

**Hmong History & Cultural Studies Model Curriculum**  
**California Department of Education**  
**Civic Engagement and Empowerment**  
**Pej Xeem Kev Sib Koom thiab Kev Txhawb Zog**  
**Grade(s): 11–12**  
**Hmong Student Materials**

**Translation Disclaimer**

Student-facing content in this document was translated from English into Hmong by professional translators. The translation process was thorough and included several stages of review. While every effort has been made to ensure accuracy, word choices and content framing may not align with the preferences of all communities. We appreciate your understanding.

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**Area of Study:** Community Building, Home-making & Empowerment

**Compelling Question:** How do Hmong people build and sustain community and belonging?

**Lesson Questions (Supporting Questions):**

- How are Hmong people engaging politically in California?
- Why are they motivated to engage in the political process?
- How important is the political representation of diverse voices and experiences?
- What can elected officials do to help solve community issues?

**Lo Lus Nug Txhawb Txoj Kev Xav:** Cov haiv neeg Hmoob ua li cas kom tsim tau thiab khaws tau lawv lub zej zog thiab muaj ib qho chaw ua lawv tug?

**Cov Lus Nug Ntawm Zaj Kawm (Cov Lus Nug Pab Txhawb):**

- Cov neeg Hmoob koom nrog kev ua nom tswv li cas hauv xeev California?
- Vim li cas lawv ho txhawb siab los koom nrog kev nom kev tswv?
- Kev sawv cev los ntawm nom tswv uas muaj lub suab los ntawm ntau hom haiv neeg thiab tej yam kev tau pom dua yav tas los tseem ceeb li cas?
- Cov nom tswv uas raug xaiv pab daws tau tej teeb meem hauv zej zog li cas?

**Lesson Materials:**

- **Supplies:**

- Access to laptop device
- Pencils/pen
- Charts on Pew Research Center website
  - “Hmong Population in U.S.”
  - “Top U.S. metropolitan areas by Hmong population”
- Images of American Politicians
  - Blong Xiong
  - Deb Haaland
  - Ilan Omar
- **Reading:**
  - “A New Chapter - Hmong in Politics” by *Txhawb* magazine (42, 43, 46, 48, 50, 51)
- **Video:**
  - *California's Hmong find their voice in politics* on YouTube
- **Handouts:**
  - Worksheet #1: Step 1: Hmong in the US
  - Worksheet #2: Step 2: Oral History Interview by Mai Yang Vang
  - Worksheet #3: Step 3: Jigsaw Activity Txhawb Article, 2017, “A New Chapter - Hmong in Politics”
  - Worksheet #4: Step 4: Cultural Diversity in American Politics
  - Link to all handouts:  
<https://ucdavis.box.com/s/ryfza6u1t96f28ghz0zbhtk3wi2v7khe>

**Lesson Objective:** Students will learn that Hmong people have settled in the United States in large numbers, primarily in California, Minnesota, and Wisconsin. With the highest population of Hmong descent in California, this lesson focuses on the civic engagement and empowerment of Hmong communities. Students will explore examples of how the Hmong community in California have found their voice and made history in politics.

**Ntsiab Lus Hau Zaj Lus Kawm:** Cov tub ntxhais kawm yuav kawm tias cov neeg Hmoob tau tuaj nyob hauv Tebchaws Meskas coob tus, feem coob nyob hauv xeev California, Minnesota, thiab Wisconsin. Vim California yog lub xeev uas muaj coob tshaj plaws cov neeg Hmoob nyob, zaj kawm no yuav tsom mus rau kev koom tes txhim kho txhawb lub zej zog thiab kev muaj peev xwm ntawm cov zej zog Hmoob. Cov tub ntxhais kawm yuav tshawb nrhiav txog tej piv txwv uas qhia tau tias cov zej zog Hmoob hauv California tau nrhiav tau lawv lub suab thiab ua keeb kwm hauv kev nom kev tswv.

### **Ethnic Studies Theme:**

This lesson connects to the ethnic studies theme of *community and solidarity* from the Asian

American Studies Curriculum Framework (Asian American Research Initiative, 2022). Students analyze community resistance and alliances between communities, as well as the complexities within these experiences. Students discuss how Hmong communities thrive and forge paths forward through political and civic engagement.

For additional guidance around ethnic studies implementation, refer to the *Ethnic Studies Model Curriculum* (2021) <https://www.cde.ca.gov/ci/cr/cf/esmc.asp>.

### **Standards Addressed:**

HSS-12.2.4 Understand the obligations of civic-mindedness, including voting, being informed on civic issues, volunteering and performing public service, and serving in the military or alternative service.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.11–12.7 Integrate and evaluate multiple sources of information presented in different media or formats (e.g., visually, quantitatively) as well as in words in order to address a question or solve a problem.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.11–12.4 Produce clear and coherent writing in which the development, organization, and style are appropriate to task, purpose, and audience.

**Lesson Assessment:** Students will choose between the following two final lesson assessments:

Assessment Reflection #1: Mai Yang Vang states in the video that the US is “not a melting pot but a salad.” How do you feel about this statement? What connections can be made between this quote and your lived experiences? Write one paragraph on the topic or create a visual response.

Assessment Reflection #2: How can someone in public office serve their community? How important is it to you—or to our country—that public offices encompass people with diverse backgrounds and/or people with first-hand experience of immigration? Write one paragraph on the topic or create a visual response.

**Ntsuam Xyuas Zaj Kawm:** Cov tub ntxhais kawm yuav xaiv tau ib qho hauv ob txoj kev ntsuam xyuas kawm ntawm zaj kawm no:

Kev Xav Txog Zaj Kawm #1: Maiv Yaj Vaj hais hauv zaj yeeb yaj kiab tias Tebchaws Meskas “tsis yog ib lub lauj kaub yaj tag nrho, tiamsis yog ib tais zaub xam lav.” Koj xav li cas txog lo lus no? Muaj teeb meem twg cuam tshuam nrog lo lus no thiab koj tej kev paub hauv lub neej? Sau ib nqe lus hais txog zaj no los yog tsim ib daim duab los teb.

Kev Xav Txog Zaj Kawm #2: Ib tug neeg uas nyob hauv lub chaw ua nom tswv yuav pab tau nws lub zej zog li cas? Qhov uas muaj neeg los ntawm ntau yam keeb kwm thiab cov uas muaj kev paub ncaj qha txog kev tsiv teb tsaws chaw los ua haujlwm nom tswv, qhov ntawd tseem ceeb npaum li cas rau koj—los yog rau peb lub tebchaws? Sau ib nqe lus hais txog zaj no los yog tsim ib daim duab los teb.

**Suggested Amount of Time:** 100–120 minutes

**Lesson Background:** The Hmong were resettled in the United States as refugees after the end of the Vietnam War. During the Vietnam War, the Hmong were recruited as allies to fight communist forces in Laos, a country bordering Vietnam. The US and its allies lost the war in Vietnam and withdrew their troops in 1975. After the loss, many Hmong who had helped the US side fled Laos to escape persecution by the communists. Those who were able to make it to Thailand lived in refugee camps and eventually resettled in Western countries like the United States. Once they arrived, they began making new lives and building communities, including finding their voice in electoral politics.

### **Lesson Procedures:**

*Before starting the lesson:*

- *Make copies of the Handout pages 1–5*  
(<https://ucdavis.box.com/s/ryfza6u1t96f28ghz0zbhtk3wi2v7khe>) for each student  
*Use handout pages to guide this lesson.*
- *Make copies of “A New Chapter - Hmong in Politics” (42, 43, 46, 48, 50, 51) by Txhawb Magazine*  
(<https://ucdavis.box.com/s/qqfyiqj59ktxaw554gq57guzqbahbttto>).

### **CULTURAL ENERGIZER:**

- Pose the following questions to students to think about: What does empowerment look like to you? What are some actions that help you feel empowered? How do you engage in empowering others?  
Kev txhawb zog zoo li cas rau koj xwb? Puas muaj qee yam uas pab tau koj xav tias tau txais kev txhawb zog? Koj txhawb zog rau lwm tus li cas?
  - Allow students to share with an elbow partner.
- Review the lesson objective and lesson background to students.

