

# APA Journal

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## First State-Wide Exit Poll



*Courtesy of Google Images*

*Article submitted by APA, with help from Cat Bao Le*

On November 7, 2006, the Asian Law Caucus will help to conduct California's first state-wide exit poll ever.

What is the Asian Law Caucus? It is a nonprofit organization that provides legal services and advocacy to Asian and Pacific Islander and other communities.

On Election Day, hundreds of volunteers from mainly UCB and SFSU as well as community organizations will be stationed around the Bay Area to survey voters after they have placed their ballot. These exit polls will help researchers to better understand the voter attitudes and behavior of the Asian and Pacific Islander community. Hopefully the information gathered will reveal new facts about voting influences and habits which can help to increase participation in future elections. In a study released from the Public Policy Institute of California, researcher Baldassare revealed that the 'most likely voters in California' are only 6% Asian and Pacific Islander, while 72% are White.

From 1990-2000, census data shows that the API community was the fastest growing community in California, growing over fifty percent, yet there has never been a formal attempt to understand the needs and opinions of this diverse group. Exit polls will ask voters about how and why they voted, as well as who they voted for. All of the information gathered will be kept anonymous, and the findings will inform elected officials of voter needs and concerns so that they might better respond to them.

Findings will also help community-based organizations advocate for policies that reflect ALC issues. Grassroots organizations will also be able to make use of the findings

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### *From the President's Desk*

The theme of the apathetic Asian-American has been played up time and time again, reaching its crescendos with this year's midterm elections. The data released by Mark Baldassare, research director of the Public Policy Institute of California, in September 2006 indicates that Asian-Americans remain content to shut themselves out of the electoral tradition. In "California's Exclusive Electorate," Baldassare reveals that of all likely voters, Asian-Americans rank last, making up only 6% of the likely voters' electorate. Attempts have been made to explain why Asian-Americans continue to stay home instead of heading to the polls—I dare not venture to offer my own explanation.

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## Asian News Around the World

### CHINA

Corruption uncovered; CPC Party Chief removed from office in Shanghai.

*Story on page 7*

### NORTH KOREA

Appeals made to the UN Security Council to take action about North Korea's violations of human rights, especially after the country's successful nuclear test on October 9, 2006.

### SOUTH KOREA

South Korea shows reluctance to get too involved in UN reactions to North Korea's nuclear tests; the only step the country has taken to show disapproval of North Korea's actions was to place a travel ban on North Korean nuclear weapons program officials.

### JAPAN

On September 6, Princess Kiko gave birth to a son, ending the debate over a possible female succession to the throne. Prince Hisahito will continue the world's longest royal hereditary line, being third in line for the throne behind his father and uncle.

Japan also welcomed a new prime minister--Junichiro Koizumi stepped down to make way for Abe Shinzo. Shinzo had worked under Koizumi as his Chief Cabinet Secretary.

### THAILAND

After the ousting of Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, the military junta that led the coup retains power by taking on an advisory role.

### INDIA

Almost a year after the resignation of Natwar Singh, the government finally appointed a new foreign minister, Pranab Mukherjee.

*President's Desk, continued from page 1*

Is it time to abandon the Asian electorate? Is it time to cut our losses? Is it a hopeless cause? Though the idea can be tempting to some—to



save time and move on to the next issue—we must keep in mind that Asians are still a new immigrant population, an immigrant population adjusting to a climate where political participation is accepted, not just an activity for elites, but a civic

duty for all citizens. As a generation of Asian-Americans graduate from universities, it is my hope that APA will be one of those catalysts of change: encouraging students, regardless of ethnicity or socioeconomic background, to participate in this great American democracy. And perhaps its time to take a different approach, an approach that transcends ethnic mobilization, but mobilization of the American people, not African-American, Asian-American, Hispanic-American, and other hyphenated “Americans,” but simply Americans. Perhaps it is time to recognize that a different strategy may exist—a strategy that may yield more success.

Controversial indeed, but an idea to contemplate nonetheless as we vote this year.

*-Seyron Foo, President of APA*

## Nikkei Student Union's 4th Annual Culture Show “VISIONS”

WHEN? Wednesday, November 29th, 2006 @ 7:00

WHERE? The Zellerbach Playhouse

WHAT? Celebration of the rich culture and history of Japanese Americans

For more information, please visit <http://nsu.berkeley.edu/culturenight.htm>



Exit Poll, continued from Page 1

to understand how different ethnic groups may view issues different, and how which approach may be best when organizing communities.

