

# Asian Pacific American Agenda Coalition

## 2007 Boston At-Large City Council Election Questionnaire

NAME OF CANDIDATE Felix D. Arroyo

### A. PUBLIC SAFETY

- How would you improve public safety and address the rise of violent crime in Boston? (100 WORDS OR LESS)  
I remain committed to a comprehensive program of ensuring public safety by extending community policing, increasing police accountability and significantly expanding youth opportunity programming. I also continue to seek expansion of the successful but under-funded street worker program and to explore ways to improve re-entry services. If re-elected, I will continue to work to improve and grow the City's prevention and intervention programs and to use my position as Chair of the Committee on Youth Affairs to expand programs to reduce youth violence. We must ensure that prevention and intervention efforts regain prominence.

- Which of the following measures you will SUPPORT? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY):

- a. Multilingual dispatchers on the 911 service so that limited English speakers can communicate in emergencies.
- b. More bilingual "beat" police, including officers fluent in Asian languages.
- c. Emergency medical technicians who are bilingual, including EMTs fluent in Asian languages.
- d. None of the above due to budgetary restrictions.

Though budgetary restrictions play an important factor in all of policy debates, these particular measures would be relatively inexpensive things we can do to truly increase police responsiveness and service to Asian language speakers.

- How would you ensure that there is a strong community process that would consider the input of Chinatown residents in the expansion of the Silver Line? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)  
 a. I would advocate for frequent community meetings between the MBTA and Chinatown residents, with the MBTA providing interpreters and translated materials at such meetings.

- b. I would advocate for requiring the MBTA to explicitly integrate Chinatown community input into its expansion plans.

- c. I would advocate that residents in an impacted community be given a right to veto Silver Line expansion plans.

- d. None of the above.

Any expansion of the Silver Line must be guided and directed by a thorough and complete community planning process. Though I am slightly encouraged by the somewhat improved service of the Silver Line buses, I continue to fully support upgrading the Washington Street line to light rail vehicles.

### B. SOCIAL AND HUMAN SERVICES

- How will you work to improve adult education and workforce development programs in the City? (100 WORDS OR LESS)

Boston continues to struggle with a difficult housing market and economy for working families. At the same time many City residents really lack the skills, education or training needed to compete. State and local budget cuts reduce investments in workforce development and job training programs. I believe there is a real need for leadership of an aggressive public education campaign in conjunction with the City's labor and non-profit community to bring the issue of workforce development to the forefront of public debate. As a former chair of the Boston City Council's Employment Workforce Development Committee, and working with the Boston Workforce Development Coalition and others, I will continue to try to fill that void. When I am re-elected, I will continue to push for increased job training, workforce development and adult education programs to ensure that City residents are assisted in developing the skills needed to compete in today's economy.

- Which of the following job training measures for limited English speakers would you support? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY):

- a. I would support City funding for adult English as a Second Language programs.
- b. I would encourage public/private partnerships to train immigrant workers.
- c. There should be no special government supported job training programs for limited English speakers - they should learn English first.
- d. I would support an increased priority on integrated ESL and skills training programs to move limited English speakers into jobs more efficiently.

As the only elected official who speaks English as a second language, I am personally and deeply committed to expanding government support for those seeking true opportunities in Boston's workplaces.

3. Chinatown has not had a public branch library since the 1950s, when it was razed during Urban Renewal. Last year, the mayor and city council placed a feasibility study for a Chinatown branch library in the capital budget, but people say it can take ten years to get a library built. How would you work to speed up the development of a Chinatown branch library? (100 WORDS OR LESS)

I continue to remain 100% supportive of this important project for which I advocated in last year's budget negotiations. When I am re-elected, I will work diligently with neighborhood advocates for this project and new District Councilor Bill Linehan to ensure that the study proceeds quickly over the next year and that we begin development of a Chinatown branch library immediately upon completion of the study.

**C. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND POLITICAL EMPOWERMENT**

1. If elected, would you include APA and other minorities in your staff?

Yes X No \_\_\_\_\_

My staff has always been at least 50% people-of-color and women.

2. If elected, would you support expanding the APA and other minority representation within City government?

Yes X No \_\_\_\_\_

3. Currently, the City is required by a consent decree with the Department of Justice to provide Chinese and Vietnamese bilingual ballots and other assistance to limited English speaking voters.

a. The Secretary of State has opposed inclusion of Chinese transliterated candidate names on the ballot. Do you support having Chinese candidate names on the Chinese bilingual ballot?

Yes X No \_\_\_\_\_

I have and will continue to strongly support this reform as long as it is the wish of the affected community.

b. The consent decree between DOJ and the City expires in 2008. How will you work to ensure that Chinese and Vietnamese bilingual ballots will continue beyond 2008? (100 Words or less)

I was one of four Councilors to strongly advocate for settlement of the lawsuit that resulted in this consent decree. I will continue to fully support the work of the Mayor's Advisory Task Force, including member Lydia Lowe representing the CPA, which is reviewing the election department and its practices and monitoring the city's performance under the agreement. I am confident that ensuring that full bilingual ballots continue beyond 2008 will remain a top issue for the Task Force and my office in the coming years.

