



GEORGE JOSEPH

Across states, community support for Haley grows

The Indian-American community in various cities came forward to support Nikki Randhawa Haley, the Republican candidate for governor of South Carolina, with fundraisers. The events indicate that Haley's popularity is rising in the community and that her campaign has moved forward in its outreach to the community.

In Dallas/Fort Worth in Texas, Indian Americans gathered in large numbers to support Haley at a gala fundraising luncheon reception September 19 at the FunAsia Banquet Hall in Richardson.

The Republican Indian Committee, New Jersey held a countdown to victory cocktail and fundraiser at Ginger and Olive Restaurant, September 22. The same day, another group organized a fundraiser at Akbar Restaurant in Long Island, New York.

"Representative Nikki Haley is a down to earth person, sharp and articulate, very poised," said Dr Mukesh Roy, executive director of the RIC-NJ. "She is a great speaker and very comfortable around people. She shook everybody's hand and posed for pictures with all who attended."

In Dallas, Haley promised to come back as governor to thank the community for their unconditional support. She said she is proud of her Indian heritage and has much respect for the first generation like her parents who sacrificed a lot for the well being of the next generation.

"As a governor of South Carolina, I want to create and keep more jobs in South Carolina," she said. "I will encourage small-

and mid-level businesses and know exactly what it takes to move them to the next level. I have an unwavering commitment to the taxpayers' bottom line."

Piyush Patel, vice president, Indian American Friendship Council, said it was a proud moment to see Haley on the *Newsweek* cover as the new face of the South.

Prasad Thotakura, state coordinator, IAFC, noted that as a state legislator, Haley fought for accountability and transparency and against wasteful spending, and was

reputed as one of the most honest, hard working and fiscally conservative legislators in the state.

Rao Kalvala, IAFC director, moderated an interactive session with Haley.

The New Jersey event, hosted by Anil Kapoor and Arthur Kapoor, was attended by known community faces including H R Shah, Deepak Raj, Bruges Patel, Sylvester Fernandez, Gulshan Chhabra, Dr Dharm Mann and Mahendra Patel. Jay Webber, state Republican chair, state Republican Committee Executive Director Robert

Cressen, state Senator Tom Kean Jr, Assemblyman Sam Thompson and Assemblyman Vince Polistina too attended the event.

Haley thanked the Republican Indian Committee for the support and lauded their efforts to organize Indian-American Republicans in New Jersey.

"We have all of the top brass of the state Republican Party to support Nikki's bid to be governor of South Carolina and you cannot get any better than this," said Arthur Kapoor, RIC-NJ president.



Nikki Randhawa Haley, third from left, at the Indian American Friendship Council in Dallas