

NAKASEC Action Fund is sending a 2019 Virginia Statewide Candidates Survey to all candidates in districts with a significant Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) voter population of over 5% that we have identified in competitive races. We hope you will spend a few minutes reviewing and completing the attached questionnaire, and return it to us by COB Friday, August 23rd. You may email your completed questionnaire to Helen Li at [hli@NakasecActionFund.org](mailto:hli@NakasecActionFund.org) or fill out the Google Form [here](#).

This survey is your opportunity to communicate in your own words what your views are on critical topics to the AAPI electorate. There are 155,000+ AAPI voters in Virginia and we will make sure that they get this information to educate and engage them in the November 2019 general election to promote more civic engagement within the AAPI community.

Formed in 2005, NAKASEC Action Fund (NAKASEC AF) engages in policy and legislative advocacy to protect and strengthen the nation's laws and policies regarding civil, immigrant and human rights. Our sister organization, NAKASEC, a 501(c)(3) organization, maintains a strong presence in Asian American & Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities throughout the nation, including in Virginia.

We appreciate your time and look forward to reviewing your responses.

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Name: Wendy Gooditis

Affordable Housing

**1. How will you ensure that all revitalization efforts benefit and include long-time local communities, especially communities of color and non-English speaking communities? How will you ensure that revitalization efforts do not come at the expense of displacing these communities?**

When we're making decisions on specific revitalization efforts, it's important that emphasis is put on equitable investment. Unfortunately, communities of color and non-English speaking communities in Virginia are more likely to live in areas where local resources are underfunded, especially school districts. When we make efforts to improve these areas, such as raising teacher pay or sectioning grants for education investment, it's important that we have proper measures in place to ensure that those same residents that these investments are benefiting are forced out via price hikes.

**2. What is your position on rent control in Virginia? What are your plans to protect tenants from evictions and rent hikes?**

Rent control can be an important measure for ensuring that communities undergoing revitalization efforts ultimately benefit from outside investment, instead of it forcing them out. Continued emphasis on rent control can be an effective way to do this, as can ensuring that investment is going to the most vital of institutions, such as schools.

**Immigration**

**3. What are your views on driver licenses or driver privilege cards for all individuals who are age eligible and able to pass a driving exam, regardless of immigration status? How would you implement these types of licenses?**

I believe that individuals who are eligible for driver's licenses should receive them and I have voted for such legislation in the past. I would do so again.

**4. What is your position on in-state tuition for all youth who graduate from Virginia high schools, regardless of immigrations status?**

Our Commonwealth is strongest when we prioritize education and job training, that's done by ensuring that are youth, regardless of immigration status, have the opportunity to attend public university via in-state tuition.

**5. What are your views on granting localities and their sheriff's departments more discretion in the processing of immigrants in jails and juvenile detention?**

Localities should ultimately have their own discretion when it comes to processing immigrants and not have to bend to the will of federal agencies.

**Climate Change + Transportation**

**6. What are your views on new fossil fuel infrastructure in Virginia?**

I believe that at this point we need to be making investments in renewable energies, and we must construct the infrastructure for those projects with Union labor. I have and will remain opposed to the Atlantic Coast and Mountain Valley Pipeline and, barring special circumstances, would generally avoid any new fossil fuel infrastructure in the Commonwealth.

**7. What are your top priorities for increasing environmentally friendly public transportation to reduce the number of single-occupancy vehicles and how do you propose to fund these priorities?**

People will ride the bus and take the train so long as they come on time and are reliably sources of transportation. We need to invest in Metro rail and bus and do so with organized labor, so that we can ensure the work is done correctly, on time, and in an equitable fashion.

**8. How will you ensure that all workers are able to commute to work in a way that is fair and equitable?**

Ultimately this comes down to prioritizing realistic investments in transportation and not just giving lip service to it.

**Healthcare**

**9. Virginia recently passed Medicaid expansion. However, there are still many residents of Virginia who do not have health insurance. If elected, what are your top priorities to further expand healthcare access?**

Mental healthcare continues to be underfunded in the Commonwealth, I believe this would be one of the best places to start. While we expanded medicaid, we still have many Virginians who aren't currently insured.

**10. What are your views on allowing legal permanent residents who have lawfully resided in the U.S. for more than five years to become eligible for Medicaid, if they meet all other eligibility requirements?**

I would be very open to this and would love to learn more.

**11. What are your views on expanding Virginia’s FAMIS program to undocumented children?**

I think all children in the Commonwealth should have access to quality and affordable healthcare.

**Education**

**12. What are your plans for addressing the increasing costs of college in Virginia?**

Virginia should expand investment and access to 2-year community colleges and technical schools.

**13. Virginia is currently investing in a “Tech-Talent Pipeline” for STEM education in both K-12 and in state college programs. However, we recognize that students and youth should also be supported in their educational pursuits outside of STEM. What is your plan for supporting students who choose non-STEM interests both in K-12 and in college programs?**

The bottom-line when it comes through K-12 education in Virginia is that we do not pay our teachers enough and have too many under-funded school districts. In Loudoun County we have academies that offer specialized education tracks for STEM students, I don't see any reason why these sort of programs couldn't be expanded to include the arts.

**13. What are your views on universal childcare and universal pre-K?**

I would support these programs.

**14. What are your views on free meal programs in our public schools?**

We should support these - it's incredibly difficult to learn while hungry

**Racial Equity**

**15. The scandals surrounding state leadership in early 2019 illuminated the long way that Virginia has to go especially in the realm of anti-black racism and sexual violence. If elected, what are the top policies or initiatives that you will champion to promote a more just and equitable Virginia?**

I think one of the most obvious places to start is criminal justice reform. Former Governor McAuliffe did great work in restoring the right of past non-violent felons, however we still have a long way to go in ensuring that the laws that govern our Commonwealth aren't tinged with racism.