

**Transcription of
CAUSE Make Us Count Press Conference with
California Secretary of State and
Asian Pacific American Community Leaders**

Nancy Yap (CAUSE):

All right, we're gonna go ahead and get started. Good afternoon, everyone. My name is Nancy Yap and I am the Executive Director of the Center for Asian Americans United for Self Empowerment, also known as CAUSE. Before we begin, I'd like to ask everyone in the panelist room to keep your microphones muted during the program unless you're prompted to speak by our team. Also, for everyone watching, if you have any questions or comments, feel free to use the Zoom chat or the Q&A feature. We'll do our best to address your questions. Also just so you know, we will be recording today's event. Now a little bit about CAUSE for anyone who might not know; with a mission to advance the political and civic empowerment of the Asian Pacific American community, CAUSE has programs that develop a pipeline of civic leadership. This includes the CAUSE Leadership Academy for college students, CAUSE Leadership Institute for professionals, and the CAUSE Leadership Network. CAUSE also focuses on voter outreach and education which brings me to today's event. Today, the California Secretary of State Alex Padilla will share information about the upcoming election on November 3, mail-in voting, and in-person voting safety. After a Q&A with him, we will also have nonprofit organizations share their resources. Thank you all for being here and taking time out of your day to learn about the resources available to the Asian Pacific American community. I also want to thank Secretary Padilla and his team for helping make this happen. The leaders of the 17 nonprofit organizations here today, many of whom are doing voter education and outreach work on top of COVID-19 relief work, the members of the press who continue to tell our stories and increase access to information for our communities, and finally, the CAUSE board members and staff who made this event possible. Now I'm going to introduce you to the CAUSE board chair Charlie Wu, co-founder and CEO of Mega Toys, who will introduce the California Secretary of State.

Charlie Wu (CAUSE):

Welcome, everybody. We're delighted to have Secretary of State Alex Padilla joining us about this very important, upcoming election. As a lot of us feel, this is probably one of the more, and if not the most important election in recent memory, if not in our lifetime. Not only do we choose a president at this very critical juncture of the country, we elect Congress members, state legislators, county officials, and in many cities, for the first time in Los Angeles, we combine municipal election, which elect mayors and city council members at the same time as the general election, when we choose the president. So up and down, they are very important officials that we elect. And of course, they are local measures, county measures, and more importantly, the state put 12 very important propositions that would require all of our participation. And you know, as I said, 12 proposition, that's a large number. And in addition, some of the propositions are very important, and impact our lives in every way: from housing

affordability, to work, to business, taxation, government programs, education, professional advancement, transportations, and workplace benefits. And it is, again, it impacts every aspect of our life, California being the largest state in the country. And we have more, you know, probably more voters than most states, if not all the states in the United States, and this is a very challenging process. Under the Secretary's leadership, we have been making it easier for voters to participate, at least Californians to participate in the election. Particularly for the AAPI community, one of the biggest advantages we have under the Secretary of State's leadership is to provide multiple in-language ballots. So for the first time, you know, language barriers shouldn't be a major problem, that makes it difficult for us to participate. In addition, we provide fast flexibility so that we don't have to be jam in in the voting booth in a voting place in one day. But of course, all that good work came before COVID-19, with lockdowns and safety issues in addition to rumors and concerns about US Postal Office delivery, you know, a process; that's a lot of problems to worry about. And in this difficult juncture, I don't think we can have a better person, more prepared person, than Secretary Alex Padilla. Alex has been a good friend of myself, CAUSE, and also the AAPI community. I knew him when he was trying to run for City Council, and of course, Council President, State Legislature now the Chief Election Officer overseeing the most important election in recent memory, if not in a lifetime. There's a lot of new ideas that Alex implemented, a lot of things that he needed to do to make sure everybody can turn out to vote and vote safely, and turn out to vote so that our voice will be heard. And we are delighted to have Alex joining us as he did the primary election. So Alex, take it over. Thank you very much for your participation.

Alex Padilla (CA Secretary of State):

Thank you, Charlie, thank you to the entire CAUSE, family, and everybody that's tuned in today for this important and timely discussion. I will try to be brief in my presentation because I know there's a number of questions that we want to get to. But, Charlie, I appreciate your acknowledgement of the work that we've done even prior to COVID because as you said a few minutes ago, every election is important. There's federal candidates, state candidates, and propositions, local officials and propositions on every single ballot, but this year is particularly important given everything going on across the country, and frankly, if we look at COVID-19, we can honestly say around the world. When we say every election is important, that's also a reflection of the hard work that we put in to make sure elections are as accessible as possible, meaning that it's easy for eligible people to participate through registration, and casting their ballots, and that our elections are also secure. In the last four years, we've heard a lot of questions about election security, and well, we work on those two things every single election. This year, we also want to make sure that our elections are safe from a health perspective for voters and for election workers. Soon after the March primary, remember that our primary this year was a little bit earlier than normal, we started convening with legislative representatives, the governor's office, voting rights advocates, county officials on how to approach the November election in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, and it turned out that a lot of the policies that we've been advancing make even more sense during COVID. So, I'm hoping you heard already, the first step is California decided to send every active registered voter a ballot in the mail for

