

Andrew Yang: Helping Biden win could be Asian American 'political awakening'

"We get out in force and help Joe and Kamala win, this could be the major political awakening that Asian Americans have been waiting for a generation or more," Yang said.
Image: U.S. Democratic presidential contenders attend a party dinner
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By Kimmy Yam

Former Democratic presidential candidate Andrew Yang says that the November election could prove a pivotal moment for Asian Americans if they turn out to the polls.

During a fundraiser Monday hosted by the Asian Americans Against Trump project, Yang said on a panel of prominent Asian Americans that the racial group could experience a "major political awakening."

"We get out in force and help Joe and Kamala win, this could be the major political awakening that Asian Americans have been waiting for a generation or more," he said.

The event, which included other leaders in the Asian American community including the author Min Jin Lee, the actor Daniel Dae Kim,

and former member of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors Jane Kim among others, raised roughly \$115,000 to go toward Asian language voter outreach in swing states. Yang said during the fundraiser that the rising anti-Asian bias incidents, catalyzed by the Covid-19 pandemic has thrust many Asian Americans into political par-

ticipation. He also advocated for Asian Americans to take proactive measures in carving out a place in the U.S., describing actions like civic engagement as a "nonchoice."

"If we allow the narratives to be constructed for us, we'll never realize our place in this country and our potential, not just as communities, but as families, as people that want something better for our kids," he said.

The former presidential candidate challenged Asian Americans "to roll our sleeves up and do things we have not done as a community as high of a level as, frankly, people in other communities," he said.

"Asian Americans have not voted, have not donated, have not volunteered, have not run for office as high a level as people from other com-

munities," Yang said.

Paul Ong, a research professor at the UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs, told NBC Asian America that while he doesn't believe that mobilizing around any one candidate will lead to a political awakening for the racial group, he said

that more people in the community are being exposed to the reality that Asian Americans aren't protected from being racially targeted. The surging unemployment and discrimination the group is confronting amid the on going pandemic are glaring examples.

How Andrew Yang is Getting Involved in a State Senate Race

By Nick Reisman New York State PUBLISHED 5:24 AM ET Sep. 30, 2020

Former presidential candidate Andrew Yang is set to appear at a virtual fundraising event Wednesday for Rochester-area state Senate candidate Jeremy Cooney.

Yang, a New York businessman, is a native of upstate Schenectady who launched a presidential campaign an unknown, but sparked a sizeable Internet following along the way.

The Cooney fundraiser is the first time Yang is becoming involved in a state Senate race since dropping his presidential bid earlier this year.

"Jeremy was born in an Indian orphanage before he was adopted by a courageous single mother from Rochester," Yang said in a statement.

"After losing his mother to dementia and brain cancer, Jeremy devoted his career to serving the community that helped raise him. He's a lawyer and activist who has worked in government service trying to make the right policies a reality. Jeremy has pledged to back Universal Basic Income on the state-level. This is critical as we continue to main-

stream our movement at all levels of government. Jeremy is just the kind of champion we need in Albany and a great guy."

Cooney is running for the state Senate for the second time. This year it is an open one amid the retirement of Republican Sen. Joe Robach in a district Democrats had long hoped to flip



楊安澤(Andrew Yang)總統候選人帶領亞裔美國人將扮演四兩撥千斤的邊際效用



紅線?藍線?黃線?我們走哪條地鐵線路呢? 2018年的除夕,我和楊安澤(Andrew Yang)在紐約地鐵的迷宮隧道中徘徊。儘管我們仍未找到到達我們目的地的正確路線,但競選活動的身份已經確定:我們將沿著亞裔美國人的道路前進。

競選早期,預測競選活動的成功甚至比試圖在正確的地鐵車上找到座位更加不確定。我們一邊開玩笑,一邊尋找我們在騷動的列車上的位置。那時我們只能想像,這場不為人知的小規模總統競選活動將對亞裔美國人和太平洋島民(AAPI)選民產生巨大的政治影響,而該群體目前的定位則是為民主黨贏得勝利留下一席之地。

