

Encyclopedia
Taiwanese American
台美族百科全書

Political Activities
Related to the USA
台美人美國政治參與

Preface

Starting in 1950, Taiwanese for a variety of different reasons traveled across the sea to start a new life in America. In the beginning, the majority of Taiwanese immigrants were college graduates. Because job opportunities in Taiwan were lacking, and because they wanted to pursue an advanced education at a time when Taiwan did not have many graduate schools, these students chose to go abroad. At the time, a lot of American science and engineering graduate programs were offering scholarships to international students, and as a result, many students applied to come to the United States in order to advance their academic careers. Back then, there was a shortage of medical personnel in America, and thus foreign doctors, nurses, and other medical professionals were being recruited. At the same time, Taiwan's political and economic environment was looking rather bleak. These conditions encouraged many native Taiwanese medical professionals to leave for the United States. These students and medical professionals slowly began to put down roots, starting new lives and careers in this new country. Soon becoming American citizens, these two groups became the foundation of the current Taiwanese American community.

In 1980, there was decreased political support for Taiwan within the international community, but the Taiwanese economy was beginning to take off. Because of this, many Taiwanese had the means to come to the States as family-based immigrants or business investors. These people constituted the third wave of Taiwanese immigrants to the United States.

70 years after the very first immigrants arrived in the States, there are now over one million Taiwanese Americans residing in the United States, many of them fourth- or fifth-generation, constituting an extraordinarily unique and outstanding minority population. The history of Taiwanese Americans is an important part of America's immigration history, but unfortunately, Taiwanese Americans have yet to properly organize and preserve our own history. Recording our history is a pressing issue, one that must be done in order for Taiwanese Americans to continue to develop and grow. Especially important is the preservation of stories from the first generation of immigrants, before these memories slowly wither away. It is our hope that Taiwanese Americans will unite with the common goal of preserving our people's legacy.

In 2013, a small group of Taiwanese Americans decided to work together to preserve the past 70 years of Taiwanese American history. They established the Taiwanese American Archives and created a website to collect and display articles and artifacts pertaining to our history. Our website currently hosts a variety of different ongoing archive projects; such as "My Stories" - a collection of individual stories, "Our Journeys" - the histories of Taiwanese American organizations, and "Publications" - a collection of books, magazines, and other cultural publications by Taiwanese American individuals and organizations. After 5 years of hard work and the help of many passionate Taiwanese Americans, we have accumulated over ten-thousand archive entries that are catalogued both online on our website, and at our Archives Center in Irvine, California.

Because information on the Archives website is organized in the same order it was collected, we believe that in order to create a more effective and useful product, it would be beneficial to organize our existing information into different volumes. We hope that we can complete this project on a large scale, producing a systematic and well-organized series of encyclopedic books to present the history of Taiwanese Americans to the world.

An individual is considered an "Outstanding Taiwanese American" if they have had an extraordinary impact or contribution to the Taiwanese American community, mainstream American society, and/or within their individual field. We choose candidates that we have learned about through

various publications, books, magazines, or newspaper articles. Additionally, nominations by friends, families, or individuals themselves are taken into consideration as well. Afterwards, candidates are voted upon by a 15-member cross-country selection committee. Candidates who receive 9 or more votes are selected for the title of “Outstanding Taiwanese American.” While we do not grant a physical award or ceremony to the selected individuals, the title is our way of honoring people who have made great contributions to the community.

This current selection of “Outstanding Taiwanese Americans” comes from a range of 70 years, from 1949 until 2019. Of this selection, 230 are first generation Taiwanese Americans, and 69 are of the younger generation (mostly second-generation). Of the first generation, most of the selected individuals made contributions to the Taiwanese American community. Conversely, many of the selected individuals from the younger generation have been chosen for their break-throughs either within specialized fields, or for their entrance onto the American political stage.

These individuals have come from many different states across the country; while a few members of the older generation have returned to Taiwan, all of the younger generation remain in the states. Each “Outstanding Taiwanese American” has a minimum one-page introduction, including a photograph and up to 7 examples of their incredible achievements. If available, biographies and personal stories were also included in the book, in the hopes of allowing readers to understand these individuals on a deeper level. Additionally, oil paintings of important events in Taiwanese American history and portraits of outstanding artists have been included in the book as well.

Our original goal was to collect 300 individuals’ stories, and after a year of hard work, we have finally accomplished this goal. Moving forward, we will likely need to wait for a period of time before restarting this ongoing process of collecting new and emerging stories, sharing with the world the lives of Taiwanese Americans who are making a difference.

Finally, we would like to express our gratitude towards the 15 members of the “Outstanding Taiwanese Americans” selection committee and the various other Taiwanese American individuals who worked on this project. This book would not exist without the love and effort from all of its supporters.

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Profiles of T. A. involved in Politics, Public Services, and Law

No.	English Name	Hanji Name	Area
1	Stephanie Chang	張理	Michigan
2	Ling Ling Chang	張玲玲	S. California
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4	John Chiang	江俊輝	S. California
5	David Chiu	邱信福	California
6	Peggy Huang	黃瑞雅	S. California
7	Peggy Kuo	郭佩宇	New York
8	Melanie Lee	李玫蘭	New York
9	Ted Lieu	劉雲平	S. California
10	John C. Liu	劉醇逸	New York
11	Goodwin Liu	劉弘威	California
12	Grace Meng	孟昭文	New York
13	Yuh-Line Niou	牛毓琳	New York
14	Jensin W. Sommer	翁正欣	Maryland
15	Katy Tang	湯凱蒂	California
16	David Wu	吳振偉	Oregon
17	Tim Wu	吳修銘	New York
18	Portia Wu	-	Washington D. C.
19	Michelle Wu	吳彌	Boston
20	Andrew Yang	楊安澤	S. California

Stephanie Chang (張理)

Stephanie Chang (張理 Chang Li) was born in 1983 in Detroit, Michigan. She received her B.A. in Psychology with a minor in Asian Pacific Islander American Studies from the University of Michigan in 2005. Later, she returned to the University of Michigan to earn an M.A. in Public Policy and another M.A. in Social Work in 2014. After receiving her bachelor's, she worked as a field organizer for a union. In 2006, she worked with One United Michigan to defeat an anti-affirmative action initiative, and though they ultimately lost, she was inspired to stay in Michigan and give back to the community she grew up in. She was co-founder and served as president for the Asian and Pacific Islander American Vote-Michigan (APIA Vote-Michigan), a nonpartisan non-profit that was created to bring justice and equity to the Asian American community.



In 2013, Chang's predecessor, Rashida Tlaib finally convinced her to run for a seat in the Michigan House of Representatives. During her campaign, Chang personally walked through her district to talk to the voters in her community. She later discovered that she had knocked on every door of her district twice. Elected in 2014 with nearly 94% of the vote, she took office in 2015 as the first female Asian-American representative in her State Legislature. She was re-elected in 2016 with 93% of the vote. She served as chair for the Progressive Women's Caucus, as well as on the leadership team for the House Democratic Caucus and co-founded the Asian Pacific American Legislative Caucus. In 2018, she was elected to the Michigan Senate, becoming the first Asian-American woman and the first Taiwanese American to serve in the Michigan Senate. After her election to the State Senate, she was elected Minority Floor Leader, becoming the first woman of color to be elected to a leadership position in Michigan's State Senate.

