
Meeting of the Board

March 18, 2021

5:00 P.M. – 6:30 P.M.

Attend via Webex:

<https://minnesota.webex.com/minnesota/j.php?MTID=m231d5791de9e1f2e31788d0d9fa88f84>

Attend by phone:

+1-415-655-0003 United States Toll

Access Code: 146 913 8942

Password: CAPM

AGENDA

Time	Item	Information/Discussion/Action
5:00 P.M.	Public Comments (2 mins max per person)	Information/Discussion
5:10 P.M.	Board Business – Roll Call – <i>Approval of November 19, 2020 Minutes</i> – Approval of January 21, 2020 Minutes – Approval of March 18, 2021 Agenda	Information/Discussion/Action
5:15 P.M.	Financial Report	Information/Discussion/Action
5:20 P.M.	Legislative Priorities Survey Report and 2021-2022 Legislative Agenda*	Information/Discussion/Action
5:35 P.M.	2021 Session: Community Engagement Plan*	Information/Discussion
5:45 P.M.	Executive Committee Report	Information/Discussion
5:50 P.M.	Special Projects Committee Report	Information/Discussion
5:55 P.M.	Community Updates	Information/Discussion

Next Meeting of the Board: May 20, 2021

An agenda item with an * is an item the Council Board will take public comments on during the Public Comments time pursuant to the Council's Policy on Community Input at Council Meetings.

A quorum exists when forty percent of voting members are present.

Minutes
Council Board Meeting
March 18, 2021
5:00 – 6:30 P.M.
WebEx

Chair Maeda called the meeting to order at 5:00 P.M.

I. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comment was made.

II. ROLL CALL

Present:

Bryan Thao Worra
Dave Hoang
David Maeda
Chang Wang
Faamati Winey (late arrival)
Grace Lee
Hafiz Munir
Mz Xiong
Saraswati Singh
Senator Eric Pratt

Staff: Sia Her, Andrew Morris, and Virakcheath Hing

Absent: Dr. Tsewang Ngodup, Representative Jim Nash, Representative Meilissa Hortman

With 9 out of 13 voting members present, a quorum was present.

Before formally beginning the agenda, Chair Maeda noted that he would need to leave by 6:00 P.M. Chair Maeda also took time to deliver remarks on the recent Atlanta area shootings, feeling that it was a culmination of the Asian Pacific community being targeted. Chair Maeda spoke to his experience growing up of racism and being the target of hatred for being of Asian heritage. Chair Maeda suggested adding an agenda item to the meeting to allow for Board members to share their own comments.

III. APPROVAL OF MARCH 18, 2021 AGENDA

MOTION: To approve the March 18, 2021 Agenda and add an item regarding the Atlanta area shootings:

BY: Saraswati Singh
SECOND: Chang Wang

The motion was approved unanimously.

Chair Maeda asked Ma Xiong and members of the Board to introduce themselves, as Ms. Xiong is a new member of the Board. Ms. Xiong introduced herself as the new member representing the Hmong ancestry group. The rest of the Board members also introduced themselves.

- IV. APPROVAL OF NOVEMBER 19, 2020 AND JANUARY 21, 2021 MINUTES MINUTES
MOTION: To approve the minutes from the November 19, 2020 and January 21, 2021 Board meetings.

BY: Saraswati Singh

SECOND: Chang, Wang

The motion was approved unanimously.

- V. COMMENTS BY DEPARTING STAFF

Chair Maeda asked Sia Her to introduce an additional agenda item allowing for departing staff to make brief comments. Ms. Her explained that this was the last day for Virakcheath Hing as a member of the Council staff, and invited him to make some comments.

Mr. Hing thanked the Chair and Board for the honor and privilege to serve with the Council. Mr. Hing stated he appreciated his time with the Council, and plans to remain active with its work as a member of the community.

- VI. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS ON EXPERIENCE OF API COMMUNITY

Chair Maeda invited Board members to speak about the experience of their communities in the past year and past week.

Hafiz Munir expressed his sadness at recent events and expressed appreciation for the opportunity to speak. Mr. Munir shared that he had recently been targeted in his car in a parking lot. He stated that the Council is a platform to work, not just in the state government but within the community to advance the interest of the API community.

Vice Chair Dave Hoang also expressed his sadness and pain at these events. He emphasized that these events have occurred at all places, including of worship, employment, commerce, and at homes. This has led to a sense of fear in daily life. Vice Chair Hoang thanked the members of the MAP Caucus, and Senator Pratt, for the comments they offered on the House and Senate floor in support of the API community and denouncing racism and hate. Senator Pratt thanked the Vice Chair for his comments.

Ms. Her encouraged Board members to continue to speak to the recent events. The community has been deeply jarred by recent events, which has affected all members of the community and all communities, leaving them on edge. Community members in particular have expressed fear about going about their daily life.

Ms. Xiong thanked the Board for adding this agenda item. Ms. Xiong echoed what others said about fear and frustration. There is a sense in the community that the anger, hurt, and

pain that has been expressed in the last year has gone unheard, and there is a need to see real action.

