



ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN  
LEADERSHIP FOUNDATION

LEADERSHIP AND CANDIDATE TRAINING  
BOOTCAMP APPLICATION

2025



**OUR MISSION:** To engage the Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) community in active civic participation by creating, supporting, building and strengthening the local community infrastructure to help prepare and train qualified AAPI leaders for public service.



## BACKGROUND

Asian Pacific American Leadership Foundation (formerly the Asian Pacific American Leadership Project) was founded in 2004 as a non-partisan, non profit 501(c)(3) organization designed to help prepare and better equip Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) leaders for public service and civic involvement. The APALF is committed to engaging the AAPI community in active civic participation by creating, supporting, building and strengthening the local community infrastructure to help prepare and train qualified AAPI leaders and emerging leaders for public service.

## PROGRAM GOALS

- Encourage AAPIs to be active and become leaders in their local communities.
- Provide AAPI leaders with the tools and skills to make contributions to American civic life.
- Train current and future AAPI leaders for public service.
- Prepare AAPIs for elected and appointed office.
- Serve as a resource to AAPI public officials and community organizations.

## PROGRAM OUTLINE

Between April and May 2025, APALF will hold its Leadership and Candidate Training Bootcamp with 15 to 20 participants from across California. The Bootcamp will take place over 2 weekends, and attendance at both is mandatory.

**Los Angeles  
Bay Area**

**April 12-13, 2025  
May 3-4, 2025**

Training sessions will include dialogue with elected officials and political consultants as well as hands-on skills-building activities. Topics include:

- Leadership Development
- Media relations
- Coalition building
- Grassroots organizing
- Message development and delivery

Various group projects will be conducted throughout the training program. Participation in all sessions is mandatory.



“I went through the inaugural training class of the Asian Pacific American Leadership Foundation (APALF), and I can state first hand that this training was instrumental in my success in having the opportunity to serve in public office. APALF brings in the best political consultants in the state to give a hands-on and realistic training approach.”

— **HON. PHIL TING, California State Assembly (retired)**

## CRITERIA FOR PARTICIPATION

The APALF is seeking candidates who have a genuine concern for their community and would like to serve in a leadership capacity.

Participants will be selected based on previous community involvement, commitment to public service, and their ability to seek and win public office. For applicants already serving in public office, the APALF will help prepare them for greater roles and potentially higher elected or appointed office. Furthermore, strong consideration will be given to achieve a geographic, gender, and ethnic diversity balance.

Individuals should have:

- A strong desire to run for public office
- Public service experience within their community
- A history of involvement with community or volunteer organizations
- A genuine interest and concern for the AAPI community
- Demonstrated leadership or active community involvement in their professional, academic or private life.

## COMMITMENT

- Participants must attend ALL of the training sessions — 100% participation is a must!
- APALF expects all participants to arrive on time, stay for the entire session, and actively participate in all activities.

## PROGRAM COST

- The cost to participate is \$500.00. Program cost will be applied to meals and meeting expenses. All participants are expected to pay for their own transportation costs.

## APPLICATIONS DUE

- Applications for the APALF Leadership and Candidate Training Bootcamp Program are **due on or before Monday, March 3, 2025**.
- An online application can be obtained and completed at: <https://bit.ly/APALFBootcamp2025>



## ALUMNI SUCCESS

**HON. BETTY YEE (retired)**, candidate training class of 2004, was elected California State Controller in November 2014.

**HON. PHILIP TING (retired)**, candidate training class of 2004, was elected to the California State Assembly in 2012.

**HON. ROBERT BONTA**, candidate training class of 2006, was elected to the California State Assembly in 2012 and elected as California State Attorney General in 2022.

**HON. DAVID CHIU**, candidate training class of 2006, was elected to California State Assembly in 2014 and elected as San Francisco City Attorney in 2024.

**HON. EVAN LOW (retired)**, candidate training class of 2004, was elected to the California State Assembly in 2014.

**HON. DAVID RYU (retired)**, candidate training class of 2007, was elected to the Los Angeles City Council in 2015.

**HON. ERIC MAR (retired)**, candidate training class of 2004, was re-elected to the San Francisco Board of Supervisors and was also re-elected to the San Francisco Board of Education.

**HON. RAYMOND BUENAVENTURA (retired)**, candidate training class of 2011, was elected to the Daly City Council in November 2014.

**HON. MIKE FONG**, candidate training class of 2011, was elected to the Los Angeles Community College Board of Trustees in 2015 and elected to the California State Assembly in 2022.

**HON. LENA TAM**, candidate training class of 2004, was re-elected to the Alameda City Council in November 2010 and elected to the Alameda County Board of Supervisors in 2022.

**HON. PHILLIP CHEN**, candidate training class of 2010, was elected to the California State Assembly in 2016.

**HON. MELISSA RAMOSO**, candidate training class of 2016, was elected to the Artesia City Council in November 2018.

**HON. JUSLYN MANALO**, candidate training class of 2016, was elected Mayor of Daly City in December 2017.

**HON. MALIA VELLA (retired)**, candidate training class of 2016, was elected to the Alameda City Council in November 2018.

