we envision a future where all people feel bold in their belonging.

Asian Texans for Justice (ATJ) was founded to be a voice for our state’s diverse Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) community — to claim our space and inspire Texas to invest in our stories. We envision a future where all people feel bold in their belonging. We connect Asian and Pacific Islander Texans with civic action to build personal and political power.

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Message from the Interim Executive Director

When we first dreamt of creating an organization like Asian Texans for Justice, we couldn’t have imagined what a wild ride our first year would be. We were confident that we would receive support from the Asian American and Pacific Islander communities across Texas — but we have been overwhelmed by the support and encouragement of the broader community across the state and the country. Without a doubt, 2022 was a pivotal year for AAPIs and the state of Texas and we are so grateful to have had the opportunity to work alongside this amazing community.

Starting with the March primary, we were full steam ahead in energizing, educating, and mobilizing AAPI voters. Efforts such as text banks, mailers, canvassing, digital ads, traditional in-language media, and social media influencer campaigns were incredibly successful in engaging with AAPI voters. Then in November, we expanded beyond these programs by launching a direct voter contact subgrant program that provided nearly $20,000 to nonprofit organizations across the state, launched an AAPI Voter Guide in four languages, and phone banked tens of thousands of people to get out the vote.

One of the programs I am most proud of is our work with youth this past year. Over the summer, we hosted six Civic Engagement fellows from across Texas who had the opportunity to learn from community leaders and elected officials, ideate and design their own projects, and ultimately execute the project in their respective community. In the fall, we partnered with the National Partnership for New Americans’ (NPNA) The New American Youth Leadership Council (NAYLC) program and hosted four immigrant and refugee youth fellows. Aside from getting to meet and learn with other youth across the nation, they had the opportunity to attend the National Immigrant Inclusion Conference, a convening of leaders from across the country.

Working tirelessly in 2022, we produced the first ever statewide AAPI polling report: “The Deciding Margin: How AAPI Voters Will Shape the Future of Texas”. This report is a critical tool in helping leaders in Texas better understand how to serve the diverse population of AAPIs. We built the Learn Our Stories coalition and advocated fiercely for the inclusion of Asian American history in Texas public schools. We traveled to both coasts to join national convenings, conferences, and rallies - even making a stop at the White House to talk about voting rights and hate crime prevention.

As we reflect on what a year 2022 was, we are hopeful and optimistic for the years ahead. As the fastest growing racial group in the state, AAPIs are a powerful and important part of what makes Texas great. We are excited to continue the work alongside community organizations, leaders, and advocates to connect AAPI Texans to meaningful civic action to build personal and political power.

Lily Trieu
INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Asian Texans For Justice

Connect with us
www.AsianTexansForJustice.org
info@AsianTexansforJustice.org
/asiantexansforjustice
/asiantexansforjustice
/asiantexans
Civic Engagement
Primary Elections | General Elections | Total Digital Impressions

From identifying priority policy areas, to enacting statewide campaigns, and creating advocacy tool development, we invest in AAPI civic engagement from organizing, voter engagement to issue-based advocacy.

2022 PRIMARY

over

57k
AAPI voters contacted

over

2.6k
doors canvassed

over

3m
digital impressions

sent

7.3k
Vietnamese mailers

2022 GENERAL

nearly

190k
AAPI voters contacted

created

3
in-language AAPI print ads

over

4.4m
digital impressions

over

100k
mailers sent

With national partners, ATJ lead the largest AAPI turnout investment in Texas history during the 2022 Primary election, where we ran a statewide phone and text bank to over 57,000 AAPI Texans, canvassing more than 2,600 doors in Central Texas, accrued over 3 million digital ad impressions, executed an influencer social media campaign, and sent 7,300 Vietnamese language mailers to inform Dallas and Tarrant County voters of Vietnamese language ballot access.

In the 2022 midterm general elections, ATJ surpassed over 4.4 million online impressions, sent out over 100,000 mailers, created traditional newspaper in-language ads in 3 major AAPI languages, and contacted nearly 190,000 voters through phone and textbanks. In addition to direct GOTV outreach, ATJ created the first statewide AAPI Texas Voter Guides with English, Chinese, Korean and Vietnamese accessibility to increase voter education and prepare voters with the information they need to participate.