Chang Wang thanked everyone for their comments. He said that the year before he and his wife had planned to move out from the U.S. after 20 years due to the heated rhetoric directed at the API community during the pandemic. This was changed as international travel from the U.S. was restricted. However, Mr. Wang said that even with the recent shooting he still feels hope, comparing the progress made on civil rights, despite the continuing pain. He thanked staff for issuing a statement on behalf of the Council, and said that the acknowledgement by state and national figures gave him hope.

VII. FINANCIAL REPORT

Ms. Her presented on the Financial Report. There has not been significant change since the last report. The Council is likely to send back some of the funds in the budget to the state General Fund due to staff vacancies.

Chair Maeda asked about the timeline to replace Mr. Hing as Office Manager. Ms. Her answered that a request to waive the hiring freeze to replace the position. The posting went up and just closed. 17 applications were received and need to be reviewed, with a new Office Manager hopefully joining the team by mid-May.

VIII. LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES SURVEY REPORT AND 2021-2022 LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Chair Maeda explained that originally this presentation and a vote on approval for the Legislative Priorities Survey Report and 2021-2022 Legislative Agenda was planned for the January 2021 Board meeting. However, since a quorum was not reached at that meeting, this item was returned to the Executive Committee, which voted to approve it in February 2021.

Andrew Morris presented on the Legislative Priorities Survey Report and 2021-2022 Legislative Agenda. The presentation explained the methods, analysis, and results of the 2020 Legislative Priorities Survey, and how these results were used to form the 2021-2022 Legislative Agenda. The top five priority areas identified through the survey were healthcare access, equity and social justice, achievement gap, immigration rights, and affordable housing. The presentation was the same as that given to the Executive Committee in February 2021, for the benefit and information of the full Board.

IX. 2021 SESSION: COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT PLAN

Chair Maeda asked Ms. Her to present on the Council's Community Engagement Plan during the 2021 legislative session. Ms. Her explained that the ongoing pandemic required a new engagement plan to keep the community informed. The plan consists of three major elements.

The first is the production of "Session Updates" to be sent via the Council's listserve, informing community members of the status and next-steps for key pieces of legislation. This item has been produced in previous years and will carry over throughout the 2021 session.

The second is a new initiative of informal, biweekly events called “Coffee with the Council,” hosted every other Friday. These events are intended to provide community members with a largely unstructured space to hear updates on major events at the legislature and to provide their own input on issues important to the community. The events are not streamed or recorded.

The third main initiative is a planned series of conversations with legislators. This has been particularly focused on convening members of the Minnesota Asian Pacific (MAP) Caucus for three conversations, to be hosted by members of the Special Projects Committee.

These initiatives have taken the place of the API Day at the Capitol for 2021, as staff determined before the session began that it was unlikely that it would be possible to host this event in 2021 due to the ongoing pandemic.

X. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

Chair Maeda presented on the Executive Committee report. The Executive Committee has met twice, once in early February and again later in the month.

Ms. Her added that there are currently no legislative members of the Executive Committee, because the Senate has not yet made official appointments of its legislative members to the Board.

Chair Maeda excused himself and turned leadership of the meeting over to Vice Chair Hoang.

XI. SPECIAL PROJECTS COMMITTEE REPORT

Vice Chair Hoang presented on the work of the Special Projects Committee. Vice Chair Hoang shared that the first MAP Caucus conversation was hosted by Ms. Singh, with a robust conversation and good community attendance. Two more of these conversations are planned, depending on the availability of legislators.

Ms. Her thanked the Special Projects Committee for stepping up to help support events during a time of reduced staff capacity. She asked members of the Special Projects Committee to add any further thoughts.

Saraswati Singh said the first event hosted by the Special Projects Committee, the event on voting with Secretary of State Steven Simon, was a great event and very topical. The Special Projects Committee is able to offer extra capacity to Council events. The MAP Caucus event was great to raise awareness of API legislators and give the community a chance to engage.

Mr. Wang suggested that future events could become accredited for continuing education credits in various professions, such as law, which could draw further participation and lead to more robust engagement.

XII. COMMUNITY UPDATES

Vice Chair Hoang invited Board members and staff to share updates from their communities.

Ms. Her mentioned an upcoming visit to Hmong Village by state Senators, including Senator Pratt. Additionally, Karen and Burmese community members gathered at the Capitol to draw attention to the military coup in Burma.

Grace Lee said she was at the gathering at the Capitol, for both the march and rally. This is a powerful experience for students and young people, and she expressed disappointment that there was a lack of participation by public figures.

Senator Pratt mentioned that he, Senator Gazelka the Majority leaders, and Senator Hawj were going to be meeting with business leaders at Hmong Village. Senator Pratt added that he and other Senators are always eager to get into the community, particularly after a year of largely remote work during the pandemic.

Ms. Singh shared that the ongoing trial of Derek Chauvin has been a powerful touchpoint, even reaching back to official discrimination against API communities in American under the Chinese Exclusion Act, Japanese internment, and other issues.

Mr. Wang thanked Ms. Singh for identifying the Chinese Exclusion Act, and stated a desire to continue to raise up and develop the community.

Faamati Winey asked that Council staff help convene a meeting of the Pacific Islander community to discuss next steps they could take in organizing.

Bryan Thao Worra said that the concern of anti-Asian violence is the most concerning issue in the community. Other issues include deportation, the upcoming Southeast Asian new year, Asian Heritage month in May, and other events.