Since entering public service, Chang has introduced and supported bills on education, criminal justice reforms, environmental protection, immigration, health care, women's rights, labor rights, refugee rights, and senior citizen's rights. She has also worked to promote political involvement among underrepresented and marginalized groups, such as young voters and people of color. In 2018, T.A. Archives selected her as an Outstanding Taiwanese American.

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女兒從政: <http://taiwaneseamericanhistory.org/blog/658/>

House Bio: <https://web.archive.org/web/20150108064551/http://006.housedems.com/biography>

State Senator Website: <https://senatedems.com/chang/>

Ling Ling Chang (張玲玲)

Ling Ling Chang (張玲玲 Chang Ling-ling) was born in Taipei, Taiwan in 1976, and immigrated to the United States at age three. Chang began her career in public service when she was elected to the Walnut Valley Water District Board in 2005. She was the first woman to ever hold this seat. In 2009, she was elected to the Diamond Bar City Council, where she served two terms. She also served as Mayor of Diamond Bar (2011-2012), Parks & Recreation Commissioner of Diamond Bar, and Chairman of the Diamond Bar Community Foundation. In 2014, Chang was elected to represent California's 55th district State Assembly District. During her time in the Assembly, she served as Vice-Chair of the Rules Committee and an inaugural member of the Privacy & Consumer Protection Committee.



In 2016, Chang ran for the State Senate and narrowly lost, but won the seat in 2018 through a special recall election. She is the first Taiwan-born female California State Senator, and the only Asian American woman in the California Legislature. For the 2019-20 legislative session, Chang served on the Banking and Financial Institutions Committee (Vice Chair), the Business, Professions and Economic Development Committee (Vice Chair), the Education Committee, the Energy, Utilities and Communications Committee, and the Governmental Organization Committee. She has also served as President and CEO of the Youth Science Center, Executive Director of the United Family Services Center, and is the co-founder of ImagineTHAT!, an art program for at-risk youth.

Chang is a graduate of the Leadership program in Interethnic relations, a graduate of Gallup Organization's Gallup University Program, and a National Fellow Alumnus with the Asian Pacific American Women's Leadership Institute. She's been formally recognized by the cities of Los Angeles, Diamond Bar, and Monterey Park, as well as by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors, YWCA, and many other local schools and organizations. In 2006, she was chosen as the 60th Assembly District's Woman of the Year.

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Raymond T. Chen

Raymond Chen was born to Taiwanese immigrant parents in 1968 in New York City. In 1990, he received his bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering from the University of California, Los Angeles, and in 1994, he received his J.D. from the New York University School of Law. After graduation, he began working at an intellectual property firm in California. Starting in 1996, he served as a technical assistant at the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit. In 1998, he began work at the United States Patent and Trademark Office as an Associate Solicitor. In 2008, he was promoted to Deputy General Counsel for Intellectual Property Law and Solicitor.

Chen was an executive advisor for the Patent Office's Asian Pacific American Network (APANet), co-chaired the Patent and Trademark Office Committee of the federal Circuit Bar Association, was a member of the Asian Pacific Bar Association, DC Chapter.

In 2013, President Obama nominated Chen to serve as a United States Circuit Judge on the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit. The Senate confirmed his nomination 97-0, and he assumed office in August 2013. He was the second Asian American judge and first Taiwanese American judge to serve on the Federal Circuit.



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Alliance for Justice Profile: <https://www.afj.org/nominee/raymond-t-chen/>

John Chiang (江俊輝)

John Chiang (江俊輝 Chiang Chun-hui) was born in New York on July 31, 1962. Raised by Taiwanese immigrant parents, he grew up in the Chicago suburbs and attended Carl Sandburg High School. He became involved in politics at an early age, serving as vice-president of his high school's student body. Chiang earned his bachelor's degree in finance from the University of South Florida, where he graduated with honors. He continued his studies at Georgetown University Law Center, following in the footsteps of his maternal grandfather Shen Rong (沈榮), a prominent Taiwanese lawyer.



Chiang moved to Los Angeles in 1987, working as a tax law specialist for the IRS. There, he involved himself with the local Democratic Party of San Fernando Valley and the West LA Democratic Club. Later in his career, he worked as an attorney for Gray Davis, who at the time was serving as California State Controller. He also worked as a staff member for California Senator Barbara Boxer. In 1997, he was appointed to the California Board of Equalization after an incumbent board member resigned. The next year, he was elected to continue serving on the board, and was re-elected for a second term in 2002. During his time on the Board, he served as Chair and represented the Fourth District, which serves southern Los Angeles County.

In 2006, Chiang ran for California State Controller and by over 870,000 votes. He ran again in 2010, winning by 1.8 million votes. In 2014, Chiang ran for California State Treasurer, winning by 58.8%, or more than 1.2 million votes. On May 17, 2019, he announced his bid to become California's first Asian-American Governor. At his peak he polled at 11%, but ultimately did not win enough votes in the primary to qualify for the runoff.

In 2019, Chiang announced plans to start a political action committee to help Democrats from the Asian-American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community get elected. The organization, ElectAAPI.Org, seeks to support Democratic AAPI candidates through financial contributions and community mobilization efforts. The organization also aims to expose and defeat policies and candidates that pose threats to communities of color, immigrants, and AAPI communities.

His strong support of the Taiwanese American community and the democratic government in Taiwan has gained Chiang popularity amongst the Taiwanese American community, especially in Southern California. Since the beginning of his political career, the Taiwanese American community has lent strong support to each of his political bids. In October 2018, T.A. Archives selected him to be an Outstanding Taiwanese American.

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David Chiu (邱信福)

David Chiu (邱信福 Chiu Hsin-fu) was born in 1970 in Cleveland, Ohio to Hakka Taiwanese immigrant parents. He grew up in Boston, Massachusetts, and attended Harvard University where he earned a bachelor's in government, a master's in public policy, and his J.D. After graduating, he moved to Washington D.C. where he served as Democratic Counsel on the Constitution Subcommittee of the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee, and as an aide to Senator Paul Simon. In 1996, Chiu moved to San Francisco, where he worked as a judicial clerk, a criminal prosecutor, and a civil rights attorney. He was founder and CEO of online communications technology company, Grassroots Enterprise, and a San Francisco Small Business Commissioner.

In 2008, Chiu was elected to a seat on the San Francisco Board of Supervisors as the representative for District 3. When began his term on January 8th, 2009, he was elected by his fellow Board members to serve as President, making him the first Asian American to hold the position. On January 8th, 2011, he was reelected as Board President. In 2012, he was reelected to the Board of Supervisors with 75% of the vote, and in 2013, he was reelected to serve as the Board President for a third consecutive term, which had never been done before. While serving on the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, Chiu also served as a member of the San Francisco Democratic County Central Committee.

In February 2011, he ran for San Francisco Mayor, placing fourth. In 2013, Chiu announced his bid for a seat in the California State Assembly, representing the 17th District. Chiu won the election in 2014 with 51.9% of the vote and was re-elected in 2016 and 2018. In the 2015-16 session, Chiu was appointed as assistant speaker pro tempore, the third highest ranking position in the Assembly. In his first two terms, Chiu authored 48 bills that were signed into law, covering issues related to the housing crisis, LGBT families, women's rights, sustainable transportation, and young voter registration. Chiu has also served as President of the Asian American Bar Association of the Greater Bay Area, and Board Chair of the Youth Leadership Institute. The World Economic Forum named him a "Young Global Leader," and the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association listed him as one of their "Best Attorneys Under 40." In 2019, T.A. Archives selected him as an Outstanding Taiwanese American.