What makes the exit poll taken in the Bay Area so much more critical than exit polls conducted elsewhere in the state is the amount of potential Asian American voters it can reach. A greater amount of data collected will generate a more accurate and convincing analysis of API voting behavior. But don't think that if you're not Asian, you don't need to participate—the ALC hopes to survey a diverse population in order to learn what

makes certain voters similar to and different from others.

So on Election Day, if you see a friendly student volunteer approaching you with a questionnaire, don't hesitate to fill one out. The exit poll is only one page and will only take three to five minutes to fill out. Please participate—your opinion matters!

If you would like to volunteer on Election Day, please contact Cat Bao Le at [catl@asianlawcaucus.org](mailto:catl@asianlawcaucus.org)

## Standing up for Your Beliefs | Op-Ed

*Submitted by the Issues Committee of NSU*

In a world of ever changing opinions and ideals, Lt. Ehren Watada is standing up for what he believes is the correct course of action.

*“It is my conclusion as an officer of the armed forces that the war in Iraq is not only morally wrong, but a horrible breach of American law. The war and what we're doing over there is illegal.”*

*- Lieutenant Ehren Watada*

On August 23 the NSU members along with other community members were granted the opportunity to sit in with Lt. Ehren Watada's father Bob Watada in an intimate setting and learn the intricate details of this stand. He is protesting the “illegal war” by being the first commissioned officer to openly refuse being deployed to Iraq. Bob Watada spoke eloquently of the struggles that his son has endured and those obstacles still to be surmounted. In either October or November Lt. Ehren Watada will have to face military court martial and could face up to seven years of prison time. Lt. Watada and his family are calling on local communities across the country to mobilize in mass, but non-violent action, but sending letters



*Lt. Ehren Watada, Courtesy of Google Images*

to US authorities, signing a petition in support of Lt. Watada and gathering in legal demonstration during the weekend before his court martial. Bob Watada wants Americans to “stand up and say this is enough,” he wants his son's story to be heard not only across the country but around the world – he wants our troops to come home. This event concluded with a rally held on Sproul Plaza. NSU President Chris Jocson led the rally with Bob Watada being the main speaker and the Veteran's for Peace standing alongside in support. Attendees of this event left with a stronger understanding of Lt. Watada's stand along with a great deal of information on today's war. No matter one's view of today's current crisis in Iraq, Lt. Watada can still be viewed as a strong human being who stood up for his beliefs and principles. To learn more about Lt. Ehren Watada's call to mobilization you can visit [www.thankyoult.org](http://www.thankyoult.org).

## Asians Without Documents in the San Francisco Bay Area: An Invisible Crisis

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*Article taken from ALC's publication, The Reporter*

Congress is now considering several very different changes to immigration laws affecting undocumented immigrants. Some proposals would allow many undocumented immigrants the opportunity to become legal residents. Others would offer no path to legal status and would instead make being an undocumented immigrant a crime.

Most media accounts have portrayed these proposals as primarily affecting Hispanic communities, with little mention of the impact on Asian Americans. Some reports have even portrayed the Asian immigrant community as being hostile to the legalization proposals—promoting the incorrect notion that Asians would be disadvantaged by a legalization program.

In reality, the Asian American community shares a direct interest in the passage of a process that legalizes—not criminalizes—immigrants who lack legal status. Although a significant number of Asian Americans lack legal immigration status, this hidden community is essentially invisible and often overlooked. This report offers an 'Asian face' for the issue of the undocumented, describing the need for a legalization process in Asian American communities in the San Francisco Bay Area.

### **Thousands of Immigrants Impacted**

Estimating the number of undocumented immigrants is inherently difficult. Fear of discovery drives many into hiding. Others live in basements, garages, or in other temporary housing, making complete surveys difficult to obtain. But some broad estimates exist. Based upon a 2001 report of the former Immigration and Nationalization Service (INS) we conservatively estimate there are over 80,000 undocumented Asian immigrants in the Bay Area alone. Based upon another study, the number could be as high as 180,000 undocumented Asian immigrants in the region.

The number of undocumented Asian immigrants in the country continues to increase partly because of additional immigration but also because current laws make it almost impossible for undocumented immigrants to apply for legal status. Only a few years ago, many immigrants who are undocumented today would have been able to become legal residents. Today's immigrants are confronted by increasingly complex, draconian, and sometimes simply illogical laws passed by Congress. Hence, the growing numbers of undocumented immigrants in part results from Congress, creation of barriers not only to family reunification but also to allowing immigrants to adjust their status.