Ms. Xiong shared that there have been concerns in the Hmong community about the COVID-19 vaccine rollout. There are community events going on to encourage and promote appointments for as long as there is access to vaccine doses.

Ms. Lee spoke again to address the Korean community. She shared that she had learned that elderly Korean community members had recently been targeted and would follow up on that report. She also shared that some in person religious services have restarted, with hopes that the vaccination rates keep pace for new opening celebrations in the summer.

Ms. Her asked that Board members share any incidents of being targeted or of violence to her directly.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 P.M.

Community Engagement during the 2021 Session

I. Session Updates

The Council will continue to provide session updates via GovDelivery. This highlight of key bills on Council legislative priority areas (as determined through community input from the Legislative Priorities Survey) will be sent to email subscribers **weekly**, and will provide an “at a glance” update about **key pieces of legislation** making their way through the legislature, what the **status of the bills** are, **how and when to engage**, and what we expect to happen next.

II. Coffee with the Council

A new initiative in 2021: Biweekly “Coffee with the Council” listening sessions. Open and available for all members of the public to join Council staff to hear updates from the Legislature, ask questions, and engage Council staff in an open and accessible manner.

- Begin the week of January 18
- Biweekly throughout the session
- Reminders and instructions on how to join the sessions on the Council’s Facebook page and website

III. Conversations with Legislators

A series of conversations with key legislators throughout the 2021 session. These conversations will highlight community leadership, growth of the API community in Minnesota over the years, the role of state government, and ongoing and developing policy issues as the legislative session progresses.

- February
- April
- June



2021 ASIAN PACIFIC MINNESOTANS LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES REPORT

Council on Asian Pacific Minnesotans

Abstract

The Council on Asian Pacific Minnesotans conducted a biennial legislative priorities survey to gain a better understanding of priority issues for Minnesotans of Asian and Pacific Islander ancestry. Respondents were asked to identify their top three priority issues and provide a written explanation of why a specific issue was important to themselves or their community. A total of 244 responses were collected during the survey period, between July 2020 and November 2020. Respondents most frequently identified access to healthcare, equity and social justice, the achievement gap, immigration rights, and affordable housing as the issues of greatest importance. For the five most frequently identified issue areas, detailed open-ended responses were further evaluated for themes that demonstrated why these issues were of greater importance to Asians and Pacific Islanders.

Contact: Anjuli Cameron
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Governance

Minn. Stat. § 15.0145 Ethnic Councils.

Subd. 6. Duties of council.

(a) A council must work for the implementation of economic, social, legal, and political equality for its constituency. The council shall work with the legislature and governor to carry out this work by performing the duties in this section.

(b) A council shall advise the governor and the legislature on issues confronting the constituency of the council. This may include, but is not limited to, presenting the results of surveys, studies, and community forums to the appropriate executive departments and legislative committees.

Council on Asian Pacific Minnesotans Staff

Sia Her – Executive Director

Anjuli Cameron – Research Director

Andrew Morris – Public Affairs and Legislative Liaison

Virakcheath Hing – Office Manager

Council on Asian Pacific Minnesotans Board Members

David Maeda – Chair

Dave Hoang – Vice Chair

Saraswati Singh – Treasurer

Grace Lee

Hafiz Munir

Tsewang Ngodup

Chang Wang

Faamati Winey

Bryan Thao Worra

Senator Carolyn Laine (D)

Senator Eric Pratt (R)

Representative Rod Hamilton (R)

Representative Kaohly Her (D)

Introduction

The Council on Asian Pacific Minnesotans (“the Council”) is a state agency charged with representing Asian Pacific Minnesotans and advocating on their behalf in the executive and legislative branches of state government. At the beginning of each legislative biennium, the Council conducts a legislative priorities survey to gain a deeper understanding of the issues of greatest concern to the Asian Pacific Minnesotan population. The results of the survey are used to advise the Council’s legislative priorities for the subsequent biennium. The survey was designed and administered by Council research staff, and content structure was devised from previous biennial survey responses. The Council deploys the survey as an instrument to understand the highest priority issues for Minnesota’s approximately 324,000 Asian and Pacific Islander residents.¹ The survey is used in addition to reviewing the Council’s prior legislative work, evaluating the needs of Asian Pacific communities through legislative listening sessions, and holding discussions between Council Board and staff.

