



## AAIPP Bulletin

April 2025

### **50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Fall of Saigon**

This April 30<sup>th</sup> marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of the war in Vietnam, a war that had deeply troubled the hearts and minds of a generation of Americans. The end of that war and of the related conflicts in Cambodia in Laos shortly after resulted in an initial resettlement of nearly 130,000 refugees from that region in the United States. The flow of refugees continued through the 1990's, and the Southeast Asian diaspora in the U.S. grew to several hundreds of thousands at the time. By 2010, Vietnamese surpassed Korean and Japanese as the fourth largest Asian ethnic group nationwide. Today, the Southeast Asian American population, including Vietnamese, Cambodian, Hmong, and Laotian, numbers about 3.2 million.

During the 1980's and 1990's, the Southeast Asian refugee population was heavily dependent on public assistance as they struggled to rebuild their lives. Over the years, Southeast Asian families have by and large overcome many barriers and difficulties through hard work and sacrifices as well as their strong belief in education for the young. American generosity as well as welfare reform of 1996 were among some other contributing factors. With the coming of age of the college educated 1.5 and second generations, Southeast Asian Americans have made significant contributions to mainstream America in diverse fields, including arts & culture, business, science & technology, law, education, literature, and healthcare, etc. There have been three Vietnamese American members of Congress: Anh (Joseph) Cao (R) of Louisiana (2009-2011), Stephanie Murphy (D) of Florida (2017-2023), and most recently Derek Tran (D) of California (2025 -). Numerous Southeast Asian Americans have also served in state legislatures such as in California, Texas, and Minnesota.

Despite continued challenges that exist, Southeast Asian American communities across America, on the whole, have come a long way since their humble arrivals 50 years ago. There could be lessons learned from the Southeast Asian refugee experiences from a policy perspective or from a humanity lens. On this special anniversary, it is worth reflecting on Southeast Asian refugees' experiences and their resiliency, the generosity of the American public, as well as a renewed commitment to the spirit of America as enshrined in the Statue of Liberty.

## The Trump Presidency

As President Trump approaches the 100<sup>th</sup> day of his second term, the latest [RealClear Politics average of 12 national polls conducted April 1 -17](#) shows his job approval rating at 50.5% disapproval and 46.8% approval, compared to 48% disapproval and 49% approval two months ago. Two of these polls offer cross tab results by race and ethnicity, including Asian.

According to the [Atlas Intel poll of U.S. adults](#), almost two-thirds (70%) of Asian adults disapprove of President Trump's job performance, while 30% approve. On the other hand, the [Harvard CAPS Harris poll of registered voters](#) offers a very different result: About half (49%) of Asian registered voters approve of President Trump's job performance, and 45% disapprove.

President Trump Job Approval by Race & Ethnicity - April 2025								
Poll		Polling Period						
Atlas Intel		April 10 - 14	U.S. adults	White	Black	Hispanic	Asian	Other
	Approve		46.1%	49.6%	11.1%	51.4%	29.8%	63.2%
	Disapprove		52.4%	48.5%	88.9%	48.6%	70.2%	33.0%
Harvard CAPS-Harris		April 9 - 10	Registered voters	White	Black	Hispanic	Asian	Other
	Approve		48%	51%	40%	40%	49%	55%
	Disapprove		46%	44%	52%	53%	45%	31%

By issue, Trump's highest approval is on his handling of immigration, with the RCP average indicating 50.9% approval to 45.8% disapproval. On three other key issues, the RCP averages show higher disapproval than approval: 53.9% to 42.8% (the economy), 56.8% to 41.1% (inflation), and 53.9% to 41.3% (foreign policy). An [AAPI Data/AP-NORC poll in March](#) finds that 58 percent of Asian American & Pacific Islander (AAPI) adults disapprove of Trump's handling of immigration, while 42 percent approve. On the economy, 71 percent of AAPI adults disapprove to 28 percent approve.

