian American community and do so whenever my schedule permits. In addition, Aurea Abad attends monthly and annual events hosted by Asian American organizations on behalf of my office.

In April, 2000, I wrote to Governor Ryan and University of Illinois at Chicago Chancellor Sylvia Manning in support of establishing an Asian American Studies program at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

4. Have you supported the candidacy of any APAs who have run for office in the past two years?

a. Please list their names and positions.

As a statewide elected official, I encourage participation in public service by all racial and ethnic communities. I believe that all levels of government should reflect the diversity of the state. I have met with Asian American candidates seeking information about the political process and will continue to do so.

5. What outreach materials, if any, do you make available in Asian languages?

a. Please list the materials and the languages in which they are available.

One of the most important functions of the Comptroller's Office is protecting the rights of Illinois consumers who purchase goods and services from the cemetery and funeral home industry. My office publishes a cemetery and funeral consumer brochure, which we plan to make available in Hindi, Korean and Japanese. This has proved to be a very challenging project, but with the assistance of several Asian American Advisory Council members, we hope to make these translations available in the future.

State Treasurer

The Treasurer acts as the state's banker, investing a portfolio of nearly \$7 billion in state operational funds and an additional \$4 billion for Illinois local governments. These investments have netted the state more than \$1.75 billion during the last four years. In addition to investing in traditional financial instruments, the State Treasurer invests in projects that create private sector jobs and provide funding for social service organizations through various linked deposit programs. The Treasurer's office also works with all facets of Illinois' education community to increase the level of financial education available for young and old alike.

Judy Baar Topinka

1. How many persons are employed in your office?

a. What percentage of your staff is Asian Pacific American (APA)?

201
2%

Please make note that 3 Asian employees work in Chicago where we have a total of 55 employees. This makes the percentage of Asians in the Chicago office 5.5%.

2. Who is the highest-ranking APA in your administration?

a. Please list his or her name, title and major job duties?

Sharon Brown, Director of Communications, is the highest-ranking Asian in the office.

Other employees:

Sisavanh Baccam—Deputy Legal Counsel

Sharon Garchitorena—Financial Education Coordinator

Nadja Lalvani-Dudley—Intergovernmental Affairs Coordinator

3. How much of the state's money is put into local banks?

a. What percentage of these monies have you put into APA-owned banks over the past two years?

b. Please list these APA-owned banks.

The Treasurer has \$1.9b on deposit with Illinois financial institutions. The breakdown of these deposits are as follows:

Bank	344	\$1,697,255,811.00
Credit Unions	13	\$ 130,771,200.00
S & L	38	\$ 73,496,820.00
Total		\$ 1,901,523,831.00

a. The following amount is on deposit in financial institutions which have been defined to the Treasurer's Office as APA institutions. **\$5,785,000.00** The total deposits in APA institutions represents 0.3% of the total deposits in IL financial institutions

4. What programs or initiatives, if any, have your office, APA liaison or APA council carried out that directly target Asian Pacific Americans?

a. Please indicate who carried out each activity and when.

Our office is committed to reaching out to all constituents of Illinois, particularly those that may be under served, such as ethnic and minority populations. The State Treasurer is very active and visible in the

Asian Pacific community. Over the past year, she has attended several APA events to spread the word about her office's programs. In addition, the Treasurer has sent her APA Liaison to those events that she was unable to attend.

Other activities that Treasurer Topinka's office has carried out:

- She worked with the Thai community and the Field Museum to return a precious artifact to the Thai community.
- She received the Bharat Mitra "Friend of India" Award from the Indo-American Political League.
- She received the Outstanding Public Servant Award from the Illinois Indian Chamber of Commerce.
- She received the Asian American Coalition's Friend of the Asian Community Award
- She helped to finance the Cambodian Association of Illinois' headquarters and is working with them on creating the United States' first Killing Fields Memorial Museum.
- She was the Grand Marshal in the Bangladesh Independence Parade and carried their flag during the 2-mile parade.
- The office recently brought aboard 2 Chinese interns in Springfield.
- She worked with a local bank to fund an entire block of Chinese businesses in the new Chinatown through her Access to Capital program.
- She initiated Indian Earthquake relief efforts and collected hundreds of blankets, canned foods, clothing and medicine for the unfortunate victims of Gujarat, India.
- As State Senator, she worked with the Senate Chairman and the Indian Medical Association to increase opportunities for foreign and offshore medical school graduates.

The APA Advisory Council meets quarterly to update Treasurer Topinka on activities in the APA community, voice their concerns to her and meet with Directors to learn about office programs. In addition, the members of the Council bring the programs to their communities. The Asian Liaison has run Cash Dashes at most of the organizations that Council members are affiliated with, including:

Filipino Association of South DuPage
Punjabi Cultural Society
Indo-American Political League
Alliance of Midwest Indian Association
Cambodian Association of Illinois
Vietnamese Association of Illinois
Korean Association of Chicago

5. Have you supported the candidacy of any APAs who have run for office in the past two years?

a. Please list their names and positions.

