



Issue Brief

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2024 Post-Election Survey: AAPI Voters Shifted Rightward in their presidential vote choice and Have Mixed Views on Policy of Mass Deportation of Undocumented Immigrants

Key Findings

Commissioned by the Asian American Institute for Public Policy, this post-election survey of Asian American & Pacific Islander (AAPI) voters was conducted in November 2024 to provide detailed understanding of AAPI voter attitudes in the 2024 elections. Among the issues examined are how AAPIs voted in the presidential election both nationally as well as in seven battleground states, what issues were important to them in deciding who to vote for, and whether AAPI voters have shifted politically.

Kamala Harris received a small majority of the AAPI votes nationally, 15% more than the votes for Donald Trump. The gap narrows in the battleground states.

- Nationally, 55% of AAPIs voted for Vice President Kamala Harris, 40% for former President Donald Trump. This finding is consistent with what the [National Election Pool consortium exit poll](#) shows.
- In the battleground states, Harris' lead among AAPI voters was much narrower, about 5% more votes than Trump, 50% to 45%.
- Harris received more votes than Trump across AAPI voters of all age ranges, about 22% more votes among younger voters ages 18 to 29.
- AAPI voters of both sexes favor Harris over Trump, although AAPI male voters who voted for Trump was about 7% higher than their female counterpart.
- A small majority (56%) of AAPI voters with a college degree voted for Harris, while half of those without a college degree did. Trump received more support among AAPI voters without a college degree (45%) than those with one (39%).
- Similarly, a small majority of AAPI voters of all income levels voted for Harris. Meanwhile, a significant share of AAPI voters (around low 40%) across all income levels went for Trump instead.

- Among major Asian ethnic subgroups, including Asian Indian, Chinese, Filipino, Japanese, Korean, and Vietnamese, Harris received more votes than Trump in varying degrees, from 1% more among Vietnamese to 25% more among Chinese.

AAPI voters shifted rightward in the 2024 presidential election.

- Among AAPI voters nationally who reported voting in 2020 and 2016, the share of those who voted for Trump was about 5% higher in 2024 than in 2020. However, Trump received about 6% fewer AAPI votes in 2020 than in 2016.

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2016</u>
Trump	40%	35%	41%
Harris/Biden/Clinton	55%	63%	55%

- In the battleground states, AAPI voters who reported voting in 2020 and 2016 show a similar pattern of political shift, although Trump’s shares of the AAPI votes in the battleground states in all three elections were higher than those nationally.

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2016</u>
Trump	45%	42%	47%
Harris/Biden/Clinton	50%	55%	48%

- Between 2020 and 2024, the rightward shift of AAPI voters is reflected in various voter segments by age, gender, college education, income, as well as ethnicity. Among young voters ages 18-29, Trump’s share of the AAPI votes is 3% greater in 2024 than in 2020. Among female AAPI voters, 39% voted for Trump in 2024, compared with 35% in 2020. The share of AAPI voters with a college degree who voted for Trump increased by 4% from 2020. Likewise, Trump received 4% more votes in 2024 than in 2020 among AAPI voters in two income categories, \$50 - \$100K and \$100K or higher.
- Trump received a greater share of votes from most major Asian ethnic subgroups in 2024 than in 2020, except for Korean. The greatest percentage increases came from Vietnamese (8%) and Chinese (7%).
- Among AAPI voters nationally, 44% considered themselves Democrats, 30% Republicans, and 26% independents. Trump attracted 41% of AAPI independent votes, 6% more than in 2020. Among first time AAPI voters, Trump attracted 43% of their votes, although 54% voted for Harris.
- The rightward shift is less clearcut in congressional elections. When asked which congressional candidate they voted for, 59% of AAPI voters chose the Democratic candidate, compared with 55% who voted for Harris. Similarly, in the battleground states, the share of AAPI voters voting for a Democratic candidate for Congress was about 3% higher than those voting for Harris in their presidential vote choice.

“Inflation & the economy” is the top issue of concern for AAPI voters in deciding who they voted for in their presidential vote choice.

- Inflation & the economy was most frequently cited by AAPI voters nationally and in the battleground states as an important issue to them in deciding who they voted for.
- Following inflation & the economy, crime, health care, character of the candidates, and protecting democracy were among the top issues cited nationally and in the battleground states.
- In comparison, abortion, immigration, racism/anti-Asian hate, and the U.S. role in the Israel-Palestine conflict, were less frequently cited by AAPI voters nationally and in the battleground states.
- When the question was asked differently by referencing [Gallup’s Most Important Problem](#) facing the United States, again, high cost of living & inflation was by far most mentioned by AAPI voters nationally and in the battleground states. The economy in general and the quality of leadership in government followed next.

A majority of AAPI voters who perceive their fates linked to their Asian Pacific American identity voted for Harris.

- About seven in ten AAPI voters nationally (71%) and in the battleground states (68%) think that what happens generally to Asian Americans in this country has either a lot or something to do with what happen in their lives.
- A majority (59%) of AAPI voters who have a high sense of linked fate voted for Harris. Conversely, a majority (56%) of AAPI voters who have a low sense of linked fate voted for Trump.

AAPI voters overwhelmingly believe that the 2024 presidential election was free and fair.

- Close to eight in ten AAPI voters, 77% nationally and 73% in the battleground states, characterize the 2024 presidential election as a free and fair election.
- Such an opinion is widely shared by AAPI voters across ethnicities, age groups, genders, educational levels, and income levels.

AAPI voters are concerned about the United States being a divided country.

- More than eight in ten AAPI voters, 83% nationally and 84% in the battleground states, believe that the United States as a country is divided.
- AAPI voters, nationally and in the battleground states, are overwhelmingly concerned about the United States being a divided country, with about half of the respondents indicating very concerned.

AAPI voters have mixed opinions toward mass deportation of undocumented immigrants

- Nationally, 36% of AAPI voters generally support a policy of mass deportation, while 39% oppose and 25% neutral. In the battleground states, except for North Carolina, the share of voters who oppose such policy is greater than those who support it, 44% to 34%.
- When such a policy would include one of these conditions: undocumented immigrants who are long-term residents, separating their families apart, causing harms to the U.S. economy, or wrongful deportation of legal immigrants, a plurality of AAPI voters, nationally and in the battleground states, would oppose the policy. However, the percentages of those who support those policies are still substantial, ranging from 32% to 39%.

[Topline Results](#) [Crosstabs](#)

About this survey

This Post-Election Survey of AAPI Voters was conducted November 6-27, 2024 by Tom K. Wong, PhD and Gabriel De Roche, MA of the U.S. Immigration Policy Center of University of California, San Diego.

The sample size is 2,880 AAPI registered voters who indicated that they voted in the 2024 US presidential election. The survey was fielded to collect both a national sample (1096 respondents) and an oversample of respondents (1,784) residing in seven battleground states (Arizona, Georgia, Michigan, Nevada, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin).

For questions about this study, please contact:

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