
2026 Legislative Session

Biennial Legislative Agenda and Legislative Proposals Tracking Sheet

Purpose: To track and organize legislative proposals introduced during the session in a manner that reflects the Council’s legislative priorities and work at the Capitol on behalf of Asian Pacific Minnesotans.

Understanding the tracking sheet: The tracking sheet is a simple-to-understand resource for community members interested in the Council’s policy advocacy work before and during the legislative session each year. The tracking sheet reflects legislative proposals the Council has determined are priorities.

The Council’s work on priority bills is organized as follows:

- **Tier 1:** Highest-priority bills. These bills address the priority issues identified in the Council’s biennial legislative agenda, or the Council’s budget or enabling statute. This category of bills includes those with the potential to directly negatively or positively impact Asian Pacific Minnesotans and have a significant chance of passing.

Council actions include the following: meeting with legislators and committee staff, mobilizing community to testify or submit letters, coordinating with the other ethnic councils, testifying in committee, submitting written testimony, drafting amendment language for consideration, and attending committee hearings/meetings as necessary.

- **Tier 2:** Medium-priority bills. These bills address emerging issues of importance to Asian Pacific Minnesotans, or topics of major debate at the Legislature. This category of bills includes those with a lower chance of passing than bills in Tier 1.

Council actions include the following: testifying in committee, submitting formal letters in support or in opposition, providing technical support to community, consulting with the other ethnic councils and executive branch agencies, and attending committee hearings/meetings as necessary.

- **Tier 3:** Lower-priority bills. These bills do not address issues identified in the Council’s biennial legislative agenda but may be bills introduced with the technical support of the Council.



Council actions include the following: providing technical assistance to community, following developing issues as reported by various communication channels, and attending committee hearings/meetings as necessary.

The Council's work during the legislative session goes beyond what happens at the Capitol. For more information, please communicate directly with Council staff.

2025-2026 Biennial Legislative Agenda

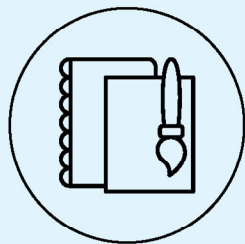
Pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 15.0145, the Council on Asian Pacific Minnesotans is a state agency created to advise the Legislature and the Governor on issues of importance to Asian Pacific Minnesotans, advocate on behalf of this community on these issues, and serve as a bridge between state government and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

Priority Issues*

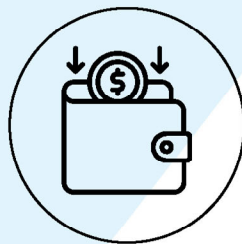
The Council will actively track and pursue legislation in the following areas:



**ACCESS TO
HEALTHCARE**



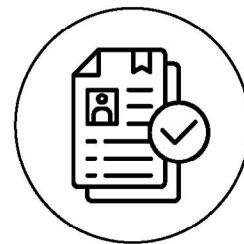
**ARTS, CULTURE,
AND HERITAGE**



INCOME/WAGES



**HOME
OWNERSHIP**



EMPLOYMENT

Ongoing Positions

In addition to the above legislative priorities derived from community input, the Council 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 policymaking on issues of importance to Asian Pacific Minnesotans.
- Increased understanding of violence against Minnesota's Asian Pacific women and children.

*These issues were identified as high priorities by participants of the 2024 Legislative Priorities Survey.

Approved by the Board on November 20, 2024

2025-2026 Biennial Legislative Agenda

Each even number year of the biennium, the Council deploys a biennial survey to identify and understand the most pressing issues in our communities across the state. In continuing methods first implemented during the pandemic, we deployed the survey using a hybrid online and in-person model to capture a wide range of feedback from our diverse APM communities. In recognizing that communities experience unique barriers, the Council partnered with our nonprofit organizations to disseminate the survey via online through social media channels, email distribution lists, and community events. The results of this survey help to inform the Council's legislative work over the coming biennium.