4. The City of Boston has benefited greatly from the contributions of its immigrant residents, who pay taxes, run businesses, and increase our labor pool. But US Citizenship has become more and more difficult to attain, as fees have increased by 60 percent and naturalization exams become more difficult for those with limited English literacy. Would you support a Home Rule Petition allowing Permanent Residents who are seeking citizenship the right to vote in local elections?

Yes X No \_\_\_\_\_

I am the lead author and proponent of this issue at the Boston City Council. A well-attended hearing on this matter was held July 31st and I intend to continue efforts to lobby my fellow Councilors to gain their support. I expect a vote on this proposal on August 29<sup>th</sup>.

**D. HOUSING AND LAND USE CONTROL**

1. The City Council will soon consider an ordinance protecting tenants' right to collective bargaining with landlords that are large property owners of buildings with twenty or more units. If these owners refuse to negotiate, that fact would be placed in a file for consideration in future city zoning or permitting requests by the owner. Would you support this Tenants' Right to Collective Bargaining ordinance?

Yes X No \_\_\_\_\_

I am a leading co-sponsor and was one of five votes for this Ordinance earlier this month. I will continue to strongly support legislation to empower Boston's tenants.

2. The BRA is responsible for all of the city's planning, zoning, economic and industrial development. It also owns hundreds of properties and serves as both owner and re-developer. It is the sole administrator of fees collected from developers, yet has no accountability to the City Council. Do you support the establishment of a separate city planning department, accountable to the public and to City Council, that would assume responsibility for city and neighborhood master planning as well as final approval over proposed development projects?

Yes X No \_\_\_\_\_

Yes. I first introduced this concept to the City Council in February 2003, after only one month in office. I have resubmitted a Home Rule Petition to create a City Planning Department in each subsequent year and will continue to strongly advocate for its passage. I intend to force an up-or-down vote on this issue in the Fall of 2007.

3. How would you improve accountability to neighborhood or community plans? (100 WORDS OR LESS)

The remedy will not be more resources or better leadership. The BRA should simply no longer have the conflicting responsibilities of ensuring that Boston is promoting investment and at the same time planning to meet the long-term economic, housing, educational and public-health needs of our people and communities. The solution is to re-establish a separate city planning department. The planning and development structure in Boston hasn't been revisited in more than 40 years, and the city has changed. Now is the time for Boston to create a city planning department, structured to foster an open, inclusive process that educates the public, engages citizens in informed decision-making and returns planning to the people of Boston.

5. Much of the affordable housing built recently is unaffordable to community residents.

Guidelines are based on a Greater Boston Area Median Income figure of \$82,600 for a family of four, but Boston median income is nearly half that amount. Please explain how you would support targeting more local affordable housing resources and programs to serve those most in need, such as households making Boston median income or below. (100 WORDS OR LESS)

Again, I was the lead sponsor of a City Council Resolution directly on this issue which passed and has forced the BRA and the City to address this concern. When re-elected, I will continue to pursue a change to the City's official affordability standard that would acknowledge the lower average income in the City relative to the surrounding communities. Any "affordable housing" built, sold or rented in the City must be truly affordable to working families.

## **E. EDUCATION**

1. Which one of the following statements most closely describes your views on the need for Asian Pacific American educators in the Boston Public School system? (CHECK ONE):

X a. I would support increasing APA representation in the Boston Public Schools at all levels (administrators, teachers, and counselors) by encouraging aggressive recruitment of APA candidates.

X b. Racial preferences should not be used when hiring educators.

X c. I would provide incentives for APA candidates to teach in the Boston Public School system, such as support programs for minority teachers and tuition reimbursement for minority teachers furthering their professional education.

X d. APAs are adequately represented at all levels in the educational field.

2. Do you support to the following? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY):

X a. Supplemental educational services for limited English speaking and new immigrant Asian students.

X b. Teaching curriculum on Asian Pacific American history and culture in the Boston Public Schools.

3. In the last five years, we eliminated transitional bilingual education, implemented the MCAS graduation requirement, and hired a new superintendent. In your opinion, how can the city council work with the mayor to improve educational opportunity for all children in the school system? (100 WORDS OR LESS)

I served eight years on the Boston School Committee and my five children either currently attend or have already graduated from the Boston public schools. I remain deeply committed to continuing to improve educational opportunity for all children/ The City Council has final approval of the School Department budget, and I have worked closely with the Boston Teachers Union, the Menino Administration and my fellow City Councilors to advance needed reforms to our school system through that process. In this last budget debate, I made additional funding for school drop-out prevention (\$500,000 was included in the final budget) one of my three top priorities.