On the Trump administration's tariff policy, 58 percent of U.S. adults are against the new tariffs, and 41 percent are in favor of them, according to the Atlas Intel April poll. Among Asian adults, 61% against and 39% in favor. 64% of U.S. adults and 71% of Asian adults think the tariffs will increase inflation. 41% of U.S. adults think that the Trump administration's new tariffs will strengthen American manufacturing while 37% hold an opposite view. Asian adults have a split view, 39% to 38%.

## Immigration

There were several news reports in recent months concerning deportations of Asian migrants and immigrants. In February, [The New York Times reported](#) that more than 100 migrants from several Asian countries such as Afghanistan, China, Pakistan, and Uzbekistan were deported to Panama. [NBC News also reported](#) on Asian migrants without a criminal record from India, China, Afghanistan, and Uzbekistan being deported to Costa Rica. [The Los Angeles Times reported on April 22<sup>nd</sup>](#) that a growing number of Cambodian, Laotian, and Vietnamese immigrants in Los Angeles and Orange counties whose deportation orders had been stayed for years are being detained, and in some

cases, deported after showing up for routine check-ins at U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) offices. These immigrants being targeted are generally people who were convicted of a crime in their youths, and many served their time and went on to get jobs and put down roots.

What are Americans' views of deportations? According to the [Pew Research Center survey](#) conducted February 24 – March 2, almost one-third (32%) of U.S. adults support deportation of all immigrants living in the U.S. illegally. By race and ethnicity, White adults (39%) are more likely than Asian (22%), Black (19%) or Hispanic (16%) adults to say all immigrants in the country illegally should be deported.

About half (51%) of U.S. adults indicate that at least some should face deportation.

- Nearly all these adults (97%) say immigrants in the country illegally who have committed violent crimes should be deported. This view is shared overwhelmingly by White (98%), Black (93%), Hispanic (95%), and Asian (96%) adults.
- A narrow majority (52%) of U.S. adults who favor some deportations support deporting undocumented immigrants who have committed non-violent crimes. Most White (59%) and Asian (60%) adults who support some deportations say immigrants living in the country illegally should be deported if they have committed nonviolent crimes. Lower shares of Hispanic (43%) and Black (34%) adults say this.
- 44% of U.S. adults who favor some deportations support deporting undocumented immigrants who have arrived in the U.S. in the last four years. Roughly half or fewer of White (48%), Asian (43%), Hispanic (41%) and Black (34%) adults say the same.

There are partisan differences in views of immigration enforcement. 54% of Republicans and Republican leaning independents say all immigrants living in the country illegally should be deported, compared with 10% of Democrats and Democratic leaning independents. A greater share of Republicans than Democrats who favor some deportations say immigrants living in the country illegally should be deported if they have committed nonviolent crimes (67% vs. 42%) or have arrived in the last four years (63% vs. 32%). When it comes to those who have committed violent crimes, nearly all Republicans and Democrats (97% each) say this group should be deported.

A recent [AAPI Data/AP-NORC poll](#) also finds similarly significant support for deportations of undocumented immigrants. Forty-three percent of AAPI adults support deporting all immigrants living in the United States illegally. About 8 in 10 (83%) AAPI adults support deporting all immigrants living in the United States illegally who have been convicted of a violent crime. 60% support deporting undocumented immigrants who have been convicted of a nonviolent crime.

## **Recent Releases**

### **[Breakthrough ROI: Investing in Asian American Audiences and Media](#)**

Nielsen (April 23, 2025)

As the fastest-growing population in the U.S., Asian Americans are leading certain trends in the U.S. This new report explores how Asian American audiences are creating cross-cultural connections and driving trends among broader consumers in the U.S.

### **[Beyond Language Translation: Asian Americans, News and Information Seeking, and the Circulation of Problematic Narratives Online](#)**

Asian Americans Advancing Justice – AAJC (April 18, 2025)

This report explores how members of the Asian American community receive news, interact with online narratives and seek information digitally. It draws from the reported experiences of 101 youth and adults (aged 15-91) captured across 12 focus groups conducted across the United States to better understand how individuals across age, ethnic groups, immigration generation and English-language abilities uniquely approach and interact with narratives online.

