

# PIVOT

THE PROGRESSIVE VIETNAMESE AMERICAN ORGANIZATION



## PIVOT Update and Accomplishments Fall 2018

During this season of thanksgiving, we are thankful for the hard work that PIVOTers and our allies have carried out to take back our democracy. The 2018 mid-term election was the focal point for the Resistance in general and for PIVOT in particular, and the results more than met our expectations and validated our approach. Control of the House of Representatives will enable Americans to stop the march toward single party autocratic rule by Trump and his supporters. Taking back governorships and control of state legislatures hold out hope that we will be able to prevent gerrymandering and other voter suppression activities for 2020 and beyond.

There is still much more work that needs to be done, including the fight against [Public Charge](#), but the successes highlighted below make it clear that PIVOT can accomplish its [vision and mission](#), due to all of your hard work!

If you like what we are doing, please contribute what you can by doing any of the following:

- Donate: <https://www.pivotnetwork.org/contribute/>
- Make a comment against Public Charge and make sure at least 5 other people do as well: <https://goo.gl/vqbd8x>
- Write what you think or about you and why you care in English or Vietnamese: contact Trung Ta [trungta2012@gmail.com](mailto:trungta2012@gmail.com) for Vietnamese or Josie Nguyen [josie.nguyen@gmail.com](mailto:josie.nguyen@gmail.com) for English
- Join a Committee by sending an e-mail to [tjnguyen44@pivotnetwork.org](mailto:tjnguyen44@pivotnetwork.org)
- Join our "Secret" FB group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/237108510073021/>

Remember, you do not know what you truly believe in until you act!

**Candidate Support and Voter Engagement.** Our Candidate Support Committee leadership transitioned smoothly from former Chair Uyen Nguyen (Seattle, WA) to Phi Nguyen (Atlanta, GA) and Hanh Phuc Hua (Daphne, AL). We endorsed three Vietnamese American candidates for state legislatures, and they all won!

- [My Linh Thai](#) for Washington State House
- [Joe Nguyen](#) for Washington State Senate
- [Tram Nguyen](#) for Massachusetts State House



We are very proud of My Linh, [Joe](#), and Tram for their commitment to service and ability to run effective campaigns. They are joining prior PIVOT endorsed candidates [Kathy Tran](#) (VA) and Bee Nguyen (GA) as

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legislators. We look forward to their accomplishments, but they already have made a huge difference for Vietnamese Americans, who now have role models to look up to. We do want to remind all PIVOT that elected state legislators continue to need our financial and other support.

We are also proud of PIVOT members [Bruce Huynh](#) who ran for a local school board in California for stepping up for public service, [Hoan Dang](#) for County Commissioner in Maryland, and [Mai Khanh Tran](#) for Congress in 2018. Political power is a muscle that must be trained, and every campaign contributes to future success.



As part of our strategy to take back the U.S. House of Representatives, Candidate Support endorsed the following candidates in Southern California: Lou Correa, Alan Lowenthal, [Katie Porter](#), and [Harley Rouda](#). All 4 won, along with Gil Cisneros and Mike Levin, to turn Orange County, CA from [red to blue!](#)

The Orange County election provided PIVOT with the first test of our ground game. We invested time and money on the Vietnamese American electorate. The contributions from PIVOT members were tremendous and diverse. These include:

- Trung Ta (Board member and Media Chair) organized and conducted Vietnamese television, radio, and newspaper outreach.
  - This [TV ad](#) ran 12 times daily on Saigon Entertainment Television (SET TV) for 5 weeks.
  - [Radio Bolsa](#) interviews with Tung Nguyen and Thang Do.
  - Short and long version of the [Voter's Guide](#) printed weekly on Viet Bao and Nguoi Viet newspapers.
- Hong-My Basrai and the translation team for rapid turnaround of all print products.
- Thi Bui designed the Voter's Guide and Vien Nguyen drafted the guide. Incidentally, Vien's son Andrew Courtney was the Vietnamese field coordinator for Harley Rouda's campaign.
- Thi Bui designed the Voter's Guide.
- Khanh Nguyen (Northern California), Cathy Lam, Annie Wright, and others for helping with mailing out nearly 20,000 copies of the Voter's Guide.
- Thang Do for representing us on talk shows.
- Mai Khanh Tran, Trung Ta, and others for putting together a [Rock the Vote](#) Concert that prominently featured PIVOT support.
- Khanh Nguyen (Southern California) for organizing voter's outreach events and canvassing.