# Asian Pacific American Agenda Coalition

## 2007 Boston At-Large City Council Election Questionnaire

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NAME OF CANDIDATE \_ William Estrada \_\_\_\_\_

### A. PUBLIC SAFETY

1. How would you improve public safety and address the rise of violent crime in Boston? (100 WORDS OR LESS)

The problems of unemployment, poor education and violent crime in Boston and every other city are fundamentally caused by capitalism. We live in a class-divided city where Blacks, Latinos, and Asians bear the brunt of the attacks on the working class. We don't need more cops in working class communities – we need to fight police brutality and prosecute and jail cops who harass and brutalize working people and youth like the Quincy 4. All working people should oppose raids like the August 28 sweep by the Immigration and Customs Enforcement Agency (ICE) and other police in East Boston and Chelsea, supposedly targeting gang members. The Socialist Workers campaign calls for legalization of all the undocumented now!

2. Which of the following measures you will SUPPORT? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY):

- \_\_\_ a. Multilingual dispatchers on the 911 service so that limited English speakers can communicate in emergencies.
- \_\_\_ b. More bilingual “beat” police, including officers fluent in Asian languages.
- \_\_\_ c. Emergency medical technicians who are bilingual, including EMTs fluent in Asian languages.
- \_\_\_ d. None of the above due to budgetary restrictions.

3. How would you ensure that there is a strong community process that would consider the input of Chinatown residents in the expansion of the Silver Line? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

- \_\_\_ a. I would advocate for frequent community meetings between the MBTA and Chinatown residents, with the MBTA providing interpreters and translated materials at such meetings.
- \_\_\_ b. I would advocate for requiring the MBTA to explicitly integrate Chinatown community input into its expansion plans.
- \_\_\_ c. I would advocate that residents in an impacted community be given a right to veto Silver Line expansion plans.
- \_\_\_ d. None of the above.

### B. SOCIAL AND HUMAN SERVICES

1. How will you work to improve adult education and workforce development programs in the City? (100 WORDS OR LESS)

Education should be a lifelong activity. But capitalist society is organized so that schooling is only for the young. It is used to teach working class youth to be obedient and not challenge the status quo, while convincing a small layer they have a stake in the system. The Socialist Workers campaign calls for free education from kindergarten through college. Workers should be allowed fully paid leaves from the job to study any subjects of interest – job related or not.

2. Which of the following job training measures for limited English speakers would you support? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY):
- \_\_\_ X\_a. I would support City funding for adult English as a Second Language programs.
  - \_\_\_ b. I would encourage public/private partnerships to train immigrant workers.
  - \_\_\_ c. There should be no special government supported job training programs for limited English speakers - they should learn English first.

\_\_\_\_d. I would support an increased priority on integrated ESL and skills training programs to move limited English speakers into jobs more efficiently.

3. Chinatown has not had a public branch library since the 1950s, when it was razed during Urban Renewal. Last year, the mayor and city council placed a feasibility study for a Chinatown branch library in the capital budget, but people say it can take ten years to get a library built. How would you work to speed up the development of a Chinatown branch library? (100 WORDS OR LESS)

I support full government funding to immediately build and expand libraries in Chinatown and all neighborhoods. The Socialist Workers campaign calls for a massive federally funded public works program to build not only libraries, but schools, child-care centers, housing, public transportation, recreational facilities and other infrastructure to improve the living conditions of working people.

### C. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND POLITICAL EMPOWERMENT

1. If elected, would you include APA and other minorities in your staff?  
Yes  No
2. If elected, would you support expanding the APA and other minority representation within City government?  
Yes  No
3. Currently, the City is required by a consent decree with the Department of Justice to provide Chinese and Vietnamese bilingual ballots and other assistance to limited English speaking voters.
  - a. The Secretary of State has opposed inclusion of Chinese transliterated candidate names on the ballot. Do you support having Chinese candidate names on the Chinese bilingual ballot?  
Yes  No

b. The consent decree between DOJ and the City expires in 2008. How will you work to ensure that Chinese and Vietnamese bilingual ballots will continue beyond 2008? (100 Words or less)

Election ballots should be available on a permanent basis in Chinese, Vietnamese, Spanish, Portuguese, and any other language needed. The Socialist Workers campaign seeks to work with all who want to organize to expand democratic and electoral rights.

4. The City of Boston has benefited greatly from the contributions of its immigrant residents, who pay taxes, run businesses, and increase our labor pool. But US Citizenship has become more and more difficult to attain, as fees have increased by 60 percent and naturalization exams become more difficult for those with limited English literacy. Would you support a Home Rule Petition allowing Permanent Residents who are seeking citizenship the right to vote in local elections?

