

# [***Democratic Congressional Hopeful Paid Thousands To Chinese Foreign Agent***](https://advance.lexis.com/api/document?collection=news&id=urn:contentItem:6C1T-2T51-JBFB-H00C-00000-00&context=1516831)

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**Body**

[*Link to Image*](https://cdn01.dailycaller.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/2022-10-22T042700Z_1965549255_RC246X9MXWPY_RTRMADP_3_CHINA-CONGRESS-scaled-e1714502100526.jpg)

A Democrat running for Congress in California's Silicon Valley paid a Chinese foreign agent for advertising, Federal Election Commission (FEC) records show.

Evan Low, a California assemblyman [*running*](https://www.evanlowforcongress.com/) for Congress in the state's 16th Congressional District, paid roughly $5,000 to Sing Tao Newspapers for print advertisements in February, [*according*](https://docquery.fec.gov/cgi-bin/fecimg/?202402229622180595) to a FEC filing. The Department of Justice (DOJ) [*ordered*](https://dailycaller.com/2021/08/25/sing-tao-department-of-justice-china-fara/) Sing Tao U.S., which is Chinese-owned and [*distributes*](https://www.singtaousa.com/) papers in California, to register under the Foreign Agents Registration Act (FARA) in 2021.

FARA requires any individual or organization engaging in political activities on behalf of a foreign entity to register with the federal government and to make periodic public reports, [*according*](https://www.justice.gov/nsd-fara) to the DOJ. The law [*defines*](https://www.justice.gov/nsd-fara/fara-index-and-act#612a) political activity as “any activity that the person engaging in believes will, or that the person intends to, in any way influence any agency or official of the Government of the United States or any section of the public within the United States.”

Sing Tao's coverage in China has been characterized as pro-Chinese Communist Party (CCP), [*according*](https://archive.nytimes.com/sinosphere.blogs.nytimes.com/2014/10/06/hong-kong-newspapers-pro-and-anti-beijing-weigh-in-on-protests/) to The New York Times. The paper published an editorial arguing that police should curb the demonstrations during 2014 anti-government protests in Hong Kong by using a “gun powder keg.” [***(RELATED: Chinese Billionaire Convicted Of Illegal Campaign Donations Gets Time Served, Leaves US)***](https://dailycaller.com/2024/05/10/chinese-billionaire-illegal-donations-time-served-leaves-us/)

Sources familiar with Chinese media have linked Sing Tao to the CCP, [*according*](https://www.rfa.org/english/news/china/agent-08272021115240.html) to Radio Free Asia, a [*U.S.-government-funded*](https://www.rfa.org/about/info/mission.html) news outlet. Radio Free Asia also found that two of the company's directors had served on the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, which serves as an advisory body to China's National People's Congress.

At least five of Sing Tao's seven board members belong to organizations that are part of the CCP's “united front” political influence network, [*according*](https://www.newsweek.com/eric-adams-china-new-york-xi-jinping-influence-asian-parade-united-states-1897424) to Newsweek.

Sing Tao has [*disputed*](https://www.axios.com/2021/08/25/doj-chinese-owned-sing-tao-newspaper-foreign-agent?utm_source=twitter&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=editorial&utm_content=politics-chinesemedia) its status as a foreign agent, and Robin Mui, Sing Tao U.S. CEO, said the news corporation had to register due to an investor's involvement in the Chinese realty business, Newsweek reported.

“Sing Tao is a major news outlet for Chinese speakers in the Bay Area,” a spokesperson for the Low campaign told the Daily Caller News Foundation.

Happy Lunar New Year

Wishing you and your family a happy, healthy and prosperous year of the [*pic.twitter.com/hl6BB619qy*](https://t.co/hl6BB619qy)

- Evan Low (@Evan\_Low) [*February 10, 2024*](https://twitter.com/Evan_Low/status/1756379686006075635?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw)

Low [*met*](http://sanfrancisco.china-consulate.gov.cn/eng/tpxw/201708/t20170805_9531155.htm) with the consul general of the Chinese Consulate General in San Francisco in 2017 while serving as an assemblyman, according to the Chinese consulate. The two discussed strengthening communication between the Chinese government at the California State Assembly and promoting cooperation between California and China.

The consul general expressed his hope that Low would “continue to play a constructive role” in building relations with China, according to the consulate. Low at the time was “willing to establish close communication with the Chinese Consulate General in San Francisco and create more bilateral cooperation platforms, so as to actively energize the mutual beneficial cooperation between California and China,” the consulate reported.

Low has attracted a number of high-profile [*endorsements*](https://www.evanlowforcongress.com/endorsements) for his campaign, including Democratic California Sen. Laphonza Butler, CNN commentator Van Jones, California Lieutenant Governor Eleni Kounalakis, California State Treasurer Fiona Ma and Democratic Rep. Ro Khanna, among other Californian House members.

Low [*advanced*](https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2024/03/05/us/elections/results-california-us-house-16-primary.html) in his district's open primary in March and will face off against fellow Democrat Sam Liccardo in November's general election. The seat opened after Democratic Rep. Anna Eshoo [*announced*](https://rollcall.com/2023/11/21/eshoo-longtime-silicon-valley-lawmaker-announces-plans-to-retire/) her retirement in November 2023.

Sing Tao has received payments from other congressional campaigns. Democratic New York Rep. Tom Souzzi paid over $7,200 to the publication for ads in February, the Washington Examiner [*reported*](https://www.washingtonexaminer.com/news/investigations/3001492/democrat-chinese-foreign-agent-unknowingly/).

Souzzi told the Examiner that he “unknowingly” advertised with the Chinese foreign agent.

Democratic New York Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Republican New York Rep. Nicole Malliotakis made payments to Sing Tao, as well, according to the Examiner.

Sing Tao did not immediately respond to the DCNF's request for comment.

Editor's Note: This article has been updated to include a statement from the Low campaign.

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**Graphic**

REUTERS/Tingshu Wang

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