

GOP Could Use Affirmative Action Fight to Appeal to Asian American Voters

The Hotline

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Body

A wave of discrimination tied to the coronavirus pandemic has fueled an uptick in political activism from Asian Americans in Orange County. Candidates also are talking sometimes heatedly about issues of importance to Asian American voters, from President Trump's use of the term "kung flu" to a California ballot measure aimed at reviving affirmative action in college acceptance.

While progressive leaders see an opportunity to tap into AAPI voters in November, 2018 nominee Young Kim (R) in CA-39 and Orange County Supervisor Michelle Steel (R) in CA-48 are hoping GOP AAPI voters are galvanized by Proposition 16, which would reinstate affirmative action in California.

The policy has long been particularly unpopular with Korean and Chinese Americans, who fear their kids will lose out on college opportunities that will go to underrepresented minorities. Already, Steel has written an op-ed in the **Register** opposing the measure. And the political action committee The Orange Club, founded by Chinese Americans to oppose a similar effort in 2014, is reportedly active on the issue. (Orange County Register)

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