



2025 ANNUAL REPORT

**ASIAN AMERICAN NATIVE HAWAIIAN
AND PACIFIC ISLANDER ADVOCATES**



STAY CONNECTED FOR ANOTHER YEAR OF GROWTH, COMMUNITY AND JUSTICE!



 **AZ AANHPI ADVOCATES**
 **AANHPIADVOCATES**
 **INFO@A3NHPI.ORG**
 **WWW.A3NHPI.ORG**

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MISSION & VISION

Arizona Asian American Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander Advocates' mission is to empower and engage the Arizona AANHPI community, encouraging civic engagement and educate the community on relevant public policies, to **facilitate the creation of an equitable society and inclusive democracy.**

We aim to **empower AANHPI communities** and give our marginalized communities a **voice in politics** through intentional outreach and education.

DEAR ADVOCATES,

2025 was a time to **reflect on the lessons** learned of the previous election cycle, review our community needs and priorities, and strategize on how to **move forward together with purpose**. Across Arizona, our communities faced an incredible amount of attacks on their civil rights and sense of safety. Anxiety has become the norm and challenges are faced in every direction. Yet, we remained grounded in our shared values and commitment to **protecting our families and neighbors**.


AZ AANHPI Advocates was sustained this year by our continued commitment to **community-driven advocacy** and **long-term power building**. More than ever, people are actively seeking connection, collaboration, and action. We have seen that when given the space for this, our community is strong and eager to voice themselves and invest their time in making ideas come to fruition.

This was made evident to us over the summer when we faced a frustrating challenge. In a time when it is critical for the community to come together, **our organization fought against unnecessary restrictions to gather in Tempe parks**.

In July, **city council unanimously voted (despite community opposition)** to add unnecessary barriers to access public spaces. These barriers included a 60-day advance application to the city of Tempe for gatherings of 30 or more people, costing \$100 with a \$1,500 fine if found without a permit.

With the commitment to our communities' right to gather without worrying about applications, we teamed up with local community leaders to **move this decision to the ballot in order for voters to decide** for themselves.





Within one month, the coalition submitted **4,000 signatures, with AZ AANHPI Advocates responsible for a quarter** of collection, for voters to decide in March how we would use public space. This led the city council to repeal the ordinance and instead review the process and incorporate community input.

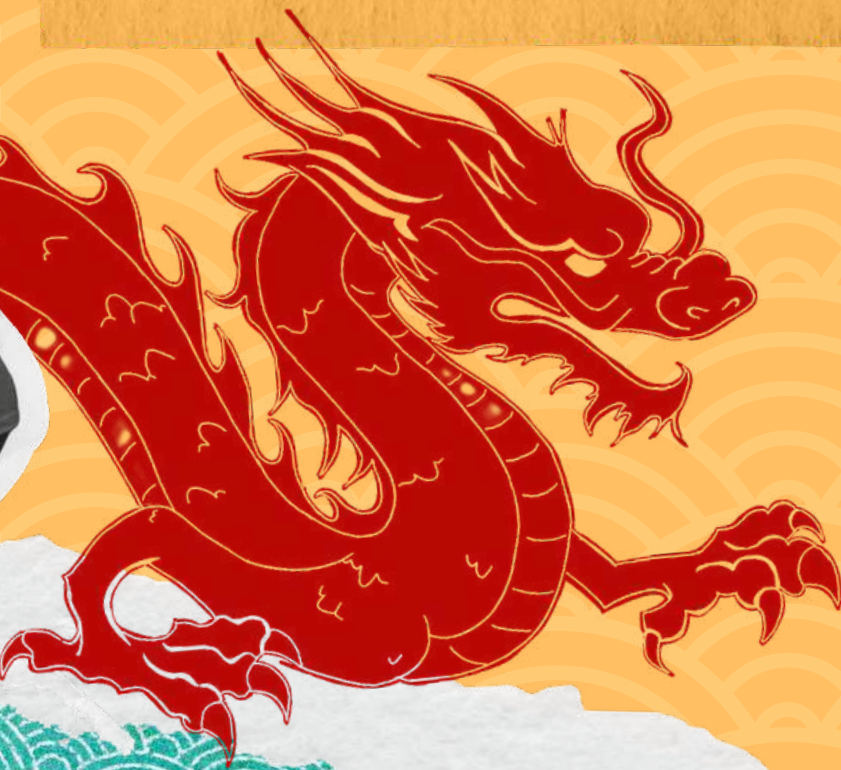
An incredible reminder is that **people care enough to take action and protect what their communities have built.** We are not alone in this fight and people continue to join together every single day. No battle is too big or too small; we unite and build paths forward together. We're also reminded that some just need to be invited or asked to learn more.

