

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: John Bell**

**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?**

I believe all revitalization projects should include the demographics on the communities and I believe a system should be used that gives priority to communities of color and non-English speaking communities since they have typically been disadvantaged and disproportionately been excluded from revitalization projects in the past.

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

I believe rent increases and eviction requests should be closely regulated for at risk populations and denied in instances where the free market is not working in a way that disadvantages our most vulnerable citizens.

I believe everyone should have the ability to get a drivers license since it is a critical enabler needed to get employment and to have a good quality of life. I would immediately vote to pass laws (which I have voted for as a Virginia Delegate) to make every person eligible for a driver's license and would implement policy that would forbid ICE involvement.

**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 everyone should have the ability to get a drivers license since it is a critical enabler needed to get employment and to have a good quality of life. I would immediately vote to pass laws (which I have voted for as a Virginia Delegate) to make every person eligible for a driver's license and would implement policy that would forbid ICE involvement.

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

I support in state tuition for every student who graduates from a Virginia high school.

**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?**

I don't support local law enforcement use of racial profiling or other efforts that make them an arm of ICE and distract them from their local law enforcement duties.

**Climate Change + Transportation**

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

I believe Virginia should be investing in clean energy production such as wind, solar and bio and should not be investing in new fossil fuel infrastructure aside from grid improvements that reduce the consumption of power or that make the transmission grid safer.

**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?**

I support light rail and electric zero emission public transportation vehicles as well as publicly supported ride sharing programs. I also support increased investment in bike and walk paths that connect communities and reduce the number of cars on the road.

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

I support aggressive investment in a variety of low or zero emission public transportation options. I believe the top priority should be to ensure access to public transportation along the new Metro Silver line for economically disadvantaged communities such as Sterling who are underserved by bus service. I also support subsidies for ride sharing and mass transit to ensure that every community is fairly served.

**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?**

First, I would remove the work requirement that the republicans placed on Virginia's Medicaid expansion program. I would also invest in more options for healthcare exchanges and public awareness and enrollment programs.

**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 support

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

I support

**Education**

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

I think we should first expand dual enrollment for high school students and force greater acceptance of these credits to reduce the cost of a college education. I also believe we should continue to encourage 2+2 programs where community colleges partner with four year schools to allow students to live at home and lower the cost of a degree. I support increasing state funding to reduce tuition and capping the salaries of highly paid employees of public colleges and universities. I also support greater investment in clean energy and public private partnerships to reduce operating costs.

**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?**

I support STEAM and STEAM-H over strictly STEM programs. I also believe that we should stop cutting the arts and afterschool programs which I believe is a critical element of a well rounded education.

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

I strongly support. I have served on the Virginia School Readiness Committee for four years and believe the best educational investment is an investment in early education.

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

I support free breakfast and lunch for all students. I believe the free meal programs are dramatically underfunded and also carry an embarrassing stigma for many children. I believe we should increase the funding for school meal programs so that a healthy meal of freely prepared food is available for every child. It is a shame that most schools serve unhealthy processed foods and no longer have the ability to prepare healthy meals

**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?**

When elected, I will continue to support policies that promote equality at every level of government.