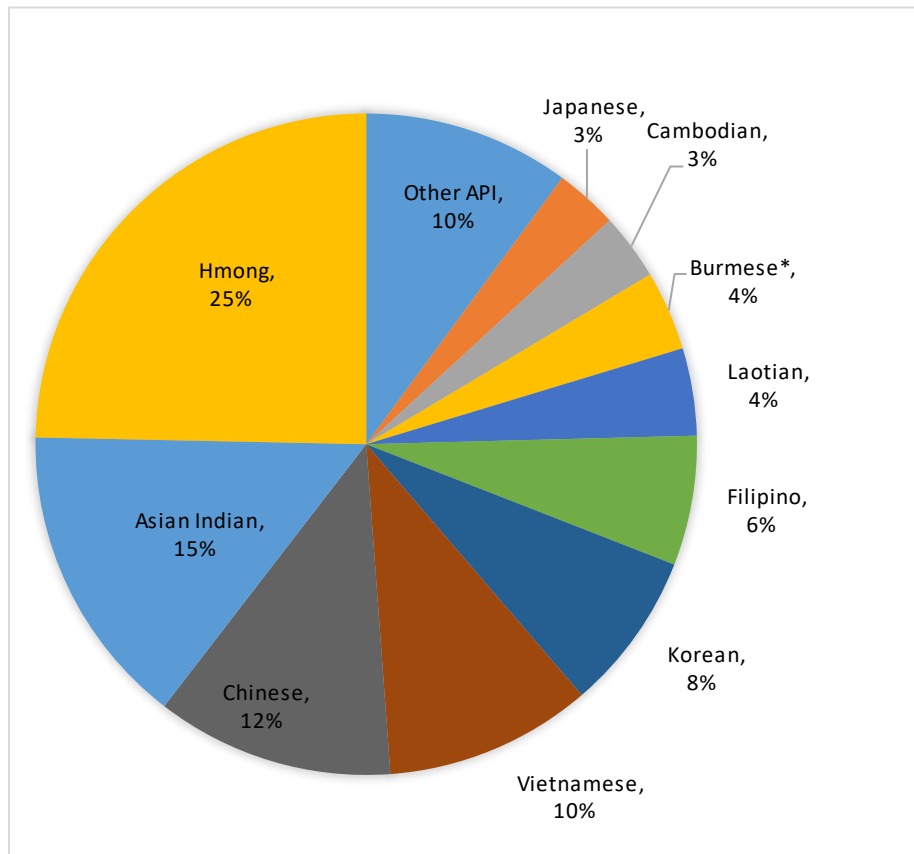
Methods

Design

The Legislative Priorities Survey sought to capture a representative sample of Minnesota’s Asian Pacific Islander (API) population. Based on 2018 five-year American Communities Survey estimates (Graph 1), a minimum representational sample was calculated for each of the seven largest Asian Pacific ethnic groups in Minnesota. Six questions were chosen for the 2021 Legislative Community Survey based on the 2017 and 2019 Legislative Priorities Surveys.

¹ U.S. Census Bureau (2020). ACS Demographic and Housing Estimates, 2015-2019 American Community Survey 5-year estimates. Retrieved from <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?t=Asian%3ANative%20Hawaiian%20and%20Pacific%20Islander&g=0400000US27&y=2019&d=ACS%205-Year%20Estimates%20Data%20Profiles&tid=ACSDP5Y2019.DP05&hidePreview=false>.

Graph 1. Asian Pacific Minnesotan Population Size, by Ancestry or Ethnic Origin. ^{2,3}



Instrument - Demographics

Respondents were asked to self-identify their demographic information, including their city of residence, zip code, ethnic origin, and general role within Asian and Pacific Islander community. Ethnic categories and community role choices were selected based on the 2019 Legislative Priorities Survey report.

Instrument - Issue Areas

Using historical responses from the 2017 and 2019 survey, priority areas were tagged from themes and subthemes identified in open-ended questions. In addition, priority areas were organized and identified using the structure of the Minnesota House and Senate legislative committees. The committee structure

² U.S. Census Bureau (2018). Asian Alone or in Any Other Combination by Selected Groups, 2014-2018 American Community Survey 5-year estimates. Retrieved from <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?t=Asian&g=0400000US27&y=2018&tid=ACS5Y2018.B02018&hidePreview=true>.

³ U.S. Census Bureau (2018). Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander Alone or in Any Other Combination by Selected Groups, 2014-2018 American Community Survey 5-year estimates. Retrieved from <https://data.census.gov/cedsci/table?t=Native%20Hawaiian%20and%20Pacific%20Islander&g=0400000US27&y=2018&tid=ACS5Y2018.B02019&hidePreview=true>.

* "Burmese" includes Burmese, Karen, and Karenni ethnic groups.

mandates how the responses would be acted upon at the Minnesota Legislature, and therefore was deemed to be necessary for the categorization of responses.

Participant Recruitment

The survey collection period occurred between July 20 and November 1 of 2020. The survey was disseminated through an online, self-administered form. Respondents were given text instructions to complete the survey based on their own experiences or the experiences of their self-identified community.

Online Survey

The online survey was sent through the Council’s email listserv, which included employees of Asian- or Pacific Islander-led nonprofits and community organizations, Asian and Pacific Islander student groups, Minnesota State employees, the Council Board, and members of the general public who have chosen to subscribe to the Council online newsletters. In total, the survey was sent to 1,212 individuals and organizations via email. A survey link was also posted on the Council’s website and on the Council’s Facebook page which has 1,756 followers. Social media and email reminders to complete the survey online were published periodically during each month of the approximately three-month collection period.

In addition, 83 API community-based organizations and 36 college student organizations were contacted to share survey information through email and social media. Of those contacted, 19 total organizations disseminated the survey to their membership during the data collection period.

Analysis

Demographics

For demographic information, total counts were calculated using self-identified responses. The survey response rate was calculated at 8.2% during the collection period. A total of 244 responses were received (Table 1). Those who did not identify as having any Asian or Pacific Islander heritage were eliminated from further analyses (19 respondents). Of the remaining 225 Asian Pacific respondents, 21 identified as having more than one ethnic origin, including non-Asian Pacific ethnicities. These respondents were categorized using deterministic fractional assignment, based on the total number of ethnicities self-identified.⁴ A respondent who identified as Korean and Black was counted as 0.5 Korean and 0.5 Black in demographic counts. These fractional values were totaled with their identified ethnicities for the final ethnic origins counts.

