

# THE FIERY DRAGON

March 2011

Empowering the Chinese Community Since 1958

WWW.CADCSF.ORG

## CADC Celebrates More Than Half Century Annual Dinner - March 25

The Chinese American Democratic Club will celebrate a 53 year legacy as one of the oldest and independent Democratic Clubs with its annual dinner at the Empress of China on Friday, March 25.

The fundraising dinner - a bully pulpit for club and city political leaders - will celebrate CADC's aim to make the city a better place for Chinese Americans to live, work and play in. Among past keynote speakers have been U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein, Mayors Willie Brown and Frank Jordan, Assemblywoman Fiona Ma, Congressmen Mike Honda and Norman Mineta.

For more than half of a century, the club has had an illustrious line of presidents or leaders like former Insurance Commissioner Harry Low, Supervisor Gordon Lau, College Board members Lillian Sing, Julie Tang and Alan Wong and non-profit executive Harold Yee. Club board members have continued that rich tradition with College Board member Lawrence Wong, former school board members Ben Tom and Eddie Chin and former county committee members.

**What:** CADC Annual Fundraising Dinner

**When:** Friday, March 25

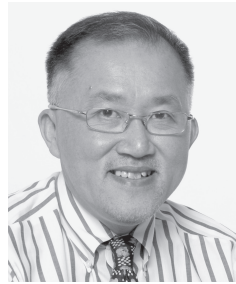
**Where:** 838 Grant Avenue, San Francisco, CA

**More details to come.**

## Membership Rate Changes

SPECIAL 3-YEAR RATE

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Sam Kwong, 2011 President

## President's Message

As President of the Chinese American Democratic Club for 2011, I would like to thank the members of the club for giving me an opportunity to carry on the work done by our past President Michael Chan.

Within weeks in January, the political landscape of San Francisco took a wild shake-up as City Administrator Edwin Lee became the first Chinese American Mayor of San Francisco. Furthermore, as Gavin Newsom became

Lieutenant Governor of the State of California, he appointed Police Chief Gascón as District Attorney with the departure of Kamala Harris to become State Attorney General. In an instance San Francisco had a Chinese American Mayor and Board of Supervisors President and now a Latino American District Attorney.

The November 2011 election will certainly be exciting. Will Chinese and Latino American communities realize the unique situation? And will this

## CADC Issues, Candidates and Propositions for Nov. 2 Election

*Editor's Note: CADC is proud to publish its stances from the Nov. 2, 2010 election to serve as a guideline for its support of future candidates and issues.*

### Growing Chinese American Power

Today, Chinese American Commerce Secretary Gary Locke and Energy Secretary Steven Chu hold White House cabinet positions only steps away in the line of presidential succession. California Supreme Court justice Ming Chin is often mentioned as a future U.S. Supreme Court appointee. California Controller John Chiang is a bright star touted for Governor of California. For many of us, we will see Chinese Americans ascend to positions of higher office perhaps becoming President, Supreme Court Justice and Governor. And today we can elevate Chinese Americans collectively through our votes, volunteers and donors.

### San Francisco Influence

We have greater influence locally.

In San Francisco, at least four very qualified Asian Americans (State Senator Leland Yee, Board of

Supervisor President David Chiu, Assessor-Recorder Phil Ting and Public Defender Jeff Adachi) have been mentioned for the 2011 race to succeed Mayor Gavin Newsom in San Francisco. Chinese Americans will play a leading role in deciding who the next mayor will be as they have in 1991 for Frank Jordan, 1999 for Willie Brown and 2003 and 2007 for Newsom.

The Chinese American Democratic Club, founded in 1958, will play a leading role to reflect the voices of San Francisco Chinese Americans by campaigning for issues and candidates supportive of Chinese American jobs and small business, education and homeownership in San Francisco.

### CADC's Influence

For years, CADC has endorsed and even successfully run qualified candidates to address those issues. Among them include Gordon Lau,

motivate them to vote? Or will rank choice voting create more confusion?

Who will finally be elected mayor and district attorney remains to be seen but campaign consultants will be working overtime. As for our "accidental DA", the Police Department's rank-and-file will complain if an outsider is nominated as the new Chief.

Our best wishes go to Mr. Ed Lee as he takes over as Mayor and deals with the City budget crisis and unemployment caused by the Great Recession. Every politician has talked about balancing the budget and creating jobs, perhaps it will take a career civil servant like Lee to deliver the results. Wouldn't that be refreshing? Good Luck Ed!

Leland Yee and Ed Jew who served as supervisor. For college and school boards, CADC proudly has supported Ben Tom, Julie Tang, Lillian Sing, Eddie Chin, Alan Wong and Lawrence Wong. Most of these Chinese Americans except for Tang, Jew and Chin have proudly led CADC as president. Today, Sing and Tang are superior court judges. Harry Low, also a former president, served as California Insurance Commissioner and an appellate judge.

### How CADC Evaluated Candidates, Issues

By supporting these people, CADC was not merely supporting people with a Chinese American complexion or name. We do not look at issues or candidates because they are "progressive" or "conservative." Instead, we look at the depth of the issue's or candidate's impact on Chinese Americans in work, business, schooling and homeownership.