this November's election. Many people have already received it. If you haven't, it'll be coming soon. I just got mine a couple of days ago, so I'm getting ready to fill it out and send it back. Every voter should be on the lookout in your mailbox for your vote-by-mail ballot. When you receive it, you can fill it out at your leisure, the comfort and safety of your own home, and you'll have multiple options for how to return your ballot. Yes, the Postal Service has been in the news lately, and I'm happy to answer specific questions, but I still think it's a reliable way to return your ballot. The law in California says as long as the ballot is postmarked on or before election day, it can still arrive even up to 17 days after the election this November, and still be counted as long as it's postmarked on or before election day. Another reminder, make sure you sign the envelope in the space indicated. That's important to make sure your ballot is counted. For people who prefer, they can deliver their ballot to any ballot dropbox in the county, on any day between now and Election Day, or if you prefer, you can deliver in person to any in-person-voting location during the days of in-person-voting. If you're paying close attention here, you're hearing me say in-person-voting because while we sent a ballot to every active registered voter, this is not an all vote-by-mail only election. We've worked with every county in the state to make sure there are sufficient in-person opportunities to vote for people who need it both on and before election day. So we do have at least several days of in-person early voting, so that people who need to vote in person, whether it's an accessibility issue, they need language assistance, a replacement ballot or to participate in same day registration, they'll have multiple days to do that. So two more pieces of recommendation before we get to your question. Regardless of how you're going to vote, we're encouraging people to sign up for Where's My Ballot. We have a lot of information and tools available at vote.ca.gov. One of the options there now is Where's My Ballot, any voter in the state of California can now sign up to receive automatic notifications on the status of your ballot through the delivery process. So if you signed up previously, you got the alert that your ballot was on its way to you from the county, you can still sign up today and receive alerts when you return your ballot, that it's in process, Charlie, you'll even get an alert when your ballot was received and when your ballot was counted. So it's great for transparency, and peace of mind knowing that your vote-by-mail got there and is being counted. If you need to vote in person and exercise your opportunity to vote in person, in-person-voting is going to be a little bit different this year as well. You know, just like we can't go to the grocery store the same way anymore. You know, gotta bring your mask, look for the signage. We're going to implement physical distancing, and all the other public health directives because of COVID-19. So expect the poll workers to be wearing PPE, to keep themselves and you safe, plenty of hand sanitizer everywhere for everybody. And yes, even the machines are being wiped down between voters. All the protocols necessary to keep the in-person-voting experience as safe as possible. So that's the big review, vote-by-mail or vote-in-person. We're also asking people to vote early if possible. When you vote by mail, you know, don't wait to until the last day, you can if you want, but if you can send your ballot in earlier, that's better for you and better for county elections officials. If you vote in person, go the first day that voting locations are open. If we all do that, then maybe we can keep the lines a little bit shorter on Election Day, because we're expecting a very big turnout.

Nancy Yap (CAUSE):

Great, thank you! Thank you so much for all that information. I think also, just even for the way I learn, I loved just hearing it out loud; it is really helpful, and I know that that helped me quite a bit. I'm just going to dive in because we've had some questions sent ahead of time. Since you're talking about turnout just now, what do you expect the turnout to be? And also, how large is the team that's working on this for you? And do you have what you need? How can people get involved in volunteer work at polls? Can you share a little bit about that?

Alex Padilla (CA Secretary of State):

That's great. I very much appreciate the question. The first part of your question, what turnout am I expecting, I never give a prediction or a forecast numerically anyway other than I think it's going to be a big turnout. In the March primary, we set a record: more ballots cast in the March primary than any primary in California history, and we had record registration back in March, which continues to grow. We recently announced that more than 21 million Californians are registered to vote and eligible to vote this November. So if voter registration is any indicator, I think the excitement continues to build for participating in the November election, despite the COVID pandemic. So we'll be ready. You know, we work with counties to make sure we are ready for a big growth in vote-by-mail, but if we have record numbers of people showing up at the polls, we'll be ready for them there as well. To your question about, you know, do we have what we need, especially in terms of volunteers, I think we're on track, but we can always use more poll workers. Every county in the state has had a lot of poll workers that have helped in the past, a lot of older adults and even some people with vulnerabilities during COVID that have said they're not going to be available this November. So anybody who is interested, who's healthy, willing and able to sign up to be a poll worker, we invite you to visit vote.ca.gov. One of the options there, as you scroll down, is poll worker. If you input your name and your contact information there, we'll make sure to pass that along to your county. County officials will contact you and provide you three things. Number one, the training so we know exactly what we're doing when we're working at voting locations. Number two, PPE; we want to make sure that we keep you safe. And number three, compensation; poll workers do earn a stipend for their service. It varies a little bit by county but it's usually around \$100 a day. A lot of times there's a bonus for multilingual poll workers. So for those of you who speak more than one language, you're extra valuable for us. So vote.ca.gov. Go to poll worker.