Yes  No

### D. HOUSING AND LAND USE CONTROL

1. The City Council will soon consider an ordinance protecting tenants' right to collective bargaining with landlords that are large property owners of buildings with twenty or more units. If these owners refuse to negotiate, that fact would be placed in a file for consideration in future city zoning or permitting requests by the owner. Would you support this Tenants' Right to Collective Bargaining ordinance?  
Yes  No
2. The BRA is responsible for all of the city's planning, zoning, economic and industrial development. It also owns hundreds of properties and serves as both owner and re-developer. It is the sole administrator of fees collected from developers, yet has no

accountability to the City Council. Do you support the establishment of a separate city planning department, accountable to the public and to City Council, that would assume responsibility for city and neighborhood master planning as well as final approval over proposed development projects?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

3. How would you improve accountability to neighborhood or community plans? (100 WORDS OR LESS)

5. Much of the affordable housing built recently is unaffordable to community residents. Guidelines are based on a Greater Boston Area Median Income figure of \$82,600 for a family of four, but Boston median income is nearly half that amount. Please explain how you would support targeting more local affordable housing resources and programs to serve those most in need, such as households making Boston median income or below. (100 WORDS OR LESS)

Decent housing, like education and quality medical care, should be a right for all, not a privilege. Affordable public housing should be built and upgraded with federal, state and local funding. The Socialist Workers campaign supports workers' struggles to organize trade unions to enforce health and safety on and off the job. The labor movement should fight to socialize health care and pensions as well and improve the conditions of life of working people, including housing.

## E. EDUCATION

1. Which one of the following statements most closely describes your views on the need for Asian Pacific American educators in the Boston Public School system? (CHECK ONE):

X \_\_\_\_\_ a. I would support increasing APA representation in the Boston Public Schools at all levels (administrators, teachers, and counselors) by encouraging aggressive recruitment of APA candidates.

\_\_\_\_\_ b. Racial preferences should not be used when hiring educators.

\_\_\_\_\_ c. I would provide incentives for APA candidates to teach in the Boston Public School system, such as support programs for minority teachers and tuition reimbursement for minority teachers furthering their professional education.

\_\_\_\_\_ d. APAs are adequately represented at all levels in the educational field.

2. Do you support to the following? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY):

X \_\_\_\_\_ a. Supplemental educational services for limited English speaking and new immigrant Asian students.

X \_\_\_\_\_ b. Teaching curriculum on Asian Pacific American history and culture in the Boston Public Schools.

3. In the last five years, we eliminated transitional bilingual education, implemented the MCAS graduation requirement, and hired a new superintendent. In your opinion, how can the city council work with the mayor to improve educational opportunity for all children in the school system? (100 WORDS OR LESS)

The Socialist Workers campaign defends bilingual education for all who want it. I oppose the June 28 U.S. Supreme Court decision against considering race in assigning students to schools. This blow against school desegregation should be fought. All working people have an interest in defending the right to bilingual education and desegregation.

# Asian Pacific American Agenda Coalition

## 2007 Boston At-Large City Council Election Questionnaire

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NAME OF CANDIDATE: MICHAEL FLAHERTY

### A. PUBLIC SAFETY

- How would you improve public safety and address the rise of violent crime in Boston? (100 WORDS OR LESS)

*My crime fighting record includes several legislative measures that I have sponsored and helped pass: the closure of an illegal gun loophole; the addition of "cop killer" weapons to the city's assault weapons ban; Imette's Law; and the expansion of the City's police department recruit pool by increasing the age restriction from 32 to 40. I launched "Bullets Don't Have Names... People Do," a city-wide anti-violence billboard campaign that featured Kai Leigh Harriot, the little girl struck and paralyzed by a bullet while playing on her porch. I also proposed that Chinatown Crime Watch be replicated throughout other Boston neighborhoods.*

- Which of the following measures you will SUPPORT? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY):

- a. Multilingual dispatchers on the 911 service so that limited English speakers can communicate in emergencies.
- b. More bilingual "beat" police, including officers fluent in Asian languages.
- c. Emergency medical technicians who are bilingual, including EMTs fluent in Asian languages.
- d. None of the above due to budgetary restrictions.

- How would you ensure that there is a strong community process that would consider the input of Chinatown residents in the expansion of the Silver Line? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

- a. I would advocate for frequent community meetings between the MBTA and Chinatown residents, with the MBTA providing interpreters and translated materials at such meetings.

- b. I would advocate for requiring the MBTA to explicitly integrate Chinatown community input into its expansion plans.

- c. I would advocate that residents in an impacted community be given a right to veto Silver Line expansion plans.

- d. None of the above.

### B. SOCIAL AND HUMAN SERVICES

- How will you work to improve adult education and workforce development programs in the City? (100 WORDS OR LESS)

*As the chairman of the Council's Committee on Labor & Workforce Development, I realize that quality adult education and workforce development programs play an important role in people's ability to maintain and elevate their employment status. With more students dropping out of high school and more immigrants living in our city who do not have the skills to meet today's high tech market, we must be sure that the availability of these services keeps pace with their growing demand. In the end, investing in workforce development programs is an investment in a stronger, thriving economy for Boston.*

- Which of the following job training measures for limited English speakers would you support? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY):

- a. I would support City funding for adult English as a Second Language programs.
- b. I would encourage public/private partnerships to train immigrant workers.
- c. There should be no special government supported job training programs for limited English speakers - they should learn English first.