Yes, Lourdes Mon for Water Reclamation District.

6. What outreach materials, if any, do you make available in Asian languages?

a. Please list the materials and the languages in which they are available.

Bank at School program is available in Mandarin.

State Senator

The legislative power of the State of Illinois is vested in the General Assembly, which is composed of a Senate and a House of Representatives. Its principle activities are enacting, amending or repealing laws, passing resolutions, adopting appropriation bills, and conducting inquiries on proposed legislation. It also acts on amendments to the United States Constitution when they are submitted by Congress and proposes and submits amendments to the Illinois Constitution for consideration by voters.

In addition to debating and enacting legislation that reflects the needs of Illinois citizens, the Senate is constitutionally delegated the responsibility of advising and consenting to most gubernatorial appointments to state offices, boards and commissions. In the matter of impeachments, the 59-member Senate serves as adjudicator. If a majority of the members of the House vote to impeach, the case proceeds to the Senate for trial.

Ira I. Silverstein- 8th Legislative District

1. ***What programs or initiatives, if any, have your office, Asian Pacific American (APA) liaison or APA council carried out that directly target APAs?***
 - a. ***Please indicate who carried out each activity.***

As the State Senator representing the district with the highest percentage of Asian-Americans in the State of Illinois, a large number of my constituent contacts are with Asian-Americans. It would be impossible for me to list them all, but, in the past four years, I have met with countless lobbyists, community activists, and other representatives of the Asian-American community on issues of mutual interest, particularly state recognition of graduates of foreign medical schools. Below is a list of member initiative programs that were in the form of grants to the following organizations:

Counseling Center for Seniors
Cambodian Association of Illinois
Korean American Senior Center
Watered Garden Support Group for Parents of Disabled Korean American Children
Korean American Resource & Cultural Center
Indo-American Center

2. ***Do you support the following legislation to amend the Criminal Code:***
 - a. ***HB0136, which creates the offense of conspiracy against civil rights?***
 - b. ***HB3214, which creates the offense of theft of advertising services?***
 - c. ***Please explain***

a. Yes
b. Yes
c. I support legislation to impose strict punishments against those who commit hate crimes or conspire to violate civil rights.

3. ***Do you support funding legislation for:***
 - a. ***Citizenship assistance programs?***
 - b. ***Interpretation services for non-English speaking individuals?***
 - c. ***Continuing services at health clinics for immigrant communities?***

a. Yes
b. Yes
c. Yes

- 4. Do you support changing the current Illinois Driver's License pre-requisite of a social security card for identification where other forms of identification are available?**
a. Please explain.

Yes, as long as the other forms of identification were reliable.

- 5. What did you do to involve the APA community in the State's redistricting process?**

Activists in the Asian-American community have long advocated for recognition in the redistricting process at a level currently enjoyed by African-Americans and Hispanics. However, the Asian-American community is composed of persons from many different backgrounds and is considerably more dispersed in our modern desegregated society than are other minority groups. Accordingly, it is virtually impossible to draw Chicago wards, state legislative districts, or other districts which would give Asian-Americans a numerical majority, much less a voting majority, in any district. The General Assembly has the first responsibility to draw lines for congressional and state legislative districts. The congressional map was a bipartisan compromise worked out between Republican House Speaker Dennis Hastert and Democratic Representative William Lipinski, designed to keep 19 of Illinois' 20 congressmen in districts fairly similar to their current districts. Rank and file legislators such as myself were not provided any viable alternatives to this map, and I did support it as it was a bipartisan compromise and it protected the district of Rep. Jan Schakowsky, which, among other things, has a significant block of Asian-American citizens.

Similarly, the state legislative map was prepared by party leadership on the basis of maximum protection for their own political party. As a Democratic map was eventually adopted, my district was kept relatively intact. It is my impression that the Asian-American percentage actually increased, as some suburbs with a presence of Asian-Americans, such as Niles and Morton Grove, were added to my district.

- 6. Have you supported the candidacy of any APAs who have run for office in the past two years?**
a. Please list their names and positions.

I strongly support the campaign of Judge Sandra Otaka, who is running for Judge of the Circuit Court of Cook County in the 9th Judicial Subcircuit.

Lisa Madigan- 17th Legislative District

- 1. What programs or initiatives, if any, have your office, Asian Pacific American (APA) liaison or APA council carried out that directly target APAs?**
a. Please indicate who carried out each activity.

As a State Senator, I have personally worked closely with the APA community and numerous social service organizations serving APA residents. As part of this work, I have fought for funding for the Chinese Mutual Aid Association, the Cambodian Association, the Southeast Asia Center, and the Japanese American Service Committee. I also have worked diligently on the issue of Asian language teacher certification.

- 2. Do you support the following legislation to amend the Criminal Code:**
a. HB 0136, which creates the offense of conspiracy against civil rights?
b. HB 3214, which creates the offense of theft of advertising services.

