



One Asian American Candidate Wins Election, and Two Candidates Head to a Run-Off

Advancing Justice - Atlanta congratulates the work of all AAPIs plus trainees who ran in 2015 Georgia Elections

Atlanta, Georgia, November 4, 2015 — Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Atlanta congratulates MD Naser who won his City Council election in Doraville Georgia last night with 50.8% of the votes. In hotly contested City Council races in Johns Creek Georgia (the city with the largest Asian American population in our state), Asian American first-time candidates Jay Lin (City Council Post 2) and Nazeera Dawood (City Council Post 5) will each enter into a run-off race on December 1st. Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Atlanta applauds all six Asian American candidates as well as our Candidate training participants who ran this year.

"Six Asian Americans running in Georgia in one year is historic and proof that our community members are interested and capable of occupying civic leadership positions at all levels of government," said Helen Kim Ho Executive Director of Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Atlanta. The six Asian Americans who ran this year are: Nazeera Dawood, Birendra Dhakal, Eve Erdogan, Jay Lin, Arun Misra, and MD Naser.

MD Naser, a Bangladeshi-Muslim-American, is the first Asian American to serve as a Doraville City Councilman. Said Mr. Naser about the reason for his win: "I focused my time going door-to-door with a special focus on engaging Bangladeshis and other Asians in our city -- I won by a slim 12 vote margin and know at least 50 Bangladeshis voted yesterday for me. The Asian American vote mattered in my race, and I hope to serve as a voice and advocate for them and others in the great city of Doraville."

Other notable races this election year involving participants of our 2015 Nonpartisan Campaign Training and/or Asian American candidates include:

Indian-American Nazeera Dawood for Johns Creek City Council Post 5. Nazeera, a participant of our candidate training, will be in a run-off for her City Council seat on December 1st.

Bhutanese-American Birendra Dhakal for Clarkston City Council. Birendra, a participant of our candidate trainings, was one of five candidates running for 3 open city council seats in the City of Clarkston. Birendra lost by a couple dozen votes. Mario Williams (African American), Beverly Burks (African American) and Awet Howard Eyasu (Eritrean Immigrant) -- all first-time city council candidates -- won, ultimately unseating one incumbent.

African-American Diane Adoma for Georgia State Senate District 43. Diane, a participant of our candidate training, lost a hotly contested special election for an open State Senate Seat in Lithonia.

Chinese-American Eve Erdogan for Brookhaven City Council. Ms. Erdogan lost her bid for Brookhaven City Council District 1 to the incumbent.

Indian-American Arun Misra for Johns Creek City Council Post 2 . Mr. Misra lost in a 3 person race for Post 2.

"We congratulate the hard work and sacrifice these and other candidates made to run for office, especially our minority and first-time candidates. The fact that Asian American candidates fared so well shows that voters are

willing to embrace new and diverse leadership which we believe results in stronger and most just policies at the federal, state and local levels," said Helen Ho.

About Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Atlanta

Asian Americans Advancing Justice - Atlanta (formerly Asian American Legal Advocacy Center or AALAC) is the first non-profit law center dedicated to Asian immigrants and refugees ("Asian Americans") in the Southeast.

Our goal is to engage, educate and empower under-represented Asian Americans to greater civic participation.

We are one of five independent organizations that make up the national Asian Americans Advancing Justice. Together with our affiliates in Chicago, DC, Los Angeles and San Francisco, we bring more than 100 years of collective experience in addressing the civil rights issues faced by Asian Americans and other vulnerable and underserved communities. Visit www.advancingjustice-atlanta.org.