Nancy Yap 14:59

Hey, thank you! We'll make sure to share those links out too, so that anybody who's interested in learning more about that possibility will be able to find it. The next set of questions, and there may be a few, are related to mail-in versus in-person-voting. There was some questions around that. This next question actually comes from us from the Epoch Times Los Angeles, one of the reporters here today, "Voters have concerns about election integrity, hearing stories about mail-in ballots being discarded in other states, how are you ensuring that won't happen here? And do you recommend that one is more secure than the other like recommend in-person versus sending it in?"

Alex Padilla (CA Secretary of State):

Look, I very much appreciate the question. And I think to start off with, voters deserve to hear the truth, and the truth is, vote-by-mail: it is safe, it is secure, and it may be the best option for you to vote during the COVID-19 pandemic. I, too, have heard stories about, you know, the Postal Service and whether it's, you know, some of the stories about mail being lost, or delays, etc. Just as vote-by-mail is nothing new in California. Neither is our close working relationship with regional and local Postal Service representatives, so we've been preparing for a big increase in vote-by-mail for a long time. It's another added value for our ballot tracking tool. Again, vote.ca.gov, click on Where's My Ballot, the more voters that sign up for that, it's not just great for the voter to be able to track your ballot through the mail, just like you track your packages when you're shopping online, but for us, it gives us real time information on basically the flow of traffic. And so we'll be able to identify any delays or bottlenecks to the Postal Service, and then work with those locations in those facilities to make sure that we keep those ballots moving along. So it's a great accountability tool as well. And frankly, that's why we have options for how to vote. It's not all vote-by-mail. If you feel comfortable, that's how I'm gonna vote, vote by mail, but if you prefer to vote in person, you have those options as well.

Nancy Yap (CAUSE):

If you do decide to go in person, what do you recommend we do with our mail-in-vote? I know that was a question that came out.

Alex Padilla (CA Secretary of State):

Yeah, no, that's a very good question, right. So you know, if you can bring that ballot with you, when you show up to vote in person, if you don't, that's okay. We will still be allowed to vote in person, we do have the protocols in place to make sure that people can only vote once. So if we receive a vote by mail ballot from a voter, that record is immediately updated to show "Hey, this individual already voted." If that same person tries to go vote person, when they check in, you know, they'll have that red flag and they won't be allowed to vote. If you do vote in person, again, your record is updated, and if a vote-by-mail ballot comes in afterwards, with your name on it, then it won't be counted: only one person, one vote. And I think between this question and the last question, I'll read between the lines here about how do we know vote-by-mail is safe and secure. So let me just give you a couple of the safeguards that we have in place to protect the integrity of vote by mail. First, we can talk about the ballots themselves, right? They're not just, you know, basic paper, different colors, maybe every election, each county select specific paper types, that they print their ballots on, you know, kind of like currency, right? We're talking about watermarks and other distinguishing features to guard against, you know, counterfeit ballots, if you will, and even the printers that print the ballots have to be certified by my office. When you return a ballot, it has to be in the official envelope. Each envelope has unique barcode to confirm the identity of the voter returning their ballot. And of course, the signature piece that I mentioned earlier; the very first thing county officials do when vote-by-mail ballots get back to the county is compare to signature on the envelope with the signature on file for that person to voter

registration to confirm the identity of the voter, if the signature is missing, because some people forget to sign the envelope or the signatures do not match, it's okay don't worry, the county is required to contact the voter and offer an opportunity to cure whatever signature issue there might be. If you forgot to sign it, you can submit it afterwards. If your signature has changed, you know, then maybe there's an opportunity to update your signature. We want to make sure that every eligible voter can cast their ballot and make sure that their ballot is counted.

Nancy Yap (CAUSE):

Now that's good to know that there will be outreach if there is a problem with signature verification, so thank you for clarifying that. Also, because I know there was a lot of work done around in-language, if you get a ballot in English, can you still trade it in for a ballot that's in-language? Or is there a cutoff date for that?

Alex Padilla (CA Secretary of State):

No, there is still time. Again, the recommendation is sooner rather than later. So I think a short term and a long term answer here. If you go to vote.ca.gov, I mean, first of all, anybody who hasn't registered yet, you should do it as soon as possible, you can do that vote.ca.gov. The next option available at that type is voter status, so you can verify your registration status, make sure everything is up to date and current, including your mailing address. But that's where you can also verify other preferences you have as a voter including language preference. You can update your registration if necessary to include you know, your materials in in your native language if you'd like, and that becomes the default for the materials that are being sent to you by the county, including your ballot. But if you haven't done that yet, and you receive a ballot in English, and you prefer it in another one of the languages that is offered in your county, simply contact the county and make that request, they should be able to easily accommodate a replacement ballot for you. We're supposed to have 26 days before the election and for contact information for your county elections office. Guess what? Go to vote.ca.gov and we have a directory available there. So there you go, those are your options.

Nancy Yap (CAUSE):

Great! And then I think related to also tracking, this question is coming from Stephanie Nitahora at Kizuna. She's asking if there are opportunities to track our ballots in-language for folks to still be able to do that. And if so, what if there's a moment where we can't find our ballot? Or it's been disqualified? Is there a way for us to notify or processes there?