Table 1. Total Number of Survey Respondents.

Number of Responses	N
Total completed	244
Total, by race and ethnicity	

⁴ Solomos, J. and Collins, P.H. (2010). *The SAGE Handbook of Race and Ethnic Studies*. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.

- Asian and Pacific Islander	225
- non-Asian and Pacific Islander, incl. American Indian, Black, Hispanic and Latino, or White	19

Issue Areas

Policy issues were coded based on the three categories selected by the respondent. Themes were identified using two open-ended follow-up questions to the multiple-choice issue area question. The issue area question stem structure limited respondents to three responses. Issue area responses ranged from one to three choice selections of 31 possible choices. Only the five most frequently identified issue areas were categorized into themes and analyzed using open coding.⁵

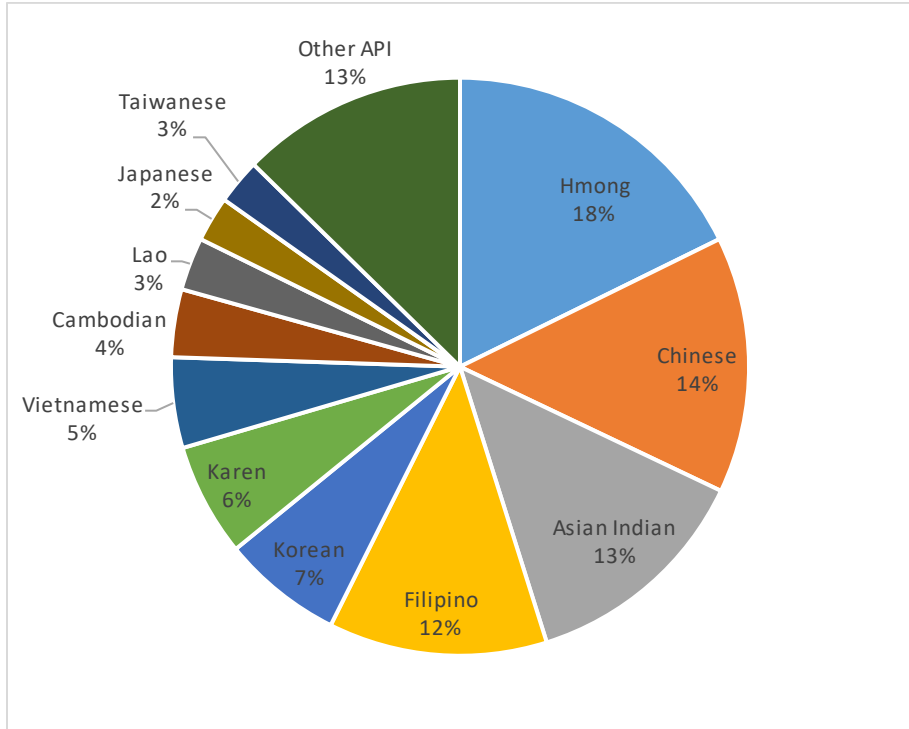
Results

Quantitative Analysis

Survey respondents provided self-identified demographic information for ethnicity (Graph 2) and community role (Graph 3). Additional geographic information was collected for the purpose of participant recruitment. The 10 most frequently identified participant ethnicities were representative of the 10 most populous Asian and Pacific Islander ethnic groups in Minnesota. The largest proportion of respondents were of Hmong, Chinese, Asian Indian, and Filipino ancestry. Of API respondents, 48% identified as being community members, 15% as nonprofit staff, 8% as educators, and 7% as students.

Graph 2. Participant Sample Size, by Ancestry or Ethnic Origin.

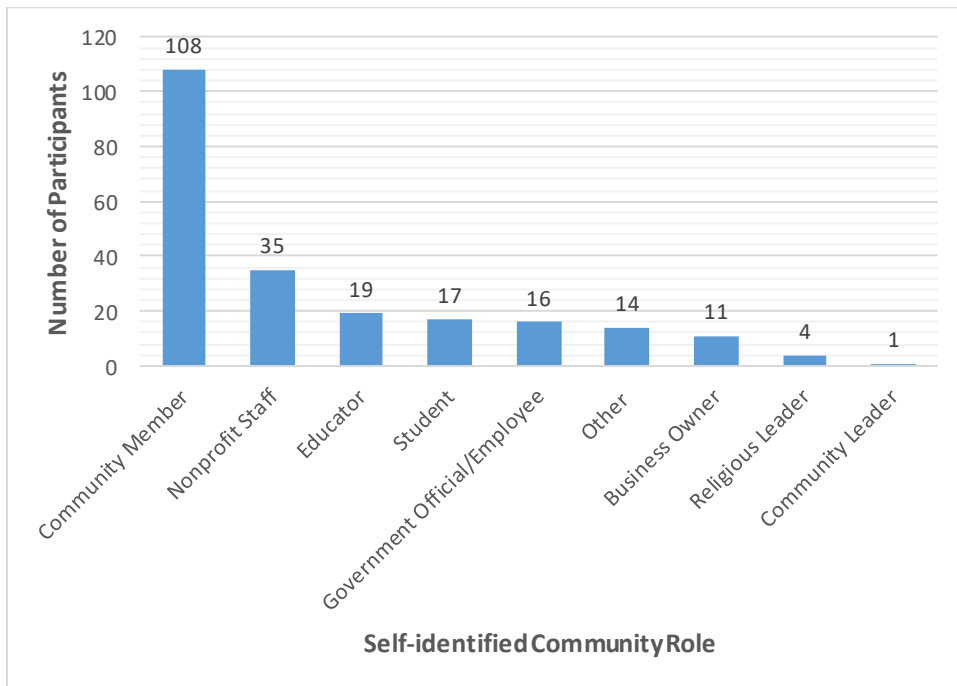
⁵ Strauss, A. and Corbin, L (1990). Basics of Grounded Theory Methods. Beverly Hills, CA: SAGE Publications.



