

LIZ FIGUEROA

Seeking Position of: Alameda County Supervisor Dist 2
www.figueroafor supervisor.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.

The most critical problem facing County government today is the budget. The state's funding of local government, public education, public safety and infrastructure represent the systemic failures of a broken system. This year's budget is an extreme disappointment. Local governments provide critical services that residents depend on, and these services should be funded with that in mind. With that in mind, my top priority as a County Supervisor will be minimizing the effects of the State's budget cuts on our local services. If we can work to make sure local jurisdictions are not raided by the State for funds, we can address other issues including health care, public safety and housing.

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?

Over the years, I've worked hard to expand opportunities for minorities in State Government. While my record of accomplishments at the State level is extensive, I believe I can do a lot at the County level to help the Asian Pacific Islander community. I will work to make sure that this community is well represented when the county hands out contracts to businesses and ensure that the APA community has a seat at the table in County decision making.

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

During my time in the State Legislature I worked hard to make college available for minorities by fighting for Affirmative Action and affordable college. While there is often a stereotype that the Asian Pacific American community does not have any education issues, there are many ethnic groups and communities are still under-represented in higher levels of education. By protecting programs that make college accessible for everyone, I believe I've helped the Asian Pacific American community. I also opened my legislative office to many interns from Citizens for a Better Community, allowing Asian High School students an opportunity to work in public service.

- Health Care

I've worked throughout my career to provide universal healthcare. While in the State

Senate I wrote legislation that helped hold HMO's accountable for their practices and worked with the White House to guarantee new mothers a 48-hour hospital stay. I feel that by working to help everyone receive better healthcare, I can help all minority communities, including the Asian Pacific American community, who are often disproportionately affected by poor healthcare.

- **Civil Rights**

I've authored bills outlawing female genital mutilation and worked to make sure the U.S. only enters trade agreements with countries that do not violate labor or human rights law. I think that by making common sense changes like this, we can help change the lives of people around the world. While these efforts do not specifically target the Asian Pacific American community, I firmly believe that the APA community benefits from these efforts.

- **Business**

At the state level I've worked to make sure California is a business friendly environment while still strengthening consumer protections. This includes cracking on down frivolous lawsuits against business while authoring the federally adopted "Do Not Call List." I think my work in the State Legislature has helped many Asian and Pacific American owned businesses thrive in California.