For example, a 1996 immigration "reform" law provides that once an immigrant has been undocumented for a year, leaving the country for any reason will trigger a ten year bar to his or her return to the United States. The rule applies even if the person is eligible to become a permanent resident; in cases where the necessary immigrant visa must be picked up in the immigrant's country of origin, the 1996 law has trapped many people here in undocumented status.

The situation of one of ALC's clients, Han W, illustrates this legal dilemma. Han immigrated from China ten years ago, sponsored by her U.S. citizen fiancé. Three years later, their difficult marriage ended in divorce. While considering whether to return to China, she met Kieu, a U.S. citizen, whom she later married. Han and Kieu have now been happily married over five years and they have a two-year old son. As the spouse of a U.S. citizen, Han is eligible to apply for legal permanent residence. However, since her first husband never completed the paperwork to change her immigration status, she discovered she has been undocumented for over eight years. If she leaves the country for her visa interview, the 1996 changes to the immigration laws mean that she will be stranded in China for ten years without her family. (Chinese immigration laws would not allow her U.S. citizen husband and son to move to China.) Han and her family desperately want to lead a normal life, but current law makes that impossible. Congressional action to create a legalization program could allow the family to live together in the United States.

### **A Critical Decision for Congress**

Congress's two competing approaches towards undocumented immigrants could not be more different. One set of proposals seeks to establish a registration process leading to legal residence. The other proposes to send undocumented immigrants to prison. From this latter viewpoint, undocumented immigrants are criminals who cannot under any circumstances be allowed to apply for legal status. As Congressman James Sensenbrenner declares in his website: "When someone's first step in this country is taken in direct violation of our laws, I cannot support a process that allows them to continue residing in the US." But treating undocumented immigrants as criminals ignores the complex and often compelling reasons that people become undocumented.

For example, it is not true that all undocumented immigrants enter the country illegally. Many, including the vast majority of undocumented Asians, originally were admitted to the United States legally with valid documents. Some were admitted to the country with temporary visas as students, visitors, or

skilled workers, while others arrived as legal immigrants. After arriving in the US, a small percentage of those with temporary visas stay beyond the expiration of their visas. Some have close family members who are here legally, others start businesses, and still others fear returning to unsafe conditions at home. But complex, rigid immigration rules and a painfully long backlog in family sponsorship waiting lists mean that most temporary visitors have no way to request approval to stay, and thus become undocumented.

Legal immigrants can also become undocumented. Some immigrants misunderstand or are misinformed about the law. Missed deadlines or incorrectly prepared applications can then result in the loss of legal status.

Depending on the path chosen by Congress, tens of thousands of undocumented Asian Americans in the Bay Area will either be driven deeper into hiding and despair or will be able to become full members and participants in our community.

Current immigration laws separate families and force people into the shadows even when they have done nothing wrong.

Undocumented Asian immigrants, like other undocumented immigrants, need a comprehensive change in the immigration laws that will: provide legal status and a path to permanent residence for undocumented immigrants who work hard, pay taxes, pass criminal and national security checks, and learn English and civics; create ways for people who want to contribute to our economy to legally work in the U.S. and earn permanent resident status, coupled with realistic, enforceable wage and labor condition protections for citizen and immigrant workers; and reduce the tremendous backlogs in the family immigration system and facilitate timely reunification of families.

An orderly procedure for allowing undocumented immigrants a chance to prove themselves would have a strong positive economic and social impact on local communities. Tens of thousands will be able to rise out of substandard working and living conditions. And lifting the fear of deportation will enable more members of our community to more fully participate in the democratic process.

## One Couple's Story



*Photo: Robert Gumpert*

Robert and Alice L. came to the United States in 1983 as visitors from Alice's native Taiwan. Robert was born in Laos but fled the country as a teenager after his mother was killed by the Communists. In America the couple discovered a haven where they both felt accepted. Robert recalls, "I found out that in America if you work hard and treat everyone respectfully, people don't look at where you're from. They look at what you do."

The couple soon opened a restaurant, and in 1992 their first child was born in San Francisco. That same year, they met with an attorney who told them that they could qualify for legal residence. They requested a hearing on their application, but got no response from immigration officials.

In 1997, the couple's attorney filed a new petition but by this time, Congress had changed the law. The immigration judge informed Robert and Alice that under the former law they would have qualified for legal status, but that the new law did not allow for any consideration of the couple's years of volunteer work, assistance at local schools, or contributions to the community.

