Dear Friend,

Each election is an opportunity for us to vote according to the values we hold. In the coming months, your opinions on issues such as our health care system, immigration policy, gun control and police brutality will matter. As part of creating the change that we seek, all of our partner organizations encourage you to be heard through your vote.

While we do not support any candidate or political party, we firmly believe in greater civic participation by all New Yorkers. If you are a registered voter, you indeed have the right to choose the next leaders of our state and our nation in 2016.

Sincerely,
APA VOICE

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### 2016 ELECTIONS

#### NATIONAL ISSUES AND POLICIES TO WATCH

**A COMPREHENSIVE SOLUTION FOR OUR IMMIGRATION POLICY**

For years, our nation has been unable to solve our broken immigration system. This failure has created unnecessary human suffering, tearing families apart and creating an atmosphere of fear with historically high number of deportations in our nation’s history. Our nation’s next President and Congress should make immigration reform a top priority so that we have a sensible solution which provides a pathway to citizenship, protecting the rights of immigrants, and paving the way for future prosperity by reducing huge backlogs. Voters should know each federal candidate’s position on this issue and how he/she proposes to reform the broken immigration system.

**HEALTHCARE AND COVERAGE**

Asian Americans face a number of challenges when accessing medical services due to lack of legal status, inadequate income, cultural and language barriers, or insufficient information. Currently 10.6% of Asian Americans in the United States are uninsured. In New York City, the rate is even higher at 12.8%. Voters should ask what candidates are doing to expand healthcare services and the access to these services for all of our community members.

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### WHY PRIMARY ELECTIONS MATTER

A primary election decides who will be the candidates from each political party to run in the general elections.

New York is a “Closed Primary” state, which means only voters who are enrolled in a party can vote in primary elections. In most cases, only the major political parties—the Democratic or Republican parties—hold primary elections. For example, in the upcoming Presidential Primary Election on Tuesday, April 19, anyone planning to vote in the Democratic primary election must have registered and enrolled as a Democrat. It is the same for the Republican primary election.

Often in New York, the primary election is the “real” election and competition is the fiercest at this stage in the electoral process.

Enrolling in a political party is **NOT** the same as voting for a party. In the general elections, you may vote for any candidate you support.

**HOW DO YOU VOTE IN A PRIMARY ELECTION?**

- **You must be enrolled in a political party to vote in that party’s primary election.**
- **First time voters can choose the party when they register to vote—up to 25 days before an election.**
- **If you’re already registered and would like to change your party affiliation, you can send in a new voter registration form, marking a different choice in Question #13. However, you must wait for a general election to pass for the change to go into effect.**

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This voter guide is part of a campaign by APA VOICE: Voting and Organizing to Increase Civic Engagement. Our goal is to increase awareness and civic participation in the Asian Pacific American community. We are non-partisan and do not support any political party or candidate.
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: WHERE DO I GO TO VOTE OR WHAT DISTRICT DO I LIVE IN?
A: Your polling location and district depends on your home address. You can find where you will vote and what district you live in online (http://nyc.pollsitelocator.com/search) or you can call the Board of Elections (1-866-868-3692).

Q: WHO ARE MY ELECTED OFFICIALS?
A: You can find out who you elected officials are online (http://gis.nyc.gov/doit/ncitymap/). Everyone has representation at the federal, state and city levels based on their address.

Q: I DON’T KNOW IF I’M REGISTERED TO VOTE.
A: You can check if you’re registered to vote online (https://voterlookup.elections.state.ny.us/) or call the Board of Elections (1-866-868-3692). See also the box to the right.

Q: DO I HAVE TO RE-REGISTER EVERY TIME I WANT TO VOTE?
A: No. Once you register, there is no need to register again. However, if you did not vote for the past two federal elections, you will need to re-register to vote.

Q: WHAT IF I CHANGED MY NAME OR ADDRESS?
A: If you change your name or address, you must report it to the BoE at least 20 days before the elections. You can do this by resubmitting a voter registration form.