### **STEP 1: Interaction with first source**

- Worksheet #1: Step 1 (Refer to Handout page 1  
<https://ucdavis.box.com/s/ryfza6u1t96f28ghz0zbhtk3wi2v7khe>)
  - Locate the Pew Research Center charts on “Hmong Population in U.S.” & “Top U.S. metropolitan areas by Hmong population”  
<https://www.pewresearch.org/social-trends/fact-sheet/asian-americans-hmong-in-the-u-s/>.
  - Refer to the worksheet for further details and chart questions.

- As a class, students will examine and discuss the two charts provided and answer the questions pertaining to each chart.
  - *Discussion should ideally be guided to the idea that political representation/civic engagement evolves to meet constituent's needs. Pab coj txoj kev sib tham los tham txog txoj kev xav hais tias kev sawv cev hauv nom tswv / kev sib koom tes ntawm pej xeem yuav hloov thiab loj hlob raws li cov kev xav tau thiab kev pab cuam uas cov pej xeem hauv zej zog tab tom nrhiav.*

### **STEP 2: Interaction with second source**

- Teacher projects the video of Mai Yang Vang titled *California's Hmong find their voice in politics* (4:21 minutes)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PUeD-xhNtk4>.
- Worksheet #2: Step 2 (Refer to Handout page 2  
<https://ucdavis.box.com/s/ryfza6u1t96f28ghz0zbhtk3wi2v7khe>)
  - Go over the worksheet to see if anyone has any questions.
- Teacher will play the Youtube video
- As a whole class, in small groups, or pairs have students go over their answers from the worksheet.

### **STEP 3: Shared Learning - Jigsaw Activity**

- Divide class into groups of five - each group of five is a magazine home group (five pages in this article).
  - Hand out copies of the article “A New Chapter - Hmong in Politics”  
<https://ucdavis.box.com/s/qqfyiqj59ktxaw554gq57guzqbahbtto> to each group. (When labeling page numbers, the advertisements in between text articles were removed, refer only to pages 43, 46, 48, 50, 51. Make sure the pages of text are clearly labeled: page 1, page 2, page 3, page 4, and page 5.)
  - Pages #1 & Pages #5 are the shortest readings, so teachers may want to assign those pages to students who struggle with reading dense text. They should also be encouraged to share their reactions to the material presented with one another through dialogue.
- Have students count off #1– #5 within their home group.
  - This number will be the students’ page expert group

- Then tell students to group up by their page expert group, so one table of page #1 EXPERTS and so on.
  - Students will need to bring their article page and the Worksheet #3: Step 3 Jigsaw Activity sheet. (Refer to Handout page 3 <https://ucdavis.box.com/s/ryfza6u1t96f28ghz0zbhtk3wi2v7khe>)
  - In these page expert groups, students will do a:
    - First read: Skim to find unknown words that will be defined in the community of their expert group. (Online dictionaries may be utilized if necessary.)
    - Then have students do a second read: Take turns reading the page out loud, one student per paragraph. Question: What is the main idea of the source?  
  
Lus Nug: Lub tswv yim tseem ceeb tshaj plaws ntawm qhov chaw yog li cas?
    - Students should then work collaboratively to answer the questions on the left side of the Jigsaw Activity sheet just from the one page of information that they read.
- After the left-handed questions on the Jigsaw Activity Sheet have been completed, students will return to their original groups and share what they have learned.
  - As students discuss their pages, they should be prepared to fill out the information on the right hand of the activity sheet.
- Have students complete the rest of the worksheet (independently or with peers).

#### **STEP 4:**

- Teacher asks students:
  - When you think of a politician, what/who do you picture?  
Thaum koj xav txog ib tug nom tswv, koj xav txog dab tsi/leej twg?
  - How do we expect a politician to dress?  
Koj xav tias ib tug nom tswv yuav tsum tau hnav khaub ncaws li cas?
- Now show the picture of Blong Xiong from the article *Blong Xiong Makes California History* (<https://ucdavis.box.com/s/plhzw6ej3oy8sf2lveraftzebt1vpjsa>), in both his western suit (on the first page 78) and then a traditional Hmong coat (on second page 79).

- Can a politician successfully integrate his/her cultural identities?  
Tus nom tswv puas sib xyaw tau nws haiv neeg kab lig kev cai nrog lwm tus?
- Can an American politician successfully integrate traditional and modern elements?  
Tus nom tswv Meskas puas sib xyaw tau tej yam qub txeeg qub teg thiab tej yam niaj hnuv nim no kom ua ke tau zoo?
- Project the photos of the three American politicians:
  - Blong Xiong <https://ucdavis.box.com/s/plhzw6ej3oy8sf21veraftzebt1vpjsa>
  - Deb Haaland <https://ucdavis.box.com/s/oygeunhq3c0wpe23hb3w0usf42f9uv>
  - Ilan Omar <https://ucdavis.box.com/s/ej7d4dq3wfl97truqbcl41vse9j9iqfm>
- Direct students to Worksheet #4: Step 4 Cultural Diversity in American Politics (Refer to Handout page 4 <https://ucdavis.box.com/s/ryfza6u1t96f28ghz0zbhtk3wi2v7khe>), where they will find three images of politicians wearing clothing that reflects their culture (one Hmong, one native American, and one Muslim).
- Tell students to read the Step 4 questions and respond as directed, prompting some written thoughts then some sharing of ideas in both small groups and in the whole classroom.

### **STEP 5:**

- Teacher to share the two options for assessment reflections below.
- Teacher says: You will choose one of the reflection questions to finish the lesson. Responses can be handwritten or typed. Alternatively, the quotes can be verbally discussed amongst small groups.  
Koj yuav xaiv ib lo lus nug los teb tias koj xav li cas los ua kom zaj kawm no tiav. Koj qhov lus teb yuav sau tau los sis ntaus hauv tshuab luam ntawv los tau.
  - Assessment Reflection #1: Mai Yang Vang states in the video that the US is “not a melting pot but a salad”. How do you feel about this statement? What connections can be made between this quote and your lived experiences? Write one paragraph on the topic or create a visual response.  
Kev Xav Txog Zaj Kawm #1: Maiv Yaj Vaj hais hauv zaj yeeb yaj kiab tias Tebhaws Meskas “tsis yog ib lub lauj kaub yaj tag nrho, tiamsis yog ib tais zaub xam lav.” Koj xav li cas txog lo lus no? Muaj teeb meem twg

cuam tshuam nrog lo lus no thiab koj tej kev paub hauv lub neej? Sau ib nqe lus hais txog zaj no los yog tsim ib daim duab los teb.

- Assessment Reflection #2: How can someone in the public office serve their community? How important is it to you - or to our country - that public offices encompass people with diverse backgrounds and/or people with first hand experience of immigration? Write one paragraph on the topic or create a visual response.  
Kev Xav Txog Zaj Kawm #2: Ib tug neeg uas nyob hauv lub chaw ua nom tswv yuav pab tau nws lub zej zog li cas? Qhov uas muaj neeg los ntawm ntau yam keeb kwm thiab cov uas muaj kev paub ncaj qha txog kev tsiv teb tsaws chaw los ua haujlwm nom tswv, qhov ntawd tseem ceeb npaum li cas rau koj—los yog rau peb lub tebchaws? Sau ib nqe lus hais txog zaj no los yog tsim ib daim duab los teb.

- If time allows, have student volunteers share their reflection.