For the November 2, 2010 elections, CADC was proud to support propositions and candidates primarily based on these criteria:

(continued on page 2) ►

## CADC Issues, Candidates and Propositions for

### Nov. 2 Election *(continued from page 1)* ▶

**Jobs and Business:** To revive the economy, candidates and issues must break down unfair barriers or support a competitive share of government contracts for qualified businesses owned by local Chinese Americans or run by large numbers of local Chinese American employees. For example, CADC has supported policies to expand business and employee opportunities in building the Chinatown Central Subway and the North Beach/Chinatown City College campus.

**School Choice:** CADC led the *Ho vs. S.F. Unified School District* federal lawsuit ending discrimination against Chinese American children in the public schools in the 1990s. Since then, CADC has fought for neighborhood schools thru a fair student assignment process. It has continued the fight to qualify a ballot measure allowing for greater parental choice in neighborhood schools. CADC successfully helped pass a ballot measure in 2008 restoring student choice for high school JROTC programs, which annually served as many as 1,000 Asian American cadets. Given that Chinese Americans make up more than one-third of the school district, CADC has fought to create a friendly city for children and teens. Finally, voters must understand that education however is mostly the responsibility of the College and School Boards, Legislature, Governor and other bodies in the State Capitol.

**Homeownership:** Our community is more likely to be or aspire to be homeowners. Chinese American families have three or more members, which makes them larger than the general size of two member San Francisco households. Thus, Chinese American families are unique in the down-sizing family atmosphere of San Francisco. As a result, our households must purchase or rent larger, more expensive homes. They face difficult City Hall planning and permitting process to build or modify homes. As Chinese Americans, we seek or own homes in one of the nation's most costly cities. We are likely to be recent home buyers who will pay hefty property taxes while carrying large mortgages.

As a result, CADC questioned if

not opposed most bond measures because these bond projects would not fairly hire local Chinese American firms nor promote affordable homeownership. Further, the burden of bonds and interests are disproportionately passed on as property taxes to Chinese American homeowners. Given many bonds can be defeated by one-third of voters, a powerful unified Chinese American vote has the power to kill these bonds.

### Top CADC Endorsements

On the basis of these issues, we recommended candidates and propositions on the state and local ballots. In particular, we recommended these candidates for office:



#### FIONA MA FOR ASSEMBLY MEMBER, 12<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT:

Fiona Ma was seeking election for her third term. The former supervisor had fought for Chinese American small businesses seeking their fair share of government contracts. She successfully led the fight at the legislature and ballot to restore JROTC in the high schools. Ma has increased her influence in the state legislature as Assembly Speaker pro Tempore. Her CPA and small business background is needed to lead California out of its budget mess.



#### JAMES FANG FOR BART BOARD:

President James Fang is the only Chinese American on the BART

Board and the second longest serving elected official in San Francisco. Meanwhile, Fang is leading the dialogue on bringing B2B or "BART to the Beach" and the system's speedy on-time (96% on-time) service to San Francisco's heavily Chinese American west side. His clout has been to already obtain \$8 billion in federal funding to create tens of thousands of jobs to expand a green and seismically safe BART system. 330,000 system riders have "voted" in surveys with nearly 9 in 10 riders recommending BART. That was also a vote of confidence for BART Director Fang. Meanwhile, MUNI has failed to transport our community on-time while raising fares and parking tickets. His opponent was an unqualified former MUNI advisor on "transit effectiveness."



#### LAWRENCE WONG FOR COLLEGE BOARD:

The seven member community college board represents 105,000 students who are nearly one-third Chinese American. Through Lawrence Wong's longtime leadership, the Chinatown campus is close to reality. At the same time, the club endorsed only Wong and Anita Grier. It chose not to endorse a third candidate so that voters would send a message to opponents who have delayed the Chinatown campus that further harm to this vital project would not be tolerated. The delay has forced many immigrant Chinese Americans to study in an obsolete and unsafe campus for years. In the future, the new facility will teach English to students and prepare students for the workplace.

#### Board of Supervisors & Mayor:

Eleven supervisors consider and pass local resolutions, ordinances and charter amendments. They also review the mayor's proposed budget of \$6 billion. At times, the board will refer propositions for voters to

consider. Prior to the Nov. elections, three Chinese Americans sat on the board in Districts 1 (Richmond – Eric Mar), 3 (Chinatown – David Chiu) and 4 (Sunset – Carmen Chu).

The board's makeup has major implications on the next mayor's ability to govern San Francisco. Mayor Gavin Newsom, if California elects him Lt. Governor, will leave his position. Board President David Chiu could serve as interim mayor until the board selects a permanent new mayor who must run for election afterwards.

In the 1970s, Supervisor Gordon Lau nearly became the first Chinese American mayor if the board had elected him to replace the assassinated George Moscone. While there are Asian Americans who may succeed Newsom, not all of them will support the Chinese American community on jobs and business, homeownership and neighborhood schools.

Meanwhile, Newsom, whom Chinese Americans overwhelmingly voted for in 2003 and 2007, is fairly supportive of CADC and Chinese American issues. He also appointed Chinese Americans to major posts – including Heather Fong as police chief, Carmen Chu as supervisor and Phil Ting as Assessor-Recorder.