Q: WHAT IF I DON’T GET ANYTHING IN THE MAIL ABOUT THE UPCOMING ELECTIONS. WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?
A: An official mailing does not go out before all elections. If you are unsure about your status, you can call the Board of Elections (1-866-868-3692) or check online (https://voterlookup.elections.state.ny.us/) to confirm that you are a registered voter.

Q: WHAT IF I GO TO THE POLLS TO VOTE, AND I AM NOT ON THE LIST AS A VOTER?
A: No matter what, you should not be turned away empty-handed. If you believe you are a qualified registered voter, you may use a provisional (affidavit) ballot. Call an APA VOICE organization if you have problems voting.

Q: WHAT IF I DON’T HAVE TIME TO VOTE?
A: Poll sites are open from 6:00 am to 9:00 pm. However, if you do not have sufficient time outside of your working hours to vote, employers must give you time to go to the poll site. Please note that employees must give prior notice. If you have questions, you can call the Board of Elections (1-866-868-3692) or check online (https://voterlookup.elections.state.ny.us/) to confirm that you are a registered voter.

Q: WHAT IF I CAN’T VOTE?
A: If this is your first time voting: Most voters provided a Social Security number or drivers’ license number when voting. If you didn’t, you need to bring proof of identification the first time you go to vote. If you voted before: You are not required to provide identification. However, it may be helpful to bring your registration card from the Board of Elections.

Q: WHAT IF I AM NOT ABLE TO MAKE THE POLL SITE ON THE ELECTION DAYS?
A: You can vote by an absentee ballot, which can be mailed or brought to the Board of Elections. You must have a valid reason to vote by absentee ballot in New York. Such reasons include if you will be traveling on Election Day, unable to go to the poll site due to temporary or permanent illness or disability, or if you’re the primary caregiver of one or more individuals who are ill or physically disabled.

To fill out an absentee ballot application, you can contact your nearest Board of Elections (1-866-868-3692) or download the application from http://www.elections.ny.gov/VotingAbsentee.html.

Q: WHAT IF I NEED HELP AT THE POLL SITE?
A: If you need help because you are disabled or cannot read the ballot, federal law allows you to have a friend or relative assist you in the privacy booth. There will also be election workers, and possibly interpreters, at the poll site to help you.

WHAT IF I'M NOT REGISTERED TO VOTE?
If you are eligible, but not yet registered to vote:
★ Call or visit your local APA VOICE organization. A staff member will personally assist you in filling out a form
★ Pick up a voter registration form from your local library or Board of Elections
★ Download a form online: http://www.elections.ny.gov/VotingRegister.html
★ Register online with the DMV: www.dmv.ny.gov/mydmv/motv-pop.htm
★ Call the Board of Elections: 1-800-FOR-VOTE

IN ORDER TO BE ELIGIBLE, YOU MUST: 
★ Be a U.S. Citizen
★ Be 18 years old by the end of the year. If you are currently 17 and will turn 18 this year, you can register now and vote in any elections occurring after your 18th birthday.
★ Live at your present address at least 30 days before an election
★ Not be in prison or on parole for felony conviction, and not be adjudged mentally incompetent by a court
★ Not claim the right to vote elsewhere

WHAT IF I CAN’T VOTE?
Regardless whether you can vote or not, your voice still matters and can make a difference.
★ Talk to your friends, classmates, co-workers and others around you that can vote about the issues that matter to you
★ Call your representative at the appropriate level of government and express your concerns (they still have a responsibility to serve you!)
★ Donate or volunteer in support of a candidate whose viewpoints you support
★ Share this guide with a family member or friend who can vote

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR FACE ANY PROBLEMS ON ELECTION DAY, YOU CAN CALL:
English 718-460-5600
Korean 718-460-5600
Chinese 718-232-0055
Bengali 718-478-3848
Nepalese 718-937-1117

APAVOICE
ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICANS VOTING & ORGANIZING TO INCREASE CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

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To vote in person on Election Day, unable to go to the poll site due to temporary or permanent illness or disability, or if you’re the primary caregiver of one or more individuals who are ill or physically disabled, you can vote by absentee ballot. You must register with a family member or friend.

If you are eligible, but not yet registered to vote:
★ Call or visit your local APA VOICE organization. A staff member will personally assist you in filling out a form
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