- d. I would support an increased priority on integrated ESL and skills training programs to move limited English speakers into jobs more efficiently.

- Chinatown has not had a public branch library since the 1950s, when it was razed during Urban Renewal. Last year, the mayor and city council placed a feasibility study for a

Chinatown branch library in the capital budget, but people say it can take ten years to get a library built. How would you work to speed up the development of a Chinatown branch library? (100 WORDS OR LESS)

*I understand the value that a new public branch library would bring to Chinatown, as libraries are important public institutions where readers of all ages can learn the rich history and culture of local, national and international communities. My commitment to a Chinatown branch library is demonstrated by my request for a hearing on a Chinatown branch library and the \$35,000 I secured in the budget for a feasibility study to determine the best site for a new library. You can be sure that I will continue to work with residents and community leaders to advocate for this library branch.*

### C. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND POLITICAL EMPOWERMENT

1. If elected, would you include APA and other minorities in your staff?  
Yes  No
2. If elected, would you support expanding the APA and other minority representation within City government?  
Yes  No
3. Currently, the City is required by a consent decree with the Department of Justice to provide Chinese and Vietnamese bilingual ballots and other assistance to limited English speaking voters.
  - a. The Secretary of State has opposed inclusion of Chinese transliterated candidate names on the ballot. Do you support having Chinese candidate names on the Chinese bilingual ballot?  
Yes  No

b. The consent decree between DOJ and the City expires in 2008. How will you work to ensure that Chinese and Vietnamese bilingual ballots will continue beyond 2008? (100 Words or less)

*The refusal to grant ballots that are completely bilingual compromises the integrity of the voting process, and undermines the very democracy that Boston and cities across the country were built on. That is why I offered a resolution supporting translation on voting ballots, which was unanimously passed by the Council on July 10, 2007.*

4. The City of Boston has benefited greatly from the contributions of its immigrant residents, who pay taxes, run businesses, and increase our labor pool. But US Citizenship has become more and more difficult to attain, as fees have increased by 60 percent and naturalization exams become more difficult for those with limited English literacy. Would you support a Home Rule Petition allowing Permanent Residents who are seeking citizenship the right to vote in local elections?  
Yes  No

### D. HOUSING AND LAND USE CONTROL

1. The City Council will soon consider an ordinance protecting tenants' right to collective bargaining with landlords that are large property owners of buildings with twenty or more units. If these owners refuse to negotiate, that fact would be placed in a file for consideration in future city zoning or permitting requests by the owner. Would you support this Tenants' Right to Collective Bargaining ordinance?  
Yes  No
2. The BRA is responsible for all of the city's planning, zoning, economic and industrial development. It also owns hundreds of properties and serves as both owner and developer. It is the sole administrator of fees collected from developers, yet has no accountability to the City Council. Do you support the establishment of a separate city planning department, accountable to the public and to City Council, that would assume responsibility for city and neighborhood master planning as well as final approval over proposed development projects?  
Yes  No
3. How would you improve accountability to neighborhood or community plans? (100 WORDS OR LESS)

*I believe there is a disconnect between development and planning in the city of Boston, given recent redevelopment proposals such as moving City Hall to South Boston, building a destination resort casino in East Boston, and constructing a 1,000-foot tower in Winthrop Square. A separate, stand-alone planning department could help encourage a better public dialogue that considers the benefits and impact of large-scale development plans in Boston neighborhoods.*

5. Much of the affordable housing built recently is unaffordable to community residents. Guidelines are based on a Greater Boston Area Median Income figure of \$82,600 for a family of four, but Boston median income is nearly half that amount. Please explain how you would support targeting more local affordable housing resources and programs to serve those most in need, such as households making Boston median income or below. (100 WORDS OR LESS)

*Solving our housing crisis requires an ample supply of low-income housing and funding mechanisms that help families of all income levels meet today's housing and rental prices. Equally important, we must craft a sensible housing program that links affordable housing to opportunity. Affordable housing units that are deliberately located in a place that is convenient to high performing schools, prolonged employment opportunities, reliable public transportation, and quality child care facilities will open the doors to new opportunities for advancement, whether it's in employment, education, or family self-sufficiency.*

**E. EDUCATION**

1. Which one of the following statements most closely describes your views on the need for Asian Pacific American educators in the Boston Public School system? (CHECK ONE):

- \_\_\_ a. I would support increasing APA representation in the Boston Public Schools at all levels (administrators, teachers, and counselors) by encouraging aggressive recruitment of APA candidates.
- \_\_\_ b. Racial preferences should not be used when hiring educators.
- \_\_\_ c. I would provide incentives for APA candidates to teach in the Boston Public School system, such as support programs for minority teachers and tuition reimbursement for minority teachers furthering their professional education.
- \_\_\_ d. APAs are adequately represented at all levels in the educational field.

