

## BETTY YEE

Seeking Position for: State Board of Equalization, District 1

www.bettyyee.com

- 1. If elected, what are your top priorities during your term? What would you like to accomplish and how would you go about doing so? Please be specific.***

If re-elected to the State Board of Equalization I plan to build on the successes I have had in office and continue to be a public leader for progressive values. My top priorities include: ensuring equitable and fair taxation, updating California's tax system to reflect changing economic and social conditions, and providing taxpayer education including increased access to information for and outreach to our emerging ethnic communities. As chair of California's Board of Equalization, I will continue to lead the Board in upholding the state's tax laws in order to protect the state's revenues that support vital services such as education, health care, and public safety. Additionally, I have been an advocate of increasing revenues to address the critical program demands of California.

- 2. How have you in the past and how will you in the future use your position to expand the presence and influence of Asian Pacific Americans in public policy and politics?***

I will advocate for public policies and positions that support Asian Pacific Islander Americans, including civil rights, immigration reform, the availability of in-language resources and culturally appropriate services, and women's reproductive freedom. As an Asian American elected official, I will continue to financially support and mentor qualified Asian Pacific Islander American candidates, potential candidates, and aspiring Asian Pacific Islander American youth.

- 3. What have you done that demonstrates your commitment to and effectiveness in promoting Asian Pacific American interests in the following areas (and if you have not contributed in these areas, please discuss any area(s) in which you have made a contribution):***

### ***Education:***

I believe my K-12 educational experience in the San Francisco public schools provided me with the foundation for my success. As the daughter of first generation immigrants, I was sent to school not knowing a word of English. Thus, I understand firsthand the difficulty of English not being your first language. I fully support ESL curriculum as it is crucial in the education of many youth in the Asian American community; and in my capacity serving as Chief Deputy Director for the California Department of Finance, I advocated for funding dedicated to programs for English Language Learners.

### ***Health Care:***

Lack of health insurance is a major problem in our ethnic communities; I know this first-hand with the experience of my immigrant parents. Health care is a basic human right and thus, I am a supporter of single payer health care system as the means for providing universal health care. We must also keep our social safety net strong that includes funding for health clinics that serve

our ethnic and minority communities. I have been a strong advocate for health care reform (via Facebook and other public forums) that includes a public option so those communities that have fallen through the cracks previously may have access to affordable health care.

***Civil Rights:***

I have always been a vocal advocate for strengthening civil rights and anti-discrimination legislation at both the state and federal levels. I support equal opportunity programs such as affirmative action in the areas of education, employment, and government contracting. Ending racial profiling and expanding the definition of hate crimes to include crimes motivated by a victim's disability, gender, or sexual orientation have been and will be pieces of legislation that I will support. I also support stronger laws to eliminate predatory lending and pay day loan activities in low-income and ethnic communities and among the elderly. In 2008, I was a strong public voice opposing Proposition 8 to end same-sex marriages and opposing Proposition 4 that would have required parental consent for teen abortions, actively engaging communities of color in both these campaigns.

***Business:***

During my tenure on the State Board of Equalization, one of my most valued accomplishments to date is my implementation an extensive taxpayer outreach and education program throughout the First Equalization District that has served thousands of new and existing business owners, businesses in our diverse ethnic communities, women entrepreneurs, construction contractors, senior citizens, and nonprofit organizations. I have also supported and expanded programs that support our ethnic business communities to be sure they are equipped with translated resources to help them comply with their tax responsibilities.

Outside of office, I was a co-architect of the establishment the Asian American Small Business PAC, which is a non-partisan political action committee that identifies and supports candidates running for state and local offices who demonstrate a commitment to improving the economic and regulatory climate for Asian American small business owners and entrepreneurs.