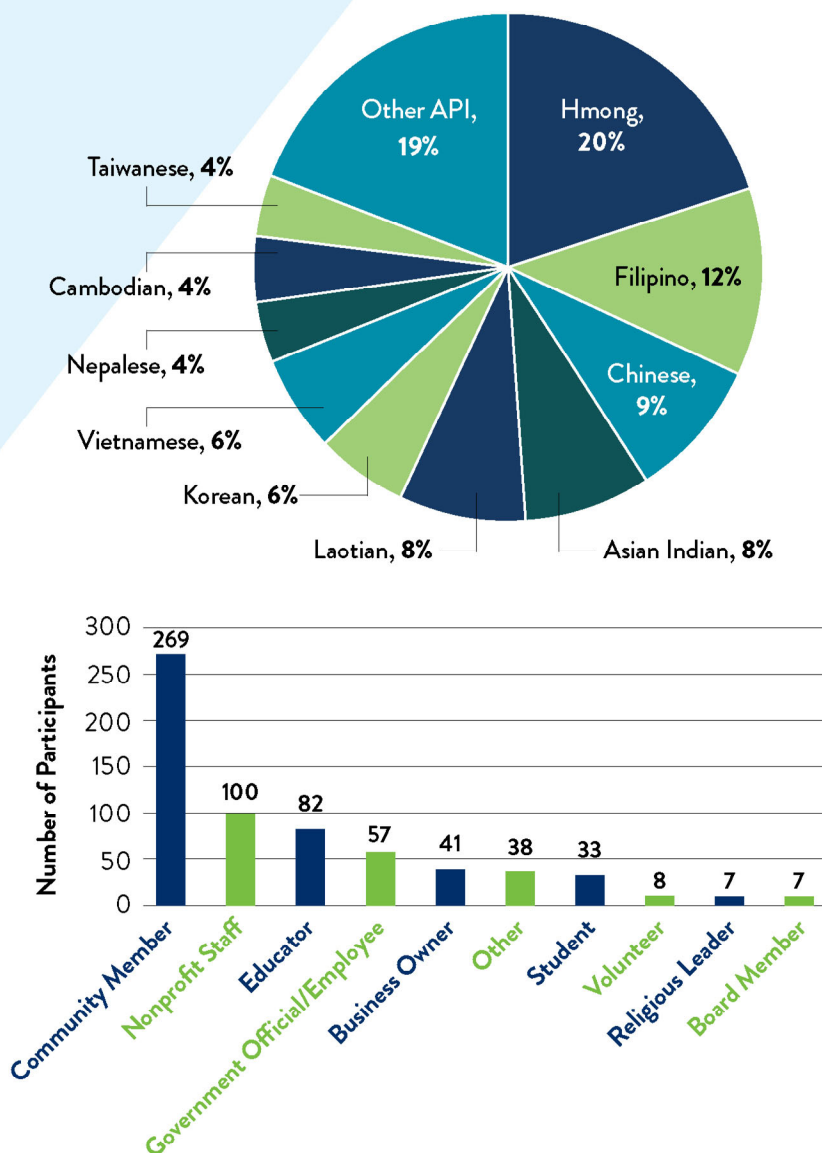
○ **SURVEY OPENED JULY 15**

● **SURVEY CLOSED OCTOBER 31**

✓ **SURVEY SAMPLE**

Five-hundred and eighty 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 as Karen (22), Tibetan (17), Japanese (14), Karenni (13), Afghan (13), Native Hawaiian (11), Thai (10), Indonesian (6), Pakistani (3), Samoan (3), Malaysian (3), Burmese (2), Sri Lankan (1), Guamanian/Chamorro (1), Bangladeshi (1), Indo-Guyanese (1), and Singaporean (1).