### Scaffolding:

- **Engagement:** Consider the following method to support with lesson engagement:
  - Involve all participants in whole class discussions
  - Construct communities of learners engaged in common interests or activities
- **Representation:** Consider the following method to support with multiple means of representation:
  - Define domain-specific vocabulary (e.g., “map key” in social studies) using both domain-specific and common terms
  - Embed support for unfamiliar references within the text (e.g., domain specific notation, lesser known properties and theorems, idioms, academic language, figurative language, mathematical language, jargon, archaic language, colloquialism, and dialect)
- **Action and Expression:** Consider the following method to support in presenting their learning in multiple ways:
  - Embed coaches or mentors that model think-alouds of the process
  - Encourage and support opportunities for peer interactions and supports (e.g., peer-tutors)

For additional ideas to support your students, check out the UDL Guidelines at CAST (2018) <http://udlguidelines.cast.org>.

### Multilingual Learner Supports:

- **Emerging:** Consider the following method to support with emerging students:
  - Reading: Use choral reading or shared reading
    - Students listen to a content-rich text read aloud, take notes, collaborate with a partner and rebuild (as precisely as possible) the original text.
- **Expanding:** Consider the following method to support with expanding students:
  - Reading: Use guided reading
    - In a shared or interactive writing format, chart out characters, setting, problem, and events (including orientation, complication, and resolution). Add theme, as appropriate.
- **Bridging:** Consider the following method to support with bridging students:
  - Reading: Use focused questions to guide reading
    - Students use inquiry posing their own questions and wonderings to guide shared research experiences.

For additional guidance around scaffolding for multilingual learners, please consult the following resources:

- *English Learner Toolkit of Strategies*  
<https://ucdavis.box.com/s/ujkdc2xp1dqjzrlq55czph50c3sq1ngu>
- *Providing Appropriate Scaffolding*  
<https://www.sdcoe.net/educators/multilingual-education-and-global-achievement/oracy-to-olkit/providing-appropriate-scaffolding#scaffolding>
- *Strategies for ELD*  
<https://ucdavis.box.com/s/dcp15ymah51uwizpmmt2vys5zr2r5reu>
- *ELA / ELD Framework*  
<https://www.caeducatorstogether.org/resources/6537/ela-eld-framework>
- *California ELD Standards*  
<https://ucdavis.box.com/s/vqn43cd632z22p8mfzn2h7pntc71kb02>

### Enrichment Opportunities:

1. The class could start a community engagement club at the school if there already is not one. The club could meet to discuss issues related to underserved demographic populations and how those communities can organize and seek ways to address their specific needs. Political representation is one solution, but not the only one, and students, once organized towards a common goal, can make a big difference. Teachers might facilitate locating an appropriate leader for this group, ideally someone trained in Diversity, Equity and Inclusion practices.

2. For extension and enrichment, provide disaggregated data on Hmong population from the following nonprofits/organizations: Southeast Asia Resource (SEARAC), Hmong American Partnerships (HAP), and Hmong Innovating Politics (HIP).

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## Readings

### **A New Chapter: Hmong in Politics 2017**

November of 2016, the Hmong community of California made history

Written by Chelsey Xiong

In Sacramento County, Steve Ly would go on to win the mayoral race gaining 26,786 votes, a huge 44.6 percent over six opponents, to become the first Hmong mayor of any city in the United States.

Mai Yang Vang would win a seat on the Sacramento City Unified School District School Board by default after the incumbent dropped out of the race. In Merced County, Lee Lor would win Merced County Supervisor race with 9,480 votes victory over incumbent Hubert Walsh's 8,038. In Fresno County, Brandon Vang would also win a seat on the Sanger School Board with 1778 votes over incumbent James D. Karles who received only 703 votes. Pao Yang lost by a small margin of 128 votes difference to incumbent Eric Payne for State Center Community College District 2. Pao's loss shows that every single vote counts.

Things were very different in 1997 when Charles Vang became the first Hmong American candidate to run for public office in the state of California. Almost twenty years later a total of seven Hmong Americans ran for public offices: Brandon Vang for Sanger Unified School Board, Lee Lor for Merced County Supervisor, Noah Lor for Mayor in the city of Merced, Mai Yang Vang for Sacramento Unified School Board, Pao Yang for State Center Community College Board of Trustee, Sou Vang for Oroville City Council, and Steve Ly for Mayor in the city of Elk Grove.

In 1997 when Charles ran for Fresno District City Council, he was a small business owner and radio producer with no experience in politics. The Hmong community in California had little political participation during this time. However, he had one inspiration that propelled his campaign. He wanted to see the Hmong community move forward: to better understand how the city, county, and state operated; how money is distributed; and to understand the importance of being a citizen and how each of us can participate.

Charles's vision included a shift from the label of immigrants and refugees to American citizens by participating in civic duties. Charles said, " I felt that by the experience of our community, somebody had to go out there and do something that would catch the mainstream community's attention. That was why I ran. I wanted to wake up everyone: that we are no longer immigrants or refugees, we are now American citizens."

His campaign manager was a young Blong Xiong, who gained experience in politics in his prior work with the Fresno County Supervisors and community advocacy work with Fresno Center for New Americans. Even with Blong as a campaign manager their team had no mentors, little guidance, limited fund, and they must learn how politics was played. "We had no idea what the politics was about and how to run a campaign, we didn't understand the term 'district.' That was a very new experience for our community but an important experience," Blong said .

Charles remembers asking for support as a new and uncomfortable experience. Charles said, "Asking people for support, endorsement, asking for their votes, were all new for me because in my life I had not asked people for money. I had never asked them to help me or be on my side." Asking people outside of one's family for money to run for public office was not common in the Hmong community.

Charles Vang didn't succeed. He would finish in 3rd place, but he had pioneered the beginning of the Hmong community's civic engagement in the Californian political arena. Five years later in 2002, Dr. Tony Vang succeeded in his run for Fresno Unified School Board and in 2007, Blong became the first Hmong American to be elected to a city council seat in California. He won the seat for Fresno City Councilmember for District 1.

Blong was inspired by the idea that there was a need for a stronger voice, a stronger advocate, and to be at the table where the decisions were made. "If we're not engaged and not involved in those types of policy discussion with the decision makers at the table then we lose something, we lose a very influential voice," Blong said.

After eight years as Fresno City Councilman, Blong would push for a monumental run for Congress in 2012 and then again for Fresno County Supervisor in 2014. Blong's Fresno City Council seat term ended in 2013. Despite two campaigns that fell short, the vast support from the extended Hmong communities all worked together to make his two bids possible. Hmong communities throughout California and even other states like Minnesota and Wisconsin contributed money and volunteers. Since then Blong has been instrumental in supporting future candidates. Blong gave back to the Hmong community by providing mentorship to both Pao Yang and Brandon Vang during their recent 2016 campaigns.

Pao and Brandon were new faces to the political arena in Fresno County. The 2016 election was the first time in which either ran for public office.

Pao Yang has a 17-years career in education. Pao said, "I decided to run for the Trustee seat this year to be able to have a larger impact and share my experience and knowledge with the leaders of our community." In his career, Pao worked with students in counseling: advising and coaching them and their families to understand the importance of higher education.

Brandon is a former Probation Officer. In 2009, after moving from Southern California back to the Fresno area, he took care of his children while his wife May Lee, a registered nurse provided for their family. This allowed Brandon to volunteer at their children's school and gained an understanding of the importance of decision making within the K-12 school system. Brandon said, "I wanted to have an impact in the community but at the same time I wanted to also have a say in decisions directly effecting my family, especially my own children. I am a parent. I have two kids who graduated from Sanger Unified School District and I have three kids who are still attending Sanger schools. To me, this is more than just a campaign."

The year 2016 was also more than just a campaign for all the Hmong American candidates. For example, Mai Yang Vang, who won her seat for Sacramento Unified School Board and Lee Lor who won her seat for Merced Board of Supervisor. Mai and Lee, both young Hmong American women, are the new faces of Hmong politics in California and their victories represent a new direction that we can hope to see more of. For the first time since Charles ran in 1997, we saw two Hmong women succeeded in their race for public office.