Beyond Tempe, threats from the far-right agenda continue to manifest at the **state and federal level.**

We did not let this become the norm: we worked to **raise awareness** across communities and called to take action through walking in **marches**, attending **legislative hearings, canvassing**, and sharing **testimony.**

Both our lessons learned and 2025 wins have prepared us to enter into the 2026 year with affirmation that we are ready to work hard, dig into the elections ahead to find the best community partner policymakers, and **deliver the opportunities our communities deserve.**

Folks are looking for a political home and I am proud to say that **AZ AANHPI Advocates has become that home and continues to strengthen.** American Asian, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander communities continue to grow in Arizona and so does its role in elections.



JENNIFER CHAU
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

PROTECT TEMPE

In 2025, the City of Tempe passed an ordinance **requiring groups of 30** people or more to **pay an unaffordable application** and permitting fee to gather in city parks.

This unfairly **blocked working families, cultural groups and local organizers** from using public space which is *paid for through taxes*.

AZ AANHPI Advocates **fought to get this ordinance on the March 2026 ballot** to have voters decide on park permit fees. We collected signatures by going door-to-door and through community space canvassing.

WE ORGANIZED TEMPE COMMUNITY MEMBERS TO FIGHT AGAINST THIS UNFAIR ORDINANCE...

AND WON.

\$50
NON-REFUNDABLE
APPLICATION FEE

MUST SUBMIT
APPLICATIONS
60 DAYS
IN ADVANCE

\$50
PER DAY FOR
MULTI-DAY
EVENTS

\$250 TO
\$3000
TOTAL
RENTAL
FEE

OUR PARTNERS

We partnered with Phoenix-Metro DSA, Tempe First, Tempe Neighborhood Together, Young Democrats of Arizona, and New Deal Meal to submit thousands of signatures to the City of Tempe demanding voters get the right to decide on unreasonably high fees to gather in public parks.

PUBLIC SPACES
Deserve A
PUBLIC VOICE!
parks are for everyone!

MAKE YOUR
VOICE HEARD
SIGN OUR
PETITION

PARKS CAMPAIGN

4000+
SIGNATURES
TOTAL

1000+
SIGNATURES
COLLECTED
BY OUR
ORG

ORGANIZING TO PROTECT ACCESS TO PUBLIC PARKS



KJZZ ARTICLE

featuring AZ AANHPI Advocates Advocacy Director, DeAnna Alvarez

Activist groups turn in signatures in attempt to overturn large group ordinance at Tempe parks



KJZZ | By Greg Hahne
Published August 4, 2025 at 2:47 PM MST

FEATURED
IN MEDIA:
KJZZ PHOENIX
3TV, CBS5,
KTAR NEWS,
& TEMPE
TRIBUNE

BIG WINS!



RATHER THAN MOVING THE INITIATIVE TO THE BALLOT, TEMPE CITY COUNCIL VOTED 6-0 TO RESCIND THE CONTROVERSIAL ORDINANCE.



THE CITY OF TEMPE RESTARTED ORDINANCE EFFORTS NOW INVOLVING A COMMUNITY FORUM SERIES.

*"This outcome shows how **people power** can make a real impact," says Jennifer Chau, Executive Director of AZ AANHPI Advocates. "We are committed to advocating that residents are prioritized in **shaping fair, inclusive policies from the start.**"*





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