

# Clinton woos Asian Americans, slams 'hateful' GOP rhetoric

By Christine Armario  
The Associated Press

**S**AN GABRIEL, Calif. — Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton recently courted Asian-American voters, telling members of the nation's fastest growing racial minority that she disagrees with the "hateful rhetoric" of her Republican challengers.

"They forget a fundamental lesson about our great country," she told several hundred people gathered at a hotel ballroom in suburban Los Angeles. "Being an open and tolerant society does not make us vulnerable. It's at the core of our strength."

Clinton's campaign stop in the San Gabriel Valley, an enclave home to more than a half million Asian Americans, marked the launch of her grassroots outreach to the growing pool of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. Those voters have trended Democratic in recent presidential elections, though they are still considered up for political grabs. Their influence is considered critical in some swing states. But California is not one of those, having voted for a Democrat for president every election since 1992.

Republicans suggested Clinton's visit is more about raising campaign cash.

Clinton made her appeal to Asian American and Pacific Islander voters in a Southern California region where a number of cities are now majority Asian



**ADVOCATING OPENNESS.** Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton, left, is welcomed by representative Judy Chu (D-California), before addressing Asian American and Pacific Islander supporters in San Gabriel, California. (AP Photo/Damian Dovarganes)

The Asian-American community has been the subject of relatively little discussion in the Democratic and Republican primaries.

Clinton's message on immigration resonated with Alma Harrison, 52, a human-resources director at the Hilton hotel where Clinton delivered her remarks — though she said she still hadn't decided who she would vote for.

"Right now I'm still listening to what everybody has to say," she said.

Several others at the rally said that while they planned to back Clinton, their communities were somewhat divided.

"Some of them are strong Republicans because of religious issues," said Suzette Lopez, 60, a financial planner born in the Philippines who now lives in the San Gabriel Valley. "They think Democrats are too liberal."

James Sobredo, 55, an ethnic studies professor at Sacramento State University, travelled to the San Gabriel Valley with a busload of Filipino voters from the San Francisco area, about six hours away. He said Asian-American voters have long been perceived as outsiders, but that he believes their political relevance and critical mass in elections is finally starting to take hold.

"We're not as powerful as the Latino vote," he said, "but we have resources."

American and store signs line the streets in Mandarin and Cantonese.

"Their party identity is not cast in stone," said Karthick Ramakrishnan, a professor of public policy and political science at the University of California, Riverside. "There's still potential for persuasion there."

In a half-hour speech, Clinton told constituents she would be the one to fix the nation's broken immigration system, improve access to higher education, and

increase wages — all issues considered top priorities for the Asian-American electorate. She vowed to reduce the visa backlog and help unauthorized immigrants with deep community ties that "deserve the chance to stay."

"Ultimately this is more than an economic or political issue," she said. "It's a family issue."

Nearly 4 million Asians voted in the 2012 presidential election, a 547,000 increase over 2008. According to exit polls, nearly three-quarters of Asian-American voters favored President Barack Obama in the 2012 election. They comprised about three percent of the total electorate.

## Talking Story: Remixing Portland, 2016

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Portland planners, developers, bankers, educators, law enforcers, local media — long segregating us. Preventing our blending and balancing.

Portland Polite and Portland White are ubiquitous, but not immune to change. The demographics demand it. We are changing. Our shared ways of perceiving and speaking are too. There may be a market for an upgrade of P-Town White, but P-Town White is done. Finito.

### Portland PC

The power of Portland Polite & White probably lies in another colloquialism: Portland PC — an even more problematic putdown, because "political" correctness denotes behavior at odds with a very core American value.

Portland PC is an allegation that a political expectation, a lame one, is driving your personal behavior rather than a nobler national ethic. Namely, the one about standing up to bullies, from King George III forward. And standing alone, if necessary.

In short, sealing your lips about non-whites and non-straight in your neighborhood, about women or about workers with physical or mental disabilities in your office, on threat of official sanction can

cause unbearable internal dissonance. Not getting to speak out about "politically" protected people is hard. Not standing up to bad government is harder still. Portland PC is a fundamental affront. Rewriting it is a tougher task than recalibrating Portland Polite or White.

The rugged and well-armed individualism idealized in our American imagination — the one manifesting in sincerely felt shouting matches between Republicans and Democrats — is not likely to diminish in the near term. Neither will Portland PC (even if muttered under breath). But we won't always be this way. Our achy little planet's perennial human migrations, those inevitable and beautiful arrivals of peoples and products and ideas right here in River City, will shift what we say, what we see, indeed who we are. Insh'allaah.