Alex Padilla (CA Secretary of State):

Yes, good question. I do believe ballot tracking is available in a couple of languages. But I don't think it's, you know, the many, many languages that all materials are available for statewide. Where's My Ballot and in-language options are there. Another reason why the sooner you return the ballot the better is to be able to get that notification that it's been received and counted. If you return your ballot, and you feel like too much time has gone on, and you haven't gotten the confirmation that it's been received by the county, again, you can contact the county to inquire

directly, or as a failsafe option, you know, you can exercise the in-person option, knowing that only one of your ballots will be counted. One person, one vote. But the earlier you mail your ballot back, you'll get a notification once the Postal Service has possession of it, and it's on its way back to the county. And again, as long as it's postmarked on or before election date, it can arrive up to 17 days after the election and still be counted.

Nancy Yap (CAUSE):

Okay, and then how soon are we going to know the results? I know you said 17 days? When are the votes gonna get started counting if you start early? Could you share that process a little bit with us?

Alex Padilla (CA Secretary of State):

Yeah, that's a big question because I know a lot of people are especially paying attention to the presidential contest. For people who have voted in California and have followed elections and politics, we know this: on election night, we have a pretty good idea of the outcome of most contests, but for close contests, and for final results, in California, it does take a few weeks for counties to finish processing ballots. But it's for good reason, we're conducting that signature verification, we're allowing for the ballots that were sent early enough, but you know, maybe arriving a little bit later to arrive and be counted. We require every county to audit the results before we certify the results, so that takes a little bit of time. For close contests and final numbers, it takes a couple of weeks. I think what's different about this year, is you have so many other states that have expanded vote-by-mail significantly for the first time. States like Michigan, and Ohio, and Pennsylvania, and others that are critical battleground states in the presidential contest. So if those states are too close to call on election night, it's possible that we can go to bed and not know who the President is going to be for the next four years, and maybe for another, you know, couple of days after that. If that happens. That's not the time to panic; it's the time to be patient. It's the process at work. Everything is very transparent. Elections officials always want to make sure we get it right. It's more important to get it right and get it fast. And so again, I would also be wary of anybody claiming victory when there's still a lot of ballots that remains to be counted. They'll be counted soon enough with plenty of time before the Electoral College in December, plenty of time before Congress reconvenes in January.

Nancy Yap (CAUSE):

Thank you, thank you so much for your time. It also sounds like you also have a great team working with you who can answer a lot of these questions that we have. There's a few more in our chat, but we wanted to take a moment to also get a few zoom photos with you. Since we can't be in person, we can at least do that. I ask anyone who is in this room in the panelist side to turn on your cameras, so that we can take a few photos with the Secretary.

Alright, now I'll hand it over to Farrah Su.

Alex Padilla (CA Secretary of State):

May I say one last thing? One last thing before I go. So I've mentioned our website vote.ca.gov a number of times; we also have a voter hotline set up at the state level. Most counties have their own local voter hotline for assistance, or questions, we have one that serves all voters statewide, that number is one 800-345-VOTE. And again, that's a multiple languages are supported at our California Secretary of State voter hotline. Most of the information you need is at vote.ca.gov, but if you need to call us, you can do it there.

Nancy Yap (CAUSE):

Oh, thank you for that. And, you know, thank you again for also your commitment to providing a lot of these resources and in-language. I know that's something that means a lot to a lot of our communities. We're about to go into having a few of our organizations share those other resources in language as well. I'm going to let Farrah count us down for a few photos before you go. Farrah, let us know.

---- APA COMMUNITY LEADER RESOURCE SHARING PORTION----

Nancy Yap (CAUSE):

In the next 30 minutes, we've asked some of the organizations who are on the ground doing the work to also share their efforts here, we're going to record them and send them out but also send you links to those resources after this call. So here's a list of all of the organizations who will be here today. I'm just going to let you all know for those of you that are speaking, we'll give you a little bit of a heads up so you know when you're next, but we're gonna kick it off with Christine Chen at Asian and Pacific Islander American vote.

@00:27:10

Christine Chen (APIAVote):

Thank you, Nancy. Hi, everyone. It's so great to see so many of our friends on the west coast. APIAVote is a national nonpartisan organization that works with local nonprofits to mobilize Asian American Pacific Islanders and electoral and civic participation.

So a number of folks that you're hearing from are also our partners. As you heard the Secretary say there is less than 26 days until elections. And we have many of our community partners in over 28 states and our student networks, ambassadors on over 40 campuses, engaging with over 700,000 households. We're touching them and engaging them through the first of a series of two mailers.

There's actually 30 different versions of a state specific translated mailer that we created. And we're providing information on helping API's make a plan to vote, understanding their options for early voting, understanding what is on their ballot, as well as their voting rights.

In addition, for those that need additional help, you are very fortunate that you have a number of translated materials and assistance and language in California, but unfortunately, that is not

necessarily the case for the rest of the country. So voters who have questions or need help voting, you could call the Asian hotline of 1-888-API-VOTE. This bilingual assistance is available in English, Mandarin, Cantonese, Korean, Vietnamese, Tagalog, Urdu, Hindi and Bengali.