**HON. JEFF KOJI MALONEY**, candidate training class of 2016, was elected to the Alhambra City Council in November 2016

**HON. JASMEET BAINS**, candidate training class of 2021, was elected to the California State Assembly in November 2022.

**HON. HELEN TRAN**, candidate training class of 2021, was elected Mayor of the San Bernardino City Council in November 2022

**HON. CLINT WEIRICK**, candidate training class of 2022, was elected to the Grover Beach City Council in November 2024.

**HON. GILBERT WONG (retired)**, candidate training of 2007, was elected to Cupertino City Council in 2007, elected to the Foothill-DeAnza Community College District in 2016

**HON. MARK PULIDO (retired)**, candidate training of 2010, was elected to Cerritos City Council in 2011.

**HON. JAMES TOMA (retired)**, candidate training of 2010, was elected to West Covina City Council in 2013.

**HON. BAO NGUYEN (retired)**, candidate training of 2011 was, elected as Mayor of the City of Garden Grove in 2014.

**HON. DIANNE MARTINEZ (retired)**, candidate training for 2016, was re-elected to Emeryville City Council in 2018.

**HON. GABE QUINTO**, candidate training for 2016, was re-elected to El Cerrito City Council in 2018.

**HON. CINDY WU**, candidate training class of 2018, was elected to Mountain View School District Board of Education in 2018.

**HON. BRYAN DO**, candidate training class of 2007, was elected to East Side Union High Board of Trustees in 2020.

**HON. AMY KOO**, candidate training class of 2022, was elected to the Sequoia Union High School District Board of Trustees in 2022.

**HON. AIMEE SUEKO ENG (retired)**, candidate training class of 2016, was re-elected to Oakland Unified Board of Education in 2018.

**HON. KEN CHEW (retired)**, candidate training class of 2010. Former Moraga Town Councilmember

**HON. BLONG XIONG (retired)**, candidate training class of 2010. Former Fresno City Mayor.



## LEADERSHIP & CANDIDATE TRAINING BOOTCAMP APPLICATION

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Work Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Company/Organization: \_\_\_\_\_

Position/Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Work Ph: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Home Ph: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Alternate Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Party Affiliation (Optional): \_\_\_\_\_

Ethnicity (Optional): \_\_\_\_\_

Education:

Institution(s)

Degree(s)

Institution(s)	Degree(s)
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Affiliations / Community Organizations

_____
_____
_____

ESSAY QUESTIONS - Please answer the following questions on a separate sheet

- 1) Please explain your motivation to run for office and why you would like to take part in this program. - Limit 350 words
- 2) Please describe your previous community/civic involvement. - Limit 500 words
- 3) Have you ever run for office or been involved in political campaigns? If so please describe your experience.- Limit 500 words
- 4) Are you planning to run, or would you consider running for office in the near future? Limit 500 words
- 5) If you were to run for office what would your political platform be? Limit 650 words

## HONORARY ADVISORY BOARD

Former U.S. Representative  
Mike Honda, Ret. Co-Chair  
Former California State Treasurer  
Matt Fong, Co-Chair Emeritus  
Former California State Treasurer  
John Chiang  
Former California State Controller  
Betty Yee\*

U.S. Representative Judy Chu  
U.S. Representative Ted Lieu  
Former State Senator Carol Liu  
CA Attorney General Rob Bonta\*

Former Assemblymember Phil Ting\*  
San Francisco City Attorney David Chiu\*  
Former Assemblymember Evan Low\*  
Former Assemblymember Paul Fong  
Former L.A. City Councilmember  
David Ryu\*

Former Assemblymember Mike Eng  
Former San Francisco Supervisor  
Eric Mar\*

Foothill-De Anza Community College  
District Trustee Gilbert Wong\*  
Alameda County Board Supervisor  
Lena Tam\*

Former San Francisco Community  
College Board Trustee Steve Ngo\*  
Former San Mateo County Board  
of Education Member Rod Hsiao\*  
Daly City Mayor Juslyn Manalo\*  
Artesia City Councilmember  
Melissa Ramoso\*

Former Alameda City Councilmember  
Malia Vela\*  
Grover Beach Councilmember  
Clint Weirick \*

Monterey Park Mayor Thomas Wong\*  
Assemblymember Phillip Chen\*

## ALUMNI TESTIMONIALS



“I served as a successful campaign manager, was elected to local office and the State Assembly and the APALF candidate training program has been instrumental in my success. I’ve recommended this program to my friends and they won elected office as well. APALF is for anyone serious about winning.”

— **HON. ROB BONTA**  
**California Attorney General**



“As a proud APALF Bootcamp participant and Chair of the AAPI Legislative Caucus, I can directly attest to the value of the training. It has helped me and so many others in successfully getting elected to the State Legislature. I am honored and privileged to be among APALF’s alumni who have benefited from this amazing program. As an elected leader and someone who’s been involved in politics and political campaigns for the past 25 years, I know that APALF is a valuable resource to our AAPI community and its political advancement.”

— **HON. MIKE FONG**  
**California State Assemblymember**



“The training I received from the APALF was invaluable. They bring in the best consultants in the state to serve as trainers, and frankly the hands-on attention and access one receives would be worth thousands of dollars and cannot be found elsewhere.”

— **HON. LENA L. TAM, P.E.**  
**Alameda County Board Supervisor**