Mai Yang Vang, the youngest of all the Hmong candidates, had prior experiences in community advocacy. She developed her political consciousness while she was a student at the University of San Francisco. Mai said, "I became politically conscious of the injustice faced by our community. I started to organize off campus (Hmong Student Inter-Collegiate Coalition) and on campus (Freedom Alliance of Culturally Empowered Students & Southeast Asian American Student Alliance) to bring awareness and take action on the racial, social and economic inequities in underserved communities."

As a daughter of Hmong refugees and the eldest of 16 children, she was like most second-generation Hmong Americans. She grew up in poverty in the rough neighborhoods of south Sacramento and was the first in her family to go to college. She said, "I thought getting an education would solve all the issues facing my family and community. At 26, I came back to Sacramento better equipped with years of education only to find my neighborhoods still suffering from the same extreme poverty and institutional barriers." She wanted to do more and running for School Board was a way to create change.

Lee Lor echoed the same sentiment that encouraged her to seek public office. "I saw that we, as a community, wanted better and we deserved better. Merced was the hardest hit during the housing bust, we had the highest crime rates and our residents were stuck in endless cycles of poverty," Lee said.

Our communities needed new energy in civic engagement. Steve Ly, Pao Yang, Brandon Vang, Mai Yang Vang, Noah Lor, Lee Lor, and Sou Vang's campaigns brought new energy; inspiring,

organizing and uniting the Hmong community and the people of the extended communities that they each serve.

The increased political participation among Hmong Americans is historical because of several factors. Hmong Americans are more aware of the power of their votes and their participation. When you compare the 2016 campaigns to when Charles Vang first ran for Fresno City Council in 1997, the Hmong community has grown in both education and financial stability. We as a community had become more confident about seeking support for volunteers and financial resources. Our community has grown to better understand the importance of being civically engaged and supporting the Hmong individuals who have the courage and talent to run for public office. We can come together as a community to rally financial support for candidates. Our community collectively is more educated and informative about the political process now. We are a completely different community today.

The Hmong children of the refugee camps who came to the United States at a young age, today who are the ones who are rising to seek political office looking to influence the next generation of Hmong Americans.

Lee Lor, Mai Yang Vang, and Brandon Vang identifies themselves to this "Zero Generation": "The Hmong who were born in Thailand, came to the United States, started grammar school and who can command a certain level of English. They are part of this generation. Now is their time to hold public office, to be the advocates and voices for their community. People who are brave enough and hungry enough to be trailblazing pioneers like Charles Vang, Blong Xiong or Steve Ly will definitely continue to inspire the next generation of civic leaders and public servants."

The Hmong has been in the United States for forty years and this is a transition for us to continue to grow and contribute to the community that we live in. Politics and leadership are part of our values and for us to be included in the decisions about what happens to our community. We need to understand and engage the political decisions that are being made. Blong said, "We realized that they do affect us all, whether we're talking about education, health care or economic development, people need to be in those seats to make the critical decisions." Participating at the decision-making table allows the larger community to see the diversity in our community and to be aware of us.

We can expect to see more and younger Hmong Americans participate in the California political arena in the years to come. From Charles's campaign in 1997 to all the candidates in 2016, the volunteering efforts of our Hmong youth and community have always been the backbone of Hmong campaigns. The youth are learning more about the political process and the elders are energized to see their children run for leadership positions that make impact on their livelihood

and the future of our community. Many elders are incredibly happy that they can vote for a Hmong candidate.

The political landscape is always changing. More Hmong women will engage in politics. Mai said, "California needs vigilant leaders who will stay focus on addressing the inequities faced by underserved communities and I believe that Lee Lor and many Hmong women organizers embodies this. We're already doing the hard work on the ground to improve outcomes in the community - now we need to recruit more Hmong women at the decision-making table to shape policy."

Mai also encourage that the Hmong community not organize in silo. "We need to build diverse coalitions outside our community to create change," she adds. Also, the decision to vote must be emphasized. Every person has civic responsibilities. Brandon encouraged the Hmong community must go out and support, "not necessarily a Hmong candidate but to support someone who they think support their political philosophy and to be involved in the most elementary level: to register and vote." We often think about what happens when we vote but too often, we don't think about what happens if we don't vote.

Back in 1996 when Charles Vang ran for Fresno City Council, a Hmong name on a political ballot was something new. In 2016, our community has come a long way. Seeing a Hmong name on voter ballots in cities with high Hmong populations doesn't surprise the public anymore. Seeing Hmong woman on the ballots is ground breaking. Today the Hmong community is civically engaged but it is the network that we have built over the last twenty years that make progress possible. Through trial and error, failed campaigns and history breaking victories, it is the network of community support that has enabled so many to walk in the footprints of those who paved the way and unselfishly gave their knowledge to light the way. The future looks promising.

Charles said, "If you feel that you'd like to do something special or want to be in politics, want to lead an organization, go and do it. Who knows? You may win." 2016 marks the beginning of a whole new chapter for California's Hmong community.

If you have the ambition to hold public office, if you want to participate, if you are willing to work hard and serve our community, it is possible to run and win. There is a network that is there to support you.

**Qhov Tshooj Tshiab: Hmoob Nyob Hauv Kev Ua Nom Tswv Xyoo 2017**

Kaum Ib Hlis Ntuj xyoo 2016, lub zej zog Hmoob nyob California tau sau npe rau keeb kwm. Sau los ntawm Chelsey Xyooj

Nyob hauv lub xeev Sacramento, Steve Ly yeej txoj kev sib tw ua tus tswj hwm lub nroog, tau 26,786 tus pov npav, uas yog 44.6% ntawm tag nrho rau hauv kev sib tw uas muaj rau tus neeg sib tw nrog nws, los ua thawj tus Hmoob mayor (tus tswj hwm lub nroog) hauv ib lub nroog ntawm Tebchaws Meskas.

Maiv Yaj Vaj yeej txoj hauj lwm ntawm Sacramento City Unified School District School Board (Lub Rooj Tsav Xwm Rau Sacramento Lub Tuam Tsev Kawm Ntawv) vim tus neeg saib xyuas lub chaw ntawd tawm ntawm txoj kev sib tw. Nyob hauv Merced County, Lis Lauj yeej txoj hauj lwm ua Merced County Supervisor (Tus Saib Xyuas Lub Nroog Merced), tau 9,480 pov npav uas yeej dhau tus tuav haujlwm yav tas los, Hubert Walsh, uas tsuas tau 8,038 xwb. Nyob Lub Nroog Fresno, Brandon Vaj yeej txoj hauj lwm ntawm Lub Rooj Tsav Xwm rau Sanger Cov Tsev Kawm Ntawv, tau 1,778 pov npav, uas dhau tus James D. Karles uas tau 703 xwb. Pov Yaj swb tsuas yog 128 pov npav rau tus tuav haujlwm Eric Payne hauv kev sib tw rau Koog Tsev Kawm Ntawv Qib Siab State Center Community College District 2. Qhov Pao swb zaum no ua rau peb pom tias txhua tus neeg pov npav muaj nqis heev.

Thaum xyoo 1997, txhua yam yeej txawv heev. Charles Vaj yog thawj tus Hmoob uas tawm los sib tw rau txoj hauj lwm pej xeeb hauv California. Ua ntej xyoo 2016, tag nrho muaj xya tus Hmoob tawm los sib tw ua nom tswv: Brandon Vaj rau Sanger Unified School Board (Lub Rooj Tsav Xwm Rau Sanger Tuam Tsev Kawm Ntawv), Lis Lauj rau Merced County Supervisor, Noah Lauj rau tus Tus Mayor (Tus Thawj Tswj Hwm Lub Nroog Merced), Maiv Yaj Vaj rau Sacramento Unified School Board, Pov Yaj rau State Center Community College Board Sou Vaj rau Oroville City Council, Steve Ly rau Tus Mayor rau lub nroog Elk Grove.