This is really especially important for those that as we get closer to the actual Election Day and there are some discussions of anticipation of some voter intimidation tactics that are going to be maybe implemented. We want to make sure our community is armed to know that they could immediately get assistance and depending on where they are at how we can even get some attorneys and others there to immediately assist them.

The other area that the Secretary had talked a little bit about is that idea that we have to fight back disinformation. So APIAVote is part of a broader national coalition to fight back disinformation. We want to educate everyone on how to identify disinformation and essentially inoculated. At the same time, we need to be proactive and pushing out the correct information about the process of voting and deadlines. And we need those who are engaged with the community and active in spaces where they are sharing content to help us identify this disinformation.

So later on, I will drop a link into the chat room, you can also go to APIAVote.org/volunteer to join this network. So that way, we could provide you additional information on how to fight back on this.

In addition, you know, in the next three weeks, there's gonna be a lot of great content that we are partnering up with a number of different organizations to push out information that you could uplift in your social media.

This ranges from repurposing our presidential town hall where we had Vice President Joe Biden participate, as well as a surrogate from the Trump campaign where you could use that to continue to educate the community about the presidential candidates.

But also, we are partnering up with Sony Music, who launched a US voter campaign, your voice, your power, your vote. And starting next week, we'll be pushing out with them some PSAs, highlighting some Sony artists, including some Asian artists that will hope to inspire and empower voters.

In addition, we also are creating a number of different influencer videos to also help explain the process of how to make a plan to vote and what's on my ballot and knowing your voting rights.

And lastly, I just want to also know another collaboration that we have is with Lyft. On election day, Lyft is offering 50% off of one ride up to \$10 to any polling location or Dropbox, using the code 2020 vote. For the first time, this offer also includes a network of bikes and scooters and select cities. In addition, Lyft is working with API Vote where we're working with local community

partners where we want to work with many of you to distribute ride credit directly to people in the API community who will identify as most in need of transportation. Thank you.

Nancy Yap (CAUSE):

Thank you, thank you so much Christine.

Next, we're gonna have Manju Kulkarni from Asian Pacific Policy and Planning Council.

Manju Kulkarni (A3PCON):

Hi, good afternoon, everyone.

I'm so delighted to be here with you all, I want to first off thank CAUSE for putting together this great event, and especially to Charlie, and to Nancy, and to congratulate Nancy as well on her new position as executive director. I'm also wanted to just thank Secretary of State Pedia, for sharing the information, it's so great to be in a state that actually wants its citizens to vote. And I'm sad that I have to say that, but that's 2020. And so, really, I think we're so fortunate to be here.

I know Charlie mentioned, we have a number of very important ballot measures to vote on today. And this is where, you know, in our democracy, we get a chance to really weigh in on some of the most important policy issues facing our state.

And so for that reason, AP3CON, once again, is issuing a voter guide, it's already out. And soon, we will be making it available in several Asian American Pacific Islander languages. We have two versions of that voter guide goes through one that is 30 pages quite long, but goes into in depth analysis, not only of the initiatives themselves, but how they impact AANHPI communities. So that's really important. To my knowledge, not too many other voter guides do that.

We also have a two pager, that will give more succinct information, something that you could carry with you to the ballot box, or use as you're filling out your mail and ballot.

Lastly, we have a quick guide that we're putting out to what those specific voting options are in Los Angeles County, with links to that information so people know exactly what they can do. We have a lot of different options here locally.

And so it's important for people to understand, obviously, as Secretary of State mentioned, we have the the mail in ballot option, but we also have voting centers. And in fact, some of those are open already, including the registrar's office in Norwalk. And very soon, we will have others available as well. So we want to share all of that with our community members and make those available as well in-language.

So please do go to our website, www.a3pcon.org. And you'll find right now our voter guide available and very soon we'll have that other information, as well as the translations into our NHPI languages.

So thank you again, and thanks to everyone on every one of our panelists for their amazing work throughout all of our communities. Take care and please be safe and well.

Nancy Yap (CAUSE):

Thank you. Thank you, Manju. And I know I'm just reading everyone's names but I have to say this is just a fun collection of just people I admire, all of you do so much great work. So thank you for taking the time. But I'm like, I gotta stay on time. So I appreciate that everybody. Next up, is Mary Anne Foo, from the Orange County Asian Pacific Islander Community Alliance.

Mary Anne Foo (OCAPICA):

Thanks so much Nancy, I really appreciate the invitation and to and to all of our community partners who are on this Zoom. We really appreciate the amazing work you're doing. In Orange County we have the 3rd largest number of Asian American and Pacific Islanders in the nation and we have a really large percentage who are registered to vote so right now we've been working with, really partnering up with the Orange County registrar of voters we have a really good registrar and a great office and excellent outreach and so their website OCvote.com, has information in Spanish, Vietnamese, Chinese, and Korean. Again just like what the secretary said that you could track your ballot you can sign up there. It is an excellent site and numerous of educational materials are available. In addition OCAPICA is big part as a part of a partnership called OCCET the Orange County civic engagement table which is a partnership of Asian Americans and Pacific islanders as well as a labor, Latinx, and environmental Justice and we come together and and do quite a bit of education phone making text banking and and network analysis to to education to the community in multiple languages and so for information about OCCET you can go to occivic.org and on OCCET you can also get linked to ocaction.org which gives some feedback about the communities take on that the propositions and so a lot of great resources in Orange County that are in multiple language just in addition we been talking to voters every day we have a really large robust phone banking and we talk to 12,000 voters already. A lot of our community members are voting early and so they just received their ballot and many of them are voting and returning it this week and so we really appreciate the interest that people really want to vote and make sure their vote counts. Thank you so much.