- a. I am one of the chief Senate co-sponsors of this legislation.
b. I voted in favor of this bill in the Senate.

3. **Do you support funding for legislation for:**
- a. **Citizenship assistance programs?**
 - b. **Interpretation services for non-English speaking individuals?**
 - c. **Continuing services at health clinics for immigrant communities?**

- a. Yes
- b. Yes. In fact, I have worked to provide funding to O.N.E. to purchase translation equipment.
- c. Yes. I have worked closely with Asian human services organizations in my district to secure additional funding for their programs.

4. **Do you support changing the current Illinois Drivers' License pre-requisite of a social security card for identification where other forms of identification are available?**

- a. **Please explain.**

Yes. I believe we must make every effort to ensure that law-abiding residents of the state can obtain drivers' licenses, regardless of whether they have a social security card.

5. **What did you do to involve the APA community in the State's redistricting process?**

I met with members of the APA community to discuss redistricting strategies and work through ways that the APA community could ensure full and fair representation in the process.

6. **Have you supported the candidacy of any APAs who have run for office in the past two years?**

- a. **Please list their names and positions.**

I have been a strong supporter of APA candidates, including, for example, the judicial candidacies of Sandra Otaka and Rena VanTine.

State Representatives

The legislative power of the State of Illinois is vested in the General Assembly, which is composed of a Senate and a House of Representatives. Its principle activities are enacting, amending or repealing laws, passing resolutions, adopting appropriation bills, and conducting inquiries on proposed legislation. It also acts on amendments to the United States Constitution when they are submitted by Congress and proposes and submits amendments to the Illinois Constitution for consideration by voters. Within the General Assembly, the 118-member Illinois House of Representatives has the sole power of impeachment.

Louis I. Lang- 16th Representative District

1. **What programs or initiatives, if any, have your office, Asian Pacific American (APA) liaison or APA council carried out that directly target APAs?**

- a. **Please indicate who carried out each activity.**

Bert Brooke, my chief of staff, recently attempted to help the Asian Human Services group obtain new office space, in order to help the organization to become more effective in meeting its goals. After a process of trying to find new, centralized office space, unfortunately no feasible location could be found. We still look forward on working on this issue, as well as others that directly affected the APA community.

2. **Do you support the following legislation to amend the Criminal Code:**
- a. **HB0136, which creates the offense of conspiracy against civil rights?**
 - b. **HB3214, which creates the offense of theft of advertising services?**
 - c. **Please explain.**

- a. Yes
- b. Yes
- c. Yes

3. **Do you support funding legislation for:**
- a. **Citizenship assistance programs?**
 - b. **Interpretation services for non-English speaking individuals?**
 - c. **Continuing services at health clinics for immigrant communities?**

- a. Yes
- b. Yes
- c. Yes

4. **Do you support changing the current Illinois Driver's License pre-requisite of a social security card for identification where other forms of identification are available?**
- a. **Please explain.**

Yes, having safe drivers on the road does not equate with only drivers who possess a Social Security card. The safest and most sensible option is to have other valid forms of identification be used to obtain an Illinois Drivers License.

5. **What did you do to involve the APA community in the State's redistricting process?**

I met with a number of Asian American community leaders about the redistricting process including Judge Sandra Otaka and the Director of the Asian American Institute, Tuyet Le. I also assisted them by recommending a number of other government officials to meet with to help further this cause.

6. **Have you supported the candidacy of any APAs who have run for office in the past two years?**
- a. **Please list their names and positions.**

Yes—including
Sandra Otaka, Judge, Cook County
Rena VanTine, Judge, Cook County
Peter Moy, Mayor, Lincolnwood
Pramod Shah, Collector, Niles Township
Usha Kamaria, Trustee, Niles Township

Richard Bradley- 20th Representative District

1. What programs or initiatives, if any, have your office, Asian Pacific American (APA) liaison or APA council carried out that directly target APAs?

a. Please indicate who carried out each activity.

My 40th District encompasses Lawrence Avenue, from the Chicago River to Pulaski Road. This area has a concentration of Asian businesses, especially Korean. I have been working with Jin Lee of the Albany Park Community Center who is a liaison to the Korean Community. I am accessible and active in support, of and on any issues I can be of service to the Korean Community. I will be working with Jin Lee to be of assistance on the four meetings this year that will be held for Korean Businesses.

I am fortunate to also have the Korean American Community Services in my district. I have met with the Director Inchul Choi to support and assist as needed. We also toured the facility at 4300 N. California. The second floor of the building needs extensive repairs. The center would expand their programs with this added space. Mr. Choi and I will continue to meet and discuss how to access funding for these improvements.

2. Do you support the following legislation to amend the Criminal Code:

a. HB0136, which creates the offense of conspiracy against civil rights?

b. HB3214, which creates the offense of theft of advertising services.

c. Please explain

I enthusiastically support H.B. 136 and 3214

3. Do you support funding legislation for:

a. Citizenship assistance programs?

b. Interpretation services for non-English speaking individuals?

c. Continuing services at health clinics for immigrant communities?