Thaum Charles Vaj sib tw xyoo 1997, nws yog ib tug tswv lag luam me thiab yog tus tsim Hmong Radio. Nws tsis muaj kev paub txog kev tswj hwm, thiab Hmoob yeej tsis tau koom ntau hauv kev xaiv tsa. Nws lub hom phiaj yog kom Hmoob nkag siab txog kev ua pej xeeb, paub txog kev faib nyiaj hauv nroog, xeev, thiab tsoom fwv. Nws xav kom Hmoob sawv los paub tias peb tsis yog neeg tawg rog lawm, peb yog neeg xam xaj Tebchaws Meskas. Nws tus thawj coj hauv kev sib tw yog Nplooj Xyooj, uas muaj kev paub los ntawm Fresno County Supervisors (Lub Nroog Fresno Cov Tswj Xyuas). Tab sis lawv tsis muaj ib tug coj kev tawm tswv yim, tsis tau kev cob qhia, tsis muaj nyiaj txaus, thiab yuav tsum kawm txog kev xaiv tsa. “Peb twb tsis paub tias kev ua nom tswv zoo li cas thiab khiav kev xaiv tsa zoo li cas, peb twb tsis paub tias lo lus ‘koog’ yog dabtsi. Lub sijhawm ntawd yog lub sijhawm rau peb lub zej zog tiamsis peb kawm tau ntau yam tseem ceeb heev,” Nplooj hais.

Charles nco tias txoj kev thov rau kev txhawb nqa yog ib yam tshiab thiab txaj muag. Charles hais tias: "Kev thov tib neeg los txhawb nqa, los txhawb nrog nyiaj, los pov npav rau kuv, tej no yeej yog tej yam tshiab rau kuv vim tias kuv tsis tau thov nyiaj ntawm leej twg hauv kuv lub neej. Kuv yeej tsis tau thov kom lawv pab kuv los sis yuav los nyob kuv ib sab." Kev thov nyiaj ntawm neeg sab nraud kuv tsev neeg los khiav kev sib tw nom tswv yeej tsis yog ib yam uas nquag pom hauv zej zog Hmoob.

Charles Vaj tsis yeej qhov kev sib tw. Nws tau thib 3 xwb, tab sis nws yog tus uas pib txoj kev koom tes rau pej xeem Hmoob hauv kev ua nom tswv hauv xeev California. Tsib xyos tom qab, xyoo 2002, Dr. Tony Vaj yeej hauv nws qhov kev sib tw los ua tswv cuab ntawm Fresno Unified School Board. Thiab xyoo 2007, Nplooj Xyooj los ua tus thawj Hmoob Meskas uas raug xaiv los ua tswv cuab hauv lub rooj tsavxwm hauv ib lub nroog hauv California. Nws yeej los ua tus sawv cev ntawm Koog 1 hauv Fresno City Council.

Nplooj tau txais kev tshoov siab los ntawm lub tswv yim tias yuav tsum muaj ib lub suab muaj zog dua qub, ib tug neeg sawv cev uas muaj peev xwm thiab txawj hais, thiab yuav tsum tau zaum nrog rau cov uas txiav txim siab txog pej xeem. Nplooj hais tias: "Yog peb tsis koom tes thiab tsis cuam tshuam nrog cov kev sib tham txog txoj cai thiab kev txiav txim siab, ces peb yuav plam ib lub suab uas muaj hwj chim heev."

Tom qab yim xyoo ua tus Fresno City Councilman, Nplooj txiav txim siab yuav mus sib tw ua tus tswv cuab hauv Congress xyoo 2012, thiab rov qab sib tw dua ib zaug ntiv rau Fresno County Supervisor xyoo 2014. Nws txoj hauj lwm hauv Fresno City Council xaus rau xyoo 2013. Txawm hais tias ob zaug kev sib tw ntawd nws tsis yeej, los qhov kev txhawb nqa loj heev los ntawm cov zej zog Hmoob thoob plaws tau pab kom nws muaj peev xwm mus sib tw ob zaug ntawd. Cov zej zog Hmoob thoob plaws California thiab txawm nyob rau lwm lub xeev xws li Minnesota thiab Wisconsin kuj tau pab nyiaj thiab tuaj ua neeg pab dawb. Txij thaum ntawd los, Nplooj tau pab txhawb cov neeg sib tw tshiab. Nws tau rov qab pab rau zej zog Hmoob los ntawm kev qhia thiab coj tswv yim rau Pao Yaj thiab Brandon Vaj rau xyoo 2016 thaum nkawd mus sib tw thawj zaug.

Pao thiab Brandon yog cov ntsej muag tshiab rau kev ua nom tswv hauv Lub Nroog Fresno. Kev sib tw xyoo 2016 yog thawj zaug uas ob leeg tau tawm mus sib tw ua nom tswv.

Pao Yaj muaj 17 xyos ntawm kev ua hauj lwm hauv kev kawm ntawv. Pao hais tias, "Kuv txiav txim siab los sib tw rau txoj hauj lwm Trustee xyoo no vim kuv xav kom kuv muaj peev xwm cuam tshuam loj dua thiab qhia kuv qhov kev paub thiab kev paub txog rau cov thawj coj hauv peb zej zog." Nyob hauv nws txoj hauj lwm, Pao tau ua haujlwm nrog cov tub ntxhais kawm los ntawm kev pab qhia thiab cob qhia lawv thiab lawv tsev neeg kom nkag siab txog qhov tseem ceeb ntawm kev kawm qib siab. Brandon yog ib tug qub tub ceev xwm saib xyuas. Xyoo 2009,

tom qab nws tsiv California Sab rov los nyob Fresno los ntawm Southern California, nws tau saib xyuas nws cov me nyuam thaum nws tus poj niam May Lis, uas yog ib tug kws saib xyuas neeg mob tau yug nyiaj los saib xyuas tsev neeg. Qhov no ua rau Brandon muaj sijhawm mus pab dawb hauv lawv cov me nyuam lub tsev kawm ntawv thiab nws kuj nkag siab txog qhov tseem ceeb ntawm kev txiav txim siab nyob rau hauv K-12 tsev kawm ntawv system. Brandon hais tias, “Kuv xav los cuam tshuam rau zej zog tab sis tib lub sijhawm kuv tseem xav kom kuv muaj cai hais lus rau tej kev txiav txim siab uas cuam tshuam ncaj qha rau kuv tsev neeg, tshwj xeeb tshaj yog kuv cov me nyuam. Kuv yog ib leej niam txiv. Kuv muaj ob tug me nyuam uas twb kawm tiav hauv Sanger Unified School District lawm thiab muaj peb tug me nyuam uas tseem tab tom kawm hauv Sanger cov tsev kawm ntawv. Rau kuv, qhov no tsis yog tsuas yog ib qho kev sib tw xwb.”

Xyoo 2016 kuj tsis yog tsuas yog ib qho kev sib tw xwb rau tag nrho cov Hmoob Meskas uas sib tw ua nom. Piv txwv li, Maiv Yaj Vaj, uas yeej tau txoj hauj lwm hauv Sacramento Unified School Board thiab Lis Lauj uas yeej tau txoj hauj lwm hauv Merced Board of Supervisors. Maiv thiab Lis, ob tug poj niam Hmoob Meskas hluas, yog cov ntsej muag tshiab ntawm Hmoob txoj kev ua nom tswv hauv California thiab lawv qhov yeej sawv cev rau ib txoj kev tshiab uas peb cia siab tias yuav pom ntxiv. Thawj zaug txij li thaum Charles sib tw xyoo 1997 los, peb mam pom ob tug poj niam Hmoob yeej tau txoj hauj lwm nom tswv.

Maiv Yaj Vaj, tus yau tshaj plaws hauv cov Hmoob uas sib tw, muaj kev paub dhau los hauv kev sawv cev rau zej zog. Nws pib paub txog kev nom tswv thaum nws kawm ntawv hauv University of San Francisco. Maiv hais tias, “Kuv pib paub txog kev nom tswv vim cov teeb meem kev tsis ncaj ncees uas peb zej zog ntsib. Kuv pib coj kev npaj sab nraud tsev kawm ntawv (Hmong Student Inter-Collegiate Coalition) thiab hauv tsev kawm ntawv (Freedom Alliance of Culturally Empowered Students & Southeast Asian American Student Alliance) los tsa suab hais thiab coj kev txav mus tawm tsam cov teeb meem kev ntxub ntxaug los ntawm haiv neeg, kev sib txawv ntawm poj niam txiv neej thiab kev txom nyem hauv cov zej zog uas tsis tau txais kev pab txaus.”