In the context of about 140 centuries of ambitious families living and loving here, moving in and moving out of here, right here at the confluence of our two river matriarchs and our grand clockwise sweep of deep blue sea — a note of disapproval, a bit of ignorance, the bite of sarcasm, don't mean so much.

Talking nice, acting right, matter a lot more. Ask any grandma, mine or yours.

### Boxer Manny Pacquiao to return April 9 against Bradley

**LAS VEGAS (AP)** — Manny Pacquiao will return to the ring April 9 for the first time since losing to Floyd Mayweather Jr., and it will be against a familiar foe.

Promoter Bob Arum says Pacquiao will fight Timothy Bradley at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas for a third time in his first bout since losing a decision to Mayweather in the richest fight ever. Pacquiao reinjured a shoulder in that fight and was ineffective against Mayweather in dropping the unanimous decision.

Technically, the fight with Bradley will be the rubber match of their three-fight series. However, most in boxing believe Pacquiao won the first fight in 2012 easily — the judges gave it to Bradley — and was largely dominant in the rematch, which he won by decision.

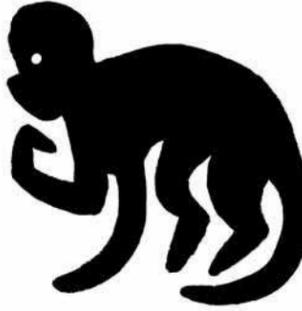
Top Rank spokesman Lee Samuels said the pay-per-view fight has not officially been signed, but both fighters agreed to

terms and would sign soon. Pacquiao was given a \$2 million advance on his guaranteed \$20 million purse, Samuels said.

The fight will not be marketed as Pacquiao's last fight, though he had talked previously about just one more fight before running for senate in his native Philippines. Pacquiao is currently a congressman in the Philippines.

Bradley (33-1-1, 13 knockouts) is coming off an impressive win over Brandon Rios in Las Vegas. Bradley signed up with noted trainer Teddy Atlas before that bout, which was seen as one of his best performances.

Pacquiao (57-6-2, 38 knockouts) had surgery to repair a torn rotator cuff in his right shoulder after the Mayweather fight. It wasn't disclosed before the fight, but Pacquiao hurt the shoulder in training and then reinjured it during the fight.



## Mark your calendar!

**The Year of the Monkey  
begins February 8, 2016.**

Display advertising space reservations for our special Year of the Monkey issue are due  
**Monday, January 18 at 5:00pm.**

*The Asian Reporter's  
Lunar New Year special issue will be  
published on Monday, February 1, 2016.*

## 2015 Most Honored Elder Award Recipient

**Luz F. Aviles**



Luz F. Aviles was born June 10, 1938 in Manabo, Abra, the Philippines, the second of eight children. As a youth, Luz attended Manabo Elementary School and St. Joseph Catholic High School, and continued her education in college, pursuing nursing, law, and secretarial studies. In 1961, Luz married Mel J. Ancheta of San Fernando, La Union, and was petitioned by her husband to move to the U.S. that same year. Five years later, in 1966, she received her American citizenship. That same year, she was hired by the U.S. Postal Service, where she worked until her retirement in 1991. She has two sons and one daughter: Mel, Richard, and Lorilei. A lifetime member of the Filipino American Association of Portland and Vicinity, Luz served as secretary from 1964 to 1970 and as president in 1971. She assisted in the purchase of the Filipino American Cultural Center, also known as the Fil-Am Center, in southeast Portland by co-signing for a loan in 1971. She was also a board member of the Caballeros de Dimasalang, a fraternal organization, for nine years. Since 2009, Luz has been the coordinator of El Shaddai Catholic charismatic prayer group at Immaculate Heart Catholic Church in north Portland.

**The Asian Reporter Foundation is accepting nominations for its 2016 "Most Honored Elder" awards.**

The recognition banquet will be held Thursday, April 21, 2016 at northeast Portland's TAO Event Center. Nomination forms and guidelines for eligibility are available for download at <www.ARFoundation.net>.

*The nomination deadline is  
Wednesday, March 23, 2016 at 5:00pm.*

**The Asian Reporter Foundation's 18th Annual Scholarship & Awards Banquet features:**

Most Honored Elder Awards	Cultural entertainment
Exemplary Community Volunteer Awards	Ethnic dinner
College Scholarship Awards	Silent auction