I fully support citizenship assistance programs and interpretation services for people in our community. Health Services are vital for immigrant families and should not be diminished. Out-reach efforts must be increased so families can participate in all these important programs. Attached is a form Korean American Community Services utilizes which is also available in my office.

4. Do you support changing the current Illinois Driver's License pre-requisite of a social security card for identification where other forms of identification are available?

a. Please explain.

The Illinois General Assembly is in the process of considering legislation on this issue. This year hearings may be held throughout the State to educate the public and receive specific testimony. I will co-sponsor legislation that allows other forms of I.D. for a drivers license. I also am a member of the House Task-Force that is working on this issue.

5. What did you do to involve the APA community in the State's redistricting process?

During the redistricting process I met several times with M.A.L.D.F. attorney Maria Valdez, who was also in discussions with Tuyet Le. Our discussions focused on my 40th District. We agreed that the Asian population in my district was significant, and would be better served by being included in a single district as much as possible. Our final map accomplished the goals of incorporating most of Lawrence Avenue and the Korean Business Community in the 40th District. I look forward to working with the Korean Community to maintain and improve a successful and prosperous community that serves our residents.

6. Have you supported the candidacy of any APAs who have run for office in the past two years?

a. Please list their names and positions.

Currently I support Sandra Otaka for judge. Sandra is the endorsed candidate of the Democratic Party. Sandra's work in the Child Protective Division is outstanding.

Many Judicial Candidates are being reviewed by the Asian American Bar Association. The A.A.B.A. has distinguished itself as a major factor in Judicial elections.

**** Attached KACS brochure and Patient Request for Language Assistance Services**

John Fritchey- 33rd Representative District

Thank you for this opportunity to address issues of particular concern to the Asian American community. As the son of an immigrant to this country, I can personally appreciate the importance of ensuring that our laws and government work on behalf of all, and not just a chosen few. I have maintained that belief since first being elected in 1996 and will continue to do so in the future.

[Fritchey Response]

1. What programs or initiatives, if any, have your office, Asian Pacific American (APA) liaison or APA council carried out that directly target APAs?

a. Please indicate who carried out each activity.

I have worked with, and obtained state funding for, the Cambodian Association of Illinois to further them in their efforts to renovate and expand their community center on Lawrence Avenue. I have additionally worked with InChul Choi in furtherance of programs on behalf of Korean American Community Services.

2. Do you support the following legislation to amend the Criminal Code:

a. HB0136, which creates the offense of conspiracy against civil rights?

b. HB3214, which creates the offense of theft of advertising services?

c. Please explain.

a. Yes

b. Yes

c. Both laws are consistent with my views on these issues.

3. Do you support funding legislation for:

a. Citizenship assistance programs?

b. Interpretation services for non-English speaking individuals?

c. Continuing services at health clinics for immigrant communities?

a. Yes

b. Yes

c. Yes

4. Do you support changing the current Illinois Driver's License pre-requisite of a social security card for identification where other forms of identification are available?

a. Please explain.

Yes, I believe that as a government, we should attempt to assist, not impair, those individuals seeking to mainstream themselves into our society.

5. What did you do to involve the APA community in the State's redistricting process?

Unfortunately, the reality of the remap process is that leadership was more concerned with political considerations rather than community concerns. Nevertheless, I maintained my consistent policy of soliciting community input on all issues of importance to my constituents.

6. Have you supported the candidacy of any APAs who have run for office in the past two years?

No.

Rosemary Mulligan- 55th Representative District

Rep. Rosemary Mulligan (currently represents the 55th District)
Candidate for the newly drawn 65th District
Illinois General Assembly – State Representative

1. What programs or initiatives, if any, have your office, Asian Pacific American (APA) liaison or APA council carried out that directly target APAs?

a. Please indicate who carried out each activity.

I personally have met with you and members of your council to discuss what issues you thought were of importance.

I have twice supported Kiyong Yoon, who is on the faculty of Pacific Oriental Medical College in Chicago and lives in my district, for appointment to the Illinois Board of Acupuncture: first in 1997 and again when it appeared she might not be reappointed in 2000. After I contacted the Governor, she was reappointed.

I have met with the editor, Kwang Dong Jo, and reporters from the Korean Times to be interviewed on issues important to the Korean community in the 2000 general election cycle. They were kind enough to print an article about our meeting.

Maya Parekh from my office coordinated two coffees/meetings for me during the 2000 general election cycle – one within the local Korean community and one within the Indian community so I could listen to issues that were important to members of each community.

Ms. Parekh was an assistant aide in my office in 1999 and my 2000 campaign volunteer coordinator. She set up a phone bank for me two nights before the campaign with Patrick Park. Mr. Park recruited young Korean American adults to phone in Korean to local voters. Mr. Park is interested in organizing a young business people's political group and I have met with him on this issue.