OUR INFLUENCER CAMPAIGN
Leadership Development

Civic Engagement Fellows
SUMMER 2022

Over the summer, ATJ hosted six fellows from all across Texas to participate in our inaugural Civic Engagement fellowship program. Our 2022 Cohort self-identified as: 50% South Asian, 33.3% mixed Asian ethnicity and 16.6% Southeast Asian and geographically represents: Austin, Irving/DFW, San Antonio and Sugar Land/Houston areas. Over the course of ten weeks, our fellows participated in our skill-building AAPI organizing program for a historically accurate, inclusive education curriculum for all Texas students. Our fellows developed their own organizing event centered around the implementation of Asian American Studies into the Texas education system.

Our youth leaders had the opportunity to testify at the State Board of Education hearing on the proposed drafts of the curriculum. Traveling from across the state, our fellows were able to provide testimony, meet with other students, educators and advocates for Asian American studies implementation and accomplish parts of their overall final project.

2022 COHORT IDENTITIES

50% South Asian
33% Mixed Asian
16% Southeast Asian

NAYLC Fellows
FALL 2022

In 2022, ATJ participated in the New American Youth Leadership Council (NAYLC) with the National Partnership for New Americans (NPNA). NAYLC is an immigrant and refugee youth leadership initiative that is geared towards engaging youth ages 15-20 to grow and hone the next generation of leaders through an intersectional organizing, civic engagement, leadership development, higher education and career readiness training program.

Asian Texans for Justice is a partner of NAYLC, hosting three fellows in the 2022 cohort, from across Texas. ATJ has also assisted in several curriculum sessions targeting civic engagement and the electoral process. The six-unit curriculum took place through virtual classes and convened in-person for a NAYLC Youth Gathering the National Immigrant Inclusion Conference in December at National Harbor, MD.
State Board of Education

Asian Texans for Justice mobilized dozens of students, educators, and community members to demand that the Texas State Board of Education (SBOE) incorporate Asian American history into the general K-12 social studies curriculum and initiate the process of creating an Asian American Studies high school elective course. As Asian Americans are the fastest-growing racial group in the United States and Texas, ATJ and its community found that accurate representation in the curriculum is necessary for students’ development and building good citizenship.

On August 1, 2022, ATJ partnered with various organizations to testify to the SBOE — filling the meeting room with AAPIs. Despite the great turnout, the SBOE ultimately decided to delay its process to restructure the general K-12 social studies curriculum to 2025 and allow for an Asian American Studies pilot program. While ATJ did not receive immediate gratification, the community’s efforts did not go ignored.

Advocacy

White House Meeting

In June, Asian Texans for Justice were invited by Erika Moritsugu, Deputy Assistant to the President and Asian American and Pacific Islander Senior Liaison, to discuss our work in Texas and pro-AAPI policy initiatives ATJ is working on. During the meeting the team covered protecting voting rights, preventing anti-Asian hate crimes, and incorporating Asian American studies in Texas’ history curriculum.

THE State Board of Education

is the governing body responsible for setting policies and standards for the Texas public schools and managing distribution of the permanent school fund.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW & IMPACT | ASIAN TEXANS FOR JUSTICE
Coalition Building
Sponsorships & Partnerships

Over the past year, ATJ had the opportunity to partner with amazing organizations and sponsor impactful projects across Texas to create a better state for AAPIs.

| Amplify Asian | napawf | Asian American Resource Center | Hogg Foundation for Mental Health | AFSSA
| --- | --- | --- | --- | ---
| 7th Asian American Education Forum | Asian American Historical Society | Asian American Voices for Education | Asian Center | Texas A&M
| Asian American Studies | children's defense fund texas | IDRA | Immigrant History Initiative | Junto
| VOTA | TSTA/NEA | Texas Advocates | SAWTEXRF
| Texas Freedom Network | Texas AFT | The Sikh Coalition |  | 8
Coalition Building
Learn Our Stories

The Learn Our Stories coalition and movement believe that Asian Americans are an integral part of the American story — past, present, and future.