Graph 2: 225 Asian respondents identified as Asian and Pacific Islander. Their percentage of the total response are displayed on the graph as ethnicity, percent respondents.

“Other API” includes participants who identified Afghani (2) Bhutanese (2), Indo-Guyanese (1), Karenni (3), Malaysian (1), Micronesian (2), Mongolian (1), Native Hawaiian (3), Pakistani (3), Samoan (4), Sri Lankan (2), Thai (5), and Tongan (1).

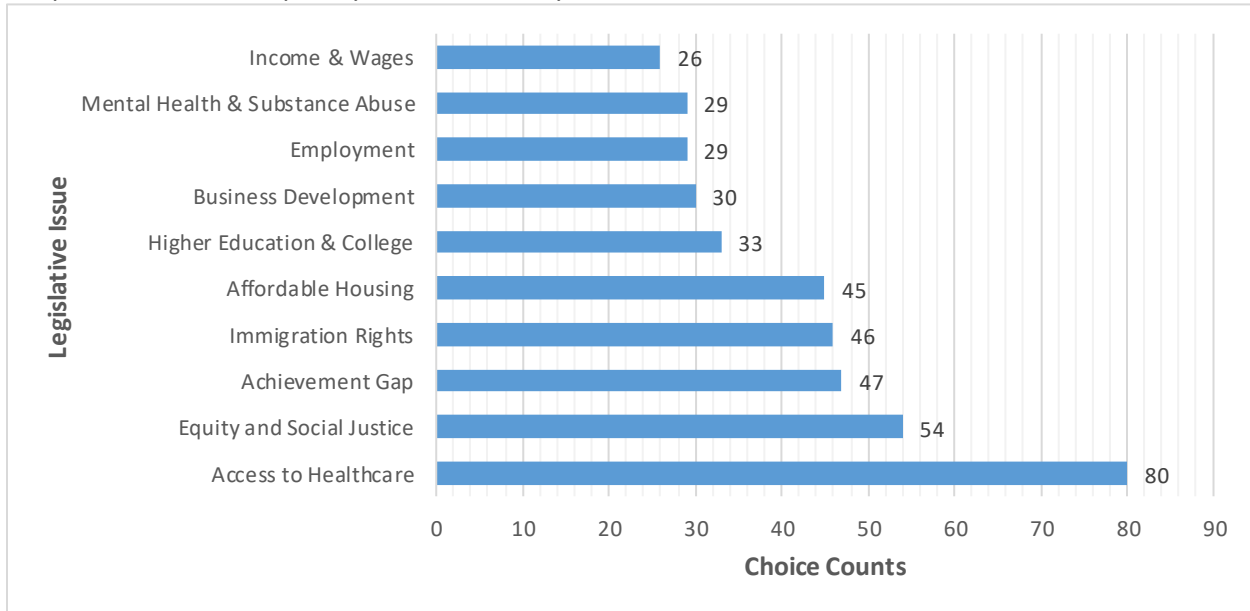
Graph 3. Participant Sample Size, by Community Role.



Respondents were asked to identify their three highest priority issues for themselves or their community from a list of 30 predetermined issue areas (Graph 4). Respondents were also given the option to write in their own issue response if it did not fit into any of the issue areas listed. The five most

frequently selected priority issues were access to healthcare (80), equity and social justice (54), the achievement gap (47), immigration rights (46), and affordable housing (45). Additional high-priority issues identified by respondents were higher education and college, business development, employment, mental health and substance abuse, and income and wages.

Graph 4. Ten Most Frequently Selected Priority Issues.



Qualitative Analysis

Respondents were asked to identify and select priority issues impacting themselves or their community. They were then asked to provide a written response describing which issue is of the most importance to them and how these identified priority issues have impacted their community. For the five most frequently identified issue areas, the detailed open-ended responses were further evaluated for themes that demonstrated why these issues were of greater importance to Asians and Pacific Islanders. Responses were coded under a single major theme per each participant’s written response.

Access to Healthcare

Access to healthcare was identified 80 times by respondents as being one of their top three priority issues. Thirty respondents identified it as a high priority issue and gave a written explanation of their selection. Four major themes emerged from the written responses, including cost and/or affordability, healthcare reform, health coverage, and COVID-19.

Table 2. Access to Healthcare Written Response Themes.