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Peggy Huang (黃瑞雅)

Peggy Huang (黃瑞雅 Huang Rui-ya) was born in Taipei, Taiwan and immigrated to the United States with her family when she was seven years old. She attended the University of California, Berkeley, graduating with a bachelor's degree in 1993. During her undergraduate studies, Huang interned with the Senate Judiciary Committee. She moved back to Taiwan after graduation to improve her Mandarin and Taiwanese language skills.

When she returned to the U.S., Huang studied for and earned her J.D. from the McGeorge School of Law at the University of the Pacific in 1997. During her time in law school, she interned at University of the Pacific's Community Legal Services and at the Sacramento County District Attorney's Office's domestic violence clinic. She also worked for Family Services of America in Washington D.C., where she worked on the Welfare Reform Act, the Adoption Assistance Act, and the Illegal Immigrant Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act. She served as president of the Board of



Directors for Lifesteps Children and Family Services and is the founder of the Yorba Linda Gracious Living Society. She has also served as the Neighborhood Watch Coordinator for the Vista Del Verde community.

Huang began serving on the Yorba Linda City Council in 2014, was appointed as Mayor Pro Tempore in 2016, and held the role through 2017. She is Vice-chair of the Republican Party of Orange County and a Duty Attorney General in the Office of the Attorney General, Criminal Appeals, Trial, and Writs section. Her core issues are community oriented, with specific focus on advocacy for abused, neglected, and developmentally delayed children. In 2019, she announced her bid for a seat in the House, representing California's 45th congressional district.

In 2014, she graduated from the Marian Bergeson Excellence in Public Service Series, and in 2019, T.A. Archives selected her as an Outstanding Taiwanese American.

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Yorba Linda Council Member Profile: <https://www.yorbalindaca.gov/194/Council-Member-Peggy-Huang>

Peggy Kuo (郭佩宇)

Magistrate Judge Kuo was appointed on October 9, 2015. She received a B.A. summa cum laude in history from Yale University in 1985 and a J.D. cum laude from Harvard Law School in 1988.

Judge Kuo clerked for the Honorable Judith W. Rogers with the D.C. Court of Appeals. From 1989 until 1993, she served as an Assistant United States Attorney in the District of Columbia. From 1994 to 1998, she was a trial attorney and then Acting Deputy Chief of the Civil Rights Division Criminal Section at the U.S. Department of Justice, where she investigated and prosecuted hate crimes and allegations of police misconduct throughout the United States.

From 1998 to 2002, Judge Kuo prosecuted war crimes and crimes against humanity at the United Nations International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia in The Hague, Netherlands. Her historic trial regarding mass rape in Bosnia became the subject of the documentary film, “I Came To Testify,” part of the series Women, War & Peace.

Upon her return to New York, Judge Kuo became litigation counsel at Wilmer Hale, LLP. In 2005, she was appointed Chief Hearing Officer at the New York Stock Exchange, where she presided over hearings involving violations of federal securities laws. From 2011 until her appointment to the bench, she was Deputy Commissioner and General Counsel of the New York City Office of Administrative Trials and Hearings, the largest municipal tribunal in the country.

Judge Kuo was born in Taiwan and moved to the United States at the age of three. She was awarded a German Chancellor Fellowship by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation in 1993 to study the German criminal justice system. She is a former President of the Federal Bar Council American Inn of Court, an active member of the Asian American Bar Association of New York, and former Vice-Chair of Manhattan Legal Services.



Source:

The Life Story of Ms. Peggy Kuo: <http://taiwaneseamericanhistory.org/blog/mystories620/>

Melanie Lee (李玫蘭)

Melanie Lee (李玫蘭 Li Mei-lan) was born in 1984 in the United States to Taiwanese immigrants. Growing up hearing her parents talk with their Taiwanese friends, she was aware of international political affairs, especially those concerning Taiwan, from a very early age. In high school, she participated in student government, and was a delegate at the US Senate Youth Conference. She was also selected as a speaker for her high school graduation. After graduation, she worked a summer internship at the Formosan Association for Public Affairs at the headquarters in Washington D.C.

Lee completed her undergraduate studies at Columbia University, double majoring in political science and East Asian studies. During her time at Columbia, she served as president of the Intercollegiate Taiwanese American Students Association (ITASA). After graduation, Lee was granted a year-long



Fulbright scholarship to study and work in Taiwan as an English Teaching Assistant at a public school in Yilan. Lee's time in Taiwan inspired her to pursue a career in teaching, and upon her return, she joined the NYC Teaching Fellows program, which allowed her to begin teaching in New York public schools and simultaneously earn her masters' in education. She began working as a high school English as a Second Language (ESL) teacher. Three years later, she began working at a dual-language high school that has a large population of students who immigrated from Chinese-speaking countries. While teaching, Lee studied to receive her license to become a high school principal. She returned to the Teachers College at Columbia, enrolled in the Summer Principals Academy, and received a masters' degree in School Building Leadership.

In 2013, Lee was accepted to open a new high school in Flushing, Queens called Queens High School for Language Studies (QHSLs). QHSLs has a large population of Chinese-speaking students, and also teaches Mandarin as a second language. The year 2017 saw the graduation of the first group of students to attend QHSLs. The statistics were good; with a 94% graduation rate, and an 84% college enrollment rate, QHSLs performed above the city average.

Additionally, Lee created a program that allows four-year students of Mandarin to visit Taiwan before graduation. The program is associated with the Fulbright program, allowing students the opportunity to tour the island and give presentations to public schools around Taiwan. The program aims not only to reward hard-working students, but to give students the opportunity to learn more about the culture, politics, and democratic values of Taiwan. In 2019, Lee was selected by T.A. Archives as an Outstanding Taiwanese American.

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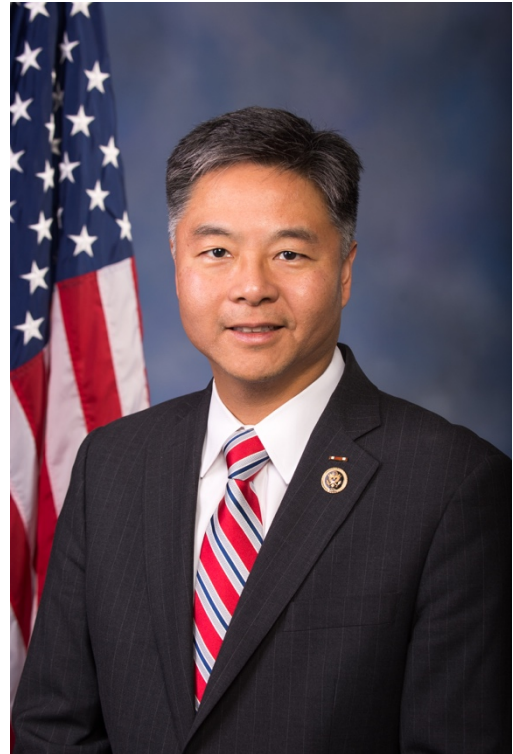
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Ted Lieu (劉雲平)

Ted Lieu (劉雲平 Liu Yun-ping) was born in Taipei, Taiwan in 1969. Liu immigrated with his parents to Cleveland, Ohio when he was age three. In 1991, he graduated from Stanford University with a bachelor's degree in Computer Science, and another in Political Science. In 1994, he graduated magna cum laude from Georgetown University Law Center, earning his J.D. After graduation, he served on the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit before joining the Air Force in 1995, serving four years of active duty on the Judge Advocate General's Corps. During his service he received a number of awards including the Meritorious Service Medal with one Oak Leaf Cluster, the Air Force Commendation Medal, and the Humanitarian Service Medal. Lieu joined the Air Force Reserve in 2000 and was promoted to colonel in 2015.