**X** e. *The diversity among the administrative and academic leaders of Boston public schools should reflect the wide diversity of its students. While I don't believe that hiring decisions should be based on race, I support concerted recruitment measures that help to expand the applicant pool in a way that effectively represents all populations, including Asian Pacific American educators.*

2. Do you support to the following? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY):

**X** a. Supplemental educational services for limited English speaking and new immigrant Asian students.

**X** b. Teaching curriculum on Asian Pacific American history and culture in the Boston Public Schools.

3. In the last five years, we eliminated transitional bilingual education, implemented the MCAS graduation requirement, and hired a new superintendent. In your opinion, how can the city council work with the mayor to improve educational opportunity for all children in the school system? (100 WORDS OR LESS)

*City leaders and educators have a responsibility to ensure that our schools are working for all students. To do so, we must recognize that students need varying degrees and types of support. For many students, their success is contingent upon whether the city provides them with the appropriate educational tools, including transitional bilingual education, special education, English language classes, MCAS and SAT prep, mentoring and tutoring programs. In addition, we must continue to advocate for smaller class sizes and an equal distribution of school resources so that all students have access to books, computers and individualized attention from educators.*

# Asian Pacific American Agenda Coalition

## 2007 Boston At-Large City Council Election Questionnaire

NAME OF CANDIDATE Mr. David James Wyatt

### A. PUBLIC SAFETY

1. How would you improve public safety and address the rise of violent crime in Boston?  
(100 WORDS OR LESS)

The best anti-crime program is a job. I support C.O.R.I. reform; the elimination of the MCAS as a graduation requirement; and the ability of people who have paid their debt to society to vote. Persons who can't earn an honest living due to the MCAS are populating street corners at night involved in crime. C.O.R.I. reports of acts committed 25 years ago are blocking some from honest employment. One need not be a socialist to see the need for these reforms. I am a Republican.

2. Which of the following measures you will SUPPORT?  
(CHECK ALL THAT APPLY):

- a. Multilingual dispatchers on the 911 service so that limited English speakers can communicate in emergencies.
- b. More bilingual "beat" police, including officers fluent in Asian languages.
- c. Emergency medical technicians who are bilingual, including EMTs fluent in Asian languages.
- d. None of the above due to budgetary restrictions.

3. How would you ensure that there is a strong community process that would consider the input of Chinatown residents in the expansion of the Silver Line? (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)

a. I would advocate for frequent community meetings between the MBTA and Chinatown residents, with the MBTA providing interpreters and translated materials at such meetings.

b. I would advocate for requiring the MBTA to explicitly integrate Chinatown community input into its expansion plans.

- \*  c. I would advocate that residents in an impacted community be given a right to veto Silver Line expansion plans.
- d. None of the above.

### B. SOCIAL AND HUMAN SERVICES

1. How will you work to improve adult education and workforce development programs in the City? (100 WORDS OR LESS)

There are sufficient educational resources in Boston paired with local high schools to educate school children and adults regarding use of computers, the internet, and the English language. Some ethnicities have been excluded from employment for centuries when they have been qualified and have had no criminal record. We all need to work together for justice in the workplace-not just for recent immigrants.

2. Which of the following job training measures for limited English speakers would you support?  
(CHECK ALL THAT APPLY):

- a. I would support City funding for adult English as a Second Language programs.
- b. I would encourage public/private partnerships to train immigrant workers.
- c. There should be no special government supported job training programs for limited English speakers - they should learn English first.
- \*  d. I would support an increased priority on integrated ESL and skills training programs to move limited English speakers into jobs more efficiently.

3. Chinatown has not had a public branch library since the 1950s, when it was razed during Urban Renewal. Last year, the mayor and city council placed a feasibility study for a Chinatown branch library in the capital budget, but people say it can take ten years to get a library built. How would you work to speed up the development of a Chinatown branch library? (100 WORDS OR LESS)

The incumbents in office, including the Mayor, who oppose the building of this library must be opposed in elections and be replaced by those who place a higher priority on education. A vote for an at-large candidate for city council is a vote in the mayoral election in 2009. I have an M.Ed., and I taught for thirteen years in Boston. Funds dedicated to a library or high school can be diverted elsewhere by the mayor.

\*  I support democratic action-not the veto.

2b  Immigrants should not discriminate against blacks in training and in hiring.

2d  Blacks are not being hired in businesses due to ethnicity.