Themes	Quotes
Cost/Affordability (13)	“Health care is too expensive.”

	<p>“It costs me \$200 for a single visit only to be told that my issue is minor or non-existent. I am tight on budget and this feels like gambling. Most of the time, I'd rather not go if it's going to cost me that much to know if I'm in good health.”</p> <p>“People cannot afford their medical bills.”</p>
Healthcare Reform (12)	<p>“Develop appropriate long term strategy and policies to make healthcare affordable and move away from profit motive in healthcare.”</p> <p>“It is a struggle that we are going through as a country and I feel like the healthcare industry is focused on being a ‘big business’ instead of focusing on providing equal and affordable healthcare to all.”</p> <p>“Provide universal healthcare.”</p>
Health Coverage (12)	<p>“Everyone should be covered by healthcare, we need the government to do better to ensure everyone can have health care.”</p> <p>“Healthcare is a basic human right.”</p> <p>“...many people are still uninsured, and many are not saving for future rising healthcare costs.”</p>
COVID-19 (6)	<p>“We’re in a pandemic and it’s difficult to get testing let alone treatment.”</p> <p>“This is the most important issue during coronavirus. People must have access to their doctors.”</p>

() - indicates the number of times theme was identified.

Equity and Social Justice

Equity and social justice was identified 54 times by respondents as being one of their top three priority issues. Twenty-eight respondents identified it as a high priority issue and provided written explanations of their selection. Three major themes emerged from the written responses, including structural inequities, equity in all policies, and criminal justice reform.

Table 3. Equity and Social Justice Written Response Themes.

Themes	Quotes
Structural Inequities (14)	“No one from our community is representing us. The political process is not transparent or accessible...”
	“Remove systemic racism from our institutions.”
	“As a person of color - it’s important to recognize the gaps and inequities throughout every system...”

Equity in All Policies (11)	“Once equity is addressed, I believe the other issues will be addressed as well.”
	“Creating equity in all spaces will contribute to a fairer way of living for all folks. If we can focus policy to be more inclusive [then] all communities can benefit from it.”
	“...true equity addresses [and] encompasses all of these areas that are lacking...”
Criminal Justice Reform (9)	“Condemn hateful rhetoric and encourage a sense of community and comfort between police and communities of color and also white people.”
	“Defund punitive/retributive systems of justice [and] prioritize resources back into the community.”

() - indicates the number of times theme was identified.

Achievement Gap

The achievement gap was identified 47 times by respondents as being one of their top three priority issues. Nineteen respondents identified it as a high priority issue and gave a written explanation of their selection. Three major themes emerged from the written responses, including future potential, school supports, and funding.

Table 4. Achievement Gap Written Response Themes.

Themes	Quotes
Future Potential (8)	“Education will lead our members to a better future and [make them] productive citizen[s].”
	“Education is the foundation for [a] child's future ... closing the gap will set me [up for] community for success.”
	“Education is an important component as it will help [a] family to get out of poverty.”
School Supports (7)	“Work with educators on the best solutions to provide services to our kids...”
	“More after school program that help tutoring in all class subjects.”
	“Schools should provide more support to students to help them with [their] homework.”
Funding (5)	“Be sure schools are properly funded and that the curriculum is relevant.”

	“Provide funding to support educational programs.”
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() - indicates the number of times theme was identified.

Immigration Rights

Immigration rights was identified 46 times by respondents as being one of their top three priority issues. Twenty-two respondents identified it as a high priority issue and gave a written explanation of their selection. Three major themes emerged from the written responses, including immigration policy reform, deportation, and visa and/or green card program.

Respondents also strongly identified this issue as impacting specific Asian communities. Respondents explicitly identified concerns in the Asian Indian, Cambodian, Hmong, Karen, Filipino, and refugee communities regarding immigration rights.

Table 5. Immigration Rights Written Response Themes.

Themes	Quotes
Immigration Reform (8)	“We need to reform and even deconstruct these structures to provide opportunity and accessibility to immigrants...”
	“Reduce restrictions on immigration laws. Open up more spots for individuals from lower socioeconomic countries, continue support programs while immigrants/refugees are growing, encourage educational support systems.”
Deportation (8)	“We have seen people in the last few months in fear of deportation. I just want to help [my] community not be living in fear.”
	“Immigrants are being detained and deported and this needs to stop. Why is America trying to exclude people from coming to America, from trying to seek a better life for themselves and their family...”
Visa/Green Card Program (6)	“Make the immigration [process] more immigrant friendly and process the backlog applications. Release the unused quota to the countries with a huge backlog.”
	“At this point in time, fees have increased, and no visas are being processed, so family members cannot visit and those here on work visas cannot have them renewed.”

() - indicates the number of times theme was identified.

Affordable Housing

Affordable housing was identified 45 times by respondents as being one of their top three priority issues. Fourteen respondents identified it as a high priority issue and gave a written explanation of their selection. Two major themes emerged from the written responses, including rental housing and

homelessness. A small number of respondents also cited specific geographic inequities in their community.

Table 6. Affordable Housing Written Response Themes.

Themes	Quotes
Rental Housing (5)	“There was a shortage of apartments, and I was not in a position to be able to buy a house. Of the apartments available, none of them were within my budget...all my income is going towards rent.”
	“Order and practice fair housing rentals.”
Homelessness (3)	“Our community is at the brink of eviction, foreclosure and homelessness. Our elders are left to fend for themselves.”
	“...We are faced with many families and individuals who are homeless...”