If Newsom or a like-minded person remained as mayor after the Nov. 2 election, then he or she will need the support of at least four supervisors to sustain his veto of legislation hurting the community on jobs, business and homeownership. In the past two years, Newsom counted on the support of Supervisors Carmen Chu (District 4 - Sunset), Sean Elsbernd (District 7 – West of Twin Peaks). He will need to look for two more allies with Bevan Dufty (District 8 – Castro) and Michela Alioto-Pier (District 2 - Marina) leaving the board after this November's elections.

#### LYNETTE SWEET FOR DISTRICT 10 SUPERVISOR:

Sophie Maxwell (District 10 – Bayview), who is also leaving the board, sometimes supported Newsom. District 10 could be the surprise of San Francisco. Long considered a district of African American neighborhoods, District 10's largest population is actually Asian American – many of them are Chinese American in Visitacion Valley and Silver Terrace. Combined, Asian and African Americans can help

elect BART Director Lynette Sweet, an African American woman who was CADC's first choice. After her, CADC supported Marlene Tran who was a retired Asian American teacher fluent in Chinese. The third choice was Teresa Duque who also was very fluent in Chinese.

So, it was important to see who replaced Alioto-Pier, Maxwell, Dufty and Chris Daly (District 6 – Tenderloin/Little Saigon). CADC felt these supervisor candidates would support the community on homeownership and small business and jobs:

District 2 (rank up to 3)  
No position



District 4 (rank up to 3)  
**Carmen Chu** (running unopposed)

District 6 (rank up to 3)  
**1. Theresa Sparks; 2. Matt Drake;**



**3. Jane Kim**  
District 8 (rank up to 3)  
**1. Rebecca Prozan; 2. Scott Wiener**

District 10 (rank up to 3)  
**1. Lynette Sweet; 2. Marlene Tran; 3. Teresa Duque**

**SCHOOL BOARD:** The nine member school board sets policy and budget and appoints top executives to educate more than 55,000 public school students, of which nearly one-third is Chinese American. Students are taught or supported by a staff that is only one-eighth Chinese American. The district's board includes four Asian American board members – two of whom are Chinese American (Sandra Fewer and Norman Yee). Jane Kim is a

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## Chinese American Democratic Club November 2010 Voter Guide

(Complete list and explanation are at [www.cadcsf.org](http://www.cadcsf.org))

### FEDERAL OFFICES

<u>Office</u>	<u>CADC Recommendation</u>
US Senator	Barbara Boxer (won at ballot)
US Representative	
District 8	Nancy Pelosi (won)
District 12	Jackie Speier (won)

### STATE OFFICES

<u>Office</u>	<u>CADC Recommendation</u>
Governor	Jerry Brown (won)
Lt. Governor	Gavin Newsom (won)
Secretary of State	Debra Bowen (won)
Controller	John Chiang (won)
Treasurer	Bill Lockyer (won)
Attorney General	Kamala Harris (won)
Insurance Commissioner	Dave Jones (won)
Board of Equalization, District 1	Betty Yee (won)
State Senator	
District 8	Leland Yee (won)

State Assembly—	
District 12	Fiona Ma (won)
District 13	Tom Ammiano (won)
Superintendent of Public Instruction	Tom Torlakson (won)
State Supreme Court—	
Chief Justice	Tani Cantil-Sakauye (won)
Associate Justice	Ming Chin (won)
Associate Justice	Carlos Moreno (won)
Court of Appeal, Associate Justice—	
(go to <a href="http://www.cadcsf.org">www.cadcsf.org</a> )	
Superior Court, Seat 15	Richard Ulmer (won)

### SAN FRANCISCO OFFICES

<u>Office</u>	<u>CADC Recommendation</u>
Assessor-Recorder	Phil Ting (won)
Public Defender	Jeff Adachi (won)

### CITY PROPOSITIONS

(see page 4)

## STATE PROPOSITIONS (For detailed explanation, go to [www.cadcsf.org](http://www.cadcsf.org))

<u>Measure</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>CADC Position</u>
PROP. 19	State Legalization, Regulation and Taxation of Marijuana (lost at ballot)	Yes
PROP. 20	Redistricting of Congressional Districts (won)	No
PROP. 21	\$18 Annual Vehicle License Surcharge for State Parks/Wildlife (won)	Neutral
PROP. 22	Prohibition on State Borrowing, Taking of Transportation, Redevelopment or Local Funds (won)	Yes
PROP. 23	Temporary Suspension of Air Pollution Control Law (lost)	No
PROP. 24	Repeal of Law Allowing Businesses to Reduce Tax Liability (lost)	No
PROP. 25	Require Simple Majority to Pass Budget Instead of Two-Thirds Vote of Legislature; Require Two-Thirds Vote for Taxes (won)	Yes
PROP. 26	Two-Thirds Vote for Certain State or Local Fees (won)	No
PROP. 27	Repeal State Commission on Redistricting and Consolidates Authority for Redistricting for State Legislature and Board Of Equalization (lost)	Yes

## City Proposition Endorsements for November 2010

NO on Proposition AA (won at ballot)

### **Vehicle Registration Fee**

**Reason:** The burden of a \$10 increase for upgrading roads, safety and transit would fall upon vehicle owners who pay but do not receive an equal benefit. City Hall should fix MUNI first before demanding more from drivers.