PIVOTers contributed directly to many other campaigns in terms of finance and work. Duy Nguyen, Chair of the Leadership Development Committee, is Executive Director of [OneAPIANevada](#), a 501c4 that played a major role in getting out Asian American votes in Nevada and may have been the margin of victory in the Senate win by Jackie Rosen. Phi Nguyen through her role with [Advancing Justice Atlanta](#) worked on Stacy Abrams' campaign and fought against voter suppression in Georgia.



We learned a lot in our first election, with the chief lesson being how we can contribute greatly to reaching Vietnamese American voters, particularly in Vietnamese. However, there remains important needs—in particular, the need to identify organizers and supporting them to carry out the work, and more intensive GOTV efforts. Stay tune for more planning for 2020.

**Media.** Although the elections took up a significant amount of Media Committee's bandwidth in the last 3 months, we remained committed and active in promoting PIVOT and its mission.

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- *Social Media*. Facebook metrics include 2,781 followers (up from 2,052 in July), minimum daily reach of about 1,000 and daily reaction of 100, with maximum daily reach of 15,000+ and daily reaction of 2,000+. Thank you, Josie Nguyen and team!
- *Media*. Below are some of our work in case you missed them via e-mail or FB. Special thanks to the translation team for getting pieces out sometimes within 3 days, and to Thang Do, who is very active in the Vietnamese press.
  - Viet Nguyen’s [TIME Magazine piece on Thanksgiving](#)
  - [NY Times Op-Ed on Public Charge](#)
  - David Duong’s [piece on public charge](#)—the [Vietnamese version on Viet Bao](#) has 4,500+ view
  - Thang Do’s pieces:
    - Hitler and Trump on [Viet Bao](#) and [Viet Tide](#)
    - [Policy issues on Viet Tide](#)
    - [Response to Trumpists on Viet Bao](#)
    - [California fires and the environment on Viet Tide](#)
  - Tung Nguyen’s [“What is America”](#)

**Policy.** Our Policy Committee, led by Thu Quach, has done a great job of identifying key policy issues and mounting responses to them. Our [current policy platform](#) drives our work. The main activities recently have focused on fighting against anti-immigration policies and racism.

- Fighting against public charge: PIVOT has invested in creating an online platform to respond to the proposed public charge regulation. In addition to any use of Medicaid, Medicare Part D subsidies, Food Stamps/SNAP, federal housing support (Section 8), factors such as age, education, and others that may lead to being on public assistance will prevent legal immigrants from getting a green card and may lead to their being deported.
  - [Linh Chuong’s infographic on Public Charge](#)
  - Please [make a comment against Public Charge](#) and make sure at least 5 other people do as well. You can do it by proxy for a family member with their permission.

- Phi Nguyen has been leading the fight against deportations of Southeast Asians and led a lawsuit against Jeff Sessions in her role with Advancing Justice. This effort may be paying off as Trump’s Administration has stopped deportation —Phi is quoted in this [NY Times article](#).



**Young Vietnamese Americans.** Jessica Phan transitioned leadership of YVA to Jess Boyd (Seattle, WA) who co-chairs this with Philip Nguyen (San Francisco, CA). They continue their work with Vietnamese Student Associations and social media outreach.

- [Saying Thanks campaign](#) to get out the vote started by Vina Vo:
- [Viet Amp stories](#)
- We also congratulate Kavi Vu and Phi Nguyen for the success of their [Wake Up Atlanta video series](#):

**Fundraising.** Our Fundraising Committee, led by Khanh Nguyen, has been creative and active in finding support. We received two large donations. The matching campaign was a success. [The PIVOT bag](#) designed by Nikki Chau has been very popular. As always, we can use your support. Since PIVOT is run entirely by volunteers, every dollar you give helps the work in the community.



You can donate online: <https://www.pivotnetwork.org/contribute/> or by check: make out to “PIVOT” and send to 1728 Ocean Avenue #305, San Francisco CA 94112.

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