Ua ib tug ntxhais ntawm cov Hmoob tawg rog thiab yog tus hlob ntawm 16 leej me nyuam, nws zoo ib yam li feem coob ntawm cov Hmoob Meskas tiam ob. Nws loj hlob hauv kev txom nyem nyob rau tej zej zog tsis zoo nyob sab qab teb ntawm Sacramento, thiab nws yog thawj tug hauv nws tsev neeg uas mus kawm qib siab. Nws hais tias, “Kuv xav tias kev kawm ntawv yuav daws tau txhua yam teeb meem uas kuv tsev neeg thiab zej zog tab tom ntsib. Thaum kuv muaj 26 xyoos, kuv rov qab los rau Sacramento nrog ntau xyoo ntawm kev kawm tiav, tab sis kuv rov pom tias kuv zej zog tseem raug kev txom nyem loj heev thiab tseem muaj ntau txoj kev txwv uas tseem thaiv peb kev mus tom ntej.” Nws xav ua ntau dua, thiab kev sib tw rau txoj haujlwm hauv Pawg Tswj Xyuas Tsev Kawm Ntawv yog ib txoj kev los hloov pauv tej yam.

Lis Lauj kuj hais ib yam lus zoo uas tau txhawb nws los sib tw txoj hauj lwj pej xeeem. “Kuv pom tias peb, ua ib haiv neeg, xav tau kev zoo dua thiab peb tsim nyog tau kev zoo dua. Merced yog ib lub zos uas raug kev poob vaj tse hnyav tshaj, peb muaj qhov kev ua txhaum loj tshaj plaws, thiab peb cov pej xeeem raug dai khawm nyob rau hauv txoj kev txom nyem tsis kawg,” Lis hais.

Peb cov zej zog xav tau zog tshiab rau kev koom tes txhawb lub zej zog. Kev sib tw los ntawm Steve Ly, Pao Yaj, Brandon Vaj, Maiv Yaj Vaj, Noah Lauj, Lis Lauj, thiab Sou Vaj tau nqa los ib txoj kev txhawb zog tshiab; ua rau pej xeeem Hmoob muaj kev tshoov siab, sib koom siab, thiab koom tes ua ke nrog cov zej zog dav dav uas lawv txhua tus tab tom pab cuam.

Kev nce siab koom tes rau kev nom tswv ntawm cov Hmoob Meskas yog ib feem tseem ceeb hauv keeb kwm vim muaj ntau yam laj thawj. Cov Hmoob Meskas paub txog qhov tseem ceeb ntawm lawv cov suab xaiv tsa thiab txoj kev koom tes ntau dua yav dhau los. Thaum koj piv cov kev sib tw xyoo 2016 nrog rau thaum Charles Vaj xub pib sib tw rau Fresno City Council xyoo 1997, zej zog Hmoob twb loj hlob hauv kev kawm ntawv thiab kev ruaj khov nyiaj txiag lawm. Peb, ua ib pab pawg, twb muaj kev ntseeg siab ntau dua lawm hauv kev nrhiav kev txhawb nqa, neeg pab dawb, thiab nyiaj txiag. Peb cov zej zog twb loj hlob txog qhov uas nkag siab zoo dua txog qhov tseem ceeb ntawm kev koom tes rau pej xeeem thiab txhawb cov Hmoob uas muaj siab loj thiab muaj peev xwm los sib tw ua nom tswv. Peb yeej tuaj yeem sib koom tes los txhawb nyiaj txiag rau cov neeg sib tw. Peb cov zej zog, ua ke, muaj kev kawm txawj ntse dua thiab muaj kev paub txog txheej txheem kev xaiv tsa zoo dua lawm. Hnub no, peb yog ib pab pawg neeg txawv tag nrho lawm.

Cov menyuam Hmoob uas loj hlob hauv lub yeej thoj nam tawg rog thiab tuaj rau Tebchaws Meskas thaum tseem yau, hnub no lawv yog cov tab tom sawv los sib tw rau txoj hauj lwj pej xeeem, nrog lub hom phiaj los txhawb thiab hloov pauv rau tiam tshiab ntawm cov Hmoob Meskas.

Lis Lauj, Maiv Yaj Vaj, thiab Brandon Vaj qhia tias lawv yog ib feem ntawm “Tiam Zauv” no: “Cov Hmoob uas yug nyob rau Tebchaws Thaib, tuaj txog rau Tebchaws Meskas, pib kawm ntawv qib qis, thiab kawm tau lus Askiv zoo txaus. Lawv yog ib feem ntawm tiam no. Tam sim no yog lawv lub sijhawm los tuav txoj hauj lwj pej xeeem, los ua cov neeg sawv cev thiab cov lus rau lawv zej zog. Cov neeg uas muaj siab loj thiab mob siab txaus los ua cov thawj coj tshiab xws li Charles Vaj, Nplooj Xyooj, los yog Steve Ly yuav yog cov txhawb siab rau tiam tshiab ntawm cov thawj coj zej zog thiab cov pej xeeem uas ua haujlwm rau pej xeeem.”

Cov Hmoob twb nyob rau hauv Tebchaws Meskas tau plaub caug xyoo, thiab qhov no yog ib theem hloov uas peb tab tom loj hlob thiab koom tes tsim kho rau hauv lub zej zog uas peb nyob. Kev ua nom tswv thiab kev coj ua thawj coj yog ib feem ntawm peb cov kev sib raug zoo thiab

tus yam ntxwv, thiab peb yuav tsum koom nrog rau hauv kev txiav txim siab txog yam uas cuam tshuam rau peb lub neej. Nplooj hais tias, “Peb twb pom tias txhua yam kev txiav txim siab ntawd cuam tshuam rau peb txhua tus—seb yog kev kawm ntawv, kev kho mob, los yog kev tsim kev lag luam—yuav tsum muaj neeg nyob hauv cov rooj zaum ntawd los txiav txim siab.” Kev koom nrog rau lub rooj txiav txim siab tseem ceeb ntawd ua rau lwm haiv neeg pom txog peb txoj kev sib txawv thiab muaj kev paub txog peb haiv neeg.

Peb yuav cia siab tias yuav pom ntau dua thiab cov Hmoob Meskas hluas ntau dua mus koom nrog kev sib tw ua nom tswv hauv California yav tom ntej. Txij li thaum Charles Vaj sib tw thawj zaug xyoo 1997 mus txog rau tag nrho cov neeg sib tw xyoo 2016, txoj kev pab dawb los ntawm cov hluas Hmoob thiab peb lub zej zog yeej ib txwm yog tus txhawb zog loj tshaj plaws rau kev sib tw. Cov hluas tab tom kawm ntau ntxiv txog txheej txheem kev nom tswv, thiab cov laus rov tau lub zog los ntawm kev pom lawv cov me nyuam mus sib tw rau txoj hauj lwm coj los pab hloov lawv lub neej thiab lub neej yav tom ntej ntawm peb haiv neeg. Muaj ntau tus laus zoo siab kawg nkaus uas tam sim no lawv yeej xaiv tau ib tug Hmoob los ua tus sawv cev.

Kev tswj hwm tebchaws thiab kev ua nom tswv yeej hloov pauv tas mus li. Hnub no, yuav muaj ntau tus poj niam Hmoob koom nrog rau hauv kev ua nom tswv. Mai hais tias, “California xav tau cov thawj coj uas muaj siab ntev thiab ceev faj los tsom rau kev daws cov teeb meem tsis ncaj ncees uas cov zej zog raug kev txom nyem ntau dua. Kuv ntseeg tias Lee Lor thiab ntau tus poj niam Hmoob uas tab tom npaj kev txhawb zog rau pej xeem yog cov uas sawv cev tau qhov ntawd. Peb twb tab tom ua haujlwm hnyav hauv zej zog los pab txhim kho qhov tshwm sim rau zej zog – tam sim no peb yuav tsum nrhiav ntxiv poj niam Hmoob los tuaj koom nrog rau lub rooj txiav txim siab kom lawv pab tsim tsa txoj cai tshiab.”