### **[Negative Views of China Have Softened Slightly Among Americans](#)**

Pew Research Center (April 17, 2025)

This Pew Research Center survey conducted March 24-30, 2025 finds that Americans hold largely negative views of China: Most have a very or somewhat unfavorable view of the country, and they tend to name China as the nation that poses the greatest threat to the United States. However, for the first time in five years, the share of Americans with an unfavorable opinion of China has fallen slightly from the year before, from 81% in 2024 to 77% in 2025.

### **[Immigrants from Asia in the United States](#)**

Migration Policy Institute (April 17, 2025)

This Spotlight provides information on the immigrant population from Asia in the United States, focusing on its size, geographic distribution, and socioeconomic characteristics. Asia is the second largest region of origin for immigration to the United States, after Latin America, accounting for 31 percent (or 14.6 million) of all 47.8 million foreign-born residents as of 2023.

### **[Immigrants, Housing Wealth, and Local Government Finances](#)**

Cato Institute (April 15, 2025)

Many people worry about the potential effects of increased immigration on government budgets. Many analyses have concluded that immigration is clearly a fiscal benefit to the federal government, but state and local effects can depend more on the particular circumstances in those areas. This analysis attempts to deepen this debate by analyzing the effect of immigration on property tax revenues, accounting for the positive effects that immigrants have on property values.

### **[Recent immigration brought a population rebound to America's major metro areas, new census data show](#)**

Brookings (April 10, 2025)

Brookings' analysis of newly available census estimates shows that the rise of immigration over the past few years, including both legal and undocumented immigrants, bolstered population growth across the nation, and particularly its 55 large metro areas. The population rebound of almost all major metro areas after sharp slowdowns and declines during the pandemic suggests these areas' future growth will hinge on continued immigration gains.

### Americans Give Early Trump Foreign Policy Actions Mixed or Negative Reviews

Pew Research Center (April 8, 2025)

President Donald Trump is pursuing a markedly different foreign policy strategy than former President Joe Biden. Many of his early foreign policy actions receive mixed or negative reviews from Americans, according to this Pew Research Center survey of 3,605 adults conducted March 24-30, 2025. For example, more Americans disapprove than approve of ending USAID and leaving the World Health Organization as well as the Paris Climate Agreement

### Boat Baby: A Memoir

Vicky Nguyen

Simon & Schuster (April 1, 2025)

NBC News anchor & correspondent Vicky Nguyen's memoir tells the story of her family's daring escape from communist Vietnam by boat across the South China Sea, her growing up in America, and her unlikely journey from refugee to reporter.

### Minnesotans think some groups have easier access to success

APM Research (March 19, 2025)

New APM Research poll results show that a higher proportion of Minnesotans perceive being Black, Indigenous and Hispanic makes it more difficult to be successful than is the case for those identifying as Asian, and especially than it is for those identifying as White. About 2 in 5 Minnesotans think that being either Black, Indigenous or Hispanic makes it more difficult to be successful. About 1 in 5 said the same about being Asian.

### Suburban Refugees: Class and Resistance in Little Saigon

Jennifer Huynh

University of California Press (March 2025)

Focusing on Southern California's Little Saigon, Jennifer Huynh, a sociologist and Assistant Professor of American Studies at the University of Notre Dame, shows how refugees and their children are enacting placemaking against forces of displacement such as financialized capital, exclusionary zoning, and the criminalization of migrants. This book raises crucial questions challenging suburban inequality and complicates one's understanding of refugee resettlement—and, more broadly, the American dream.

### **ABOUT AAIPP**

The Asian American Institute for Public Policy (AAIPP) is a national, nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to advancing equality and full participation for Asian Americans. It works to amplify Asian American voice and thought leadership to address community concerns and to contribute pragmatic solutions to vital social, economic, and political issues in America. Through an inclusive perspective and a politically balanced approach, AAIPP seeks to promote reasoned dialogue and informed policy discourse that is guided by empirical research and critical analysis. [www.aaipp.org](http://www.aaipp.org)

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