Nancy (CAUSE)

Thank you Mary Anne.

Next we have Audrey Alo from Pasifika Vote. I think you're still on mute we really can't see, let me see if I can..

Audrey Alo: (Pasifika Vote)

So aloha, bula vinaka, fa'atālofa atu, *[unable to transcribe]* thank you so much for inviting us to this CAUSE event and to be here with the rest of you who do all this work in your communities on a day-to-day basis. So my name is Audrey Alo, I am representing Pasifika Vote and currently the president of the Pacific-Islander Health partnership as well as LE GaFa, which is Leadership and Education through Gagana Fa'a Samoa. My 3 projects today I'm sharing are number one Pasifika Vote, which is a nonpartisan Pacific Islanders civic engagement effort put together by several community organizer colleagues with 2 goals in mind number 1 to increase voter participation and number two to encourage it, encourage Pacific Islanders to run for public office. For the 2020 elections we've launched a Pasifika to the polls giveaway this promotion

aims to incentive Native Hawaiians and Pacific islanders to take the very 1st step of checking their voter registration status at www.pasifikavote.org. with just that 1 act they are entered into a drawing for some amazing prizes including 1 of 10 \$100 gift cards, Pasifika vote T-shirt price packet so it's \$50 gift cards and more we have also created and are sharing social media tools and events from around the community as we hear of them. In the long term we hope that pasifika.org can serve as a community hub for civic engagement information. If you're interested in helping us flesh out those plans and bring it to life please let me know we'll be happy to loop you in on those discussions. The 2nd project is Island Block radio which on October the 10th at 6PM with Joey Quenga also known as Joey Q, will provide media platform for islanders so he's gonna be talking about why it is important to vote, voter registration, vote in person, vote by mail, Pasifika to the vote, with Pacific Islander artists. And finally, Pasifika vote has a discussion panel in planning stages to talk about the initiatives and the propositions. The date and time of that will be announced when details are finalized and our time frame is probably within the next 2 weeks, so mahalo for the opportunity to be of service *[unable to transcribe]*

Nancy: (CAUSE)

Thank you and definitely let us know when that information is ready, we will make sure to send it to everyone who's here today and to our network as well so thank you for sharing.

Next, I'd like to invite Shikha Bhatnagar from South Asian Network.

Shikha Bhatnagar: (SAN)

Hello everyone I think I know a lot of you, my name is Shikha Bhatnagar, I'm the executive director of the South Asia Network. For those of you who are unfamiliar with SAN we are a community based organization based in Los Angeles County but doing work across the greater LA area in multiple programmatic areas. So like many of you, we have been a really been sort of underwater with not only COVID relief, the crisis that we're facing, but also census outreach and as a small team what we have done is really integrated our voter engagement efforts with our current outreach around both of the other areas around census and COVID relief. So we've launched our what we call our Desi Vote 2020, Desi is a colloquial term for South Asians and as part of that effort what we will be doing as providing the support to the South Asian community in the form of education and awareness, like many of you, really informing our community about how to vote, safety measures in both LA and Orange County. We will also be messaging around the importance of voting, again in language wherever possible and then of providing in language resources and for example Manju mentioned the AP3CON voter guide really elevating a lot of the existing resources that are out there and distributing them within our community. And then of course ensuring that our community, that they know what their rights are again utilizing a lot of the resources that some of our national organizations have put out there and making sure that our community members have access to information. What we will also be doing a lot more ethnic media outreach you know, full page ads our message is Apni Awaz, Apni Vote, which is our voice, our vote. And we are hoping to host a discussion about South Asian voter engagement at the end of October so it will likely be on October 29th and of

course we'll send details once that is finalized. And then yeah. I think you know, again we really appreciate we would have been able to do I require a very small team on without many of our collaborative partners were on this call and if there's any way that we can I support you and amplify your messages please do let us know.

Nancy: (CAUSE)

Thank you, thank you so much

Next is Aqui Soriano Versoza from Pilipino Workers center.