Early in his political career Lieu served on the Torrance City Environmental Quality and Energy Conservation Commission. In 2002, he began serving on the Torrance City Council. In 2005, he won a special election to represent California's 53rd Assembly District, a seat he was reelected for in 2006 and 2008. As an Assemblymember, Lieu served as the chair of the Assembly Rules Committee and on the Governmental Organization Committee, the Judiciary Committee, and the Veterans Affairs Committee. He was also chair of the Asian Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus and Chair of the Assembly Select Committee on Aerospace.

In 2010, Lieu ran for California Attorney General, but finished fourth in the Democratic Primary. In 2011, he won a special election to fill a space in the California Senate, representing the 28th Senate district. In 2014, won a seat representing the 33rd Congressional District. As of 2020, Lieu is serving his third congressional term and is one of three Taiwanese Americans to ever serve in Congress. He is on the House Judiciary Committee and the House Foreign Affairs Committee and was elected to be the Co-Chair of the Democratic Policy and Communications Committee. He is a leader on issues pertaining to the environment, cybersecurity, civil liberties, government ethics, veterans, and the environment, as well issues regarding ethnic and racial profiling, and discrimination against the LGBTQ community. In 2016, Lieu was named on the "Grist 50," a list of emerging leaders compiled by environmental news magazine, Grist. The Hill also named him one of "10 rising stars in the energy and environment world." He has been an outspoken supporter of the Taiwanese American community and democracy in Taiwan, and he has been actively involved in the Taiwanese Census Campaign. In 2018, T.A. Archives selected him as an Outstanding Taiwanese American.



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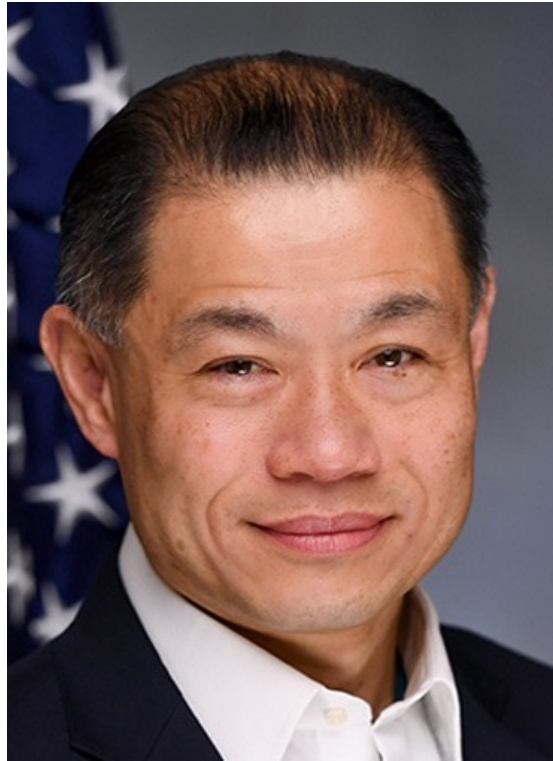
Ted Lieu Website: <https://lieu.house.gov/about/full-biography>

John C. Liu (劉醇逸)

John Liu (劉醇逸 Liu Chun-i) was born in Pingtung, Taiwan in 1967. At age 5, he moved to the United States with his family. He graduated from Binghamton University in 1988 with a bachelor's degree in Mathematical Physics. He served as President of the North Flushing Civic Association and was elected to the New York City Council in 2001. He represented northeast Queens and was the first Asian American to be elected as a New York City Councilman. Serving on the Council until 2009, Liu was the Chairperson of the Transportation Committee, as well as a member of the Education, Consumer Affairs, Health, Land Use, Contracts, Oversight & Investigations, and Lower Manhattan Redevelopment Committees.

In 2009, Liu announced his run for New York City Comptroller, which ended in him winning the general election with 76% of the vote. As Comptroller, he saved taxpayers \$5 billion dollars by auditing City agencies, scrutinizing contracts, and refinancing City bond debt. He increased the City's pension asset portfolio to \$150 billion. He also created "CheckbookNYC.com," a nationally acclaimed application that makes government spending transparent. In 2013, Liu ran for New York City Mayor, coming in fourth place, and lost his bid for State Senate in 2014. He began teaching municipal finance and public policy at Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs and at Baruch College. In 2018, Liu once again ran for State Senate, gathering three times as many signatures as necessary to place him on the ballot. He won the democratic primary against the incumbent with 53% of the vote, and the general election with 54% of the vote. As a legislator, Liu has worked on issues regarding Equal Access Bill and mandated language services, school safety, racism and misogyny, and more.

Liu's career is significant in Asian American political history; he was the first Asian American to win legislative office in New York, the first to win citywide office, and one of the first two Asian Americans in the New York Senate. In 2018, T.A. Archived selected Liu as an Outstanding Taiwanese American.



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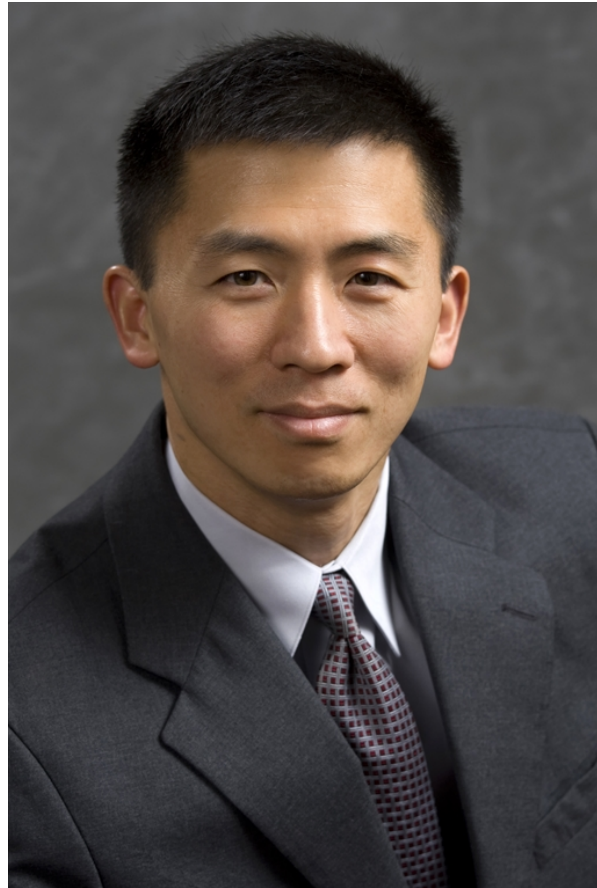
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Goodwin Liu (劉弘威)

Goodwin Liu (劉弘威 Liu Hung-wei) was born to Taiwanese immigrant parents in Augusta, Georgia in 1970. Liu grew up in Florida and later in California, where he attended Stanford University. In 1991, he graduated with a bachelor's degree in Biology. After graduation, he received a Rhodes Scholarship to study at Oxford University, where he earned a Master of Philosophy in philosophy and physiology. After returning to the States, he launched the AmeriCorps national service program in Washington D.C. and worked there as a senior program officer at the Corporation for National Service. In 1998, he received his J.D. from Yale Law School, after which he clerked for Judge David Tatel on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit. Later he was Special Assistant to the Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Department of Education. In 2000, he began clerking for U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. Liu was a Professor of Law at UC Berkeley School of Law (Boat Hall) from 2003 until 2011. In 2006, he was awarded the Steven S. Goldberg Award for Distinguished Scholarship in Education Law from the Education Law Association, and in 2009, he was awarded the UC Berkeley Distinguished Teaching Award.



