



Press Release, Oct. 15, 2010

80-20 Endorses Republican Whitman and Democrat Boxer

If **WE** don't put our Asian American interests forefront and foremost, then **WHO WILL??**

Background: 80-20 Initiative fights for equal opportunity and justice for Asian Americans with actions. Because Asian American (AA) is a small minority, it is easy for politicians to ignore us and pay attention to the larger groups. As a result AA has not attained equal opportunity and judicial representation. For example, **5.2%** of Americans are Asian, but only 1.7% of federal judges are Asian. And that is already a big improvement over the 0.9% before 80-20 obtained Obama's signed promise to nominate more AA judges and to review the progress with 80-20. Asian judges in the higher level Appeals court (just below Supreme Court) is only 1% now, and 0.0% before the Obama promise.

AA has half the chance of rising to management positions compared to the national average in private industry and in universities. In the federal government, the chance is 1/3 of the national average. No wonder AAs do not feel equal. Therefore 80-20 has also obtained Obama's signed promise to enforce a powerful executive order (EO 01246) to remove the work place inequality for AAs and review the progress with 80-20. He already appointed three AA cabinet secretaries and an Asian chairman of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

Reward and Punishment: To reward Obama for having begun to fulfill his promises to AAs and to help his administration to continue to fulfill his promises to AAs, 80-20 has endorsed **all Democratic US congress-person and senator candidates** in the November election.

If a politician does not fulfill the promises he made to 80-20, it will endorse his opponent in the next election to show him that AAs are no longer timid and will not be ignored any more. This combination of reward and punishment with **bloc-vote** makes politicians offer and **fulfill** promises to AAs.

Endorsement of Boxer: In particular, 80-20 endorses Barbara Boxer for US Senator representing California. 80-20 asked her to recommend AA federal judges to Obama and she delivered.

California Governor Race: For the first time, 80-20 is using the same strategy of signed promises, review, and reward/punishment to fight for equality for AAs at the state level-- in California's governor race.

Out of the 25 justices of the California Appeals Court 1st District (San Francisco) there is not a single Asian American. Only 3.4% (5/145) of California Higher Education Systems' presidents/chancellors are Asian American while California has 14% Asian population. Equality remains an unrealized dream for Asian Americans even in California.

How the Endorsement is Decided: A nine member 80-20 California Coalition was formed to decide the endorsement. The members (see list at end) are 80-20 board directors or representatives of 80-20 affiliates. The Coalition sent questions to Jerry Brown and Meg Whitman to assess how responsive the Candidates are to our requests and needs, how committed they are to working with the Asian Americans to ensure Asian Americans find equal opportunities under the new administration. We informed the candidates that "We intend to **endorse the candidate with the better reply**" and campaign for that candidate.

Brown's Non-response: The 80-20 California Coalition received a reply from a Brown staff that given their "resource constraints" they are unable to respond. In other words, they have no time to respond. The Coalition did not give up and, with the help of 80-20 National, made numerous efforts to reach the top level. We asked AAs to send FAXes to Brown urging him to respond to our questions. And hundreds sent FAXes. Behind-the-scene urging through AA Democratic State Assemblymen and other prominent AA Democrats produced no response either. We even called for a protest AA at a Brown LA appearance, which was canceled at the last minute. Our effort to obtain a response from Brown never stopped. However, Brown ignored each and all of these efforts and never responded to the questions.

Whitman's Response: Whitman responded with a signed letter pledging equal opportunity to qualified API in her administration and in schools. Whitman also promised to meet with Coalition members to discuss API appointments and promised that she will have an open door to 80-20 California Coalition and other API organizations. Therefore we will have the access to discuss her fulfillment of promises and decide whether to reward or punish in her next election.

Endorsement of Whitman: With some voters already sending in their absentee ballots, 80-20 California Coalition unanimously voted to endorse Meg Whitman. Subsequently, 80-20 Initiative voted to endorse Meg Whitman. Starting now, 80-20 will campaign for her using its email list of 700,000 with about 35% residing in California and advertising in Asian ethnic newspaper and radio.

Why AA Votes can Tip the Election: Latest Rasmussen poll shows that Brown lead Whitman 49% to 44%. 8% of the California voters are Asian. Among Hispanic and Asian voters, Brown leads 65% to 7% in poll. If Asian votes change to 40%-60%, Whitman will win 48% to 47%.

Benefits to AA: If election results show that AA votes help make her winner, she will for sure keep her promises to AA--because she wants to keep AA votes for her second term election. Even more importantly **all** politicians in California and then in the nation will take AA seriously. The next Democratic governor candidate will beg to extend equal opportunity to AA. We will have shown that **neither party can take us for granted.**

What if Brown wins: First, US politicians punish other politicians. They do not punish the voters that vote against them. Most elections have about evenly split votes; do the winners punish half the population? Next, if AA votes clearly shifts to Whitman from the current 65%-7% poll but Brown still wins, he will immediately start courting AA because he does not want the risk of losing AA votes again. All other politicians will also understand that they can not take AA votes for granted. **As long as AA vote for Whitman together, we are the winner no matter which candidate wins.**

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Appendix: Members of 80-20 California Coalition

Dr. Chenming Hu (Chair), Professor, University of California; Director, 80-20
Fel Amistad, Vice President, Filipino American Coalition; Director, 80-20
Niraj P. Baxi, Former President, National Federation of Indian American Associations
Dr. Ta-Lin Hsu, Chairman, H&Q Asia Pacific; Trustee, The Asia Foundation
Dr. Hilary Hsu, Former Chancellor, City College of San Francisco; Director, 80-20
Dr. Alice Huang, President, American Association for the Advancement of Science;
Director, 80-20
Linden Nishinaga, P.E., Senior Civil Engineer; Director, 80-20
Joel Wong, Scientist (Ret.), Lawrence Livermore National Lab.; Director, 80-20;
C.C. Yin, Businessman; Trustee, The California State University; Founding Chairman,
Asian Pacific Islander American Public Affairs Association (APAPA)