Ms. Parekh would like to run for political office and I have been mentoring her. After her graduation from Loyola in May of 2001, I sponsored her for a job with the Lt. Governor. She is now in law school.

I have awarded several Legislative scholarships to Asian Americans in my district. One is for medical school for an Asian women medical student.

- 2. Do you support the following legislation to amend the Criminal Code:**
- a. HB0136, which creates the offense of conspiracy against civil rights.**
 - b. HB3214, which creates the offense of theft of advertising services.**
 - c. Please explain.**

- a. Yes, I voted for it in the House.
- b. Yes, I voted for it in the House.
- c. See above.

- 3. Do you support funding legislation for:**
- a. Citizenship assistance programs?**
 - b. Interpretation services for non-English speaking individuals?**
 - c. Continuing services at health clinics for immigrant communities?**

- a. Yes
- b. Yes
- c. Yes

I have supported all three of the above as parts of past state budgets with success. As a ten-year member of the House Human Services Appropriation Committee, where I have served as either the Chair or Minority Spokesman for the past eight years, I have been the lead Republican on immigrant funding issues and worked with the Illinois Immigrant Coalition on these issues.

After a number of years of work as the lead legislator on a project to get additional funding for local health clinics, we were successful in obtaining an additional \$600,000 dollars of money that went to local health clinics in fiscal year 2001 and another \$600,000 in fiscal year 2002. I am told that money will be included again in the proposed budget for fiscal year 2003, but the total allocation for immigrant services is less than it should be for FY03 (as it is in other parts of the proposed state budget).

- 4. Do you support changing the current Illinois Driver's License pre-requisite of a social security card for identification where other forms of identification are available?**
- a. Please explain.**

Yes, I would support this legislation, although the current bills need some clarification as to what forms of identification will be acceptable.

- 5. What did you do to involve the APA community in the State's redistricting process?**

I gave names of people I know from my district to House Republicans so they could be invited to local re-districting hearings so they might present their views on communities of interest.

- 6. Have you supported the candidacy of any APAs who have run for office in the past two years?**
- a. Please list their names and positions.**

As part of the House Republican Candidate Search Committee for the newly drawn House of Representatives 57th District (Des Plaines, unincorporated Maine Township, Glenview, Northbrook), I contacted the following gentlemen to see if they would be interested in running for state representative in the Republican primary and asked them to present their credentials for an interview with the committee.

*Steve Kim – Works for AT&T, former Northfield Township Trustee.

*Patrick Park – Businessman (Holy Trinity Acupuncture) in my current district who had worked on my last campaign and would live in the new district.

*Jin Lee – Vice President of the Korean American Association of Chicago, he currently lives in my district, but would be in the newly drawn district.

None of them were interested in running at this time, but Steve Kim and Jin Lee joined the search committee at my suggestion to interview potential candidates.

Supported:

Steve Kim who ran for re-election as a Northfield Township Trustee last April 2001.

Elizabeth Coulson- 57th Representative District

[Newly drawn] 17th [District]

1. What programs or initiatives, if any, have your office, Asian Pacific American (APA) liaison or APA council carried out that directly target APAs?

a. Please indicate who carried out each activity.

See attached

2. Do you support the following legislation to amend the Criminal Code:

a. HB0136, which creates the offense of conspiracy against civil rights?

b. HB3214, which creates the offense of theft of advertising services.

c. Please explain

I agree with the concepts—need more information

3. Do you support funding legislation for:

a. Citizenship assistance programs?

b. Interpretation services for non-English speaking individuals?

c. Continuing services at health clinics for immigrant communities?

a. Yes

b. Yes

c. Yes

4. Do you support changing the current Illinois Driver's License pre-requisite of a social security card for identification where other forms of identification are available?

a. Please explain.

I think so—need more information.

5. What did you do to involve the APA community in the State's redistricting process?

See attached

6. Have you supported the candidacy of any APAs who have run for office in the past two years?

a. Please list their names and positions.

Steve Kim- Northfield Township Trustee

Attached statement:

What has made this country so special is that it has been blessed throughout its history by the arrival of brave, freedom-loving people from every corner of the globe. We are all immigrants, and we must cherish and nourish this great strength.

My father is a first-generation immigrant from Poland, so I have grown up with a special appreciation of both the richness of another culture and the blessings of life in the United States. My husband and I have traveled extensively throughout Asia and have studied the fascinating history of the region. In June 2001 we went to Asia as participants in the Chicago Sister Cities trade and cultural exchange program.

