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Japanese American Citizens League



JACL DIGEST

Seattle and Olympia JACL Attend 2018 Legislative APIC Agenda Prep Session



State House Education Committee Chair Sharon Tomiko Santos answers questions around [McCleary Act](#) funding during the small group Q&A session.

Seattle, WA - A month before the 2018 Washington state 60 day legislative session opens on January 8, six dozen members of the Asian Pacific Islander Coalition (APIC) of Washington, including a half dozen Seattle and Olympia chapter members, and the Washington State Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs gathered to review the 2017 legislative policy changes and funding outcomes and to discuss the outlook for

the 2018 session.

While the 2017 session was noted for the split party control of the legislature resulting in a record 193 day session instead of the scheduled 105 day session calendar and several [APIC agenda](#) items dying without a hearing in the state senate despite passing in the state house, the 2018 session will see single party control of both chambers due the result of a special election in November. Some legislation which died in 2017 will be reintroduced for the 2018 session.

Led by Asian Counseling and Referral Services Civic Engagement Program Manager Joseph Lachman, the six dozen attendees broke into small discussion groups and rotated among five discussion leaders, elected state legislative officials Sharon Tomiko Santos, Bob Hasegawa and Mia Gregerson, Deborah Jacobs of the King County Office of Law Enforcement Oversight and Tim Warden-Hertz of the Northwest Immigrant Rights Project, for question and answer sessions regarding potential 2018 legislative actions. The participation of the last two discussion leaders also highlighted the importance of two APIC issues; police officer involved shootings and accountability, and stepped up ICE arrests and immigration policy.

"As a first time attendee, I felt reassured that API interests are heard at state and local levels," observed University of Washington Asian Student Commission Director Emily Tasaka. "Deborah Jacob's discussion of Tommy Le's inquest was particularly interesting. It was good to know that the community had a direct audience with the [King County] Office of Law Enforcement Oversight. I'll be reporting what I heard back to my constituents and peers on campus. We have one month until the start of the session; time to double down our campus organizing efforts!"

The JACL Digest will publish articles from a chapter or regional district to highlight JACL's good work around the nation. If your chapter or district would like to include something, please contact your regional director or email the DC office directly to policy@jacl.org.