Now, the couple waits to be deported to a country that they left twenty-three years ago, and that their children have never seen. Only the requests of hundreds of friends and customers like Barbara Maas of San Carlos persuaded Congressman Tom Lantos and Senator Dianne Feinstein to intervene in the couple's case and delay their deportation. Barbara recalls the time her husband suffered a severe stroke that landed him in the hospital. "Robert and Alice showed up at the hospital with all Cameron's favorites dishes from their restaurant. It was their only day off, and they spent it trying to make another person's day better. That's just who they are, and I wish we had more people like them in our country."

A legalization program would enable people like Robert and Alice to become permanent residents and continue to be contributing members of our community. "We love America and our wonderful neighbors," says Alice. "This is where we have our family and we have built our business. We have no other place that we can call home."

# Op-Ed:What about the LEGALS?

by Jenny Jiang

Illegal immigration is undoubtedly a hot topic these days. However, this article is not meant to analyze the ethical merit of the wall or border-patrolling minute men. This article is simply meant to remind people that there is a crucial difference between illegal immigrants and legal immigrants.

Many civil liberties advocates are fighting for the “rights” of illegals, but how many of them address the rights of the legals? My parents legally immigrated to the States on student visas. Despite having post-graduate degrees in physics and mathematics and cushy professorships, my parents left for a better life here. Yes, life is in many respects better here. Yes, I understand why people fight to come here. But no, not everyone deserves to be here. Not everyone has worked hard enough to earn citizenship in this country.

My parents studied hard and worked hard to get to where

they are now. While attending school and trying to raise me, my parents learned English, delivered takeout, and paid taxes. In all his years of driving in this country, my father hasn’t even been pulled over for a traffic ticket. No one can argue that my parents haven’t proven that they are good citizens in our community. Despite all that, they still waited 14 years for those blue passports, filling out exhausting and confusing paperwork and standing in outdoor lines at the INS from dawn to dusk like cattle.

If you’re going to argue that this country is built on immigrants and that immigrants’ rights are being violated, you have to start with the legals. What message is being sent if sneaking through border patrol and managing to hide for a few years is easier than fighting through the visa process and then through the INS citizenship process for over a decade? It is unfair and I hope more people will think this through.

## Quick Guide to CA Propositions 1A-1E

by Janet Charoensook

### PROPOSITION 1A

Transportation Funding Protection.

PRO: Prohibits the use of states sales taxes on gasoline for anything other than transportation improvements; returns funds diverted from transportation projects without raising taxes; provides funding to all cities and counties in the state to ease traffic congestion and improve deteriorating roadways

CON: Since the gasoline taxes are set for highways, the money can’t be diverted to education, health care, or public safety if the Governor and Legislature decide it is most needed there.

### PROPOSITION 1B

Highway safety, Traffic Reduction, Air Quality, Port Security

PRO: The Rebuild California Plan provides 20 billion dollars to expand and repair the most dangerous and congested highways, also providing funds for public transportation and reducing air pollution. It will provide money to make our roads safer and modernize our public transportation system.

CON: This proposition will put us in debt because we cannot afford the expense spent on these costly programs.

### PROPOSITION 1C

Housing and Emergency Shelter

PRO: Provide shelters for the 360,000 homeless Californians and the more than 5,000 women and children turned away from

domestic violence shelters. Provide funds for emergency shelters for battered women and affordable housing for seniors, low-income families and the disabled.

CON: The amount of money spent in this proposition will not be able to build a noticeable amount of housing. Should the government be responsible for providing housing to people?

### PROPOSITION 1D

Kindergarten-University Public Education Facilities

PRO: Invest in our schools so that we can accommodate more students and are able to provide them with the education they need.

CON: We can’t afford this proposition. The programs implemented in this proposition have not been tested and thus not proven effective.

### PROPOSITION 1E

Disaster Preparedness and Flood Prevention

PRO: Protect homes and farmlands from devastating floods. Protect our levees which protects our state’s water supply and is of the utmost importance to our economy.

Con: We should make sure that there is enough water for our growing population and this proposition does not cover that aspect. It will raise taxes for things that the government should already be doing.

