Immigration

As immigration being an issue of concern among voters in the 2024 presidential election, [KFF survey of immigrants](#) conducted August 19-September 17, 2024 examines the perspectives and experiences of immigrants themselves. Nearly four in ten (36%) immigrant adults say the way former President Trump has talked about immigrants in his campaign has had a negative effect on how they are treated as immigrants in the U.S., rising to 45% among Asian immigrant adults. In contrast, most (72%) immigrants say that the way Vice President Harris has spoken about immigrants in her campaign has not affected how they are treated. Almost two-thirds (62%) of Asian immigrant adults say the same, while 30% indicate a positive effect on how they are treated.

Like U.S. voters overall, immigrants who are citizens and registered to vote name the economy and inflation (39%) and threats to democracy (24%) as their top voting issues in this year's presidential election. About one in ten (9%) immigrant voters say immigration and border security is their top issue.

The [GenForward October 2024 presidential election survey](#) of young adults ages 18-40 conducted September 26 – October 4, 2024 shows that a plurality (43%) of young AAPI adults think Harris will do the best job at handling issues related to immigration in comparison to other presidential candidates, while 29% believe Trump will. 17% indicate none of them.

According to a recent [AAPI Data/AP-NORC national poll](#) conducted September 3-9, 2024, AAPI adults are more likely than the general population to view legal immigrants as an important asset. Top concerns about illegal immigration among AAPI adults include risks to welfare programs (48%) and increased crime (38%).
AAPI adults consider increasing security at the U.S.-Mexico border (45%), reducing the waiting times for green card or permanent legal status applications (44%), strengthening policies to prevent visa overstays (41%), and expanding guest worker programs (37%) as top priorities for the federal government. About a third of AAPI adults view deporting immigrants living in the United States illegally (35%), expanding the number of visas for family members of U.S. citizens or legal permanent residents (35%), and providing legal permanent resident status for foreign students who get degrees from a college or university (34%) as high priorities.

Based on a new analysis of [Pew Research Center's survey of Asian American adults](#) conducted July 5, 2022 - January 27, 2023, 59% of Asian immigrants say the U.S. immigration system needs to be completely changed or needs major changes.
Notably, their views do not vary by party affiliation. Asian immigrant Republicans (61%) and Democrats (60%), including those who lean to each party, are equally likely to say the system needs complete or major changes.

When asked about specific immigration policy goals that they would consider important, among Asian immigrants:
- 86% cite encouraging more **highly skilled individuals to migrate** and work in the U.S.
- 82% cite making it easier for **U.S. citizens or legal residents to sponsor a family member** to immigrate to the U.S.
- 76% cite establishing stricter policies to **prevent people from overstaying their visas**.
- 73% cite **allowing immigrants who came to the country illegally as children to remain** in the U.S. and apply for legal status.
- 64% cite creating a way for most **immigrants currently in the country illegally to stay here legally.**
- 62% cite **increasing deportations** of immigrants currently in the country illegally.