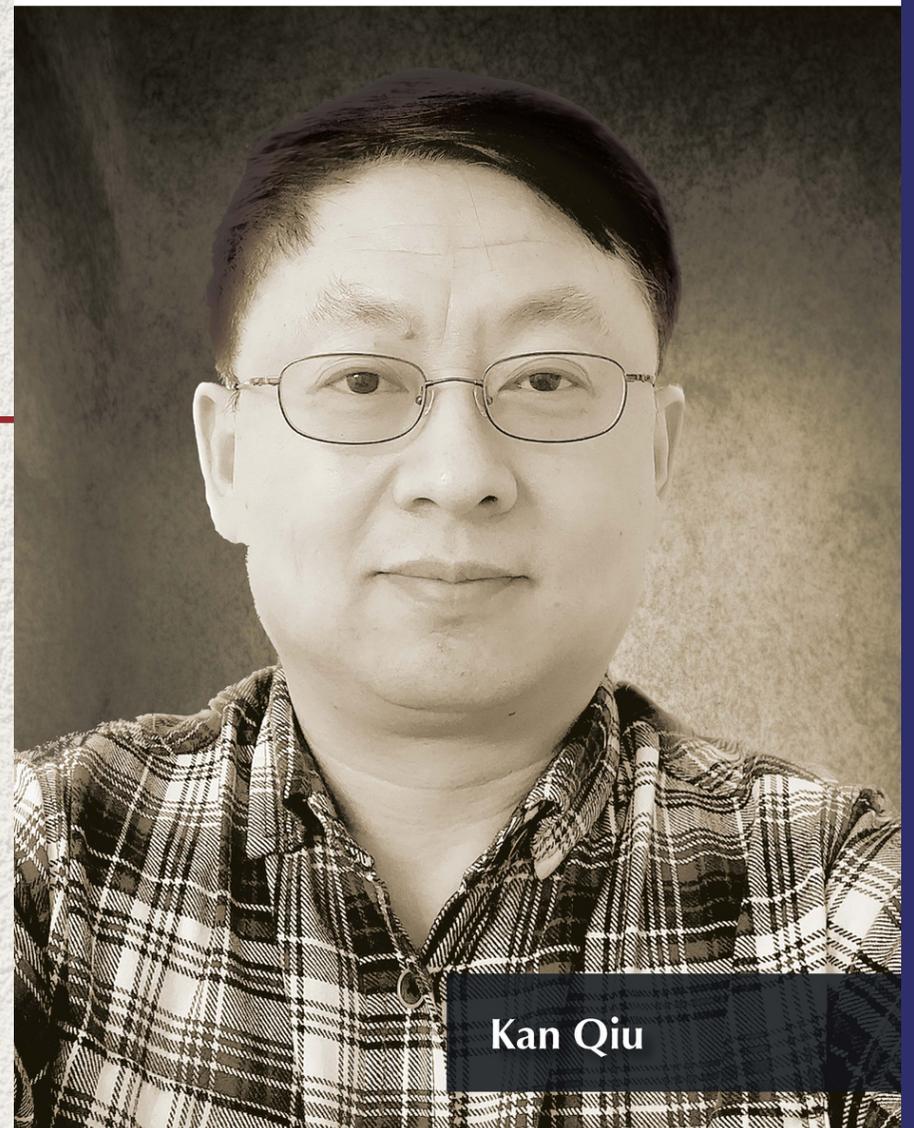


Kan Qiu

Kan Qiu, a resident of the Eastside of Bellevue, co-founded the political advocacy group "Washington Asians for Equality" for the purpose of opposing R-88, which would have overturned the citizens initiative banning racial quotas in public education and employment.

In 2019, Qiu helped organize a protest of dozens of Washingtonians of Asian descent who gathered in Olympia to demonstrate against I-1000. I-1000, was a citizen initiative to the legislature reinstating racial quotas in public employment and public education by overturning a previous initiative, I-200 which prohibited racial quotas. When legislative Democrats voted for I-1000 in 2019, Qiu led the charge to get Referendum 88 on the ballot. He then led the charge to get people to vote NO on R-88 in order to overturn the legislature's yes vote on I-1000. The people voted NO on R-88 and thus the reinstatement of racial quotas was blocked.

This was not Qiu's first protest, however. In 1989, Qiu participated in the student-led demonstrations in Tiananmen Square in Beijing. Chinese troops with assault rifles, and assisted by tanks, fired upon demonstrators, killing and wounding thousands.



Kan Qiu