

***SAN DIEGO ALLIANCE for ASIAN PACIFIC ISLANDER AMERICANS
& FILIPINO AMERICAN CAUCUS of SAN DIEGO COUNTY***

2008 CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRE

The San Diego Alliance for Asian Pacific Islander Americans and the Filipino American Caucus of San Diego County are conducting a Virtual Candidates' Forum for our API community.

According to U.S. Census Bureau statistics for 2006, the population of San Diego County is 10.3% Asian, and 0.5 % native Hawaiian and other Pacific Islander, not counting persons reporting 2 or more races. Together, San Diego County's Asian Pacific Islanders make up almost 11% of county population.

Specifically, data from Wikipedia and APIAVote on the 109th Congress of 2005-2006 show that San Diego County's:

- 51st Congressional district is 12.4% Asian, the district with the 28th highest number of Asian American citizens of voting age (out of 435 districts in the U.S. and its territories)
- 50th Congressional district is 10.3% Asian (with 30th highest # of AA citizens of voting age)
- 53rd Congressional district is 8.3% Asian (with 54th highest # of AA citizens of voting age)
- 52nd Congressional district is 5.4% Asian (with 61st highest # of AA citizens of voting age)
- 49th Congressional district is 3.5% Asian (with 98th highest # of AA citizens of voting age, still within the top 22.5% in the U.S. and its territories for population of Asian Americans)

That is, San Diego County's Asian Pacific Islander community is large, significant, and growing.

Questionnaires on issues which concern our Asian Pacific Islander community are being sent to candidates in San Diego County races. Candidates' replies to questionnaires will be posted on our website, www.sdalliance.org, for members of our API community to review. The questionnaires will serve as an additional source of information for our community as we strive to become more informed voters.

CANDIDATE/CAMPAIGN INFORMATION

- 1.) Candidate name: **Michael Benoit**
- 2.) Campaign address: **8781 Cuyamca St. Ste D, Santee Ca. 92071**
- 3.) Office sought: **U.S. House or Representatives 52nd District**
Legislative district, if appropriate:
- 4.) Are you the incumbent: No
- 5.) Campaign website: www.benoit08.com

6.) Campaign email: mblibertarian7@earthlink.net

7.) Campaign phone: **619-449-8175**

8.) Campaign manager: **Joey Hill**

PERSONAL INFORMATION

9.) Are you a member of an Asian (including West, Central, North, East, South, Southeast, and East Asian) or Pacific Islander organization?

No

10.) If yes, please list your affiliations:

Please limit your answers to no more than 250 words:

11.) What makes you the most qualified person for office?

I am a dedicated supporter of liberty and the U. S. Constitution

12.) Why seek support from the Asian Pacific Islander community?

I want to support your rights.

13.) If elected, what are your top priorities during your term?

Reverse the growth of government and fight to protect your freedoms.

14.) What distinguishes your priorities and goals from the other candidates?

I see government as the problem not the solution.

15.) How have you in the past and how will you in the future use your position to expand the presence and influence of Asian Pacific Islanders in public policy and politics?

I see people as individuals who all need their rights protected/

16.) What have you done that demonstrates your commitment to and effectiveness in promoting Asian Pacific Islander interests (and if you have not contributed, please discuss any area(s) where you could make a contribution &/or improve the current condition)?

I just continue to fight for you liberties.

17.) In a difficult budget year, how would you prioritize raising taxes and cutting public services?

I will cut the federal government spending and taxes.

18.) A large segment of the Asian Pacific Islander community is growing older; childhood obesity, diabetes, and high blood pressure cases are continually on the rise. What plans do you have, if any, to improve access to quality health care for all Americans?

I will work to repeal legislation that gets in the way of quality health care at low prices.

19.) Filipino American veterans, conscripted into service in the U.S. Army in 1941 and promised full benefits from the VA, had benefits rescinded by the Recission Act in 1946. Recently, Congress passed S.1315, the Veterans Benefits Enhancement Bill, but without provision for equal benefits for FilAm World War II veterans. Do you or would you support a bill which would give these veterans full benefits and recognition of their service to the U.S.?

Absolutely.

20.) Chinese, Japanese and Filipinos settled in San Diego in mid-19th-century, in today's Asian Pacific Historic District downtown. Whether 4th- or 5th-generation San Diegans, or more recent immigrants who have come to San Diego for work, study or family, Asian Pacific Islanders in San Diego share a city, county and country. What are your views on America's immigration policies and/or immigration reform?

I would like to see a more open immigration policy.

21.) A recent independent study by CBRE Consulting found that research and start-up companies in information technology, telecommunications, and biotechnology generated by the University of California San Diego drive innovation and growth in San Diego's regional economy. What is your view on expanding the number of H-1B visas issued for international workers in specialty occupations which require theoretical or technical expertise?

Agree more expansion of these visas.

23.) Have you failed to vote in any national, state, legislative general elections or statewide ballot proposition elections in the past five years? If yes, why?

No.

23.) Do you have plans to seek higher office? If so, what office and when do you plan to run?

No.

Please list any endorsements which you have received:

Please see my website.

Michael Benoit

Please email your response to:

linda_alliance@yahoo.com and joann.fields@gmail.com.

THANK YOU FOR TAKING THE TIME TO COMPLETE OUR QUESTIONNAIRE!