NO on Proposition A (lost)

### **Earthquake Safety Retrofit Deferred Loan and Grant Program General Obligation Bond**

**Reason:** Homeowners – many of them Chinese American – and tenants would bear the cost of property taxes which would pay for \$46 million in affordable housing retrofitting work that Chinese American contractors do not fairly benefit from.

YES on Proposition B (lost)

### **City Retirement and Health Plans**

**Reason:** Prop B was a measure to reduce costs and balance the city budget. The average San Francisco civil service worker salary is double the salary of private sector workers. Civil service workers should contribute more to their retirement and health plans. They should not depend on taxpayers who face unemployment, have retirement plans which have suffered from the stock market collapse and pay for rising health plan costs.

NO on Proposition C (won)

### **Mayoral Appearances at Board Meetings**

**Reason:** Voters rejected a similar measure several years ago. Under current law, the mayor could appear at S.F. Board of Supervisor regular meetings. The mayor could appear in many venues in person and online. This measure was unimportant compared to higher priorities like improving the economy and increasing jobs.

YES on Proposition D (lost)

### **Non-Citizen Voting in School Board Elections**

**Reason:** This could increase representation of Chinese American students, especially immigrants who cannot vote. This could increase their power on the school board – especially on the four Asian American members who have not always support issues like JROTC and neighborhood schools. Chinese Americans make up one-third of public school students.

NO on Proposition E (lost)

### **Election Day Voter Registration**

**Reason:** While CADC believes in increasing Chinese American voters, the Department of Elections would need resources to check for eligibility or fraud.

YES on Proposition F (won)

### **Health Service Board Elections**

**Reason:** This would streamline elections and reduce costs.

YES on Proposition G (won)

### **Transit Operator Wages**

**Reason:** Prop G was a measure to reduce costs and balance the city budget. On-time service has been only 73 percent. And just over half of riders were satisfied with MUNI service. Voters have supported MUNI's reorganization, increased funding, raised parking tickets and fares, improved transit planning and guaranteed increased driver salaries. The result has been poor performance for Chinese Americans who mostly live, attend school or do business far from the city's center in neighborhoods like Visitacion Valley, Sunset and Richmond.

YES on Proposition H (won)

### **Local Elected Officials on Political Party Committees**

**Reason:** In these hard times, San Francisco's elected officials should focus on one elective office, especially when the positions are full-time and pay

high salaries (e.g. city supervisors earn over \$90,000). Further, being on the Democratic or Republican county committees would allow elected officials to unfairly raise tens of thousands more dollars to run for county supervisor or mayor. In addition, all county committees have not fairly represented Asian Americans since many Chinese American voters do not choose any political party and cannot vote for Democratic, Republican committee members.

NO on Proposition I (won)

### **Saturday Voting**

**Reason:** Voting by mail would eliminate the need for Saturday voting which would increase election costs.

NO on Proposition J (lost)

### **Hotel Tax Clarification and Temporary Increase**

**Reason:** Prop J was a measure to increase city revenue and balance the city budget. Increasing hotel taxes to the highest in the nation would hurt local small businesses and employees in hotels, restaurants and souvenir shops which would depend on convention and tourist business. Prop J would have increased hotel taxes, but could have ended up reducing sales taxes when tourists shop or dine these businesses less. If Prop J and K pass, Prop J would have taken effect if it had more votes than Prop K since both have similar provisions.

YES on Proposition K (lost)

### **Hotel Tax Clarification and Definitions**

**Reason:** Unlike Prop J, Prop K would have clarified the hotel tax law for online reservations and hotel tax exemptions. This measure would not increase the tax rate. If Prop J and K passed, Prop K would have taken effect if it had more votes than Prop J since both had similar provisions.

YES on Proposition L (won)

### **Sitting or Lying on Sidewalks**

**Reason:** Prop L would have allowed the police to enforce prohibition of sitting and lying on sidewalks which are shared by all people. Allowing a few people to intimidate lawful residents would have discouraged shopping in our small businesses and lowered property values. Given that the Chinese American community has a high proportion of children, increased sidewalk safety would have made S.F. friendlier for our kids to walk and play. If Prop L and M passed, Prop L would taken effect if it has more votes than Prop M since both had similar provisions.

NO on Proposition M (lost)

### **Community Policing and Foot Beat Patrols**

**Reason:** This was a dangerous measure that politicized how the Police Department would protect the public. Community policing and foot patrols are different strategies to fight crime. Prop M could have harmed progress with crime declining for the last three years under Police Chiefs Heather Fong and George Gascon. Other strategies instead of community policing could have better served different Chinese American communities. For example, Chinatown and Tenderloin have more senior and immigrant residents susceptible to different crimes than small businesses or homeowners in the Sunset or Richmond. If Prop L and M passed, Prop M would have taken effect if it had more votes than Prop L since both had similar provisions.

NO on Proposition N (won)

### **Real Property Transfer Tax**

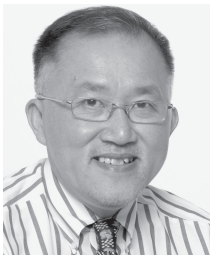
**Reason:** Prop N was a measure to increase city revenue and balance the city budget. CADC opposed Prop N and supported finding ways to rein in city expenditures while encouraging business growth. This transfer tax on buildings over \$5 to \$10 million and over \$10 million would hurt small businesses and their customers. It would be passed to small business tenants who would raise prices to their customers. If the building was residential, then tenants would carry the tax burden thru rents.