With my profound appreciation of the contributions immigrants make to our society, I have been very mindful of immigration issues in the State Legislature and in my political life. When the federal government reduced social services available to immigrants, I supported state initiatives to repair these shortfalls. I co-sponsored the bill to exempt from taxation any reparations paid to victims of foreign tyranny. My merit selection committee, assigned to award legislative college scholarships to student based on need and academic excellence, has selected several Asian-American students for these scholarships. I have supported funding for the state DCCA economic development grant program, and the Governor's proposed opening of new foreign trade offices, including one in China. As a member of the Education Appropriation Committee, I have encouraged funding for literacy programs such as the "English as a Second Language" classes. I also continue to back the efforts of the Department of Human Services to assist the refugee community in Illinois.

I am proud to have spearheaded the securing of a \$50,000 grant two years ago from the Illinois Department of Public Health for the establishment of the state's first Korean-American Women's Wellness Center. The Center serves women from the suburbs and Chicago, and provides comfortable and accessible healthcare services specifically tailored to low income and uninsured Korean-American women. We hope to see continued growth of the Center and its services.

Politically, I am proud to have sponsored Steve Kim of Northbrook to be slated, and elected, as a Northfield Township Trustee. I also worked closely with Azam Nizamuddin (who recently moved from Glenview to Evanston) to get zoning and licensing approvals for the Islamic school in Northbrook.

I celebrate both our society's diversity, and our essential unity as Americans. I want Asian-Americans to become even more involved in our political life.

I look forward to continuing to work with the talented Asian-American people of the 57th and 17th district and of our country.

Yes, I support the legislation you have suggested.

Cook County President

In addition to presiding at county board meetings, the president of the Cook County Board of Commissioners, as Chief Executive of the county, is responsible for the administration of the county government, except for the responsibilities held by other officials. With the consent of the board, the president appoints the heads of county departments falling under the board's jurisdiction.

John H. Stroger, Jr.

- 1. How many persons are employed by Cook County government?**
 - a. What percentage of these employees is Asian Pacific American (APA)?**
 - b. What percentage of those APA employees work for the Bureau of Health Services?**

According to the most recent figures available, Cook County Government employs 13,107 in offices under the President. The percentage of those employees who identified themselves as Asian Pacific American is 17.5%. The percentage of Asian Pacific American employees in offices under the President who work for the Bureau of Health Services is 90.2%.

- 2. Who is the highest-ranking APA in your administration?**
 - a. Please list his or her name, title and major job duties.**

The highest-ranking Asian Pacific American in offices under the President is Matthew DeLeon, Assistant to the Chief Administrative Officer, Cook County Bureau of Administration. Mr. DeLeon is of Filipino descent. On behalf of the Chief Administrative Officer, Mr. DeLeon is responsible for oversight of the functions of 11 County Departments within the Bureau of Administration, including: Planning and Development; Building and Zoning; Zoning Board of Appeals; President's Office of Employment and Training; Animal Control; Real Estate Management; Medical Examiner; Environmental Control; Veterans' Assistance Commission; Highways; Law Library.

- 3. Have you appointed any APAs to any boards or commissions in the past two years?**
 - a. Please list their names and positions.**

In the past two years several Asian Pacific Americans served on various Cook County boards and commissions. They include the following:

Dr. Anwar S. Choudhry, Suburban Tuberculosis Sanitarium District
Aurora Abella-Austriaco, Commission on Human Rights
Sandra Otaka, Commission on Human Rights (resigned 2000)
Sid Bala, Workforce Investment Board
Dr. Tariq Butt, Workforce Investment Board
Ashref Hashim, Workforce Investment Board
Vijay Patel, Workforce Investment Board
Bernarda Wong, Workforce Investment Board
Monte Chen, Chicago Area Transportation Study Work Program Committee
Rashid Chaudary, Economic Development Advisory Committee
Glenn Ma, Economic Development Advisory Committee
Joseph A. Tecson, Metra Board

4. How much money does the County give out annually in contracts?

- a. What percentage of the County's contracts goes to APA-owned businesses?**

In 2001, Cook County let \$405,894,418 in contracts for various services and supplies. Of that total \$43,094,868, or 10.62% were let to Asian Pacific American-owned businesses.

5. Have you supported the candidacy of any APAs who have run for office in the past two years?

- a. Please list their names and positions.**

In April 2001, President Stroger supported the candidacy of Matthew DeLeon, one of the four democratic nominees for Northfield Township Trustee. As stated above, Mr. DeLeon is of Filipino descent.

6. What did you do to involve the APA community in the County's redistricting process?

To facilitate Asian Pacific American participation in the County's redistricting process, the Office of the President responded to an April 10, 2001 letter sent on behalf of the Asian American Redistricting Coalition (AARC) by Asian American Institute (AAI) Executive Director Tuyet Le. Eric Miller, Assistant to the President contacted Ms. Le by phone on April 17 and faxed a schedule of the public hearings of the County Board Redistricting Committee on April 17. In anticipation of a meeting with Ms. Le, or any other AARC representative, at any of the eight scheduled meetings, Mr. Miller prepared demographic information per current district, mapping information and minutes of each committee meeting. Mr. Miller informed Ms. Le that all demographic information compiled by the county could be accessed and that alternate proposals to the proposed maps were welcome.