Tier 1 Bills

Priority	Senate	Senate Author	House File	House Author	Bill Description	Council Position and Rationale	Current Status - Senate	Current Status - House	Actions Taken	Final Outcome
1	NA	NA	3168	Rep. Hudson	Appointment of Alternate members to ethnic council board	Opposed due to logistical and administrative concerns over appointment requirements and managing board meetings	Not introduced	Heard in State Gov and laid over	Testified on concerns in Committee, coordinated with other ethnic councils	Did not pass
1	4075	Sen. Pha	3919	Rep. Cha	SGU and Irregular Forces Veterans Benefits	Support due to inclusive language with Lao and others and need to enact quickly to ensure elder veterans receive	Passed	Passed	Testified in House and Senate, mobilized community testimony	Passed
1	3695	Sen. Port	3480	Rep. Howard	Study on economic impact of Operation Metro Surge	Support due to impact on businesses in community	Referred to Finance	Referred to State Government	Direct communication with chambers of commerce to support community testimony and letters, cooperation with other ethnic councils	Did not pass
1	4535	Sen. Champion	4477	Rep. Frazier	\$100M in business relief from Metro Surge - DFL Legislative proposal	Will support, with communication to chambers	Passed	Hearing in House Workforce, Labor, and Economic Development Finance and Policy, did not pass	Direct communication with chambers of commerce to support community testimony and letters, cooperation with other ethnic councils	Did not pass
1	see 3664	Sen. Champion	see 3732	Rep. Pinto	\$10M in small business relief from Metro Surge - Governor's proposal	Will support, with communication to chambers	Not included in Senate omnibus Jobs bill in favor of standalone Sen. Champion bill	Not included in House Jobs bill	Direct communication with chambers of commerce to support community testimony and letters, cooperation with other ethnic councils	Did not pass
1	4176	Sen. Fateh	3924	Rep. Feist	"Star Act" to prohibit cooperation between federal and local governments, including law enforcement	No direct position taken	Re-referred to Judiciary and Public Safety Committee	Referred to House Judiciary Finance and Civil Law	Technical support and advice provided to supporting coalition and supporters	Did not pass
1	3664	Sen. Champion	3732	Rep. Pinto	Omnibus Jobs Bill	Supportive of loan business relief and direct appropriation to CBOs	Laid over in Finance	Passed House, 98-35	Tracking and communicating components to chambers and coordinating with ethnic councils	No vote in Senate, not passed
1	4612	Sen. Wiklund	4466	Rep. Bierman	Omnibus Health and Human Services Bill	Supportive of stabilization fund for hospitals and aid to HCMC	Passed	Passed	Included in direct outreach and communications and as an item in the Council's end of session letter to leadership	Passed

Tier 2 Bills

Priority	Senate	Senate Author	House File	House	Bill Description	Council Position and Rationale	Current Status - Senate	Current Status - House	Actions Taken	Final Outcome
2	3596	Sen. Port	3403	Rep. Kozlowski	\$40M onetime emergency rental assistance	Support as response to Metro Surge	Passed	Heard twice in Housing Finance, no movement	Discussed with community leaders as part of potential state response to Metro Surge	Passed
2	3842	Sen. Oumou-Verbeten	3413	Rep. Hollins	Prohibit agreements by local, county, and state government with immigration enforcement	No direct position on sanctuary bills	Referred to Judiciary	Public Safety hearing on March 3rd	Attended hearing	Did not pass
2	3616	Sen. Maye-Quade	3415	Rep. Sencer-Mura	Requires immigrations enforcement to stay away from child care centers	Support as response to Metro Surge	Re-referred to Judiciary and Public Safety	Referred to Children and Families Finance and Policy	Attended hearing	Did not pass
2	3611	Sen. Kunesh	3435	Rep. Jordan	Require immigration enforcement to stay away from school grounds	Support as response to Metro Surge	Amended and referred to Judiciary	Motion made on the House Floor to recall bill from Committee on Education Policy and be given its second reading and placed on the General Register. Motion did not prevail.	Attended hearing	Did not pass
2	4242	Sen. Mann	4184	Rep. Mahamoud	Limit federal immigration access to health facilities	Support as response to Metro Surge	Re-referred to Judiciary and Public Safety	Referred to Health Finance and Policy	Attended Senate hearing	Did not pass
2	3660	Sen. Latz	3405	Rep. Moller	Require BCA investigation of federal agent shootings	No direct position	Amended by Judiciary, laid over	Rep. Long made a motion on the House Floor to recall this bill from the Committee on Public Safety Finance and Policy, be given its second and third readings and be placed upon its final passage. This motion did not prevail.	Attended hearing, monitoring	Did not pass
2	3901	Sen. Champion	3753	Rep. Bakeburg	School threat assessment pilot	Support for school safety	Re-referred to Finance	Referred to Public Safety	Letter submitted in support, unable to attend committee	Did not pass
2	1978	Sen. Rarick	1323	Rep. Schultz	Ineligibility for undocumented person for state financial assistance	No direct position, discussion ongoing with other councils and crafting Board statement	Referred to Higher Education	Heard in House Higher Education	Followed Committee hearing, and attended Committee hearings	Did not pass
2	4531	Sen. Wiklund	4619	Rep. Bierman	School-linked and family peer specialist mental health grants	Support as part of long-standing school mental health concerns	Passed as part of Omnibus HHS bill	Passed as part of Omnibus HHS bill	Attended hearing, supported in end of session letter	Passed