Maiv kuj txhawb kom zej zog Hmoob tsis txhob tsim kev sib koom tes nyob ib leeg xwb. Nws hais ntxiv tias, “Peb yuav tsum tsim kev koom tes nrog lwm haiv neeg los tsim kev hloov pauv.” Tsis tas li ntawd, nws hais kom peb tsa suab txog qhov tseem ceeb ntawm kev pov npav. Txhua tus neeg muaj txoj hauj lwm raws nom tswv. Brandon kuj hais kom zej zog Hmoob yuav tsum tawm los txhawb kev xaiv tsa, “tsis tas yuav txhawb ib tug neeg Hmoob xwb, tiamsis txhawb tus neeg uas lawv xav tias txhawb lawv txoj kev xav txog kev tswj hwm tebchaws, thiab koom nrog txij thaum pib – teev npe thiab mus pov npav.” Peb feem ntau xav txog tej yam uas tshwm sim thaum peb mus pov npav, tiamsis ntau zaus peb tsis nco xav txog tej yam uas yuav tshwm sim yog peb tsis mus pov npav.

Thaum rov mus txog xyoo 1996 thaum Charles Vaj thawj zaug sib tw rau Fresno City Council, ib lub npe Hmoob nyob hauv daim ntawv xaiv tsa yog ib yam tshiab rau pej xeem. Tab sis xyoo 2016, peb haiv neeg twb tuaj deb heev lawm. Tam sim no, kev pom npe Hmoob nyob rau hauv daim ntawv xaiv tsa rau tej nroog uas Hmoob nyob coob tsis yog ib yam uas ua rau pej xeem xav tsis thoob lawm. Tiamsis kev pom poj niam Hmoob nyob hauv daim ntawv xaiv tsa yeej tseem

yog ib yam tshiab thiab ua keeb kwm. Hnub no, zej zog Hmoob twb koom tes rau pej xeem heev lawm, tab sis qhov uas ua rau txoj kev loj hlob ntawd muaj peev xwm tshwm sim yog vim peb tau tsim tau ib qho network los txhawb kev sib raug zoo thiab kev sib koom tes hauv zej zog dhau nees nkaum xyoo. Los ntawm kev kawm txuj los ntawm qhov yeej thiab qhov swb, peb lub network ntawm kev txhawb nqa thiaj tau pab kom coob leej thiaj taug taus hauv txoj kev uas cov thawj coj yav tag los tau hla dhau, thiab tau faib lawv qhov kev paub kom ci txoj kev rau cov ua tom qab. Yav tom ntej zoo heev lawm.

Charles hais tias, “Yog koj xav tias koj xav ua ib yam dabtsi tshwj xeeb los yog xav mus ua nom tswv, xav ua ib tug thawj coj, ces mus ua. Leej twg ho paub? Tej zaum koj yuav yeej.” Xyoo 2016 yog ib qhov kev pib tshiab rau zej zog Hmoob hauv xeev California.

Yog koj muaj lub siab npaj los tuav txoj hauj lwm pab pej xeem, koj xav koom tes, koj muaj siab ua haujlwm rau pej xeem, ces muaj kev cia siab tiag tiag tias koj yuav khiav tau thiab yeej tau. Vim muaj ib pab pawg neeg los txhawb koj lawm.

**Handouts****WORKSHEET #1**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Step 1: Hmong in the U.S.**

Take a look at the two charts using the source below, which gives information about the size of the Hmong population in the United States.

Saib rau ob lub kem ntawv hauv qab no, muaj ntaub ntawv qhia tau txog tias qhov twg muaj Hmoob coob nyob hauv Meskas Teb.

**Budiman, A. (2021, April 29). *Hmong in the U.S. fact sheet*. Pew Research Center's Social & Demographic Trends Project.**

<https://www.pewresearch.org/social-trends/fact-sheet/asian-americans-hmong-in-the-u-s/>

The first chart “Hmong population in the U.S., 2000-2019” shows the overall population growth between 2000-2019.

1. What do you notice about the growth of the Hmong population over the last 20 years?
2. What questions do you have about this trend?

Thawj kem ntawv "Pej xeeb Hmoob nyob hauv Tebchaws Meskas xyoo 2000-2009" pom tias pej xeeb muaj coob tuaj thaj tsam xyoo 2000-2019.

1. Koj pom dabtsi txog puas paub txog tias muaj pej xeeb Hmoob coob tuaj nyob rau 20 xyoo dhau los?
2. Koj puas muaj lus nug dab tsi hais txog qhov no?

**From this chart “Top 10 U.S. metropolitan areas by Hmong population, 2019”**

The second chart shows the “Top 10 U.S. metropolitan areas by Hmong population” where the Hmong in the U.S. have chosen to settle.

1. What can you notice about Hmong population centers? Where are they located?
2. Which three California cities have the most Hmong population?
3. In terms of political representation, what would you expect to find in those areas?

Lub kem ntawv thib ob qhia txog "10 lub nroog muaj pej xeem Hmoob nyob coob tshaj hauv Meskas Teb" qhov chaw uas Hmoob xaiv mus nyob hauv Meskas Teb.

1. Koj pom dabtsi txog cov chaw ua Hmoob nyob coob tshaj plaws? Lawv nyob qhov twg?
2. Peb (3) lub nroog hauv California twg muaj coob tus Hmoob nyob tshaj?
3. Yog peb xav txog kev sawv cev hauv nom tswv, koj xav tias yuav muaj dabtsi tshwm sim hauv cov chaw ntawd?

Extension Possibility: Google the overall population of those three CA cities. What percentage of those areas is the Hmong population? For example, if an area has 100,000 people and there are 10,000 Hmong living there, then 10% of the area would be Hmong. Students can use their phone and/or calculator to determine percentages.

Siv Google los tshawb nrhiav seb tag nrho cov pej xeem nyob hauv peb (3) lub nroog ntawd yog pes tsawg. Tom qab ntawd, tshawb seb Hmoob nyob hauv qhov chaw ntawd muaj pes tsawg. Koj xam seb pes tsawg feem pua ntawm cov pej xeem ntawd yog Hmoob. Piv txwv li, yog tias ib cheeb tsam muaj 100,000 leej neeg, thiab muaj 10,000 tus Hmoob nyob ntawd, ces Hmoob yog 10% ntawm tag nrho cov pej xeem. Cov tub ntxhais kawm siv tau lawv lub xov tooj los yog siv tshuab xam los xam seb yog pes tsawg feem pua.

Area #1: Total population \_\_\_\_\_ Approx. Hmong Population : \_\_\_\_\_  
Total %: \_\_\_\_\_

Cov pej xeem neeg tag nrho \_\_\_\_\_ Khwv Yees Tias Muaj Puas Tsawg Tus  
Hmoob : \_\_\_\_\_ Tagnrho %: \_\_\_\_\_

Area #2: Total population \_\_\_\_\_ Approx. Hmong Population : \_\_\_\_\_  
Total %: \_\_\_\_\_

Cov pej xeem neeg tag nrho \_\_\_\_\_ Khwv Yees Tias Muaj Puas Tsawg Tus  
Hmoob : \_\_\_\_\_ Tagnrho %: \_\_\_\_\_

Area #3: Total population \_\_\_\_\_ Approx. Hmong Population : \_\_\_\_\_  
Total %: \_\_\_\_\_

Cov pej xeem neeg tag nrho \_\_\_\_\_ Khwv Yees Tias Muaj Puas Tsawg Tus  
Hmoob : \_\_\_\_\_ Tagnrho %: \_\_\_\_\_

Given the %s noted above, would you expect that Hmong communities in these areas would become politically active? Why or why not? Can you think of bias, obstacles or barriers to participation which may need to be overcome?