In 2010, President Obama nominated Liu to a seat on the Ninth Circuit, but his nomination was repeatedly blocked by Republicans in the Senate. In 2011, California Governor Jerry Brown nominated him to a seat of the Supreme Court of California. The state bar commission gave him a rating of “unanimously well qualified,” and over a thousand of legal associations, members of Congress, and law professors from across the nation wrote in to support his nomination. Liu was officially sworn in on September 1st, 2011. In 2018, T.A. Archives selected Liu as an Outstanding Taiwanese American for his work in public services and the academic world.

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Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Goodwin_Liu

Harvard Faculty Profile: <https://hls.harvard.edu/faculty/directory/11589/Liu>

UC Berkeley Law Press Release: <https://www.law.berkeley.edu/press-release/goodwin-liu-confirmed-to-california-supreme-court-sworn-in/>

Grace Meng (孟昭文)

Grace Meng (孟昭文 Meng Chao-wen) was born in Queens, New York in 1975. She received her bachelor's degree from University of Michigan, and her J.D. from Yeshiva University. After graduation she worked as a public-interest lawyer, first entering politics when she ran for a seat on the New York State Legislature as representative of the 22nd Assembly district in 2006. She did not win the seat, but she ran again and was elected in 2008. In 2009, she was named one of City & State's "New York City Rising Stars: 40 Under 40" and was reelected to a second term in 2010. In 2012, Meng was elected to represent New York's 6th Congressional district, making her the first Asian American to represent New York in Congress. She is also one of the 15 youngest Democrats in Congress. As on 2020, Grace Meng is serving her fourth term in the U.S. House of Representatives. In her first term she helped form the Bipartisan Freshman Caucus, and she is a member of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus. She also serves on the House Committee on Appropriation; the House Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies; and the House Appropriations Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs.



Meng has passed legislation regarding religious freedom, the protection of historical sites, the protection of public housing residents, assistance for veterans and members of the military, consumer protections, and children's safety. She has fought for better opportunities and rights for communities of color, young people, women, and small businesses. Specifically helping the Asian-American community, she passed legislation striking the term "Oriental" from federal law. She is also the Chair of ASPIRE PAC, a Committee focused on supporting Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) candidates for political office.

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Yuh-Line Niou (牛毓琳)

Born in Taipei, Taiwan, Yuh-Line Niou came to the US with her parents when she was just six months old. At the time, her parents only had \$1000 and six suitcases, and they moved around the country to Idaho, Oregon, Texas, and Washington in search of a better life. Niou studied her undergraduate degree at The Evergreen State College, while also working for Senator Debbie Regala, and later, Representative Eileen Cody on the Washington State Legislature. During this time, Niou says she realized that some of America's greatest issues were related to poverty, and she began to focus on figuring out how to end poverty. She began policy work at the Statewide Poverty Action Network, where she worked to help low-income families by regulating the payday lending industry, working to stop redlining in the insurance industry, and writing bills



pertaining to the foreclosure crisis. In 2010, Niou pursued her Master's degree in Public Administration at Baruch College (CUNY Baruch), during which she also worked with the US Environmental Protections Agency as part of her National Urban Fellowship.

Niou worked as Assemblyman Ron Kim's Chief of Staff in 2012, working on behalf of immigrants, seniors, and working families. In 2016, she won 76% of the vote in a historic election that made her the first Asian American to represent the 65th Assembly District of New York, an area that includes Chinatown, the Financial District, Battery park City, and the Lower East Side.

Niou has been an outspoken supporter of marginalized groups, especially of families of color, low-income populations, and immigrant families. She has also pushed a bill to aggregate data on the Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) community in her local area, so that the local legislature can better serve the AAPI community. She has drawn attention to the fact that Asian Americans make up 14% of New York City's population yet they receive less than 1% of city services. In the New York State Assembly, Niou has continued to advocate for financial empowerment, protect tenants' rights, and helped form the State's first Asian Pacific American Legislative Task Force to focus on issues impacting the Asian American community in New York.

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Jensin W. Sommer (翁正欣)

Jensin Wong Sommer (翁正欣 Weng Cheng-hsin) was born in 1969 in Shuilin township, in Yunlin county Taiwan. At age 7, she immigrated with her family to Baltimore to join her parents, who were already in the US working for the US Navy. In high school, she applied and was accepted to the US Naval Academy. It was her dream college and the only school she applied to. At the time, only 1 out of 10 Naval Academy students were women. During her time at the Academy, Sommer majored in Economics and minored in Chinese. In May of 1991, she was among the 900 graduates from a class that originally started with 1,400 students. She was the second Taiwanese-born woman to ever graduate from the Academy.



One of a very small number of Taiwanese Americans to serve in the US Navy, she retired in 2016 with the rank of Colonel after 22 years of service. During her 22 years in the Navy, she worked various jobs as an Intelligence Liason, Public Affairs Officer, Media Relations Officer, Speechwriter, and Deputy Director in locations around the US and abroad in Japan. Over her career she also studied Japanese Language and Literature at the Defense Language Institute and received her master's in International Relations and Affairs at the Catholic University of America. Her naval career gave her the ability to travel the world, performing for the first family, and personally meeting Jimmy Carter, and the Taiwanese ambassador to Japan. In 2001, she was selected to be a spokeswoman for the US Pacific Command.

Sommer has stated that she is proud of her Taiwanese heritage and that part of her heart and mind will forever “be left in Taiwan.” She hopes that in the future she can help strengthen Taiwan-US relations. Her husband, John Sommer is also a former US Naval Officer, and both of her children are also graduates of the US Naval Academy. In 2019, T.A. Archives selected her as an Outstanding Taiwanese American.

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Katy Tang (湯凱蒂)

Katy Tang (湯凱蒂 Tang Kai-ti) was born in New York to Taiwanese immigrant parents, but grew up in San Francisco's Sunset District. She graduated with a dual bachelor's degree from the University of California, Davis in just 3 years, and received a law degree from the University of San Francisco School of Law.

After graduation, Tang worked as a legislative Aide to San Francisco District 4 Supervisor, Carmen Chu, and in the Office of Public Policy & Finance for Gavin Newsom when he was Mayor of San Francisco. There, she worked on the city budget, the creation of San Francisco's first Community Justice Center, and community outreach programs.