Calvin Louie,  
DCCC candidate



Michael Chan,  
DCCC candidate



Sam Kwong,  
DCCC candidate

## Why We Ran for the DCCC

By Michael Chan

Very little is known about the S.F. Democratic County Central Committee. Every two years in June, 24 members are elected by less than 20,000 voters. Few Chinese Americans are represented on this body. Yet, this body purports to speak for more than 200,000 San Francisco Democrats. It is the new political machine that influences some Asian American elected officials to not advocate for the best interests of S.F. Chinese Americans.

Whereas one-third of Chinese American voters refuse to align with the Democratic Party because, like many Americans, they are disgusted with party politics. Responding to the best interests of these voters, the Chinese American Democratic Club does not follow all Democratic Party recommendations and is supporting Proposition H on the November 2 ballot.

In the June 2010 election, we – accountant Calvin Louie, architect Sam Kwong, and small business/affordable housing non-profit director Michael Chan - ran for the Democratic County Central Committee in Assembly Districts 12 (west S.F.) and 13 (east S.F.) to increase Chinese and Asian American community representation and to increase ethnic and racial diversity on this Committee. Racial minorities need to be represented so that their opinions can shape the political debate and the actions taken. Our input reflects the values and aspirations of our citywide community, which are also widely shared by other racial minorities.

CADC in its commitment to the empowerment of Chinese Americans and other S.F. minorities supported our candidacies 300%

because it was absolutely the right thing to do. It was a statement that we need to have candidates be responsible and responsive to the needs of the communities that they have chosen to represent.

The values of being an entrepreneur, a homeowner, and of being educated drive the dreams and aspirations of our community as well as other communities. CADC's platform reflects these values and our three DCCC candidates endorsed these values. They campaigned on a platform that City government and politics need to re-connect with working class and middle class families being forced or driven out by a lack of jobs and public and private contract opportunities. They see no end to the declining quality of our public schools where social integration becomes a higher priority than a quality education. And they know that neighborhood stability and quality starts with safe neighborhoods everywhere.

Certainly political changes are in the air from now through 2012. The coming two years will decide what the future of this City will be. We and the CADC will continue to work within our community as well as to work with all other like-minded communities to make this City more responsive and friendly to families, to small businesses, to those who are limited English proficient, and to all who have been denied equal access to opportunities and equal protection under the law. Together, we can change the City for the betterment of all.

*Editor's Note: Calvin Louie, Sam Kwong and Michael Chan lost their bids for county committee. However, their campaigns offered an opportunity to share their views with other Democratic Clubs.*

## CADC Board of Directors, Officers, Committee Members

### Terms Expiring End of 2011

- Stanley Chan
- Wilson Chu  
*Tech Committee*
- Florence Kong
- Sam Kwong  
*President*
- Hazel Lee
- Henry Louie
- Timothy Louie  
*Secretary*
- Bonnie Low
- Helen Lum
- Dan Tan

### Terms Expiring End of 2012

- Richard Casuga  
*Tech Committee*
- Gary Chew
- Bayard Fong
- Suzie Lee  
*Treasurer, Activity/Membership Committee*
- Calvin Louie  
*Vice President*
- Richard Ow
- Conrad Seeto
- Dennis Van
- Alicia Wang
- Lawrence Wong
- Samson Wong  
*Newsletter Committee*

### Terms Expiring End of 2013

- Michael Chan  
*Ex-officio / Newsletter Committee*
- Eddie Chin  
*Vice President/Issue Committee Chair*
- Ron Lee  
*Parliamentarian/Activity / Membership Committee*
- Margaret Lee
- Amy Qu
- BQ Seeto
- Victor Seeto
- Derrick Seeto
- Sandy Su
- Ben Tom  
*Auditor*

## CADC Celebrates More Than Half Century

*(continued from page 1) ►*

Starting March 31, CADC membership dues will increase. Dues are good for the calendar year and entitle members to attend and participate in general and special meetings, receive notices and newsletters and other rights/privileges.

- Individuals - \$40
- Students/Seniors - \$20
- Individual and significant other - \$55
- Silver Dragon - \$50
- Golden Dragon - \$100
- Fiery Dragon - \$500

Special 3 Year Individual Membership - \$100  
(Savings of \$20 for the regulate individual rate)

## CADC Issues, Candidates and Propositions for

**Nov. 2 Election** *(continued from page 3) ►*

Korean American attorney who once worked at a Chinatown non-profit and Filipina American Hydra Mendoza directs education policy for Mayor Newsom.