**C. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND POLITICAL EMPOWERMENT**

- 1. If elected, would you include APA and other minorities in your staff?  
Yes  No
- 2. If elected, would you support expanding the APA and other minority representation within City government?  
Yes  No
- 3. Currently, the City is required by a consent decree with the Department of Justice to provide Chinese and Vietnamese bilingual ballots and other assistance to limited English speaking voters.
  - a. The Secretary of State has opposed inclusion of Chinese transliterated candidate names on the ballot. Do you support having Chinese candidate names on the Chinese bilingual ballot?  
Yes  No
  - b. The consent decree between DOJ and the City expires in 2008. How will you work to ensure that Chinese and Vietnamese bilingual ballots will continue beyond 2008? (100 Words or less)

- I have made contact with the DOJ and had additional information to submit to the DOJ in 2005; but the city settled the matter. As an elected official of Boston, I can update the DOJ on infractions by the city that come to, or are brought to my attention; and I have sued the city personally on election matters in the past ten years.
- 4. The City of Boston has benefited greatly from the contributions of its immigrant residents, who pay taxes, run businesses, and increase our labor pool. But US Citizenship has become more and more difficult to attain, as fees have increased by 60 percent and naturalization exams become more difficult for those with limited English literacy. Would you support a Home Rule Petition allowing Permanent Residents who are seeking citizenship the right to vote in local elections?  
Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No

**D. HOUSING AND LAND USE CONTROL**

- 1. The City Council will soon consider an ordinance protecting tenants' right to collective bargaining with landlords that are large property owners of buildings with twenty or more units. If these owners refuse to negotiate, that fact would be placed in a file for consideration in future city zoning or permitting requests by the owner. Would you support this Tenants' Right to Collective Bargaining ordinance?  
Yes  No
- 2. The BRA is responsible for all of the city's planning, zoning, economic and industrial development. It also owns hundreds of properties and serves as both owner and re-developer. It is the sole administrator of fees collected from developers, yet has no accountability to the City Council. Do you support the establishment of a separate city planning department, accountable to the public and to City Council, that would assume responsibility for city and neighborhood master planning as well as final approval over proposed development projects?  
Yes  No

- 3. How would you improve accountability to neighborhood or community plans? (100 WORDS OR LESS)  
I would cooperate with the district city councilor to address the expressed concerns that citizens have over BRA Rule 80 process. I would alert neighborhood councils to their obligation to monitor process. I have attended over ten Rule 80 community advisory committee meetings this year and would bring that expertise with me to the city council.
- 5. Much of the affordable housing built recently is unaffordable to community residents. Guidelines are based on a Greater Boston Area Median Income figure of \$82,600 for a family of four, but Boston median income is nearly half that amount. Please explain how you would support targeting more local affordable housing resources and programs to serve those most in need, such as households making Boston median income or below. (100 WORDS OR LESS)  
I would support the Neighborhood Stabilization Act if it were to be heard again by the city council. The stock market plunge is associated to housing foreclosures. We need more rental housing at affordable rates-not less. See question D2.

\* D2. In 2004 this city council voted down the Neighborhood Stabilization Act. Many on this council support winfall profits by developers. I was at the hearing in 2004. These incumbents need to be replaced to get more affordable housing. Only then could such a new department be reasonable.

**Asian Pacific American Agenda Coalition**  
**2007 Boston at-Large City Council Election Questionnaire**  
**Name of Candidate:** Sam Yoon

**A. Public Safety:**

1. I believe a successful public safety strategy must have a three-pronged approach involving police, prosecution, but perhaps most importantly, prevention. In this year's budget, I sought more funding for crucial anti-violence programs such as the youth summer jobs program and the street workers program so that we can stem the violence through prevention. Placing social workers on the streets is a critical prevention tactic, as proven in the so-called "Boston Miracle". Providing youth jobs is also a critical component as at risk youth need an opportunity to contribute to our city, and this program has been proven effective.

I hope I can continue my work with youth jobs and street workers to ensure public safety policy is comprehensive in Boston.

2. I support:
- a. Multilingual 911 dispatchers
  - b. Bilingual Beat police
  - c. Bilingual EMTs

Of course, budgetary concerns are relevant to all of these policy agendas, and currently, the city budget is tightly controlled both procedurally and politically. However, these programs deserve implementation and I will work through the budgetary process in the hopes of identifying other fiscal strategies.

3. Silver Line Expansion

I support points a. and b., as I believe affected communities should be given a voice in the development process. Regular meetings among residents, MBTA officials, and your elected officials only improve dialogue and oversight, leading to more transparency in city government, which is critical to building trust and accomplishing progress.

The Chinatown community must have a voice in this process, and their voice must be heard, and I will work to ensure that happens.

I cannot support an outright veto expansion plans, at least not at this juncture. As someone who has played a role in development in our city, and in Chinatown, I know that the expansion and development process is a complicated one. I know that if we work together, it should never reach the point where Chinatown, or any other community, would have to veto a proposed expansion project.

**B. Social and Human Services:**

**1. Adult education and workforce development**

Continuing education and workforce development are crucial to keeping Boston a thriving city, as well as ensuring that all of our communities reap the benefits. First of all, I know that many of our allies across the city: labor unions, non-profit organizations, and existing city programs can achieve much of the workforce development and adult education mission, if we work together to provide not only resources but make these programs available to all our residents. Secondly, publicizing the existing programs in our city must be a priority. Boston has some of the greatest minds and educational institutions in the world; surely we can incorporate some of that brilliance into an adult education strategy. Finally, securing additional funding, public or private, for adult education is something I would advocate for.

**2. Training Measures:**

I support: a. b. d.