In February 2013, Tang was appointed to the Board of Supervisors in a special election. She was later reelected to the position in late 2013 and 2014. During her tenure on the Board, Tang worked on a number of issues, including advocating for housing opportunities for middle-income families, better funding and grants for public schools and STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) programs, the end of human trafficking, paid parental leave, better homeless shelter services, sustainability, disability rights, and animal rights.

In 2018, Tang announced she would not run for reelection and was stepping away from public service so she could pursue a different lifestyle. Her last term ended in January 2019.



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Former Supervisor Profile: <https://sfbos.org/supervisor-tang>

David Wu (吳振偉)

David Wu (吳振偉 Wu Chen-wei) was born in Hsinchu, Taiwan in 1955. His family moved to Latham, New York in 1961, where they were the only Asian Americans. In 1977, Wu graduated from Stanford with a bachelor's degree in biology and sought to continue his studies at Harvard Medical School. Instead of completing his studies at Harvard, however, Wu transferred to Yale Law School where he earned his J.D. in 1982. After graduating, Wu first clerked for a federal judge before joining Miller Nash law firm in 1984. In 1988, he co-founded the law firm Cohen & Wu, which represented companies in Oregon's high-tech development sector.

In 1998, Wu ran for and was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives, making him the first Taiwanese American to ever be elected to Congress. He held his seat representing Oregon's 1st Congressional district until his resignation in 2011. He was a member of the New Democrat Coalition and the Executive Board for the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, for which he served as Chair from 2001 to 2004. He served on the Committee on Education and Labor, as well as the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology. Wu funded virus research for an AIDS treatment and other scientific initiatives, supported NASA's space program, and was well known for taking a strong stance on human rights, even if it risked his seat in Congress. One of his most successful projects was to create Lewis and Clark National Historic Park and expand the Fort Clatsop National Memorial.



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Biography: <http://taiwaneseamericanhistory.org/blog/27-david-wu-吳振偉>

David Wu Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/David_Wu

Tim Wu (吳修銘)

In 1972, Tim Wu (吳修銘 Wu Hsiu-ming) was born in Washington D.C. to a Taiwanese father and British-Canadian mother, Tim Wu grew up in Switzerland and Canada. He graduated with a bachelor's degree in Biophysics from McGill University in 1995, and continued his studies at Harvard Law School, receiving his J.D. in 1998. After graduating, Wu worked in the U.S. Department of Justice in the Office of Legal Counsel before he began clerking for Richard Posner on the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals, and later for Stephen Breyer on the U.S. Supreme Court. In 2000, he worked for Riverstone Networks in the San Francisco Bay Area, before entering academic at the University of Virginia School of Law as an associate professor of law from 2002 to 2004. He also worked as a visiting professor at Columbia Law School, Chicago Law School, and Stanford Law School before being hired as a full professor at Columbia Law School in 2006.



Wu's work revolves around private power, free speech, and information warfare in the age of the internet. He is well-known for coining the term "net neutrality" in 2002 and has been a leader of the antitrust movement in the United States. He worked in antitrust enforcement at the Federal Trade Commission (2011-2012), as Senior Enforcement Counsel in the New York Attorney General's Office (2015-2016), and on competition policy for the National Economic Council for the Obama administration (2016-2017). In 2014, Wu ran for Lieutenant Governor of New York, and though he did not win the election, he did win 40% of the popular vote.

Wu has co-authored one book and authored three others: *Who Controls the Internet? Illusions of a Borderless World* (2006), *The Master Switch: The Rise and Fall of Information Empires* (2010), *The Attention Merchants: The Epic Scramble to Get inside Our Heads* (2016), and *The Cure of Bigness: Antitrust in the New Gilded Age* (2018). He also has a number of well-known articles, the most notable of which is "Network Neutrality, Broadband Discrimination," published in 2003. Wu is an opinion writer for the *New York Times*, and has written for *Slate*, *The New Yorker*, and *The Washington Post*. He's been named one of America's 100 most influential lawyers by the *National Law Journal*, been listed by *Politico* as one of the 50 most influential figures in American politics, and *Scientific American* 50 for policy leadership.

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Tim Wu Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Tim_Wu

Columbia Faculty Profile: <https://www.law.columbia.edu/faculty/timothy-wu>

Portia Wu

Portia Wu was born on July 23, 1970 to Taiwanese parents living in New Haven, Connecticut. She graduated with a bachelor's from Yale University in 1991 and earned her Master's in Comparative Literature at Cornell University in 1993. In 1998, she received her JD from Yale Law School. She has spent her career advocating for worker's rights. She began by clerking for Judge Richard Paez, then served on the bench of the US District Court for the Central District of California. She also worked on the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals and helped block many provisions of an Arizona anti-immigrant law. From 2003 until 2010, she worked as a staffer under Senator Edward M. Kennedy (D-Massachusetts) and later Senator Tom Harkin (D-Iowa) on US Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions. She served as Director of Labor Policy, General Counsel, and later as a Senior Labor Policy Advisor. In 2010, she served as the Vice-president of the National Partnership for Women and Families. She moved to the White House in 2011 where she served as Special Assistant to the President for Labor and Workforce Policy.



In 2014, she was nominated by President Obama as the Assistant Secretary in the US Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration (ETA). Wu's public service work has been important to ensuring the rights of laborers across the nation. The Executive Director of the National Skills Coalition, Andy Van Kleunan, said of Wu, "She understands the important role that federal policy can play in promoting more effective partnerships between education and training providers and local industry to help more people gain access to good jobs. And she is committed to documenting results, and sharing that data with the public so people can make more informed decisions about their careers." As Assistant Secretary of Labor for the ETA, Wu oversaw billions of dollars in workforce training and investments, the implementation of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, and a number of income-support and reemployment programs.

In 2017, Wu began working at the Director of Workforce Policy at Microsoft and joined the board of directors of the National Skills Coalition. In 2019, Wu was selected as an Outstanding Taiwanese American by T.A. Archives.

References:

Biography: <http://taiwaneseamericanhistory.org/blog/whoswho2185-2/>

Outstanding Taiwanese American: <http://taiwaneseamericanhistory.org/blog/ota-232/>

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<http://www.allgov.com/news/appointments-and-resignations/assistant-secretary-for-employment-and-training-administration-who-is-portia-wu-140406?news=852847>

Michelle Wu (吳彌)

Michelle Wu (吳彌 Wu Mi) was born in 1985 in Chicago, Illinois to Taiwanese immigrant parents. She graduated from high school in 2003 as a valedictorian and an Illinois U.S. Presidential Scholar. After high school she attended Harvard University, earning her bachelor's degree in 2007. She later also earned her J.D. from Harvard Law School in 2012. After completing her bachelor's Wu consulted in Boston's financial district, later entering public service by working in the Boston Mayor's office.

In 2012, Wu worked as Constituency Director for Elizabeth Warren's 2012 Senate Campaign. A month later, she announced her bid for Boston City Councilor At-Large. Wu was elected to the Boston City Council in 2013 and has been re-elected twice since. When she entered the Boston City Council at age 28, she was the first Asian-American woman to ever serve on the Council. In 2016, she was elected by unanimous vote to the position of the President of the City Council, making her the first woman of color to ever serve as Council President.

Wu has championed policies regarding paid parental leave, healthcare equity, and prohibiting discrimination based on gender identity. She also authored a communications access ordinance that guarantees access to translation, interpretation, and assistive technology services.

