



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Fong Campaign Releases Statement on Secretary of State's Unprecedented Candidate Removal Decision**

**Bakersfield, CA** - In response to the unprecedented decision by the California Secretary of State to remove Assemblyman Vince Fong from the congressional ballot, the Fong for Congress campaign released the following statement:

*"Today's decision by the Secretary of State to unilaterally disqualify a county-qualified candidate for Congress is an unprecedented interference in the candidate filing process. County elections offices have full jurisdiction to qualify candidates for the ballot. The Secretary of State simply has a ministerial duty to certify the candidate lists and include ALL qualified candidates. Assemblyman Fong has qualified for the ballot and the voters of the 20th Congressional District deserve the opportunity to select the candidate of their choice. The*

*Elections Code provides a five-day filing extension to ensure all prospective candidates may file for an office should the incumbent choose not to run, as is the case in this election. We fully intend to litigate this decision and will be filing a challenge in Superior Court imminently.”*

Assemblyman Vince Fong remains committed to running for Congress, adding, *“Voters in the 20th Congressional District have a right to choose the candidate of their choice to represent them in Congress. I will fight the Secretary of State's misguided decision and do whatever it takes to give voters in our community a real choice in this election because the voters choose our elected officials, not Sacramento.”*

Fong currently serves in the California State Assembly and is running for the 20th Congressional District.

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Paid for by Vince Fong for Congress

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