Aqui Soriano Versoza: (PWC)

Thank you, so *[unable to transcribe]* from the Pilipino workers center. PWC we have been building out a lot of our voter outreach effort that we do launched earlier this year together with census outreach and COVID response, very similar to SAN as we're all responding to these times and we've put together resources that can be accessed through our website, <http://www.pwcsc.org> or our Filipino voter empowerment project which is fvemp.org. We have a voter proposition guide that is in English and also Tagalog, and we have put together a series of different webinars including how to be a social media ambassador to leverage your own relationships to get the word out that it takes a community effort to get the vote out. We have workshops about how to have sala talks, conversations about the issues with your own friends and families and circles as well as videos, instructional videos about registration, how to vote, creating a vote plan, both in English and Tagalog. Next, October 16th we will be having a town hall which goes through the various propositions as well as our positions as PWC and our Filipino voter empowerment project. And we are releasing next week, starting our PSAs about voting especially about voting by mail, vote by mail next week and that will be heading out over social media networks as well as the Filipino channel. We are also doing a large amount of phone banking and text banking which started early last month and we are inviting of people to look into joining our volunteer phone banking and text banking opportunities on October 15 and October 22 where you can also help you to reach out to our own communities especially if you speak Tagalog, Ilocano, or know or any of the the Filipino Dialects so that we can really have everyone reached out to and supported as they have their voices heard in this elections. And you can join us also over social media, over Facebook, reach out to us as well as our main number (213)250-4353 and also around voting, around the census or COVID assistance as well. Thank you very much *[unable to transcribe]*.

Nancy: (CAUSE)

Thank you for sharing. I just saw a quick question around whether or not we'd have a centralized list of phone banking or text banking. I know for some of your organizations you are doing that, so we'd be happy to send that out after the call too.

Next, I want to introduce Phatchara Udomsin, from Thai Community Development Center.

Phatchara Udomsin (Thai CDC):

Hello everyone, I'm Phatchara Udomsin, from the Thai Community Development Center or Thai CDC in Los Angeles. It's great to be here and I hear about everyone's great works and I think we all can agree that a community-based organizations play important roles in voter outreach because we are in the communities, we know the language, we understand the culture of our community and I think that a partnership with community-based organization can be tremendous assets in this effort. At Thai CDC, we've been working almost nonstop in this past few months, in the response to the COVID crisis but on the voter efforts to give an example, Thai CDC was approached by LA Times about if you can recommend someone to narrate a Thai script for video guide on changes that happening on how we all vote in LA County for this election, which is important because there's a great community concentration of Thais in LA County so I got in touch with them at LA Times and then I provided a Thai narration for the video so now there is video, in Thai language for our community that they can access so they can understand the changes that happening on the voting process in LA County so that they can equip themselves with the knowledge and go out and vote with the confidence in this election so and this video and just not in Thai, there are videos in other languages for a so thank you to LA Times for the wonderful video and hope that we can share the videos so that our community's voice can be heard. Thank you.

Nancy: (CAUSE)

Thank you and I think that brings up a great point that a lot of our organizations are the go to for other places to get translation and to have that extra touch with our communities so thank you for also that reminder.

Next is Sina Uipi, from the Empowering Pacific Islander Communities.

Sina Uipi (EPIC):

Thanks Nancy, so good to see you and I'm glad we still get to work in the same space, I think like many of many others, I feel relieved and assured from what Secretary Padilla was talking to us about and I really appreciate all the work that you all are doing as well. My name is Sina Uipi, I'm the DC based policy associate for Empowering Pacific Islander Communities, also known as EPIC. EPIC is based in Los Angeles, I am currently in California, in LA with my family, and so I'm happy to make sure we get you know all of our folks register to vote here as well. EPIC is a national organization that convenes NHPI leaders, NHPI meaning Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander leaders and organizations, here in California and throughout the country with the focus on the continental US. We really understand the importance of this and every election season as an opportunity to empower and engage our communities that are deeply impacted by decisions made at the ballot box. So a few things that we have coming up, we have a national voter engagement week of action that's taking place next week on October 12 through the 16, This is the collective effort that's being organized by several of our NHPI partners here in California and Washington and in Utah as well. We'll be sharing tool kits for each day that have a specific theme. Monday is Pasifika Indigenous Day, Tuesday's COPA health justice day, Wednesday is climate justice day, Thursday we are uplifting the youth so Pasifika Youth Voice, and Friday and we will be talking about the state of our NHPI community during this time. We will also host

panels for each day and have invited speakers from our partner organizations and community leaders to speak to the different issues that impact our community and what this election means for us. We will be sharing all of these events on our Facebook page. We are also working on a California voter guide to push out to the NHPI community and inform them on the different propositions that are on the ballot this election and we also just got some new civic engagement fellows, that's really exciting and will be also working on these projects as well. And we'll also have translated materials in NHPI languages. So yeah those are just some things that we have coming up and glad to do this alongside all of you so thank you so much

Nancy: (CAUSE)

Thank you, thank you Sina.

Next is California State Student Association, Jeanne Tran-Martin.

Jeanne Tran-Martin (CSSA):

Hi, Good afternoon and thank you so much for having me today.

The Cal State Student Association or CSSA, represents the 480,000 students of the California State University system, and we serve as their official voice to the legislature and CSU Board of Trustees across our 23 campuses. Our mission is to improve the lives of students by advocating for their needs and engaging students in system wide, state, and federal higher education policy making.

One of our main priorities this year is to foster inclusive civic engagement for our students. One resource that I wanted to highlight today is the ongoing Secretary of State's Ballot Bowl competition that is currently taking place. It is a competition amongst California colleges and universities to see which college can register the most students to vote. We are very proud that in 2018, California State University San Luis Obispo was the inaugural winner. And as of today, Cal State Fullerton is in the lead with how many students they have registered to vote.

