



Chinese American Citizens Alliance of Greater New York

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PRESS RELEASE

Chinese Candidate's Reveal Position on the Specialized High School Admission Test –Position will Affect Asian Students

The Chinese American Citizens Alliance of Greater New York (CACAGNY) surveyed Chinese American Candidates running for office in the New York City September 12th Primary, asking whether they presently support keeping the single merit based exam to the Specialized High Schools of New York City.

Achieving a high score on The Specialized High School Admission Test (**SHSAT**) is presently the only way to get into schools such as Stuyvesant, Bronx Science and Brooklyn Tech. They are the country's best public high schools and predominantly Asian, however, they have come under attack for not being more diverse. Some politicians claim the test should be eliminated because it is unfair and preventing diversity at these schools.

Every year legislation is proposed to eliminate the single exam for alternate methods with the goal of changing the diversity of the student class. This year the Borough Presidents of the Bronx and Brooklyn published a report calling for changing the single exam admission system. Legislators, especially Asian legislators, depending on their opinion, can be very influential in retaining or changing the way students get into these schools.

Here are our results:

City Council- District 20 – Flushing Queens

Peter Koo – Presently supports keeping the SHSAT and has a record of supporting the SHSAT. Councilman Koo spoke in favor of the SHSAT at an all day Council Hearing in 2014 and confirmed his position in a statement to the press on August 17, 2017. He has stated that he intends to continue to vote for keeping the SHSAT if legislation or a resolution were to come up in the City Council. CACAGNY believes he is credible.

Allsion Tan- Personally does not believe a single exam is the best way to admit students to the Specialized High Schools. Issued a position of support after our findings were published. The CACAGNY believes conflicting positions cannot assure support for the SHSAT. She has a record of supporting, Assemblyman Ron Kim, to whom she is very close, who declared in a press conference in 2014 that the SHSAT is not a good way to admit students despite the wishes of his community and supported State legislation to eliminate the single exam. He later reconsidered his statement. To date, however, he has not declared support for the SHSAT.

City Council-District 43 – Bay Ridge, Bensonhurst, Brooklyn

Nancy Tong- Supports keeping the SHSAT and has a record of supporting the it. Testified in a City Hall Hearing in support of maintaining the SHSAT and intends to continue to vote for keeping the SHSAT.

Opponents (for Primary)

Justin Brannan- supports the SHSAT, claims to have stated so in the past and would support it in the future.

Rev. Khader El-Yateem Does not support SHSAT in its current form. Supports changes to the SHSAT with the goal of increasing diversity.

Kevin Peter Carroll – Did Not Reply

City Council-District 38 – Sunset Park, Brooklyn

Chris Miao- Supports keeping the SHSAT, is an alumnus of Bronx HS a Specialized High School and intends to vote for keeping the SHSAT.

Opponents- (for Primary)

Felix Ortiz on record for opposing SHSAT, co-sponsored bill to eliminate it on basis of diversity. Will seek changes to the single exam process

Carlos Menchaca Currently does not support the single examination entrance exam. Will consult with constituents to determine his position in the future.

Sara Gonzalez Currently does not support the single examination entrance exam. Does not intend to support the SHSAT in the future.

City Council- District 1 – Chinatown, Lower Manhattan

Margaret Chin – Supports the current admission system. Will vote for changing the system only if it does not disadvantage Asian American students. She has stated so in the past. She is a supporter of Stuyvesant High School which is in her district and has funded projects there and appeared at annual dinners.

Bryan Jung (Republican) Supports the SHSAT. Intends to vote to support the SHSAT. Believes in a merit based system and that a color blind system is the fairest way to admit students. Believes lower school leadership is required to encourage more students from throughout the city to qualify for these schools.

Opponents (Democrat)

Chris Marte, Aaron Foldenauer, Dashia Imperiale – Did Not Reply.

The CACAGNY is part of the oldest Chinese American Civil Rights Group in America founded in 1895. For more information please see our website www.CACAGNY.org and www.CACAnational.org