Wu has been listed among six finalists named "Rising Stars" by EMILY's List, listed number 31 on *Boston* magazine's "The 100 Most Influential People in Boston," and on Marie Claire's 2016 list of "The 50 Most Influential Women in America." She also received the 2016 Ten Outstanding Young Leaders Award from the Great Boston Chamber of Commerce and the 2017 Eleanor Roosevelt Award from the Massachusetts Democratic Party. In 2019, T.A. Archives selected her as an Outstanding Taiwanese American.



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Outstanding Taiwanese American: <http://taiwaneseamericanhistory.org/blog/ota-220/>

Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Michelle_Wu

City Councilor Profile: <https://www.boston.gov/departments/city-council/michelle-wu>

Andrew Yang (楊安澤)

Andrew Yang (楊安澤 Yang An-tse) was born on January 13, 1975 to Taiwanese immigrant parents living in Schenectady, New York. He graduated from Brown University in 1996 with a dual bachelor's degree in economics and political science. He then earned his J.D. from Columbia Law School in 1999. From 1999 to 2000 he was an attorney for Davis Polk & Wardwell. In 2000, he co-founded Stargiving, a website designed for celebrity-affiliated philanthropy. Yang later began working at a small test preparation company called Manhattan Prep, serving as CEO from 2006 until his resignation in 2012. In 2011, he founded Venture for America (VFA), a nonprofit fellowship program designed to create economic opportunities by helping young entrepreneurs gain necessary skills and resources to put more jobs on the market.

In 2012, Yang was recognized by the Obama administration as a “Champion of Change.” In 2015, he was named a “Presidential Ambassador for Global Entrepreneurship.” Yang has published two books: *Smart People Should Build Things: How to Restore Our Culture of Achievement, Build a Path for Entrepreneurs, and Create New Jobs in America* (2014) and *The War on Normal People: The Truth About America's Disappearing Jobs and Why Universal Basic Income Is Our Future* (2018).

Announcing his bid for the 2020 Presidential Election in 2017, Yang became the first Taiwanese American to run for President of the United States. His campaign slogans included “Humanity First,” “Make America Think Harder (MATH),” and “Not Left, Not Right, Forward.” Yang's campaign began to gain a larger following in February 2019, and by March qualified for the first round of Democratic primary debates. He continued to meet the requirements for the second, third, fourth, fifth, and sixth, and eighth debates as well. Throughout his campaign, Yang suffered from being excluded from media coverage, and in August 2019, his supporters used the hashtag #YangMediaBlackout to call attention to the disproportionate coverage of his campaign.

Though Yang ended his campaign on February 11, 2020, he was still optimistic, saying to his supporters, “while we did not win this election, we are just getting started.” In March of 2020, Yang announced his involvement with a non-profit organization called Humanity Forward that seeks to actualize the core values of his 2020 campaign, such as universal basic income, human-centered capitalism, and data as a property right. In 2019, T.A. Archives named Andrew Yang an Outstanding Taiwanese American.



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Andrew Yang Wikipedia: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Andrew_Yang

U. S. Census Project

Timeline of the Taiwanese American Census Project

First initiated by the Taiwanese American Citizens League in 1987, the Taiwanese American Census Project is a national campaign that advocates for Taiwanese Americans to write in “Taiwanese” as their ethnicity on the U.S. Census. The goal of the project is to earn better representation and resources for the Taiwanese American community. The following is a timeline of the TA Census Campaign and the four campaigns that it has organized for each of the decennial U.S. Censuses since the campaign’s establishment in 1987. Clicking on the year heading will direct you to a more detailed page for each year’s campaign.

1987

Campaign launched on January 8, 1987 by the Taiwanese American Citizens League (TACL) in preparation for 1990 census

1990

Information from the TA Archives, describing this project: “A video-based program introducing the importance of the 1990 census for Taiwanese Americans was designed and produced mainly by TACL’s 1990 Census Committee. The video tapes, in Taiwanese, Mandarin, English and Hakka’s versions, were distributed across the country through local TACL chapters as well as other Taiwanese organizations.” (**Source: TA Archives**)

2000

Informational Flyers created and distributed by the TACL Census Team to encourage people to write in “Taiwanese” on the census.

2010

Website for Census 2010: **<http://www.taiwaneseamerican.org/census2010/>**

Quotes from 2010 Census website:

WRITE IN “TAIWANESE”

Every decade, the US CENSUS counts everyone residing in the United States — in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the Island Areas— as mandated by the US Constitution. Beginning in March, CENSUS FORMS will be delivered to mailboxes. A key date to know is APRIL 1ST, or CENSUS DAY, the day of reference when filling in the form to account

for everyone in your household. If the form is not mailed out, Census takers visit households door to door to record data between April and July 2010.

The WRITE IN “TAIWANESE” campaign was created in an effort to combat the vast undercount of Taiwanese in the United States. Recent projections estimate that there are over 1 MILLION Taiwanese in the United States, but the 2000 Census recorded only 144,795 people. Without a change in education and awareness, the Taiwanese population in the US will once again be overlooked and history shall be doomed to repeat itself in the 2010 US Census.

WHY IS THIS IMPORTANT TO YOU?

Census data is used to distribute CONGRESSIONAL SEATS to states, to make decisions about what COMMUNITY SERVICES to provide, and to distribute \$400 BILLION in federal funds to local, state and tribal governments each year.

For Asian ethnicities such as Chinese, Korean, Japanese, Filipino, and Vietnamese, one is able to fill in a bubble to declare their ethnicity in the Census. However, for someone of Taiwanese descent to declare their ethnicity on the Census they need to fill in the bubble for “OTHER ASIAN” and then write in “TAIWANESE.” Many Taiwanese Americans and Taiwanese are unaware of this when filling out Census questionnaires. Census information is also protected by federal law to be kept safe and private.

By educating and encouraging families, young professionals, and college students alike to properly fill out the Census, we can achieve a larger and more accurate count. Thus, the VOICE OF TAIWANESE AMERICA will be more strongly considered by the POLITICAL, FINANCIAL, AND SOCIAL CONSCIOUSNESS of the United States of America.

...And maybe next time, “Taiwanese” won’t be listed as an “Other Asian”.

(Source: taiwaneseamerican.org)

2016

August 2016 – Peter Chen, President of the Formosan Association for Public Affairs (FAPA) publishes an article titled “Taiwanese-Americans want to be counted” in the *Taipei Times*.

2017

March 2017 – Representative Ted Lieu calls on the U.S. Census Bureau to include a “Taiwanese” check box on the 2020 Census.

2020

Official Website: **<http://tacl.org/census-2020/>**

Promotional Materials:

The 2020 Census Project created a media kit that included infographics and promotional materials for organizations involved in the project.

- **Census Infographic (English)**
- **人口普查 Infographic (Chinese)**
- **Media Kit** (digital media that can be used to promote this movement)

T-shirts and Sweatshirts

Designed in order to raise money for the census campaign. The T-shirts come in adult and youth unisex sizes, the sweatshirts come in adult unisex sizes and in 3 colors: maroon, navy, and black.

