



ASIAN AMERICANS AND PACIFIC ISLANDERS AND CIVIL RIGHTS

BARACK OBAMA AND JOE BIDEN'S PLAN TO STRENGTHEN CIVIL RIGHTS

AT A GLANCE

Strengthen Civil Rights Enforcement

OBAMA AND BIDEN WILL STAFF THE CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION OF THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT WITH LAWYERS WHO PROSECUTE CIVIL RIGHTS VIOLATIONS, EMPLOYMENT DISCRIMINATION, AND HATE CRIMES, INSTEAD OF POLITICAL CRONIES.

Protect the Right to Vote

OBAMA AND BIDEN WILL REMOVE DISCRIMINATORY BARRIERS TO THE RIGHT TO VOTE AND PROTECT THE RIGHT TO VOTE FOR AAPIS.

Promote Fairness in the Criminal and Juvenile Justice Systems

OBAMA AND BIDEN WILL WORK TO BAN RACIAL PROFILING, ELIMINATE DISPARITIES IN CRIMINAL SENTENCING, AND ENCOURAGE THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM TO BE FREE OF RACIALLY DISCRIMINATORY LAWS SO THAT IT WORKS FOR ALL, REGARDLESS OF RACE, WEALTH, OR OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES.

Restore White House Initiative on AAPIs

OBAMA AND BIDEN WILL RESTORE THE WHITE HOUSE INITIATIVE ON ASIAN AMERICANS AND PACIFIC ISLANDERS AND DIRECT THAT OFFICE TO WORK TOWARDS THE ORIGINAL GOAL OF HELPING THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT MEET THE UNDERSERVED NEEDS OF AAPIS.

THE PROBLEM

Pay Inequity Continues

FOR EVERY \$1.00 EARNED BY A MAN, THE AVERAGE WOMAN RECEIVES ONLY 77 CENTS.

Hate Crimes on the Rise

ACCORDING TO THE NATIONAL ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN LEGAL CONSORTIUM, THE NUMBER OF HATE CRIMES INCREASED NEARLY 8 PERCENT TO 7,700 INCIDENTS IN 2006. BIAS-MOTIVATED HATE CRIMES AGAINST AAPIS, PARTICULARLY AGAINST SOUTH ASIANS WHO ARE OR PERCEIVED TO BE ARAB OR MIDDLE EASTERN AFTER SEPTEMBER 11, 2001, CONTINUE TO BE BOTH PERSISTENT AND UNDERREPORTED.

Efforts Continue to Suppress the Vote

A RECENT REPORT BY THE ASIAN AMERICAN LEGAL DEFENSE AND EDUCATION FUND ABOUT THE 2006 ELECTIONS DISCOVERED NUMEROUS ORGANIZED EFFORTS TO INTIMIDATE, MISLEAD AND SUPPRESS MINORITY VOTERS, INCLUDING INADEQUACY OF TRANSLATED MATERIALS, HOSTILITY OF POLL WORKERS, ERRORS ON VOTER LISTS, IMPROPER AND EXCESSIVE DEMANDS FOR IDENTIFICATION AND INADEQUATE NOTICE ABOUT AND SIGNAGE AT POLL SITES. VIOLATIONS OF THE VOTING RIGHTS ACT AND HELP AMERICA VOTE ACT ALSO WERE REPORTED IN THE 2004 NATIONAL ELECTIONS BY THE NATIONAL ASIAN

PACIFIC AMERICAN LEGAL CONSORTIUM, INCLUDING UNAVAILABILITY OF REQUIRED TRANSLATED MATERIALS, HOSTILITY OF POLL WORKERS.

Disparities Continue to Plague Criminal Justice System

RACIAL MINORITIES ARE MORE THAN TWICE AS LIKELY AS WHITES TO BE SEARCHED, ARRESTED, OR SUBDUED WITH FORCE WHEN STOPPED BY POLICE. MINORITY YOUTH ARE ALSO MORE LIKELY TO BE ARRESTED, DETAINED, WAIVED TO CRIMINAL COURT, AND INCARCERATED FOR LONGER PERIODS. DISPARITIES IN DRUG SENTENCING LAWS, LIKE THE DIFFERENTIAL TREATMENT OF CRACK AS OPPOSED TO POWDER COCAINE, ARE UNFAIR.

BARACK OBAMA AND JOE BIDEN'S PLAN

WHILE GREAT STRIDES HAVE BEEN MADE IN ADVANCING AND PROTECTING THE CIVIL RIGHTS OF AAPIs, MUCH WORK REMAINS TO BE DONE IN THE AREAS OF EQUAL OPPORTUNITY, VOTING RIGHTS, RACIAL PROFILING, HATE CRIMES, LANGUAGE ACCESS, AND SUFFICIENT AND ACCURATE DATA COLLECTION.

