

# COMMUNITY JOURNAL

## YOUR IMMIGRATION SOLUTION



ATTY. ROBERT REEVES & JEREMIAH JOHNSON

## Republican vs. Democrat: Platforms on immigration

Complimenting border security, the Republican platform advocates a strict enforcement policy. Specifically, the platform calls for immigration enforcement at places of employment, including prosecution for using false security numbers; limiting the rights of aliens in deportation proceedings; tracking down aliens who overstay their visas; and denying federal funds to "sanctuary cities." Republicans are also opposed to legalization, or "amnesty" programs; driver's licenses for aliens; in-state tuition for undocumented children; and allowing undocumented aliens to receive social security or other public benefits. The Republican Party platform is reminiscent to the hard-line, enforcement only approach taken by some members of Congress last year.

In contrast, Democrats view immigration policy as an opportunity to renew the "American Community." Although the Democrats recognize the need to secure the borders, including additional personnel, infrastructure and technology at the borders and ports of entries, and enforce existing immigration laws, they understand the "need [for] comprehensive immigration reform, not just piecemeal efforts." Noticeably absent from the party's platform is reference to the controversial border fence. Rather, "comprehensive" immigration reform remains a top priority for Democrats.

Specifically, the Democrat's plan calls for increasing family-based and employment based immigrant visas; improving the

naturalization process; and addressing the dysfunctional immigration bureaucracy. Moreover, the Democratic platform supports a path for undocumented immigrants to become legal permanent residents, or in their words to "get right with the law." Indeed, Democrats "support a system that requires undocumented immigrants who are in good standing to pay a fine, pay taxes, learn English, and go to the back of the line for the opportunity to become citizens."

The Presidential campaign is in full swing. Over the past year, immigrant communities have seen an increase in immigration raids yet little in the way of immigration reform. Just because the headlines are currently focused on other topics, and politicians remain silent, this does not mean immigration is not an important issue. Rather, the political parties have adopted party platforms to express their views. Republicans and Democrats take different approaches to immigration, and the outcome of the election will affect you and your family.

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Atty. Reeves has represented clients in numerous landmark immigration cases that have set new policies regarding INS action and immigrants' rights. His offices are located in Pasadena, San Francisco, Las Vegas and Makati City.

Telephone: (800) 795-8009  
E-mail: immigration@rreeves.com  
Website: www.rreeves.com.

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The analysis and suggestions offered in this column do not create a lawyer-client relationship and are not a substitute for the personalized representation that is essential to every case.

(Advertising Supplement)

## The Voice of FilAmerica

Political empowerment is still a treasure that eludes us as a community here in America. While we are the second largest Asian American community in the United States, we have yet to harvest the power that comes from our numbers. The Voice of FilAmerica features elected and appointed officials - regardless of political affiliation - in the different US states who are of Filipino ancestry. As your Filipino American community newspaper, the Asian Journal recognizes the fact that we all have a responsibility towards bringing political empowerment to fruition, especially for our future generations. It is our hope to have our voices heard all over America.



## Michael P. Guingona, Daly City Council member

DALY City Councilmember Michael (Mike) P. Guingona may perhaps be the most recognizable and longest-elected official of Filipino-American heritage in San Mateo County.

Guingona was first elected to the Daly City Council in 1993, after an unsuccessful bid in 1992. He has since been reelected to the city council four times (1994, 1998, 2002 and 2006).

Mike has had many firsts as a Fil-Am in the Daly City Council, notably as the first Fil-Am elected to it, and the youngest to serve as Daly City Mayor at age 33.

Mike Guingona has been Daly City Mayor four times (1995, 1997, 2001 and 2005) and Daly City Vice Mayor for one term, aside from serving his community as member of the San Mateo County (SMC) District Board of Directors (which he chaired in 2001) and the San Mateo County Transportation Authority (which he chaired in 2003).

The San Francisco-born Guingona is actively involved with the Sister City Committee and was instrumental in initiating the Daly City-Quezon City (Philippines) Sister City partnership.

According to Councilmember Guingona, it was during the years following law school that he developed a growing interest in local government. He also saw the changing demographics of Daly City, which motivated him to run for a seat in the City Council.

Prior to winning a seat in the Daly City Council, Mike worked as a full-time Deputy Public Defender in the San Francisco Public Defender's Office, a job which he kept until 1999 when he left the Public Defender's Office to establish his own law practice in San Francisco, specializing in criminal defense.

Guingona's professional affiliations include membership in the California Trial Lawyers Association, the State Bar of California, the Bar Association of San Francisco, the Filipino Bar Association of Northern California and the California Public Defenders Association.

Mike Guingona has lived in Daly City for most of his life, the only exception being the time when he attended the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA), and earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in History. He attended Daly City Public Schools and graduated from Westmoor High School where he was class president during his senior year, a foreshadowing of his future role as a respected community activist and leader.

Guingona pursued his Juris Doctor at the University of San Francisco Law School where he received his law degree in 1989. Soon afterward, he was admitted to the State Bar of California.

More recently, Mike was elected to the 5th Supervisorial District of the San Mateo County Democratic Central Committee. He is the only current Fil-Am member of the committee, whose mission is to support Democratic candidates and elected officials at all levels of government as well as ballot measures promoting Democratic values in San Mateo County and the State of California.



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