Asian American stories, experiences, and identities are inherently American and should be included in our student’s education and curriculum. We believe that inclusive, historically accurate stories and experiences of diverse Texans and Americans will create a better education system for all. In partnership with OCA-Greater Houston, ATJ convened the Learn Our Stories coalition of over 17 organizations who are committed to advocating for more inclusive and representative history in Texas curriculum.
Coalition Building
Dallas—Ft. Worth Community Happy Hour

With amazing AAPI-serving organizations and leaders across the state, ATJ was thrilled to host our first ever Dallas-Ft. Worth community happy hour in April. Dozens of people representing various organizations and communities gathered for food, community building, and learned about how we can uplift one another. Events like these have been a critical part in ATJ’s coalition building efforts and demonstrates the importance of sharing best practices, resources, and working together for a better future for all AAPI Texans.
The Deciding Margin: How AAPI Voters Will Shape the Future of Texas

While many organizations have shed light on AAPI voters on the national level or in other states, these questions went unanswered in Texas until now. Recognizing the potential power of AAPI voters – the fastest-growing electorate in the country – Asian Texans for Justice (ATJ) commissioned “The Deciding Margin”, the first of its kind from a Texas-based AAPI organization, designed to better understand AAPI voters’ political views, policy preferences, age and ethnic composition, and geographic concentration densities. Given the size of the Texas AAPI population as the third highest nationally, this report is also an opportunity to elevate the profile of AAPI voters across the United States. AAPI voters can move from being sidelined on the margins to being the deciding margin for the future of Texas politics and policy.

The purpose of this report is to provide insights from that poll to better inform political candidates, policymakers, organizers, media sources, and the general public about AAPI voters and the importance they play in Texas policy and politics. The data are clear: AAPI voters in Texas are diverse, younger than the general population, dissatisfied with their current representation, and motivated to vote.

Our Data Yielded 5 Key Findings:

- **64%** The majority (64%) of AAPIs in Texas are highly motivated to vote in the November 2022 midterm elections.
- **20%** Only 20% of AAPI Texans believe AAPIs’ interests are well represented in government now.
- **77% in favor of...** AAPI’s in favor of... legalizing abortion
- **83%** AAPI’s in favor of... gun safety legislation
- **85%** AAPI’s in favor of... voting rights

The most important policy issues to AAPI voters in Texas are economic recovery, inflation and cost of living, education, and voting rights.

AAPI Texans have more in common with other communities of color (Black and Hispanic) than white Texans when it comes to policy issues. For example, the majority of Texans of color (AAPI, Black, and Hispanic) support expanding Medicare and oppose the banning of Critical Race Theory while the opposite is true for white Texans.
Media & Communications

At Asian Texans for Justice, we’re uniquely positioned to be a voice for the Asian American Pacific Islander community in Texas. Over the course of 2022, we organized and raised awareness of statewide and local issues including fighting hate crimes, demanding fair districts, teaching our history, and encouraging Asian American voters to turn out in the midterms. Our work was covered in publications like the Dallas Morning News, FOX News, Texas Tribune, NBC News, and more. Our team also published a number of opinion editorials and were invited to give expert commentary on podcasts.

Through this media work, our team is able to craft narratives and shift perspectives. We’re able to reach new communities and create energy and action. As we pivot to the 2023 legislative session, the audiences we’ve engaged throughout 2022 will provide support and allies as we push for policies that improve the lives of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders across the state.

“Asian Americans are not a monolith.”
New York Daily News | April 17, 2022

Asian Americans had the highest rate of mail-in voting in 2020; New laws could block that progress
NBC News | October 27, 2022

When Texas students campaigned for a more diverse history course, they got a lesson in politics
The Texas Tribune | September 22, 2022

Minority Rule: How 3 percent of Texans call the shots for the rest of us
Texas Monthly | November 1, 2022

Scan here to see more of ATJ in the news:
Thank you to our wonderful partners and donors.

We are grateful to all our partners who have generously supported ATJ’s mission to make a future where all people feel bold in their belonging a reality.