

## **GARRETT YEE**

Seeking Position for: California State Assembly, District 20

www.garrettyee.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.***

### **Economy:**

We need to regain our competitive edge so that good businesses can expand and working families can earn competitive wages. In my former role as the Policyholder Ombudsman at the Workers' Compensation Insurance Rating Bureau of California, I worked directly with small employers to help address key issues. We need to do better creating an environment where small employers can effectively manage success and challenges to grow their businesses and get our economy going. One way is to continue to apply pressure to the challenging workers' compensation insurance system in order to keep costs under control for small and large employers. Another is to crack down on those that cheat the system in various market sectors, such as prevailing wage jobs for government contracts.

### **Education:**

Dramatic, long-term reform and immediate action is needed to help the hundreds of thousands of students and families being short-changed out of a quality education. Education is the key to improving our society and one of the major vehicles to improve our economy. I am focused on the need for quality, and support, of our K-12, community college and four-year institutions. We need to fully fund education and improve access for students. For example, we need to do a better job at making the transition from community colleges to four-year institutions more seamless. At the same time, we need to support lifelong learning in this state, so that once again California can produce the best and the brightest leaders for our future.

- 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?***

As the Scholarship Chair and President of the South Bay Chinese Club I helped grow the scholarship program several-fold. I initiated the only public Chinese New Year Celebration at the Fremont Library that continues to this day. Additionally, I brought to the Tri-Cities area the "Heading East: California's Asian Pacific Experience," that celebrates Asian history in California.

As the President of Citizens for Better Community (CBC), I helped to increase visibility of accomplished Chinese Americans. In fact, the Ohlone College Foundation recognized CBC as the Citizen of the Year—the first time that the award had been bestowed on any organization. I led CBC's participation in the 80-20 initiative to display US flags, which gained national recognition. I led CBC's participation in the July 4th parades where participation grew to over 200 participants by bringing together local Chinese organizations.

As Library Commissioner, I sponsored Asian cultural events such as the Japanese Cherry Blossom

celebration and the Autumn Moon Festival celebration. As a member of the Japanese American Citizens League, I have been a key note speaker at their annual scholarship luncheon.

I am the first and only APA to serve on the Ohlone College Board. I am a member of the Filipino America Democratic Club of Alameda County and the APA Democratic Club of Alameda County,

If elected, I will promote participation and mentor qualified APA to get involved in public policy discussions and in politics. I will ensure my legislative and district staff will have APA representation.

**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 have served on the Ohlone Community College Board of Trustees for the past seven years. Prior to that, I served on the Ohlone College Foundation and Fremont Library Advisory Commission. I have served as a volunteer for the Fremont Education Foundation several years. With all these organizations, I have increased APA participation and involvement such as on appointed boards, APA focused events, and as the representative of the APA community.
- **Health Care**—As a board member and past President of CBC, we have supported and co-sponsored Asian health fairs, the American Cancer Society Northern California Chinese Unit (including Relay for Life), Asian American Donor Program (AADP) bone marrow testing, and Hepatitis B awareness efforts.
- **Civil Rights**—As President of CBC, our organization supported the efforts of Wen Ho Lee who was placed in prison without due process. When local Chinese Americans in our community were publicly accused of trying to make Fremont like Cupertino (where there are lots of Asians), I stood up to these attacks and responded publicly in print and television media.
- **Business**-- During my tenure on the Ohlone College Board, I have participated in two delegations to China (2004 and 2008) to help establish sister college relationships as well as business connections. I have participated in Chinese networking forums focused on Chinese businesses through CBC.