Additional ESL programs, either through direct city funding sources, or through a public private partnerships, are essential to the integration of all Boston's residents, whether Chinese, Vietnamese, Latino, Haitian, Cape Verdean, Brazilian, Russian, or otherwise. Ensuring that limited English speakers can work and grow in our economy should be a top priority.

**3. Chinatown Library**

As you probably know, funding the site study for the Chinatown Library was a priority for me in the FY07 Capital Budget. I am pleased to have been the lead sponsor of this effort. The overarching question for me, and in my opinion for the community, is whether we focus on a possibly temporary, and probably smaller library that can be realized sooner, or hold out for a permanent, and probably larger location that can be realized later. This is an important question given the political, geographic, and economic pressures around land use in Chinatown. Once the community makes such a decision, I believe we will see action in the short-term and our next steps will be clearer.

**C. Community Development and Political Empowerment:**

1. Staff makeup:

Yes. Not only have I hired a diverse staff in my City Council office, including two African Americans and two staff members of Asian descent, but I have worked with MassVote, Olstel, and the Initiative for Diversity to ensure individuals with diverse backgrounds learn, grow and develop in public service.

2. City Government Diversity:

Absolutely. I will always support greater diversity in all levels of government.

3. a. Transliterated ballots with Chinese characters are essential to a flourishing democracy in our city. Every major bilingual community, whether Chinese, Vietnamese or Spanish have the right to vote independently and privately in their native language.

b. I have been vocal in my advocacy to continue supporting Chinese transliteration of candidates names in the state of Massachusetts. I will vocally support, advocate, and lobby to restore fully bilingual ballots for all communities.

4. Home Rule Petition for Legal Resident Voting Rights

Yes. I co-sponsored, and will continue to support the measure allowing legal permanent residents on their path to citizenship to be allowed the right to vote in municipal elections. I will continue to support and advocate for this Home Rule petition.

**D. Housing and Land Use Control**

**1. Tenant's Right to Collective Bargaining**

As Chair of the Housing committee, I sponsored the Collective Bargaining ordinance and fought a hard, uphill battle to pass it. This city ordinance allowed tenants to organize the residents of their building or apartment, in the hopes of regular meetings with their landlord to solve conflicts or disputes that often arise, especially in larger housing developments.

In my experience, open dialogue is the best way to solve potential conflicts, and solutions are often reached face to face. As common-sense as this sounds, it was strongly opposed by the real estate community and lobbyists for small property owners. It reveals just how much work we have to do to move a progressive agenda through the power of institutions that benefit from our current economic climate.

**2. City Planning Department:**

Yes, I support the creation of a planning department separate from the BRA for several reasons. First, I believe there is an inherent conflict of interest when developers provide funding to the City's planning department. Second, I believe that the creation of a separate planning department will facilitate more community input into the City's planning process. Third, I support any attempt to bring more transparency and accountability to the development decisions made in our city.

Serious BRA reform is hard and will take collaboration among all members of the Council, the Mayor and the community. In the meantime, I am committed to working with my colleagues to ensure that tax dollars are not wasted and that neighborhoods will not be negatively impacted by hasty decisions made without your input.

**3. Accountability in Development:**

First of all, I believe a comprehensive development strategy in our city must involve regular community meetings with residents, BRA officials, and developers. Community plans must be incorporated into our development decisions. Too often, developers and government agencies ignore public input, eroding public trust, making honest, effective dialogue even more difficult.

4. Affordable Housing Strategy for those most in need:

As a former developer of affordable housing and Chair of Boston City Council's Housing Committee, I am very supportive of a targeted effort to provide more affordable housing to those families and residents who are the most in need. Obviously, there must be some sort of uniform standard to determine who is eligible for various types of housing but the definition of affordability should be based on local economic factors.

We need to look at the broad spectrum of policy tools that can be used to support low-income households. For example, I have proposed strengthening the City's Inclusionary Development Policy – by which private developers are required either to build affordable units on site or contribute funds to build affordable housing elsewhere. Close scrutiny of this policy is important in targeting eligibility requirements for both the built housing and the housing funds. I am also considering the use of a "transfer tax." This was successfully implemented in Illinois and would tap the wealth generated by luxury real estate sales to support the preservation and creation of affordable housing.

**E. Education:**

**1. APA educators in BPS schools:**

a. I would support increasing APA representation at BPS schools at all levels through aggressive recruitment of APA candidates.

**2. I support both A and B.**

Both items are crucial. The Asian population in Boston is the fastest growing minority group. They are also quickly becoming the most diverse minority group with new immigrants from places like Thailand, Cambodia and Malaysia.

**3. How can the City Council work with the Mayor to improve educational opportunity for all children in the school system?**

Active parents are crucial to a child's success. Parents need to feel comfortable interacting with their child's school. We need to work to improve access to the school system; something I was pleased to learn is on the Dr. Johnson's agenda. However, I still believe that we can do more. As a father, I have direct experience with the Boston Public School System. I can use this knowledge to be an advocate for reform.