7. What outreach materials, if any, do you make available in Asian languages?

- a. Please list the materials and the languages in which they are available.**

In offices under the President, Cook County commits most of its outreach resources to the Bureau of Health Services, specifically through medical translation services for all County institutions. At Stroger Hospital of Cook County, a full-time medical translator who speaks four Chinese dialects is employed and on-call 24 hours a day. The Bureau of Health Services handles approximately 1000 Asian language translation requests a year through several resources, including a volunteer bank of multilingual hospital personnel and the AT&T Language Line service.

8. What programs or activities, if any, have your office, APA liaison or APA advisory council carried out that directly target APAs in the County?

- a. Please indicate who carried out each activity and when.**

In June 2000, Cook County assisted the Asian American Hate Crimes Network by providing over 15,000 copies of multi-language flyers alerting community residents to the identity of a sexual predator targeting Asian women in the Chicago Area.

President Stroger also hosted Asian American Heritage Month Celebrations honoring Asian American law enforcement officers and Asian American Veterans. The veterans' celebration was the largest celebration of the contribution of Asian Americans to the defense of the United States, with over 250 local veterans participating in the program.

In July 2001, Cook County hosted a group of local elected officials and businesspersons from Changchun, China who were participating in a University of Illinois at Chicago exchange program. The group learned about the structure and functions of Cook County Government, and how different units of government in the United States interact.

Matthew DeLeon, Assistant to the Chief of Administrative Officer, coordinated all events.

Cook County State's Attorney

The State's Attorney is elected to a four-year term. A candidate for this office must be a licensed attorney. The State's Attorney is the Chief law officer of Cook County and is both a county officer and an officer of the State of Illinois. This office initiates actions, indictments and prosecutes civil and criminal suits in the Cook County Circuit Court whenever the State or County is concerned. Operationally, the office is divided into eight bureaus: Criminal Prosecutions, Civil Action, Special Prosecutions, Investigations, Public Interest, Narcotics Prosecutions, Juvenile Justice and Administrative Services.

Richard A. Devine

The Cook County State's Attorney's Office, the second largest prosecutor's office in the nation, acts on behalf of the citizens of the State of Illinois in enforcing all laws applicable to Cook County, the largest consolidated court system in the United States. The State's Attorney's Office prosecutes criminal misdemeanors and felonies, enforces child support orders, protects consumers and the elderly from exploitation, and assists victims of domestic violence. The office is divided into eight bureaus: Criminal Prosecutions, Juvenile Justice, Narcotics, Special Prosecutions, Public Interest, Civil Actions, Investigations and Administrative Services.

[Devine Response]

1. **How many Assistant State's Attorneys are employed by the County?**
 - a. **What percentage of the County's Assistant State's Attorneys is Asian Pacific American (APA)?**

There are a total of 950 Assistant State's Attorneys employed by the Cook County State's Attorney's Office. 4.32% are Asian Pacific American.

2. **Who is the highest-ranking APA in your administration?**
 - a. **Please list his or her name, title and major job duties.**

The highest-ranking APA in the Cook County State's Attorney's Office is Assistant State's Attorney Neera Walsh. She is the Supervisor of the Community Prosecutions Division.

The goal of the division is to partner with the police/CAPS, businesses, religious institutions, elected officials, schools, government entities, social service agencies and community groups to identify public safety issues in the community. This goal is met in three ways: prosecution, problem-solving and prevention. As cases are identified through our work with CAPS, police and community groups, the assistants assigned to this division can work to target quality of life offenses and prosecute offenders who repeatedly commit crime. The Community Prosecutions Division collaborates with community residents regarding public safety concerns to find solutions to their problems. This division works to initiate prevention activities in the schools, religious institutions and other groups to educate the community about crime and public safety. The Community Prosecutions Division is also responsible for the prosecution of hate crimes.

The driving force behind the concept of community prosecutions is accountability. Offenders will be held accountable to the community in which they commit the offense through community service or volunteer work. The Community Prosecutions Division identifies cases that have a measurable impact on the community, those that are of widespread concern and those that show a pattern of crime in a specific beat or community. As we prosecute cases, we seek the support of community residents and CAPS to attend the court hearings and provide support for victims and witnesses. The message sent to the offender is that the community stands together against crime and works side by side with the criminal justice system to seek justice for communities.

In fact, in 1999, as a result of this partnership with stakeholders in the Asian American community and government entities, our office helped lead an effort to track down the offender who had been committing

a series of rapes on the north side of Chicago and its neighboring suburbs. With the assistance of the community organizations, we were able to generate and widely disseminate information to the community which, eventually, led to the capture of the offender.

- 3. What programs or initiatives, if any, have your office, APA liaison or APA council carried out that directly target Asian Pacific Americans in the County?**
- a. Please indicate who carried out each activity and when.**

As we all know, the Asian Pacific American community in the United States is ever-growing. Census 2000 data has shown that the APA population has grown since 1990 to make up over 4% of the nation's population. In Cook County alone, APAs make up 4.8% of the population with approximately 262,731 residents.