We are actively participating in National Voter Education week that is happening this week by sharing a variety of resources with our students on social media about how they can be vote ready, including how and where to register, how to request absentee ballots if they're out of state, how to make a voting plan, and resources on where they can learn more about what's on their ballot. And we will continue to share these resources with our students throughout the entire election season.

We also have a dedicated space on our website at calstatestudents.org/engaged-vote where students can find other resources and also get inspiration from other campuses across the nation on what their civic engagement plans are.

CSSA is very much looking forward to a high turnout rate amongst college students this election cycle, and to continue shattering the stereotype that college students don't vote. So we appreciate the opportunity to share with you all and thank you for having us.

Nancy Yap (CAUSE):

Thank you. Thank you, Jean. So as we move into this next portion, we know that there are other resources out there beyond the Secretary of State's resources, which were great. I know for me, I

learned a lot. And I'm going to check out that website and track my ballot. But I know a few of you are already doing that, I can see it in the chat. So that's great.

Thank you. Thank you. Next is Connie Chung Joe from Asian Americans Advancing Justice, Los Angeles. And we also just want to say congratulations on your role. Thank you for being here. And thank you for making time just to share with us all of the resources that you have.

Connie Chung Joe (AAJA)

Thank you so much, Nancy. And yes, it's been two months on the job. But it's been a very exciting time to be in this role, working in civil rights and social justice.

So I want to highlight three things that we're doing at Advancing Justice LA. The first is poll monitoring. We will be monitoring in LA County starting October 24. And in Orange County, beginning on October 30. We're focusing on monitoring communities that have high percentages of Asian American Pacific Islander and Native Hawaiian voters.

And we want to make sure that voting centers are accessible both based on disability and language and make sure that voters are able to vote free of intimidation and harassment. We know right now that anti Asian sentiment is high. The presidential debates and last night vice presidential debates didn't make me feel comforted about the scapegoating of Asian Pacific Islanders.

We do have our own website where we're tracking any reports of hatred called standagainsthater.org. There are certainly other databases as well, including AP3CON who does so. But we are also going to be hiring a victim's advocate to monitor all of these reports and try to hold the hands of victims and their families when they experience hate or discrimination.

The second thing I would like to mention is our voter helpline. We just launched that two days ago, and we have our help. Our helpline will be available in Chinese, both Mandarin and Cantonese, Korean, Tagalog, Thai and Vietnamese to support voters in LA and Orange Counties. So if callers are having problems with the voting process, they can receive help from us in language on how to cast their ballots safely.

And we'll have attorneys available to handle problems that need to be escalated. We know API voters have higher rejection rates from mail-in ballots because of fixable mistakes than other communities. So we want to avoid that from happening. And we want voters to get assistance if they have any questions or doubts.

The third thing I'll mention is a phone banking we are doing with our sister affiliates of the Advancing Justice brand. There are five of us throughout the nation, and we have come together as a coalition to conduct national nonpartisan phone banking in 26 key congressional districts that include California, Georgia and a couple other states. So with these, we want our callers to have meaningful conversations with API voters. And we'll be doing that in the evenings of Monday through Friday that started on September 28.

Already, we've been able to call thousands of API voters and speak with hundreds of them to talk about why they need to get out to vote. We do know that API's have some lower rates and other ethnic groups. And we know that politicians don't always think of us first. And we know that we can play a very important role in swing elections when APIs do come out to vote. So

we're really encouraging people to go out and do that. I would, and I'm out of time, so I'll stop there.

Nancy Yap (CAUSE):

Thank you. Thank you all for all the work you do. Thank you for joining us on this call today. And for us, it's also just the beginning of I feel like we've all been in it for a little bit now.

So I think we just wanted to amplify what everyone's efforts were bringing us all together, and really just start sharing it out. So we'll make sure to get all of this compiled and sent out to everybody. We just wanted to end as a group on some calls to action. just recognize that we all came here today, not just to learn but also to be part of what's happening, get the vote out.

And it starts with us actually voting, we have 26 days left to take action, you can register to vote, track your ballot. And also you can work at the polls, and a secretary pedia shared, but you also heard from quite a few organizations, events that are being hosted, phone banking, text banking that's needed, and also opportunities to share on social media. So any way that you feel like you can support please do, please reach out. We're sharing all of the websites of the information into the chat so that you can find folks easier.

The next thing too, I just wanted to make sure that we also thank our sponsors, the folks who make our vote initiative possible. These sponsors include the JT tie and company Foundation, Charlie Woo, Cathay Bank Foundation, and Southern California Edison.

And then finally, I just want to make sure that I also thank the team here at CAUSE who made this happen, Justine Ventura-Mejia, Thalia Campos, Farrah Su, and then also our Vote Initiative volunteers and interns, Beren Kiraz, Sandi Khine, and Hannah Wong. So thank you all on my team, thank you all for getting the vote out. We have 26 days together.

And definitely if you have information that wasn't listed here or your organization is doing more, send it to us, we'll get it out and just spread the word so that we know what in language materials and opportunities are available for us and what resources that we have. Thank you so much for coming and we hope that we will see you soon.