

MEMORANDUM

TO: NAPABA Affiliates
NAPABA Committee and Network Chairs
NAPABA National Associates

FROM: NAPABA Policy Team

DATE: September 18, 2026

RE: Policy Resolution Cycle 2026-2027
Submission Deadline: January 6, 2027, at 8pm ET

The annual policy resolution cycle for the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association is now open. As explained below, this period is an opportunity for NAPABA's Affiliates, Committees, Networks, and National Associates to propose policy positions, in the form of resolutions, for the NAPABA Board of Governor's consideration. They should advance NAPABA's [mission](#) to serve as a voice for the national AANHPI legal profession. If the Board adopts the proposed resolution, it becomes the policy for NAPABA, which authorizes NAPABA to act and advance that particular policy. For example, when NAPABA [adopted](#) a resolution in support of LGBTQ+ equality, it also endorsed the Equality Act, a bill in Congress that would prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity. Afterward, NAPABA continued to [advocate](#) for its passage with members of Congress and issued [public statements](#) in support.

The deadline to submit proposed policy resolutions with supporting memoranda is Wednesday, January 6, 2027. If you have any questions about the process, please feel free to contact the NAPABA Policy Team at advocacy@napaba.org.

I. Background

NAPABA arrives at its positions through a deliberative process centered on the adoption of resolutions by the NAPABA Board of Governors. These positions inform and serve as the basis for NAPABA's public



statements, public policy, and legal advocacy. Resolutions are the recorded public positions of NAPABA and the collective view of the national AANHPI legal community until the Board chooses to revisit the position.

The positions originate within NAPABA Committees and Networks, who represent the substantive expertise and breadth of views within their specialties across the national AANHPI legal community, and NAPABA Affiliates and National Associates, who represent the geographic diversity of the membership.

The NAPABA Policy Team serves as a resource to work with leaders to refine resolutions so they provide the clearest guidance for NAPABA to act.

II. **Timeline**

To facilitate the adoption of resolutions, we have established an annual process for proposal and consideration by the Board. The schedule is below.

1. [NAPABA Convention](#)
November 12-14, 2026
Los Angeles, California

During the Convention, members have an opportunity to engage with their respective committees and networks and explore whether to advance a proposed policy resolution. Please refer to the [Convention agenda](#) to determine when the committees and networks will hold their business meetings.

2. [Submission Deadline](#)
Wednesday, January 6, 2027, at 8:00pm ET

Please submit the draft resolution in Word document form, a supporting memorandum, and any pertinent supporting documentation utilizing [this](#) form by January 6, 2027. Late submissions will not be accepted.

3. Staff Review and Member Comment Period
January 2027 – February 2027

The NAPABA Policy Team will review the proposals during this time and work with submitting entities to finalize. To encourage broader member participation and more thorough deliberation, this year's cycle includes an expanded review process. Following staff review, NAPABA will open a three-week member comment period, where all NAPABA members—along with NAPABA Affiliates, National Associates, Committees, and Networks—may submit comments in response to the proposals. Comments may not be anonymous; individuals submitting comments must be current NAPABA members in good standing. Comments may be short narrative responses or letters/memoranda in PDF format.

Submitted comments will be shared with the primary sponsor(s) of the proposed resolutions. Sponsors will have an opportunity to review and reply to the comments and provide, if they wish, an updated redlined draft of the proposed resolution, along with an updated supporting memorandum.

4. Distribution to the Board of Governors
March - April 2027

5. Consideration at the NAPABA Board of Governors Meeting
May 2027

III. Purpose of the Resolutions and Guidance for Drafting Resolutions

NAPABA resolutions inform the policy priorities and positions that NAPABA takes in its public advocacy and statements. They advance NAPABA's mission to serve as a voice for the national AANHPI legal profession.

Proposed resolutions should relate to the goal of “promot[ing] justice, equity, and opportunity for Asian Pacific Americans” or “foster[ing] professional development, legal scholarship, advocacy and community involvement” consistent with NAPABA's mission. Resolutions may address

issues important to the AANHPI community, reflect solidarity with other communities, or other matters related to the practice of law and the profession where the membership believes that NAPABA should have a position on the record. They may include, for example, areas of importance to your area of practice.

Resolutions are intended to:

- Express NAPABA's view on a particular issue; or
- Provide substantive policy guidance for NAPABA's positions on issues pending before the courts, legislature, or the executive branch.