Strengthen Language Access

OBAMA AND BIDEN WILL SUPPORT EFFORTS THAT HELP PREVENT DISCRIMINATION AGAINST LANGUAGE MINORITIES AND THAT ENSURE THAT LANGUAGE MINORITIES HAVE ACCESS TO CRITICAL GOVERNMENTAL SERVICES, SUCH AS POST-DISASTER RELIEF SERVICES. THEY WILL VIGOROUSLY ENFORCE LAWS REQUIRING FEDERAL AGENCIES TO ENSURE LANGUAGE ACCESS FOR ALL AMERICANS THEY SERVE, AND WILL ENSURE TITLE VI REQUIREMENTS ENSURING LANGUAGE ACCESS ARE IMPLEMENTED ACROSS THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.

Equal Opportunity

TO ENSURE EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR AAPIs AND ALL AMERICANS, OBAMA AND BIDEN WILL SUPPORT AND PROTECT CONSTITUTIONAL PROGRAMS TO ENSURE EQUAL OPPORTUNITY IN EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT, AND GOVERNMENT CONTRACTING. THE EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION HAS HAD TO PURSUE CASES INVOLVING GLASS CEILINGS, ENGLISH-ONLY WORKPLACE RULES, ACCENT BIAS AND OTHER UNEQUAL TREATMENT FACED BY AAPIs IN THE WORKPLACE.

Improve Census Data Collection

OBAMA AND BIDEN ARE DEDICATED TO ADVOCATING FOR INCREASED DATA COLLECTION, ANALYSES, AND DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION ABOUT AAPIs; AND WORKING TO ENSURE THAT THE CENSUS BUREAU HAS THE RESOURCES NECESSARY TO CONDUCT AN ACCURATE COUNT OF THE AAPI POPULATION IN THE 2010 CENSUS.

Strengthen Civil Rights Enforcement

OBAMA AND BIDEN WILL REVERSE THE POLITICIZATION THAT HAS OCCURRED IN THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION'S DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE. THEY WILL PUT AN END TO THE IDEOLOGICAL LITMUS TESTS USED TO FILL POSITIONS WITHIN THE CIVIL RIGHTS DIVISION.

Combat Employment Discrimination

OBAMA AND BIDEN WILL WORK TO OVERTURN THE SUPREME COURT'S RECENT RULING THAT CURTAILS RACIAL MINORITIES' AND WOMEN'S ABILITY TO CHALLENGE PAY DISCRIMINATION. THEY WILL ALSO PASS THE FAIR PAY ACT TO ENSURE THAT WOMEN RECEIVE EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK.

Expand Hate Crimes Statutes

OBAMA AND BIDEN WILL STRENGTHEN FEDERAL HATE CRIMES LEGISLATION AND REINVIGORATE ENFORCEMENT AT THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE'S CRIMINAL SECTION.

End Deceptive Voting Practices and Expand Voting Protections

OBAMA AND BIDEN WILL SIGN INTO LAW LEGISLATION THAT ESTABLISHES HARSH PENALTIES FOR THOSE WHO HAVE ENGAGED IN VOTER FRAUD AND PROVIDES VOTERS WHO HAVE BEEN MISINFORMED WITH ACCURATE AND FULL INFORMATION SO THEY CAN VOTE. OBAMA AND BIDEN WILL ALSO ENSURE THAT THE HELPING AMERICANS VOTE ACT (HAVA) IS FULLY FUNDED.

End Racial Profiling

OBAMA AND BIDEN WILL BAN RACIAL PROFILING BY FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES AND PROVIDE FEDERAL INCENTIVES TO STATE AND LOCAL POLICE DEPARTMENTS TO PROHIBIT THE PRACTICE.

OBAMA'S RECORD

Record of Advocacy

OBAMA HAS WORKED TO PROMOTE CIVIL RIGHTS AND FAIRNESS IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM THROUGHOUT HIS CAREER. AS A COMMUNITY ORGANIZER, OBAMA HELPED 150,000 INDIVIDUALS REGISTER TO VOTE. AS A CIVIL RIGHTS LAWYER, OBAMA LITIGATED EMPLOYMENT DISCRIMINATION, HOUSING DISCRIMINATION, AND VOTING RIGHTS CASES. AS A STATE SENATOR, OBAMA PASSED ONE OF THE COUNTRY'S FIRST RACIAL PROFILING LAWS AND HELPED REFORM A BROKEN DEATH PENALTY SYSTEM. AND IN THE U.S. SENATE, OBAMA HAS BEEN A LEADING ADVOCATE FOR PROTECTING THE RIGHT TO VOTE, HELPING TO REAUTHORIZE THE VOTING RIGHTS ACT AND LEADING THE OPPOSITION AGAINST DISCRIMINATORY BARRIERS TO VOTING.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Read the Plan

[HTTP://WWW.BARACKOBAMA.COM/ISSUES/CIVILRIGHTS/](http://www.barackobama.com/issues/civilrights/)

Read the Speech

[HTTP://WWW.BARACKOBAMA.COM/2007/09/28/REMARKS_OF_SENATOR_BARACK_OBAMA_26.PHP](http://www.barackobama.com/2007/09/28/REMARKS_OF_SENATOR_BARACK_OBAMA_26.PHP)



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