Yog tias peb saib rau cov feem pua saum toj no, koj puas xav tias cov zej zog Hmoob nyob rau cov cheeb tsam ntawd yuav pib koom tes hauv kev ua nom tswv? Vim li cas yog lossis tsis yog? Koj puas xav tau txog tej yam kev saib tsis taus, teeb meem, lossis kev txwv uas tej zaum yuav tsum tau ua kom dhau?

**WORKSHEET #2****Step 2: Oral History Interview by Mai Yang Vang**

**Mai Yang Vang: Mai Yang Vang – Hmong Engaging Politics CA Oral History -**  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PUeD-xhNtk4>

As the video plays, please write down 2 things you notice (could be facts, attitudes, a quote)

1.

2.

Also write down 2 things you “wonder”? What are some questions the video raises?

1.

2.

*Now respond to one of the questions below:*

1. Why is it important to give the Hmong community a voice in the political process?

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2. Respond to this statement: “The Hmong Community is distinct from many groups but its struggles are the same” Do you agree? Disagree? Need more information?

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Thaum daim yeej yaj kiab tab tom khiav, thov sau 2 yam uas koj pom (tej yam uas yog qhov tseeb, kev xav, lossis ib lo lus hais los tau)

1.

2.

Tsis tas li ntawd, sau cia 2 yam uas koj “xav paub”? Daim yeeb yaj kiab no tham txog cov lus nug dab tsi?

1.

2.

*Tam sim no los teb cov lus nug hauv qab no:*

1. Vim li cas thiaj tseem ceeb uas yuav tsum muab lub suab rau cov Hmoob hauv txoj kev xaiv tsa thiab kev ua nom tswv?

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2. Teb lo lus no: “Zej zog Hmoob txawv ntau pab pawg, tab sis lawv cov teeb meem yeej zoo ib yam” Koj puas pom zoo? Tsis pom zoo? Los sis xav paub ntxiv?

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**WORKSHEET #3****STEP 3: JIGSAW ACTIVITY Txhawb Article, 2017, “A New Chapter - Hmong in Politics”**

<https://ucdavis.box.com/s/qqfyiqj59ktxaw554gq57guzqbahbtto>

**Jigsaw Activity Graphic Organizer**

Create a 2-column chart: label the left column as My “Expert” Page Group & the right column as My “Home” Magazine Article Group. Use the prompts below:

Tsim daim ntawv nrog 2 kem: Qhia npe txoj kem sab laug tias Kuv Li "Paub Zoo"

Nplooj Sau Ua Pab Pawg thiab txoj kem sab xis tias Kuv Lub "Tsev" Tshaj Tawm Ua Pab Pawg. Siv cov lus qhia hauv qab no:

**My “Expert” Page Group**

Central facts/ideas I am an Expert on:

Two of the most important things I learned that I want to share with my Home group:

1.

2.

Two questions that I have after completing the activity:

1.

2.

**My “Home “ Magazine Article Group**

Central facts/ideas shared by members of my Home Group:

At least two things that I learned in my Home group:

1.

2.

Two questions that I have after completing the activity:

1.

2.

**Kuv Daim Nplooj Qhia Txog Qhov "Kev Paub Zoo"**

Qhia qhov tseeb/cov tswv yim kuv Paub Zoo txog:

Ob yam tseem ceeb tshaj plaws uas kuv kawm tau thiab xav qhia rau kuv pab pawg Tsev:

1.

2.

Ob lo lus nug uas kuv muaj tom qab ua tiav qhov dej num no:

1.

2.

**Kuv Lub "Tsev" Tshaj Tawm Ua Pab Pawg**

Qhov tseeb/tswv yim qhia los ntawm cov sib koom ntawm kuv pab pawg hauv Tsev:

Yam tsawg kawg ob yam uas kuv kawm tau los ntawm kuv pab pawg hauv Tsev:

1.

2.

Ob lo lus nug uas kuv muaj tom qab ua tiav qhov dej num no:

1.

2.

## WORKSHEET #4

### **Step 4: Cultural Diversity in American Politics**

Blong Xiong, Executive Director of the USDA's Farm Service Agency in California (Former Fresno City Councilman), Member of Hmong Community  
 Blong Xiong, Tus Thawj Coj ntawm lub USDA lub Koom Haum Saib Xyuas Kev Ua Liaj Teb nyob hauv California (Yav Tag Los Yog Tus Fresno City Councilman), Ua Tswv Cuab Ntawm Zej Zog Hmoob

Photo credit: Tudor Stanley for Txhawb Magazine 2007 (pp. 78–79)

<https://ucdavis.box.com/s/plhzw6ej3oy8sf21veraftzebt1vpjsa>

Deb Haaland (far right in the black dress with red sash at the waist and turquoise shirt, raising her right hand), Current Secretary of the Interior (Former member of Congress, New Mexico), Member Laguna Pueblo Native American tribe

Deb Haaland (nyob sab xis hnav khaub ncaws dub nrog rau txoj hlab liab khi duav thiab lub tsho xiav dawb lias, tsa nws sab tes xis), Tam sim no yog Thawj Coj Saib Xyuas Feem Xyuam Sab Hauv (Yav tag los nyob hauv Congress, New Mexico), Ua Tswv Cuab Ntawm neeg Laguna Pueblo Meskas Ib Txwm Nyob Teb Chaws No

<https://ucdavis.box.com/s/oygeunhq3c0wpe23hb3w0usf42f9uv>

Ilhan Omar, Current U.S. Congresswoman Minnesota (former Minnesota State congresswoman), Member of Muslim Community

Ilhan Omar, tam sim no yog tus U.S. Congresswoman Minnesota (yav tag los yog tus congresswoman rau Xeev Minnesota), Ua Tswv Cuab ntawm Zej Zog Neeg Muslim

<https://ucdavis.box.com/s/ej7d4dq3wfl197truqbcl41vse9j9iqfm>

### **Questions:**

- How do we expect an American politician to dress?
- Can a politician successfully integrate his/her cultural identities or does modern political life in the U.S. require complete assimilation?
- Can an American politician successfully integrate traditional and modern elements?
  - Why is this important?
- Can you think of other politicians who have kept their cultural identity? Please add your initial thoughts on this idea here before engaging in discussion with your classmates....
  - 1.
  - 2.

- Please add your initial thoughts on this idea here before engaging in discussion with your classmates ....
  - 1.
  - 2.
- Interesting comments by my elbow partner or a classmate on this topic:
  - 1.
  - 2.

**Cov Lus Nug:**

- Koj xav tias cov nom tswv Meskas yuav tsum hnab khaub ncaws li cas?
- Ib tug nom tswv puas yuav ua tau kom haum raws nws haiv neeg tus cwj pwm thiab kab lis kev cai, los yog puas yuav tsum sib phim rau txoj kev ua nom tswv niaj hnub no hauv Tebchaws Meskas?
- Ib tug nom tswv Meskas puas yuav ua tau kom sib haum ntawm tej yam qub txeeg qub teg thiab tej yam niaj hnub nim no?
  - Vim li cas qhov no ho tseem ceeb?
- Koj puas xav txog lwm tus nom tswv uas tseem khaws cia lawv haiv neeg tus cwj pwm thiab kab lig kev cai? Thov sau koj cov tswv yim ban thawj rau qhov no ua ntej koj sib tham nrog koj cov phooj ywg kawm ntawv....
  - 1.
  - 2.
- Thov sau koj cov tswv yim thaum xub thawj rau qhov no ua ntej koj sib tham nrog koj cov phooj ywg kawm ntawv....
  - 1.
  - 2.
- Cov lus tawm tswv yim nthuav dav los ntawm kuv tus khub nyob ntawm ntawm kuv ib sab lossis lwm tus phooj ywg kawm ntawv hauv chav kawm txog zaj lus no:
  - 1.
  - 2.