*For additional information, log onto [www.voteircle.org](http://www.voteircle.org)*

# Scandal in Shanghai

by Ziwei Hu

25 years of climbing up the leadership hierarchy of the Chinese Communist Party came crashing down for Shanghai's now ex-Communist Party Chief Liangyu Chen on September 24<sup>th</sup>, when he was removed from office. According to Xinhua News Agency, the Chinese government's official press agency, the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) Central Committee accused Chen of "helping to further the economic interests of illegal business people, protecting staff who [had] severely violated laws and discipline, [and] furthering the interests of family members by taking advantage of his official posts." He is also accused of involvement in the misappropriation of Shanghai's \$400 million social security funds.

The last time a high-ranking party member was removed from office occurred in 1995, when Beijing's party chief Chen Xitong was sacked on corruption charges. According to Shanghaiist.com, Chen's former position is such a powerful one that previous holders have gone on to the CCP's current number two ranked officer Wu Bangguo, number four Huang Ju, former Premier Zhu Rongji and former president Jiang Zemin. Chen's removal from office clearly seems to be indicative of what the BBC calls "a continuing power struggle" between President Hu Jintao and his predecessor Jiang Zemin, as Chen is considered by many to be a protégé of Jiang. In sacking Chen, Hu took another

step towards more firmly establishing his power base. The fact that Chen was the party chief in Shanghai strengthens Hu's cause, as Shanghai was previously known to be a stronghold for Jiang.

The CCP Central Committee "demonstrated the CCP's resolution to build a clean party and to fight corruption" and serves as a warning to other CCP members. In a press release, the Central Committee stated that "no matter how high their positions are, anyone who violates party rules or national law will be severely investigated and punished."



Shanghai's ex-Party Chief Chen Liangyu

## Quick Facts about API Candidates

by Janet Charoensook

**CANDIDATE:** JOHN CHIANG, DEMOCRAT  
**OFFICE:** Controller  
**PREVIOUS POSITIONS:** IRS Tax Law Specialist, California State Board of Equalization Board Member, Chairman State Board of Equalization, Franchise Tax Board Member  
**ISSUES:** Help build and foster the relationship between Californians and their government.  
**CONTACT HIM:** [www.chiangforcalifornia.com](http://www.chiangforcalifornia.com)

**OFFICE:** State Assembly District 10  
**PREVIOUS POSITIONS:** Lodi City Council, Lodi Mayor  
**ISSUES:** Against state budget that raises taxes, supports competitive bidding and strong fiscal oversight on all state contracts and swift and certain punishment for those who misuse public funds for personal or political gain, restore local control and local accountability.  
**CONTACT HIM:** [www.alannakanishi.com](http://www.alannakanishi.com)

**CANDIDATE:** MIKE HONDA, DEMOCRAT  
**OFFICE:** Congress  
**PREVIOUS POSITIONS:** 15<sup>th</sup> Congressional District of California in the U.S. House of Representatives, Ranking Member of the subcommittee on Energy, the House Committee on Science, Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, Vice Chairman of the Democratic National Committee Chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, San Jose Planning Commission, San Jose Unified School Board, Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors, California Assembly Member  
**ISSUES:** Social justice, cultural tolerance, civil rights, passing a responsible budget that pays down our national debt, ensuring that Silicon Valley gets a fair share of federal transportation funding, bringing Democrats and Republicans together to better understand technology issues  
**CONTACT HIM:** [www.mikehonda.org](http://www.mikehonda.org)

**CANDIDATE:** FIONA MA, DEMOCRAT  
**OFFICE:** State Assembly District 12  
**PREVIOUS POSITIONS:** San Francisco Board of Supervisors  
**ISSUES:** Supports improvement of public education, comprehensive reform of our healthcare system, universal healthcare, tax credits for first time homebuyers  
**CONTACT HER:** [www.fionama.com](http://www.fionama.com)

**CANDIDATE:** ALAN NAKANISHI, REPUBLICAN

**CANDIDATE:** WILLIAM CHAN, REPUBLICAN  
**OFFICE:** State Assembly District 9  
**PREVIOUS POSITIONS:** Board Member, Voter Registration Chairman of the River City Republicans  
**ISSUES:** Encourage federal initiatives reducing wastes and promoting use of recycled items, evaluate and investigate current standards for air and water quality, establish a consistent state standard for hiring teachers and improving continuing education for teachers, deliver periodic standardized test to students to measure their current status before exit exams  
**CONTACT HIM:** [www.chan4stateassembly.com](http://www.chan4stateassembly.com)

# 2006 CA November Election API Voter Guide

by Lina Peng

Asian American Voting Trends (U.S. Census Bureau 2005):

- The number of Asian American residents in California rose from 3.8 million to 4.7 million, from 2000 to 2005, consisting 38% of California's net gain in population.
- Asian Americans eligible to vote in California climbed by half a million from 10% to 12% from 2000 to 2005
- Asian American voter turnout increased 71 percent from 1.7 million in 1996 to 3 million in 2000. (2006 Report by Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund)
- In the 2000 presidential election, 43% of eligible Asian Americans cast a ballot, a total of more than two million votes.