Chinese Americans have forced the school board to change policy on neighborhood schools and JROTC over the past 15 years primarily thru court action and ballot measure. Further, the school board in the past has been hostile to allowing local Chinese American contractors to build or retrofit school buildings. With Kim leaving to run for supervisor, CADC supported only these candidates sympathetic to CADC and community concerns:

- School Board (3 seats)
- Emily Murase**
- Hydra Mendoza**
- Margaret Brodtkin**



Emily Murase

## CADC Impact on 2010 Races

*Fiery Dragon Editor's note slate card grade of B: CADC provided a winning edge in several local races and CADC, with a little more money, would have prevailed in several more races. Overall, the CADC Slate Card earns a solid "B".*

CADC put together a slate mailer targeting more than 20,000 Chinese American voters and another 15,000 Chinese-language voters in a *Sing Tao Daily* ad for the final weeks of the November 2 campaign. CADC likely impacted smaller district supervisor races and even citywide races by drawing out Chinese American voters sharing the club's philosophy on jobs and business, school choice and homeownership in San Francisco.

**HISTORIC 4 APA SUPES:** The final results show that moderates and conservatives will increase and perhaps shift what was a progressive board. That could shift more with Mayor **Gavin Newsom** departing to be Lt. Governor and District Attorney **Kamala Harris** becoming Attorney General in early January 2011.

A moderate mayoral successor – who could be supportive of CADC homeownership, jobs, business and school choice issues - will have allies of at least four centrists or conservatives to sustain mayoral vetoes as Newsom did.

CADC endorsees **Carmen Chu** (District 4), **Jane Kim** (District 6) and **Scott Wiener** (District 8) will become supervisor. With Kim and Chu joining **Eric Mar** and David Chiu, at least four Asian Pacific American (APA) supervisors will

serve with a near miss of a fifth in **Marlene Tran** in the District 10 race. Although APA supervisor numbers will be historic, most lean to the left – contrary to their center-right APA constituencies:

**Near Miss in District 10 (Bayview, Visitation Valley, Silver Terrace)** – District 10's Asian American community was overlooked by most "political insiders" for a long time until now. The club had endorsed **Marlene Tran** and **Teresa Duque** as 2nd and 3rd picks respectively after BART Director **Lynette Sweet**, the top CADC candidate. Retired teacher Tran in trial RCV counts benefited from Duque votes drawn major Asian American support. However, African American candidate votes were consolidating for **Malia Cohen** - leaving her as the only African American supervisor. Later counts had shown Sweet in the lead among first choices of voters. However, she slipped out of first when ranked choice was run. Although Sweet lost, she remains with the BART majority (see below "Transit – BART and Prop G").

**Historic Fourth Asian from District 6 (Little Saigon)** – CADC endorsed Jane Kim in the third ranking. The school board member upset perceived frontrunner **Debra Walker**. Kim had supported eliminating JROTC at the school board. Kim would align with a progressive-liberal mayor. The club's slate and ad urged Chinese American voters to support the likely first Korean American elected to office. Like District 10, more Asian Americans are settling in newly developed District

6 neighborhoods as well as in older Little Saigon.

**District 8 (Castro)** – CADC endorsed **Rebecca Prozan** 1st, Scott Wiener 2nd. Prozan's 2nd place votes mostly went to Wiener, the ultimate winner. Although District 8 is viewed as an LGBT seat, Asian Americans reside in western hilly portions like Diamond Heights and Twin Peaks and vote moderate-conservative and would likely support liberal-moderates like Wiener or Prozan over the more progressive **Rafael Mandelman**.

**District 4 (Sunset)** – Endorsed by CADC for this major Asian American district, **Carmen Chu** was unopposed and is likely to align with a centrist mayor. Chu could chart her own political course with the departure of Mayor Newsom - her appointing ally.

**District 2 (Marina)** – CADC was neutral. **Janet Reilly** led in first choices by nearly 200 votes but ranked choice votes helped 2nd place candidate **Mark Farrell** overtake her. He is likely to align with a moderate mayor.

**SCHOOL & COLLEGE BOARD:** Jane Kim's supe run opened up a seat for CADC endorsee **Emily Murase** to win – which could impact student choice issues like student assignments and JROTC and the ability of APA small businesses to win a fairer share of school contracts.

**Hydra Mendoza** won re-election with the club's endorsement while CADC-endorsed **Margaret Brodtkin** was 1,300-1,400 votes behind Murase and incumbent **Kim-Shree Maufas**. With more resources to conduct early mailings and advertising to capture vote-by-mail ballots, CADC could have pushed Brodtkin over the top and upset Maufas, a foe of JROTC. The Japanese American Murase, Filipina American Mendoza along with Chinese Americans **Sandra Fewer** and **Norman Yee** give the board a historic four APA members.

In the College Board, former club president **Lawrence Wong** finished a strong second – a strong mandate for his leadership in the Chinatown City College campus.

**TRANSIT – BART AND PROP G:** Performance counts in public transit. CADC endorsed BART President **James Fang** for re-election and **Prop**

**G** to reform how the city negotiates MUNI operator salaries. The club supported Fang for his outstanding 96% on-time BART service. For APAs, Fang is leading creation of jobs and business opportunities and ramping up discussion of westward BART service into S.F. Asian American communities. Fang won overwhelmingly with 51% of the vote – more than twice the number of votes of his two opponents. His success stood in stark contrast with 65% voting for G and rebuking MUNI for deteriorating service with only 70% on-time service. CADC opposed **Prop AA's** \$10 hike in vehicle registration fees which passed with 58% of voters. The fee unfairly impacts our community especially when out of town drivers do not pay.