Social Media Platforms:

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/write.in.taiwanese.census/>

Facebook : <https://www.facebook.com/write.in.taiwanese.census/>

Other Promotional Events and Endorsements

- **美國 2020 人口普查, 台美小姐籲種族欄填台灣人/2019**
- In a letter to Director of the U.S. Census Bureau Mr. John Thompson dated March 28, Rep. Ted Lieu (D-CA) called for a “Taiwanese” check box as well: “It is time the U.S. Census Bureau’s forms and data collection accurately reflect the residents of our great nation. I respectfully request that the U.S. Census Bureau expand the list of check-off boxes to include “Bangladeshi, Fijian, Hmong, Indonesian, Malaysian, Pakistani, Sri Lankan, Taiwanese, Thai, and Tongan.” (**Source: TA Archives**)
- **Peter Chen (Formosan Association for Public Affairs)**

Taiwanese-Americans want to be counted

By Peter Chen 陳正義

On Aug. 2, 1790, a year after the inauguration of the first US president, George Washington, the US held a census under the general direction of then-US secretary of state Thomas Jefferson. It was the first US population count, and the census now takes place every 10 years. There have been 22 federal US censuses.

Taiwanese-Americans started immigrating to the US as early as the 1950s and have been arriving steadily ever since. However, nobody knows — not even the US Census Bureau — how many Taiwanese-Americans there are in the US. Estimates range from 250,000 to 1 million.

Why is this number unknown? It is due to international political considerations and restrictions the US imposed on itself.

The Formosan Association for Public Affairs (FAPA) is a non-profit organization that — among other activities — promotes the welfare of Taiwanese-Americans. FAPA, together with other Taiwanese-American organizations, is petitioning the census bureau to include a check box for “Taiwanese” under the race question on the next US census in 2020.

FAPA has been campaigning for such a check box since 1997. In 1998, then-FAPA president Chen Wen-yen (陳文彥) appeared as a witness at a meeting of the Subcommittee on the Census to testify on the matter.

Chen stated: “In the 1990 census, about 80,000 respondents identified themselves as Taiwanese under the race question. One hundred and ninety-three thousand marked Taiwanese as their ancestry. This discrepancy is caused by the fact that on the 1990 census form, Taiwanese was not listed as a separate category under the race question, while it was explicitly listed as an example under the ancestry question.”

In a 1997 memorandum, the US Department of State informed the census bureau that the “listing of Taiwanese as a race in a census questionnaire would inevitably raise sensitive political questions ... contrary to the US government policy and US national interest.”

FAPA believes that the constitutionally mandated US Census is and must be a purely internal US affair, and should not fall victim to international politics and/or pressure.

In 2010, a write-in campaign was taken up instructing Taiwanese-Americans to write “Taiwanese” under the race question.

Nevertheless, the 2010 census demonstrated large discrepancies in the count of Taiwanese-Americans between US federal agencies. According to the 2010 census, there were 230,382 Taiwanese-Americans, while the 2014 Homeland Security data on Lawful Permanent Residents showed that the Taiwanese-American population in 2010 was 450,673.

Add this huge discrepancy in the count of Taiwanese-Americans to international political interference and Taiwanese-American indignation is understandable.

In 1994 the US House of Representatives and the US Senate passed legislation enabling Taiwanese-Americans to list “Taiwan” as their place of birth on their US passports, instead of “China.” Since then, the US Immigration and Naturalization Service — and since 2003 the US Citizenship and Immigration Services — have maintained separate quotas for Taiwanese-Americans and Chinese-Americans. If one federal agency can do it, why not the census bureau?

It is high time that the census bureau lifted this self-imposed restriction and included a Taiwanese check box on the census form in 2020. The US Congress is set to convene a census subcommittee next year. So the time for Taiwanese-Americans to speak out is now.

There is a need for accurate data on how many Taiwanese-Americans there are today.

We want to be counted!

Peter Chen is president of the Formosan Association for Public Affairs.

Sourced from Taipei Times 08/2016

Rep. Ted Lieu Calls Upon U.S. Census Bureau to Include “Taiwanese” Check Box on Census 2020 Form

Before the 2000 Census, FAPA already started the campaign for a separate check off box for “Taiwanese” under the race question. Then FAPA President Wen-yen Chen appeared as a witness to a congressional hearing before the Subcommittee on the Census in 1998. However, at the time, FAPA was informed by the Census Bureau that a 1997 State Department memorandum stipulated that the “listing of “Taiwanese” as a race in a Census questionnaire would inevitably raise sensitive political questions...contrary to the U.S. Government policy and U.S. national interest.”

Over the years, many Taiwanese American organizations campaigned for a “Taiwanese” check-off box. In 2008, the Taiwanese American Citizens League made a video starring prominent Taiwanese Americans, calling for the same, in which Ted Lieu participated.

Last October, chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee Ed Royce (R-CA) urged the United States Census Bureau to add a separate “Taiwanese” check-off box in the Census 2020.

In a letter to Director of the U.S. Census Bureau Mr. John Thompson dated March 28, Rep. Ted Lieu (D-CA) called for a “Taiwanese” check box as well: “It is time the U.S. Census Bureau’s forms and data collection accurately reflect the residents of our great nation. I respectfully request that the U.S. Census Bureau expand the list of check-off boxes to include “Bangladeshi, Fijian, Hmong, Indonesian, Malaysian, Pakistani, Sri Lankan, Taiwanese, Thai, and Tongan.”

As a California State Senator, in 2011, Lieu co-authored a bill that required state agencies to include these ancestries and races in their data collection and tabulations. California Governor Jerry Brown signed the legislation into law.

FAPA President Peter Chen states: “The current policy of the Census Bureau to exclude a Taiwanese check off box is solely a U.S. self-imposed restriction. We must have accurate data on how many Taiwanese Americans there are today. There should be no outside political influence preventing the United States to count us. We want to be counted!”

Peter Chen concludes: “FAPA thanks the effort of the entire Taiwanese American community on this very important issue.”

March 28, 2017

John H. Thompson

Director

U.S. Census Bureau

4600 Silver Hill Road

Washington, DC 20233

Dear Director Thompson:

Thank you for your service. What makes America great is that we are a diverse nation. The U.S. Census Bureau recognizes that fact by providing check-off boxes on the census form for various ethnicities such as Filipino, Korean, Guamanian, Samoan and many others. But it arbitrarily excludes check-off boxes for ethnicities such as Malaysian, Pakistani, Taiwanese, Tongan and many others. Why would there be a box for Filipino but not Malaysian, for Korean but not Pakistani, for Samoan but not Tongan? There is no logic that can support the way the census form is constructed. I write to request that the U.S. Census Bureau correct these arbitrary exclusions.

I have worked for many years to fix the issue of our government selectively picking certain ethnicities over others. As a California State Assembly member in 2007, I authored a bill that required state agencies to include “Bangladeshi, Fijian, Hmong, Indonesian, Malaysian, Pakistani, Sri Lankan, Taiwanese, Thai, and Tongan” in their data collection and tabulations (AB 295). The bill passed the legislature but was vetoed by the Governor. As a California State Senator in 2011, I coauthored a bill that essentially did the same thing (AB 1088). The Governor signed the legislation.

It is time the U.S. Census Bureau’s forms and data collection accurately reflect the residents of our great nation. I respectfully request that the U.S. Census Bureau expand the list of check-off boxes to include “Bangladeshi, Fijian, Hmong, Indonesian, Malaysian, Pakistani, Sri Lankan, Taiwanese, Thai, and Tongan.”

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Should you want to discuss this with my staff, please contact etc....

Sincerely,

TED W. LIEU

Member of Congress