



Issue Brief

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The First 100 Days of President Donald Trump's Second Term: Views of AAPI Voters

Key Findings

Commissioned by the Asian American Institute for Public Policy, this national survey of Asian American & Pacific Islander (AAPI) registered voters was conducted in May 2025 to provide detailed understanding of their views on Donald Trump's job performance as president as well as how well his administration is handling specific policy issues during his first 100 days of the second term. Among the issues covered include the economy, inflation, immigration, DEI, government efficiency, and foreign policy.

Overall, a majority of AAPI voters are dissatisfied with Donald Trump's presidency in the first 100 days of his second term. The contrasts in views are more pronounced by party affiliation or political leaning than by any other characteristics such as age, education, or income level.

- 58.8% of AAPI voters disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling his job as president, including 45.5% indicating strong disapproval. 31.7% say they approve.

Democrats largely disapprove (85.5%), and independents also disapprove but to a lesser extent (56.9%). Meanwhile, Republicans largely approve (72%).

Approval is also expressed by a majority (61%) of voters who switched their support from President Biden to President Trump in the last presidential election.

- 61.8% of AAPI voters say that the country today is generally off on the wrong track. 84.5% of Democrats and 61.7% of independents share that view. However, 67.4% of Republicans and 63.4% of Biden-to-Trump switch voters say the country is headed in the right direction. Yet, slightly more than one-in-four of Republicans and the switch voters see that the country is off on the wrong track.
- 61.4% of AAPI voters say things in the United States have generally gotten worse during the past 100 days. Democrats and independents share that view, 86% and 60% respectively. 54% of Republicans say the opposite. Biden-to-

Trump switch voters have mixed views: 38.7% say better, 27.5% say about the same, and 33.9% say worse.

- A plurality (47.3%) of AAPI voters say that their family's economic situation has become worse during the past 100 days. 65% of Democrats say worse. Independents are split between worse or about the same, 48% and 41% respectively. Among Republicans, 44% say about the same, 37.8% better, and 18.3% worse. Among Biden-to-Trump switch voters, 40.1% say about the same, 30.3% better, and 29.6% worse.
- In summing up their overall assessment of President Trump's second term in office, close to half (48.6%) of AAPI voters indicate that they oppose President Trump's policies and are concerned about where the country is headed. 22.1% indicate their support and are optimistic about the direction of the country, while 29.3% have mixed views about President Trump's job performance so far.

76.5% of Democrats oppose President Trump's policies, while 20% have mixed views. Among independents, 44% oppose President Trump's policies, and 38% have mixed views. 55.8% of Republicans support President Trump's policies, but about a third (34.3%) have mixed views. About half (50.4%) of the switch voters say they have mixed views, while 40.6% say they support President Trump's policies

With economic issues being most important concerns when they vote, AAPI voters are generally dissatisfied with President Trump's handling of the economy, inflation, as well as tariffs & trade.

- 54.4% of AAPI voters disapprove of the way President Trump is handling jobs and the economy, while 32% approve. Based on what they have seen and experienced during the past 100 days, 54.7% indicate that they are less confident in the Trump administration's ability to handle jobs and the economy.
- 61% of AAPI voters disapprove (including 45% expressing strong disapproval) of how President Trump is dealing with inflation, while 26.3% approve. 59.8% are dissatisfied with President Trump's efforts to bring down the costs of everyday living. Looking beyond the first 100 days, 60.6% indicate that they are less confident in the Trump administration's ability to handle inflation.
- 62.3% of AAPI voters disapprove (including 51% expressing strong disapproval) of the way President Trump is handling tariffs and trade, while 27.4% approve. 61.4% oppose President Trump's tariff policies. 65.9% believe that President Trump's tariffs will lower economic growth and increase prices. Looking forward, 61.7% indicate that they are less confident in the Trump administration's ability to handle tariffs and trade issues.
- 60.7% think that the economy is weaker now than it was a year ago, and 56.7% feel less certain about their financial security now than they did a year ago.

AAPI voters have split views on President Trump's immigration policies. Yet, in general, AAPI voters disapprove of the President's approaches to deportations of immigrants.