Tier 3 Bills

Priority	Senate	Senate Author	House File	House Author	Bill Description	Council Position and Rationale	Current Status - Senate	Current Status - House	Actions Taken	Final Outcome
3	4004	Sen. Pha	3887	Rep. Xp Lee	Appropriation for Lao Culture Dance Fashion MN	Monitoring, Council policy is to not take a position on direct appropriations to individual organizations	Referred to Legacy	Referred to Legacy	In conversation, monitored for hearing/Legacy bill	Did not pass
3	4005	Sen. Pha	3888	Rep. Xp Lee	Appropriation for Cambodian American Partnership of MN	Monitoring, Council policy is to not take a position on direct appropriations to individual organizations	Referred to Legacy	Referred to Legacy	In conversation, monitored for hearing/Legacy bill	Did not pass
3	4115	Sen. Limmer	4098	Rep. Robbins	Hinduphobia resolution	No direct position on resolution, providing technical advice and assistance	Referred to Rules and Administration	Referred to Rules and Legislative Administration Committee	Consulted with South Asian community leaders on request to draft bill (2025), Met with Revisor to develop initial draft (2025), Discussed authorship with Rep. Robbins (2025), Convened follow-up meeting with Revisor on community suggestions (December 5, 2025)	Did not pass
3	1120	Sen. Maye-Quade	103	Rep. Feist	Use of reverse location information prohibited by government entities	No direct position taken in 2025, including now in post-Metro Surge	Heard in Judiciary in 2026	Re-referred to Public Safety Finance and Policy	Monitoring	Did not pass
3	4741	Sen. Klein	4650	Rep. Bahner	IAM anti-Hinduphobia bill	No direct Council position, but provided extensive technical support and advice	Referred to State Government	Referred to State Government	Providing extensive technical support, including advise on language, scheduling meetings	Did not pass
3	3629	Sen. Fateh	3414	Rep. Long	Give citizens ability to defend civil rights in court	No direct position	Referred to State Government	Heard in Judiciary	Monitoring, communicating	Did not pass
3	3417	Sen. Pha	3248	Rep. Liz Lee	SEWA-AIFW Appropriation	Discussed with SEWA leadership, Council policy is to not take a position on direct appropriations to individual	Scheduled to be heard in Jobs March 16	Referred to Workforce	Discussed with SEWA leadership and Sen. Pha, attended	Did not pass
3	2455	Sen. Putnam	2215	Rep. Hollins	Lifeline low cost auto insurance program	Expressed support to coalition	No hearing in 2026	No hearing in 2026	Discussed support with coalition, not a priority	Did not pass
3	856	Sen. Gustafson	1338	Rep. Norris	Office of Inspector General	Support to prevent misuse of state funds and to provide confidence to community members in accepting state funding	Passed	Passed	Attended hearings, included in communications and discussions with community on fraud prevention, included in end of session letter	Passed
3	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Expansion of Japanese Language Education	Discussed with advocate	Not introduced	Not introduced	Discussion on content and provided technical advice to advocates	Not introduced
3	3290	Sen. Latz	2879	Rep. Witte	Advisory Board Established on organzined retail and supply chain crimes	Technical assistance provided	Heard in Public Safety Committee	Heard in Judiciary and Public Safety Committee	Provided input on the Council's potential role in offering advice	Not passed
3	4736	Sen. Pha	4734	Rep. Lee, X.	Establishment of Hmong Heritage Week	Followed introduction, did not take direct position	Referred to State Government. No hearing	Heard in State Government	Followed	Not passed
3	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Minnesota Youth Civic Recognition Act	Met with youth advocate to provide technical assistance on their proposal, including next steps and suggested revisions to language	Not introduced	Not introduced	Discussion on content and provided technical advice to advocates	Not introduced
3	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	BIPOC Farmers/Urban Farming	Met with advocate on next legislative steps, including what legislators to reach out to in seeking a bill introduction	Not introduced	Not introduced	Discussion on content and provided technical advice to advocates	Not introduced