

# APALA

ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN LABOR ALLIANCE, AFL-CIO



Worker, Immigrant, and Civil Rights

Founded in 1992

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Contact: Marian Manapsal  
[mmanapsal@apalanet.org](mailto:mmanapsal@apalanet.org)  
(202) 508-3733

## APALA Endorses Congresswoman Grace Meng for Vice Chair of the Democratic National Committee

Washington, DC – Today, the Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance, AFL-CIO (APALA) announces its endorsement of Congresswoman Grace Meng (D-NY) for the Vice Chair of the Democratic National Committee (DNC). APALA is proud to stand behind an advocate who understands the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community and continues to fight for our community's diverse needs.

"Grace's representation on the DNC marks an important shift for representing AAPIs in the Democratic Party on the national stage," stated Johanna Puno Hester, APALA National President and Assistant Executive Director of the United Domestic Workers, AFSCME Local 3930. "With an incoming administration that has polarized our nation already and with a need to strengthen the Democratic Party with more leaders of color, strong allies in government like Grace will be hard to come by."

"Throughout my life, I have dedicated my work towards racial, social, and economic justice. Representative Grace Meng doesn't just share my vision but, both as a member of Congress and as DNC Vice Chair, she's proven that she knows how to make progress towards achieving our goal of a more equal and just society. I'm proud to support her campaign for re-election and look forward to continuing our work to better our party and our country," commented APALA Executive Director Gregory A. Cendana.

Congresswoman Grace Meng said: "APALA has a long history of elevating voices in the AAPI community and building coalitions to fight for immigrant and minority communities. I'm honored to receive APALA's endorsement and support as I fight to expand and strengthen the coalitions already built by organizations like APALA, and to create new lasting, meaningful partnerships between existing communities and the Democratic Party."

Michael Yee, APALA National Treasurer and Treasurer of Local Union No. 3, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, concluded: "As a New Yorker, I have witnessed Grace's strong positions on issues that matter to our community. We as AAPIs cannot be forgotten during the next administration. APALA will be standing behind representatives who will elevate our voices where they're needed most."

Congresswoman Grace Meng is a member of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs and the House Committee on Small Business, and recently spearheaded legislation to eliminate the term "oriental" in federal law.

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The **Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance** (APALA), AFL-CIO was founded in 1992 as the first and only national organization for Asian Pacific American union members to advance worker, immigrant and civil rights.

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