A resolution that details substantive policy guidance and principles will inform whether NAPABA supports or opposes legislation or administrative proposals. It may, for instance, say that "NAPABA supports a path to citizenship for undocumented persons, which includes...." Alternatively, the resolution may refer to a specific bill, such as "NAPABA supports a path to citizenship as outlined in the DREAM Act of 2017 (S.1615, 115th)."

Besides legislative and administrative proposals, a resolution will also inform NAPABA about whether to submit an amicus brief and, when it does, how to craft the legal arguments.

While a resolution may propose that the Board adopt a new position, it can also accomplish other goals. A resolution may replace an existing resolution, update an existing resolution to reflect changes in the development of that issue or alter the scope of the resolution, or repeal an existing resolution outright.

You are strongly encouraged to work with relevant committees to develop, draft, and submit policy resolutions. The NAPABA Policy Team can assist.

IV. Submission Instructions

Proposed resolutions in Word document form with an accompanying memorandum and any supporting information must be submitted no later than Wednesday, January 6, 2027, at 8 pm ET, utilizing [this form](#). The NAPABA Policy Team will review the proposals and work with the submitting

entities to refine, edit, or collect additional information in preparation for Board consideration. The NAPABA Policy Team is also available to work with you while you develop and draft the resolution prior to submission.

Following the revision period and the member comment period, the resolutions will be distributed to the Board for their consideration.

A. Guidelines and Formatting
a. New Policy Resolutions

Submitting entities may raise new topics or new policy resolutions as they deem appropriate, and they are welcome to consult with the NAPABA policy team. If the resolution is intended to replace or revoke a previous policy resolution, it must include language clearly stating which resolution is being replaced or revoked.

A resolution has two components. The first part consists of factual findings included in the “Whereas” clauses. They form the factual predicate for the action to be taken in the resolution. It need not be overly detailed, but merely sufficient to create the factual nexus for the proposed action. The second part consists of the “Resolve” clauses, which convey the specific position adopted by the organization.

A draft resolution must be accompanied by a brief memorandum. The memo should summarize the purposes of the resolution, describe the facts, and provide an analysis in support of the resolution. While the factual predicate in the resolution itself may be brief, the factual discussion in the memo may be more extensive. It can include the pertinent background, legal developments, statistical analysis, and other pertinent information. The memo should also explain how the proposed resolution advances NAPABA’s [mission and values](#).

If helpful, you may include additional documentation in support of the policy resolution. The key information, however, should be in the memorandum.

An example of a properly formatted resolution and a sample memorandum of support can be found [here](#).

b. Duration of New Policy Resolutions

Unlike before, when adopted policy resolutions remained active unless and until formally repealed or rescinded, new policy resolutions approved by the NAPABA Board of Governors will now be active for ten years upon adoption. Afterward, the resolution may be archived for historical purposes, **unless** the Board takes action to retain it for another ten years. For clarity, archiving a resolution does not constitute a repeal, rescission or renunciation of the policy position expressed therein. Archived resolutions remain part of NAPABA's historical record and may be referenced or reinstated through the standard resolution process.

The primary sponsor(s) of any adopted resolutions will receive notice two years before the tenth anniversary (i.e., in year eight), providing an opportunity to request that the resolution remain active. Upon receipt of such notice, and in order to avoid archiving on the tenth anniversary, the primary sponsor(s) must, during the ninth-year policy resolution cycle, either (i) request continuation for an additional ten-year period, or (ii) propose amendments or updates to the resolutions, in accordance with the procedures set forth in clause (c) below. Any such requests will be subject to the annual member comment period described above and will be submitted to the Board of Governors for consideration.¹

c. Amendments or Updates to Existing Resolutions

A submitting entity may propose to update or amend resolutions to reflect changes in the legal and policy environment, data, legislation, current events, or other such necessary information to provide timely guidance to NAPABA as it develops and executes its policy agenda.

If NAPABA has a resolution that the submitting entity believes is already germane to the topic or issue under consideration, it may propose an amendment to the existing resolution rather than propose a new resolution.

¹ The NAPABA Board of Governors retains the discretion and final authority over any archiving of a policy resolution.



All amended resolutions must be submitted in redline format reflecting the requested edits so the Board and the NAPABA Policy Team can evaluate the proposed changes against the existing resolution. Any such amendments will also be subject to the annual member comment period.

d. Additional Formatting Instructions

Please feel free to use [this](#) resolution template with prepopulated introductory language. Please use line numbers when formatting your resolution for review.

B. Current Resolutions

Active resolutions are available [here](#).

C. Questions

If you have any questions, please contact the NAPABA Policy Team at advocacy@napaba.org. We look forward to working with you during this policy resolution cycle.