



Shefali Razdan Duggal

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Few Indian Americans Attend Oakland Obama Fundraiser

[Diana La Vigne, Special to India-West](#)

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Obama supporter Jacqueline Dharmapalan (l), with her daughter Rebecca (r) and a friend after hearing the President Obama speak in Oakland, Calif. (Diana Rohini LaVigne photos)

OAKLAND, Calif., United States

Although the audience members represented many different walks of life, the Indian American voice was noticeably missing as very few Indian Americans attended the July 23 re-election campaign fundraiser for President Barack Obama at the Fox Theater here.

But Shefali Razdan Duggal, of the Obama for President National Finance Committee and co-chair of Obama Victory Trustees, felt strongly about encouraging more South Asians to get involved.

"It is so critical for us, as South Asians, to get involved within the 2012 presidential cycle. President Barack Obama has been working hard for and towards our interests, both here and abroad," she told India-West.



"If possible, in whatever capacity possible, I deeply encourage political activism during this cycle. From knocking door-to-door, making phone calls, hosting events, contributing financially and the other many vast and thoughtful ways to participate. The political landscape needs you, needs all of us, to become involved."

Obama spoke about the common man and how citizens of the United States reminded him of his own journey to the White House. "You inspire me," he told his supporters.

"I am inspired by the hope he brings us. Being part of this evening really reminded me about how great this nation is and how we can all get involved to make it even better. President Obama has my vote," said Jacqueline Dharmapalan, owner of the Monte Lago Vineyards & Winery Inc., who attended with her husband and eldest daughter.