() - indicates the number of times theme was identified.

Conclusion

Based on the findings of this report, the five most frequently identified issues for the Asian and Pacific Islander population were access to healthcare, equity and social justice, the achievement gap, immigration rights, and affordable housing. The qualitative analysis of written responses highlighted that structural changes and policy reform were important to addressing the top priority issues for the Asian Pacific Minnesotan community. Participants rarely differentiated between local, state, and federal governments in their written responses. The specific issue areas of immigration rights and affordable housing were closely associated with specific community identifiers, including ethnic group and geographic location. Potential further research should be conducted exploring differences in issue priorities between ethnicities and/or geographic communities.

The limitations of this study were the small sample size relative to the total population of Asian and Pacific Islanders in Minnesota, language barriers for survey respondents, and the usage of convenience sampling. In addition, the 2021 Legislative Priorities Survey was conducted entirely online, due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, whereas previous versions of this survey were conducted both online and in person. Given the limited educational attainment and access to technology in subpopulations of the Asian Pacific Minnesotan community, future studies should prioritize in-person data collection.

Selection Criteria: Budget Period - 2021, Fund - 1000 to 6000, DeptID - G9N000000 to G9NZZZZZ, AppropID - G9N0000 to G9NZZZZZ

Break On: Budget Period, Fund, DeptID, AppropID

Budget Period: 2021	Fund: 1000 General	DeptID: G9N31000 Asian-Pacific Council	AppropID: G9N1100 Council on Asian Pacific MN
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Remaining Payroll Projection	Full-Time (41000): \$148,696.73	Part-Time (41030): \$0.00	Total: \$148,696.73
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Account Class and Description	Current Budget	Pre-Encumbered	Encumbered/Committed	Expended	Unobligated	Unexpended
41000 Full Time - Salary	389,000.00	0.00	145,291.99	243,708.01	0.00	145,291.99
41030 Part-Time-Seasonal-Labor Serv	24,000.00	0.00	6,004.97	17,995.03	0.00	6,004.97
41050 Overtime and Premium Pay	10,000.00	0.00	7,309.74	2,690.26	0.00	7,309.74
41070 Other Employee Cost	4,000.00	0.00	3,741.00	259.00	0.00	3,741.00
41100 Space Rental And Utilities	24,000.00	0.00	7,223.60	14,538.56	2,237.84	9,461.44
41110 Printing And Advertising	8,000.00	0.00	312.84	0.00	7,687.16	8,000.00
41130 Prof-Tech Serv-Outside Vend	26,000.00	0.00	14,675.75	10,706.75	617.50	15,293.25
41155 Communications	2,000.00	0.00	377.85	322.15	1,300.00	1,677.85
41160 Trav-Sub-InState-Border Comm	2,500.00	0.00	1,450.00	0.00	1,050.00	2,500.00
41170 Trav/Sub-OutOfState-BorderComm	2,500.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,500.00	2,500.00
41180 Employee Development	2,000.00	0.00	0.00	187.50	1,812.50	1,812.50
41190 State Agcy-Prov Prof-Tech Serv	2,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
41196 Rate-Based MNIT Services	14,500.00	0.00	5,176.39	9,323.61	0.00	5,176.39
41197 Agency-Specific MNIT Services	3,000.00	0.00	1,069.79	1,930.21	0.00	1,069.79
41300 Supplies	6,500.00	0.00	4,112.15	1,958.52	429.33	4,541.48
41400 Equipment	4,000.00	0.00	798.44	2,977.19	224.37	1,022.81
41500 Repairs To Equip & Furn	2,000.00	0.00	1,025.62	53.13	921.25	1,946.87
42010 Statewide Indirect Costs	2,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
43000 Other Operating Costs	24,993.74	0.00	4,131.00	419.00	20,443.74	24,574.74
47160 Equipment-Non Capital	2,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
Total	554,993.74	0.00	202,701.13	307,068.92	45,223.69	247,924.82
Report Total	554,993.74	0.00	202,701.13	307,068.92	45,223.69	247,924.82

2021-2022 Biennial Legislative Agenda

Pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 15.0145, the Council on Asian Pacific Minnesotans is a state agency created to advise the Legislature and the Governor on issues of importance to Asian Pacific Minnesotans, advocate on behalf of this community on these issues, and serve as a broker between the Asian Pacific community and the rest of Minnesota.

Priority Issues*

The Council will actively track and pursue legislation in the following areas:

- Healthcare access
- Equity and social justice
- Achievement gap
- Immigration rights
- Affordable housing

Ongoing Positions

The Council, in addition to its annual legislative priorities derived from community input, will actively advocate for legislation that achieves the following:

- Programs and services that are respectful of and responsive to the linguistically and culturally diverse communities of Minnesota, including Asian Pacific Minnesotans.
- Collection of disaggregated data to better inform policy making on issues of importance to Asian Pacific Minnesotans.
- Increased understanding of violence against Minnesota's Asian Pacific women and children.

*These issues were self-identified as high priority in the 2021 Legislative Priorities Survey.

Board Approved on February 4, 2021