



**Chinese American Citizens Alliance of Greater New York**

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## **PRESS RELEASE**

# ***Back to School Candidate Report Koo vs. Tan*** **Queens Candidates Reveal Position on Specialized High School Entrance Exam** ***Brooklyn and Bronx Borough Presidents Demand Changes to the Entrance Exam-Can Hurt Queens***

The Chinese American Citizens Alliance of Greater New York (CACAGNY) Surveyed Asian American Candidates running for City Council to determine their position on whether to keep or get rid of the SHSAT. If elected, these candidates particularly from Queens will be influential in preserving or revising the admission criteria.

Nearly 40 percent of students who attend Specialized High Schools like Stuyvesant, Bronx Science and Brooklyn Tech live in Queens. Many politicians from the Bronx, Brooklyn, and Manhattan claim the use a single exam, the SHSAT (Specialized High School Admission Test) to determine entrance to these schools is the reason for a geographically and racially unbalanced class. Almost every year legislation is proposed at the State or City level to eliminate the SHSAT in hopes of creating a more diverse class.

Bronx Boro President Ruben Diaz and Brooklyn Boro President Eric Adams published a Special Report in June 2017 demanding that the SHSAT be replaced because the test does not sufficiently identify the talents of many Black and Hispanic students.  
<http://on.nyc.gov/2sOkL84>.

Queens also has the most overcrowded high schools in the City and less students attending Specialized High Schools from Queens means even more overcrowding, especially at higher performing Queens high schools in Asian Communities.

### **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**- Presently does not believe a single exam like the SHSAT is sufficient and does not believe it is the best way to admit students. However, she promises to support the SHSAT if that is the desire of her constituents. 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.

The CACAGNY will publish the complete results of its survey later this week.

**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](http://www.CACAGNY.org) and [www.CACAnational.org](http://www.CACAnational.org)**