- 48.6% of AAPI voters disapprove of the way President Trump is handling immigration issues, while 40.3% approve.
- An overwhelming majority (92.3%) of AAPI voters believe that individuals living in the United States illegally who have committed violent crimes should be deported. However, for undocumented immigrants who have lived in the U.S. for a decade or longer, are parents of children born in the U.S., are married to a U.S. citizen, or have a job, a large majority of AAPI voters (varying from 69% to 82%) think that they should not be deported.
- 61.7% of AAPI voters oppose the Trump administration's policy where immigrants are being deported from the United States without due process. About one in five (20.2%) support such a policy.
- 55.4% of AAPI voters oppose the Trump administration's policy where some international students who are in the U.S. legally to study at a university are being deported for participating in protests. 27.8% support such a policy.
- 53.5% of AAPI voters oppose the Trump administration using an 18th century wartime law to deport undocumented immigrants to a prison in El Salvador. 26.5% support such a policy.
- Broadly speaking, 56% of AAPI voters think that President Trump's approach to immigration is too harsh, while 40.5% think his approach is about right.
- 49.9% of AAPI voters think that President Trump's efforts to deport individuals living in the United States illegally are about right, while 42.8% say they are too harsh.
- 67.3% of AAPI voters think that President Trump's efforts to deport individuals living in the United States legally (with legal status and documentation) are too harsh, while 39.8% think they are about right.
- 56.9% of AAPI voters oppose President Trump's executive order that tried to change "birthright citizenship", while 26.4% support.
- 73.1% of AAPI voters think that the Trump administration is making mistakes in who they are deporting.
- 69% of AAPI voters think that the Trump administration should obey court orders when deporting immigrants.
- 60.7% of AAPI voters indicate that immigration enforcement officials should not be allowed to conduct their actions in sensitive locations like schools, hospitals, and churches.

- 52% of AAPI voters oppose the Trump administration's threats to cut federal funding from states and cities that do not cooperate with federal deportation efforts, while 30.4% support.
- Looking forward, 47.5% of AAPI voters are less confident in the Trump administration's ability to handle immigration issues, while about a third (35.2%) say they are more confident.

A narrow majority of AAPI voters are dissatisfied with President Trump's efforts dealing with civil rights & civil liberties, government efficiency, as well as DEI

- Half (50.5%) of AAPI voters disapprove of the way President Trump is handling issues concerning civil rights and equality, while nearly a third (29.1%) approve.
- Similar shares of AAPI voters disapprove (50.6%) / approve (30%) of the way President Trump is handling issues concerning civil liberties and constitutional protections.
- 51.2% of AAPI voters disapprove of the way President Trump is addressing government spending and efficiency, while 36.6% approve.
- 55.3% of AAPI voters disapprove of the way the Trump administration has tried to shrink the federal workforce and dismantle some federal agencies, while 29.6% support such efforts.
- 64.7% of AAPI voters believe that eliminating diversity, equity, and inclusions. (DEI) programs will promote a revisionist view of American history and will set back much of the progress made in combatting discrimination and protecting civil rights. On the other hand, 35.3% think that eliminating DEI will ensure that American history is celebrated accurately, fairly, and with pride.
- A majority of AAPI voters support DEI programs in the federal government (57.5%), local government (58.2%), public schools K-12 (61.4%), colleges and universities (60.1%), and businesses (59%).

On President Trump's China policy, AAPI voters' views are mixed.

- While 44.4% of AAPI voters disapprove of the Trump administration's policies toward China, about a third (33.5%) approve. It is worth noting that 22% stay neutral.
- Practically identical shares of AAPI voters approve (37%) / disapprove (38%) of President Trump's directive to restrict China-affiliated investors from investing in technology, critical infrastructure, health care, agriculture, energy, raw materials, and other strategic sectors in the United States. Similarly, 25% stay neutral.

On some other foreign policy matters, more AAPI voters oppose than support President Trump's efforts, but a significant share of voters stay neutral.

- 44.3% of AAPI voters disapprove of the way President Trump is handling the Israel-Hamas war. 28% approve, and 27.8% indicate neither.

- 39.1% of AAPI voters approve of the way President Trump is handling the U.S. – Iran nuclear talks. 38.1% disapprove, and 32.8% stay neutral.
- 46.7% of AAPI voters do not think President Trump will broker a peace deal to end the war between Russia and Ukraine. 24.5% say he will, and 28.8% say maybe.
- 52.7% of AAPI voters oppose President Trump's interest in taking control of the Panama Canal. 23.5% support, and 23.7% stay neutral.
- 59.7% of AAPI voters oppose President Trump's interest in taking control of Greenland. 15.7% support, and 24.6% stay neutral.
- 64.3% of AAPI voters oppose President Trump's interest in making Canada the 51st state. 13.6% support, and 22% stay neutral.

About this survey

This survey of AAPI registered voters was fielded online during May 2 - 7, 2025 by Tom K. Wong, PhD and Gabriel De Roche, PhD of the U.S. Immigration Policy Center of University of California, San Diego.

The sample of 1,122 AAPI registered voters was recruited through Cint's Lucid Marketplace from a diverse set of panel providers, employing quota sampling to maximize representativeness. The researchers also generate and apply respondent-level survey weights to account for remaining observable sample imbalance on age, gender, census region, and education. The margin of error is approximately +/- 2.93 (with 0.95 confidence).

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