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NC Asian Americans endorse 8 additional candidates for local races ahead of May 17 Primary

NCAAT in Action is endorsing candidates who are responsive to the growing population of young voters and voters from communities of color in North Carolina.

RALEIGH — On Monday, April 25, 2022, **NCAAT in Action**, North Carolina's only pan-Asian political organization, announced the remaining slate of endorsements for the May 17 primary election. Each of the 8 candidates has effectively demonstrated their commitment to furthering the best interests of Asian Americans and all communities of color in North Carolina as an elected representative.

According to [Tufts University's recent CIRCLE study](#), 73% of Asian American youth have talked to their friends about political issues or elections in 2020 across the country, and Asian youth turnout in 2020 elections increased the most of any racial group. Trends are similar across communities of color, particularly among young women of color — [according to the CIRCLE study](#), young Asian women, young Black women, and young Latinas were more likely to talk politics, participate in elections, and fight racism

"In cross-racial coalitions with our partners across the state, we are expanding our democracy by galvanizing young voters, Asian American voters, and voters from communities of color," said **Chavi Khanna Koneru**, executive director of NCAAT in Action. "We are excited to endorse candidates who have shown that they are responsive to and inspire the growing electorate in North Carolina."

NCAAT in Action specifically endorsed these candidates from counties where Asian Americans and communities of color have seen population growth and corresponding needs, including Cumberland, Orange, Wake and Mecklenburg counties.

NCAAT in Action endorsed candidates include:

- Dr. Naveed Aziz, House District 42 (Cumberland County)
- Dr. Kimberly Hardy, House District 43 (Cumberland County)
- Matt Hughes, House District 50 (Orange County)
- Joe John, House District 40 (Wake County)
- Dimple Ajmera, Charlotte City Council, At-Large
- Mario (Be) Benavente, Fayetteville City Council, District 3
- Carissa Johnson, Cary Town Council, At-Large
- Mary Insprucker, Cary Town Council, District C



The unprecedented growth in North Carolina's Asian American population over the past decade — 65% since the 2010 Census — has resulted in a powerful new voting bloc in the state. It is critical not only for Asian Americans to turn out for the primary election, but also to use their voting power to elect leaders who will fight to make North Carolina more equitable, prosperous, and inclusive for all of its residents.

NCAAT in Action works statewide to build political power in Asian American communities and to advocate for the needs of Asian Americans alongside other communities of color. To learn more about NCAAT in Action's endorsements, visit <https://ncaatinaction.org/endorsements>.

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NCAAT in Action is committed to supporting equity and justice for all by building political power among Asian Americans and allies in North Carolina through voter education, progressive advocacy, and leadership development.