Our office recognizes the significant contributions that Asian Americans make on a daily basis; and, with such a burgeoning population, we understand that the needs of the community are also growing. The programs we have initiated to recruit more interest from the Asian American community in the public sector and the legal profession include our annual Essay Contest held in conjunction with our Asian American Heritage Month Reception. The essay contest is open to Asian American undergraduate students who have an interest in the field of law. Two winners are chosen and receive a \$1000 scholarship as well as an 8-week paid internship with the Cook County State's Attorney's Office.

In addition, we have partnered with the Asian American Bar Association to create a Summer Law Clerk Internship Program. Through this program, two law students are chosen to take part in an 8-week paid internship with our office to gain "hands-on" experience by learning about the court systems while working closely with our Assistant State's Attorneys.

We are currently developing a new Community Prosecutions Unit in the 21st District that will work closely with Chinatown community leaders and residents along with municipal partners in an effort to actively address issues of neighborhood safety, quality of life issues, crime prevention, and hate crimes.

We are also investigating means by which to have our outreach materials available in languages that are accessible to Cook County's diverse communities.

In addition, we are working on a project with community organizations to provide guidance and promote the healthy development of community youth through mentoring programs.

Meanwhile, we continue to partner with other APA organizations through educational seminars, offer support by attending APA conferences and events, and provide assistance in court cases that affect the community.

- 4. Do you support the following legislation to amend the Criminal Code:**
- a. HB0136, which creates the offense of conspiracy against civil rights?**
- b. HB3214, which creates the offense of theft of advertising services?**
- c. Please explain.**

We have been supportive, particularly of HB0136 which was introduced to amend the Criminal Code of 1961 and creates the offense of conspiracy against civil rights. Our office assisted in drafting the legislation, getting it introduced, and has lobbied for it for over one year.

- 5. Have you supported the candidacy of any APAs who have run for office in the past two years?**
- a. Please list their names and positions.**

I endorse the candidacy of Judge Sandra Otaka for Circuit Court Judge of the 9th Judicial SubCircuit. I have known Judge Otaka for many years and she has shown a strong commitment to securing justice for all the people of Cook County and has demonstrated a lifelong dedication to furthering the advancement

and empowerment of the Asian American community. As the first Asian American to be appointed to the bench by the Illinois Supreme Court, she will also make history by becoming the first Asian American elected as a judge in Cook County. Judge Otaka has my steadfast support.

6. What outreach materials, if any, do you make available in Asian languages?
a. Please list the materials and the language in which they are available.

Currently, our office does not have outreach materials available in Asian languages. However, our office realizes the need to make these materials more accessible to Cook County's Asian American community and, for the past few months, has been determining means in which to make our programs available to limited-English speaking communities.

In the interim, the Cook County State's Attorney's Office does have an outreach program designed to encourage Asian Americans to join in civil service and to increase the number of Asian American Assistant State's Attorneys. Every year, we host an essay contest in honor of Asian American Heritage Month. This contest is open to Asian American college students who have an interest in the field of law. Two winners are chosen and receive an 8-week paid internship with our office. They are also the recipients of a \$1000 scholarship which is awarded to the winners at our Annual Asian American Heritage Month Reception.

In addition, our office has collaborated with the Asian American Bar Association to create a Summer Law Clerk Internship Program. This partnership has resulted in the development of a program to create an additional opportunity for Asian Americans--specifically law students--to become exposed to a career in the public sector and the legal profession. These endeavors support our office's mission to create lasting partnerships with community groups in an effort to better serve Cook County's diverse constituency.

DuPage County Chairman

The County Board Chairman is the chief operating officer of the County Board, supervising the implementation of the Board's policies and programs. He chairs Board meetings, prepares agenda, and schedules meetings of the Board. The Chairman prepares a proposed annual budget, makes committee assignments, appoints committee chairmen, and recommends new and special committees as the need arises. He serves as an ex-officio member of all Board committees. The Chairman, with advice and consent of the County Board, also appoints representatives to several other boards and committees. The Chairman of the County Board is also Liquor Control Commissioner for unincorporated areas of DuPage County.

Robert J. Schillerstrom

Failed to respond. See questions for Cook County President.

DuPage County State's Attorney

The State's Attorney is elected to a four-year term. A candidate for this office must be a licensed attorney. The State's Attorney is the Chief law officer of Cook County and is both a county officer and an officer of the State of Illinois. This office initiates actions, indictments and prosecutes civil and criminal suits in the Cook County Circuit Court whenever the State or County is concerned. Operationally, the office is divided into eight bureaus: Criminal Prosecutions, Civil Action, Special Prosecutions, Investigations, Public Interest, Narcotics Prosecutions, Juvenile Justice, and Administrative Services.

Joseph Birkett

Failed to respond. See questions for Cook County State's Attorney.