**TAXATION & BONDS - PROP A & J DEFEATED:** The sagging economy probably had a major role in defeating the hotel tax increase (**Prop J**) which CADC also opposed. The earthquake bond (**Prop A**) missed passage by less than 4 percent. CADC had major objections to its impact of higher property taxes on many Chinese American homeowners and discriminatory policies excluding Chinese American small businesses from bond project work. Although voters might be tighter with pocketbooks, they still supported Prop AA (see previous) and **Prop N's** transfer tax increase with 58% voter support.

**FRIENDLIER STREETS FOR KIDS:** CADC supported **Prop L**, the sit/lie measure, which passed with 54% of S.F. voters. Likewise the club opposed **Prop M** – a dangerous measure politicizing patrol tactics of S.F. police department. That measure lost with 53 percent of voters.

**FAKE CHINESE NAME:** Finally, CADC endorsed incumbent Superior Court Judge **Richard Ulmer** who won the runoff, 53%-46% against attorney **Michael Nava**. Ulmer had the endorsements of **Lillian Sing** and **Julie Tang** – two superior court judges and leading club figures in the 1970s and 1980s. Nava's campaign triggered a controversy over designing and exploiting his Chinese name to draw votes. The debate's intensity was captured in the *Chronicle* and legal *S.F. Daily Journal* which ran stories and letters by CADC board member **Samson Wong** criticizing the Nava tactic.

## CHINATOWN HATE CRIME HEARING



CADC Board members **Richard Casuga**, **Wilson Chu** and **Tim Louie** watch club members testify at S.F. Human Rights Commission hate crime hearing on April 22, 2010.

## Retaking the Initiative – Student Assignments

By Samson Wong

*Columnist Samson Wong's columns have appeared in more than 400,000 households weekly through the Examiner, Independent and Asian-Week newspapers. The CADC board member and former CADC president can be reached at potsticker@prodigy.net. Views expressed do not reflect CADC policy nor were they reviewed by CADC.*

Are Chinese American public school students better off than now than they were over 10 years ago? Unlike over 15 years of courthouse arguments and lobbying the superintendent and school board for revised student assignment formulas, there is one nuclear button that CADC could push – petitioning more than 7,100 San Francisco voters to qualify a student assignment policy statement for the 2011 ballot. That option depends on whether CADC and community can accept allegedly race-neutral student assignment revisions to the reforms in the wake of the *Ho vs. SFUSD* settlement. It was this CADC-led 1999 settlement that supposedly ended the discrimination of Chinese Americans in city public schools. The issue of student and parental choice has always come up again, two years after the stunning victory of another student choice measure - Prop V. The JROTC proposition could provide the inspiration for a 2011 student assignment initiative that could have the same impact as the *Ho* case in 1994....

**PAST INITIATIVES:** When conventional City Hall action has failed, S.F. Chinese American leaders have turned to petitioning the electorate. JROTC isn't the only Chinese American-inspired citizen initiative.... In Nov. 1997, the S.F. Neighbors Association, led by Chinese radio co-hosts **Julie Lee** and **Rose Tsai** and new Supervisor **Leland Yee**, won Proposition H. The measure temporarily stalled demolition of the earthquake damaged Central Freeway, a major artery between the city's center and APA communities on the peripheries of San Francisco...

**JROTC – PROPOSITION V:** Of course, the most recent initiative is the restoration of JROTC with APA support from among 1,000 Asian Pacific American (APA) high school cadets and their parents, CADC,

Cathay Post's **Bok Pon, Nelson Lum** and **Ron Lee**, businesswoman **Quincy Yu**, Assemblywoman **Fiona Ma** and political consultant **Johnny Wang**. They had surprisingly passed a non-binding Nov. 2008 resolution overturning a school board resolution to end the program. The victory of 55% was surprising during a record high liberal and pro-Obama presidential election turnout, which otherwise would have doomed any perceived "conservative" or pro-military political candidate or issue. However, the Yes on V supporters convinced voters to allow student choice, instead of making scapegoats of high school cadets for a then Bush military and anti-LGBT policy. Prop V has made it feasible for a student assignment issue to win in a high turnout congressional election like November 2010 or a lower turnout mayoral election like Nov. 2011....

A student assignment initiative has these scenarios:

**NON-BINDING PROP MAKE POLICY CHANGE?:** Like JROTC, a student assignment issue could be a non-binding issue. After Prop V's victory, a reconstituted school board relented and restored JROTC in 2009. Thus, a school board may have to accept student assignment reform by a "non-binding" ballot measure. However, JROTC was much more limited in scope – affecting as many as 1,400 cadets and instructors. Imposing an assignment policy through the ballot could invite a legal challenge by the school board or other groups, considering its effect on over 55,000 students – including the 31.6% who are Chinese Americans and at least 39.2% who are APA (not including hapa) - and more than 4,000 employees who are 13.3% Chinese and 18.6% APA. We should all remember that student assignment parameters were based on the 1983 desegregation consent decree which ended with the 1999 *Ho* settlement, which led to an allegedly race-neutral assignment policy....

