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CONTACT

Maria Douglas

812.240.5925

contact@hoosieraap.org

Indiana's Asian American Community Finds Their Voice In A Critical Election Year

Hoosier Asian American Power launches to build grassroots power to bolster civic engagement

Bloomington/Indianapolis — [Hoosier Asian American Power](#) (HAAP), a nonpartisan civic organization, champions community-centered policymaking and voter education, mobilization, and protection as a pathway to equity and justice. Formally National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum Indiana Chapter (NAPAWF Indiana), HAAP will focus on issues specific to Asian Americans in Indiana and advocate for just and equitable policies that best serve its local residents.

"Asian Americans are powerful: we're the fastest-growing voting demographic, and the number of Asian American eligible voters more than doubled in the past two decades," says HAAP co-chair Melissa Borja. "HAAP aims to build the grassroots political power of Asian Americans voters because we believe that robust civic engagement is the best way to make Indiana a safe and inclusive place where Asian American Hoosiers can thrive."

HAAP will build on NAPAWF Indiana's groundbreaking voter mobilization work targeting Asian Americans in 2020 and 2022, quick response campaigns to address anti-Asian racism and violence, and efforts to serve as a resource hub to support Asian American communities throughout Indiana. The primary issues HAAP will advocate for include racial equity; voting rights, education, and participation; and reproductive justice for Hoosier Asian Americans.

"The profound and impactful work our team has accomplished and will continue to do in Indiana provides political advocacy that has never before existed for our Asian American community," says HAAP co-chair Michelle Dahl. "As a Korean Adoptee and a mother of five who has lived in Indiana my whole life this work provides much needed representation and hope."

HAAP will host its launch event featuring [Helen Zia](#), a [Chinese American journalist](#) and [activist](#) for [Asian American](#) and [LGBTQ](#) rights, on Thursday, Jan. 18, 2024, at the I Fell Building located at 415 W 4th St, Bloomington, IN, from 5:30-7 p.m.

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Melissa May Borja

Co-Chair, Hoosier Asian American Power

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