我是2019年1月參加楊安澤競選活動的

第六人。該團隊由競選經理,辦公室經理,政策研究人員和攝影師組成。我決定選擇一個籌款職位,並開始在矽谷城市庫比蒂諾(Cupertino)舉辦了一個活動,該社區我已經很熟悉了。我每週從美國西海岸飛到東海岸,幾乎每兩週組織一次募捐活動,每次籌集的資金從兩千到一萬美元不等。

我為楊安澤的競選活動舉辦的第一個活動至今記憶猶新。我花了幾個小時打電話給我在灣區的500個密友,要求50美元來支持競選活動。儘管我在當地社區工作了近20年,但我仍然無法說服他們參加一場毫無根據的鬧劇,竟然有華人要當美國總統。這些人可以在一塊熟的牛排上花100美元,而50美元對於總統競選來說太浪費了?最終,在我以20美元的折扣降低價格後,活動還算成功。

從銀行存款只有區區五萬多美元開始,我們的競選活動在2019年的2月份就開始以指數形式爆發,並最終超過了1,400萬美元。在獲得更大關注的過程中,楊安澤也成為亞裔美國人社區的國家級別的形象領袖,家喻戶曉,得到了全國許多選民的支持。

作為首位競選總統的亞裔美國人,楊安澤現在已經是美國亞裔社區中最著名的公眾人物之一,展示了亞裔美國人公民政治參與的新高度,並激發了年輕亞裔美國人社區參與政治和社會活動的熱情。他的榜樣今年在全國範圍內影響了許多聯邦和地方選舉。從市議會到學校董事會,從州議會到國會,空前數量的亞洲候選人在競選公職。在矽谷,我收到來自亞裔美國人候選人的電話,短信和電子郵件,要求楊

安澤(Andrew Yang)的背書。

楊安澤競選活動的政治影響和現任總統祖魯的對亞裔的歧視,並公開地將COVID-19稱為“中國病毒”,從兩方面激發了亞裔美國人參與今年的選舉。位於七個搖擺州的亞裔組織正在努力參加選舉,以擠出所有可能的AAPI選民。

楊安澤的新團隊,人類進步(Humanity Forward)通過社交媒體,廣播,短信,電話拜票等等活動構成的“亞裔邊際獲勝計劃”對今年的選舉至關重要。在特朗普於2016年贏得的搖擺州中,亞裔選民有能力貢獻使這些搖擺州變成藍色所需的全部或大量投票保證。賓夕法尼亞州在2016年選舉中的邊際選票為0.7%,即60,707票,費城縣和蒙哥馬利縣合計共有78,775名亞裔選民。佛羅里達州的兩個主要縣的AAPI投票人口為69,285,佔全州1.2%,投票率則只有40%。在密歇根州,亞裔選民以0.3%的狹窄幅度(約23,110票)大大超過了必要的數字 - 僅奧克蘭縣就有31,980名註冊的亞裔

選民達到了投票年齡。楊安澤退出總統競選活動之後,他的團隊正在積極地在亞裔選民社區中促進最後一個月的催票行動。

在今年的民主黨全國委員會(DNC)年度大會上,楊安澤再次傳達給了全國觀眾一個信號:亞裔不再沈睡了。儘管DNC最初忽略了他的演講者身份,但公眾和政治盟友的反對聲如劉雲平議員(Ted Lieu)代表成功推動了DNC議程的變革。楊安澤的支持者不僅最終會看到他們的身份反映在民主黨的領導人中,楊安澤的支持者(其中許多人本身就是亞裔美國人)最終將不僅會看到他們的身份在政治生活中體現出來,而且還將有能力根據他的榜樣進行變革。

在我們國家的歷史上,他的競選活動來之不易。全體美國的亞裔就變得至關重要。沒有幾天了。讓我們一起來締造歷史吧。

Don Sun

