

For Immediate Release
October 2, 2009

Contact:

Dr. E.Y-T Lee, President

The 80-20 NW Ohio Chapter

Tel: 419-297-2255

Email: liyueting@yahoo.com

80-20 NW Ohio Chapter Endorses Toledo Mayoral Candidates

For the past half year, 80-20 NW Ohio Chapter of Asian Americans has been engaged with all mayoral candidates. Last weekend, the chapter's board of directors, officers and key community leaders met with the top two candidates, Mr. Mike Bell and Mr. Keith Wilkowski again. We also received a copy of their written responses to our five questions which were unanimously answered in the affirmative as follows:

“1. If you are elected to be a Toledo mayor, will you enhance and promote Asian American cultural programs within 18 months? 2. If elected, will you appoint at least ONE Asian American on your strategic or think-tank team? 3. If elected, will you hire Asian Americans who will directly report to you or consider giving fair contract bids to Asian American businesses? 4. If elected, will you promote Asian American employees to the administrative or managerial levels proportionately similar to white women and other minorities? 5. If elected, will you take specific actions to protect Asian American equal justice and rights (including fighting against discrimination or racism against Asian Americans)?”

Our chapter's board of directors, officers and key community leaders believe that both mayoral candidates are qualified for the mayoral position, and that both of them will fulfill their commitment to the Asian American community consistent with their affirmative responses to each of our five questions. Although 80-20 NW Ohio Chapter of Asian Americans as an organization supports both candidates by being neutral, the chapter encourages its members and other Asian Americans in the greater Toledo area to support one of these two candidates whom they believe would do the best job. In other words, individual members should feel free to donate monies, time or other resources and cast votes for either of the two candidates, independent of the organization.

The mission of 80-20 NW Ohio Chapter of Asian Americans (see website as follows: http://www.80-20initiative.net/about/chapters_oh.asp) is the same as that of its parent (national) organization, 80-20 Initiative: <http://www.80-20initiative.net/>, which is to win equal justice and opportunity for all Asian Pacific Americans (APAs). In carrying out its mission, 80-20 NW Ohio Chapter focuses on politics at the State and local levels, seeking to remove any political and institutional barriers that prevent APAs in Northwest Ohio from receiving and enjoying the full justice and equality to which all Americans are entitled.