**POLITICAL PRESSURE:** Just merely organizing parents in 2011 to gather signatures for a student assignment campaign may force the school board – including APAs **Hydra Mendoza, Norman Yee, Emily Murase** and **Sandra Lee Fewer**



- to make some student assignment policy concessions. Before CADC and parents went to court in the 1994 (under **Amy Chang, Anthony Chow, Louis Lee, Roland Quan** and **Lee Cheng's** leadership), School Superintendent **Bill Rojas** probably sensed pressure on a school bond (which required one-third to defeat) and made a few short-term student assignment concessions. Rojas had already seen two defeated bond measures (Prop A – Cultural Facility Improvement and Prop B – Street and Traffic Improvements) in Nov. 1993. And in the 1991 mayoral race, overwhelming Chinese American margins were crucial to former police chief **Frank Jordan's** 4-point upset of incumbent **Art Agnos**. Potentially, Chinese American opposition on student assignments could have doomed the SFUSD June 1994 Prop. A school bond, which barely passed with more than 32% opposition....

**PREEMPTIVE ACTION:** Potentially, the school board – with incumbents facing re-election in 2012 - could nip a grassroots student assignment campaign in the bud by making acceptable compromises. The school board can also learn the lesson of former school board member **Eric Mar's** near defeat for supervisor in 2008 by more than 300 votes. Mar's failure in 2008 to successfully forge a compromise on JROTC, as well as making concessions to the Asian American Contractors Association on fairer contracting for APA small businesses turned his race into a squeaker against former Planning Commissioner **Sue Lee**. Instead of clearing the field of challengers, Mar barely won. That has opened him to ongoing speculation as to his vulnerability for 2012 re-election... Further, if the school board refused to act, then the legislature might have acted. Assemblywoman **Fiona Ma** had introduced legislation well before Proposition V's victory to restore JROTC –

whose state law theoretically would have trumped JROTC school board policy...

**SPILLOVER EFFECT:** The threat of a student assignment initiative with an organized campaign like JROTC could spill into 2011 races for mayor and district attorney. Since both seats will be vacated by **Gavin Newsom** and **Kamala Harris** for statewide office in Nov. 2010, the measure could affect the calculations of often speculated mayoral contenders like, State Senator **Leland Yee**, Assessor-Recorder **Phil Ting** and Board of Supervisor President **David Chiu**... If a candidate wins or is defeated because of the initiative, that could give a student assignment coalition much more political leverage...

**MORAL VICTORY:** Even if it loses by an insubstantial margin, a student assignment measure is a Chinese American rally point to pressure City Hall on any number of issues. Although the 1997 Central Freeway campaign (Proposition H) was overturned by another measure, S.F. Neighbors Association – along with **Rose Tsai** and **Julie Lee** – gained the political capital to pressure liberal leaning APA supervisors. For example, supervisors **Michael Yaki** and **Mabel Teng**, who lost a 1998 bid for board presidency, took tremendous heat from SFNA over balancing tenant and landlord issues on owner move-in evictions. Likewise that type of pressure could face current Supervisors **Jane Kim**, **Chiu**, **Chu** and **Mar**... With the Central Freeway victory, SFNA's new found power encouraged Mayor **Willie Brown** to forge a coalition with them. They were instrumental in Brown's 1999 swing from the left to the center, where Brown won overwhelming re-election majorities in Chinese American precincts over progressive write-in mayoral insurgent **Tom Ammiano**...



### CADC MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Old Rates Valid Until March 31

Instructions: Please print using this form and return/mail to  
CADC, 706 Sacramento Street #134, San Francisco, CA 94108

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel (Day): \_\_\_\_\_

Tel (Eve): \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

CHOOSE MEMBERSHIP\* (PLEASE CHECK ONE ONLY)

Golden Dragon (\$500)       Silver Dragon (\$50)

Individual & Spouse/Partner (\$45)

Individual (\$25)       Senior/Student (\$15)

*\*Silver, Golden and Fiery Dragon members will be published in the newsletter for the duration of the calendar year. Membership fees are valid for one calendar year. Fees paid late in the year are valid for the subsequent year according to CADC bylaws.*

AREA OF INTEREST (PLEASE CHECK ONE OR MORE)

Issues       Membership       Education Issues

Activities       Newsletter

Other (please indicate) \_\_\_\_\_

### The Fiery Dragon

The Fiery Dragon is the official newsletter of the Chinese American Democratic Club of San Francisco, California. Letters to the editor and other correspondence can be sent to the address below. More information about the club can be found at [www.cadcsf.org](http://www.cadcsf.org).

### CADC Officers, Executive Committee and Board of Directors

CADC, founded in 1958, is led by an Executive Committee of elected officers and appointed committee chairs. Members in good standing elect from among themselves the board of directors. The board in turn elects the club officers. Officers consist of President, Vice Presidents (2), General Secretary, Treasurer, Auditor and Parliamentarian. Committees consist of Special Events (2), Endorsement, Issues, Membership, Campaign Technology and Newsletter Editor.

### NEXT MEETINGS: March 10, April 14, May 12

Members are notified by postcard in advance for general & special meeting programs, time, location or changes.

Meetings are generally held 6 pm every Second Thursday of the Month at:

CAA Community Room  
17 Walter U. Lum Place, San Francisco, CA 94108  
(Between Clay and Washington)

### Parking/Transit:

Behind Portsmouth Square Parking Garage & near eastbound  
1-California bus stop on Clay Street & Grant Avenue