<p><b>proposition 85</b> Amends the California Constitution to prohibit abortion for minor until 48 hours after parental notification, except in medical emergency or with parental waiver</p>	<p><b>for</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Minors will avoid reckless behavior</li> <li>• Parental notification needed for all other surgical procedures</li> <li>• More than 30 other states have passed laws like 85, with substantial reduction in pregnancies and abortion among minors</li> </ul> <p><a href="http://www.yeson85.net">www.yeson85.net</a></p>	<p><b>against</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Delays medical care and counseling</li> <li>• Some teens live in dangerous homes</li> <li>• Good communication cannot be imposed by the government</li> <li>• May lead to self-induced abortions or back alley abortions</li> </ul> <p><a href="http://www.noon85.net">www.noon85.net</a></p>	<p><b>asian american facts</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 35% of pregnancies end in abortion for API women, compared to the 18% for white women, representing the second highest percentage for all racial and ethnic groups</li> <li>• From 1994 to 2000, abortion rates fell for all groups except for API women</li> </ul> <p><a href="http://www.americanprogress.org">www.americanprogress.org</a></p>
<p><b>proposition 86</b> Imposes additional 13-cent tax on each cigarette distributed (\$2.60 per pack), to provide funding to qualified hospitals for emergency services, nursing education and health insurance to eligible children.</p>	<p><b>for</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• According to the California Department of Health Services:</li> <li>• Prevent 700,000 kids from becoming adult smokers</li> <li>• Prevent approximately 120,000 additional deaths due to smoking among current California adult smokers</li> <li>• Save Californians \$16 billion in health care costs</li> </ul> <p><a href="http://www.yeson86.net">www.yeson86.net</a></p>	<p><b>against</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Almost 40 % goes to hospitals, many of which are funding the campaign for the new tax.</li> <li>• Less than 10 % of the tax revenues goes toward helping smokers quit or keeping kids from starting.</li> <li>• Very limited oversight to ensure that the funds are allocated as intended</li> <li>• Burden not on tobacco companies but consumers</li> </ul> <p><a href="http://www.noprop85.net">www.noprop85.net</a></p>	<p><b>asian american facts</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Asian Americans have the lowest smoking prevalence rates among adults of all racial/ethnic groups. In 2004, 11.3 % of Asians smoked</li> <li>• In 2004, 11.2 % of Asian American high school and 2.2 % of Asian American middle school students smoked cigarettes</li> <li>• Among API men, lung cancer is the second most common cancer, and among women, the third.</li> </ul> <p><a href="http://www.lungusa.org">www.lungusa.org</a></p>
<p><b>proposition 88</b> A \$50 tax on property parcels to raise money for class size reduction, textbooks, school safety, Academic Success facility grants, and a data system to evaluate educational program effectiveness. Exempts senior and disabled homeowners.</p>	<p><b>for</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Estimated \$450 million annually directly into our local schools</li> <li>• Funds are prohibited from being used for administrative overhead and the Legislature cannot redirect the money to other programs; annual independent audits.</li> <li>• Relatively small, fixed assessment that protects property owners from runaway taxes—especially seniors with fixed incomes.</li> </ul> <p><a href="http://www.votefor88.org">www.votefor88.org</a></p>	<p><b>against</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Tax is levied by the State that decides distribution among school districts, not local governments</li> <li>• Slippery slope of other special interests to pass more and bigger state property parcel taxes to fund their specific causes.</li> <li>• The new parcel tax is permanent, whether or not it improves our education programs.</li> </ul> <p><a href="http://www.noprop88.org">www.noprop88.org</a></p>	<p><b>asian american facts</b></p> <p>In 2005 the housing value of Asian Americans was 21% than that of the general population</p> <p>2004 Median Californian housing value: \$450,990</p> <p>In 2005 of adults 25 years and older 80.5% have high school diplomas or higher compared to 76.8% for the general population</p> <p><i>U.S. Census Bureau</i></p>

Additional Resources  
[www.votercircle.com](http://www.votercircle.com), [www.calvoter.org](http://www.calvoter.org), [www.ss.ca.gov](http://www.ss.ca.gov)