



# AAIPP Bulletin

October 2025

## The Trump Presidency

[RealClear Politics poll average for the month of October](#) shows that President Donald Trump’s job approval stands at 51.8% disapproval to 45% approval. His negative approval rating has been steady for the past few months.

Two of the polls from Emerson College and Harvard CAPS-Harris respectively offer a glimpse of Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) voters’ views. Both polls reveal similar overall approval ratings that are largely consistent with the RCP poll average. However, they show differing views of AAPI voters. A majority of AAPI voters (59%) in the [Emerson College poll](#) approved of President Trump’s job performance, while a slim majority (51%) in the [Harvard CAPS-Harris poll](#) disapproved.

President Trump's Job Approval by Race & Ethnicity - October 2025							
		U.S. Voters	White	Black	Hispanic	Asian/PI	Other
<i>Do you approve or disapprove of the job Donald J. Trump is doing as President of the United States?</i>							
<b>Emerson College Polling</b>							
Approve		45.3%	<b>53.4%</b>	19.1%	33.4%	<b>58.6%</b>	<b>54.5%</b>
Disapprove		48.3%	42.1%	<b>75.8%</b>	49.7%	41.4%	44.6%
Neutral / No opinion		6.4%	4.5%	5.0%	16.9%	0.0%	0.9%
<b>Harvard CAPS - Harris Poll</b>							
Approve (Net)		46.0%	<b>53.0%</b>	23.0%	33.0%	39.0%	41%
Disapprove (Net)		<b>50.0%</b>	43.0%	<b>69.0%</b>	<b>61.0%</b>	<b>51.0%</b>	<b>56%</b>

Sources: Emerson College Polling October 2025 national survey of U.S. registered voters conducted on October 13-14; Harvard CAPS-Harris poll of registered voters conducted online within the U.S. on October 1-2, 2025.

On specific key issues, the Emerson College poll finds that a plurality of AAPI voters (45.6%) approve of how President Trump handling the economy and have no opinion on the sale of TiK Tok (49.4%). A majority of AAPI voters (52.4%) approve of Trump’s handling of the Israel – Palestine conflict, while a similar majority (52.6%) disapprove of his handling of the war between Russia and Ukraine.

A recent [AAPI Data/AP-NORC poll](#) conducted September 2-9, 2025 shows different views among AAPI voters. AAPI adults largely disapprove of how Trump is handling a

range of issues. Compared with the general public, more AAPI adults disapprove of how he is handling trade with other countries (75% vs. 63%), the Israeli - Palestinian conflict (75% vs. 60%), foreign policy (74% vs. 59%), immigration (71% vs. 56%), the economy (74% vs. 62%), and crime (63% vs. 53%).

## 2026 Midterm Elections

According to a recent [PRRI poll](#) conducted August 15 - September 8, if the 2026 midterm elections were held today, 33% of Americans say they would vote for the Democratic candidate, 30% say they would vote for the Republican candidate, 20% say they do not know who they would vote for, and one in ten (12%) say they would not vote in the midterms. By race and ethnicity, white Americans are more likely to say they would vote for the Republican candidate (39%) over the Democratic candidate (30%), while Black (46% vs. 8%), multiracial (38% vs. 21%), AAPI (37% vs. 18%), and Hispanic Americans (35% vs. 19%) are more likely to say they would vote for the Democratic than the Republican candidate.

An [October Emerson College poll](#) shows a similarly small lean toward Democratic candidates among U.S. voters. Among AAPI voters, they lean Democratic by about 11 percentage points. An interesting note is that 59% of AAPI voters in the same poll approve of President Trump's job performance.

2026 Midterm Elections: Views of U.S. Adults/Voters (by race & ethnicity)							
	Total	White	Black	Hispanic	Asian/PI	Other	
<i>If the midterm elections for the House of Representatives were held today, who would you be most likely to vote for?</i>							
<b>Emerson College Polling</b>							
The Democratic candidate	43.9%	37.9%	<b>73.6%</b>	41.0%	<b>47.7%</b>	34.3%	
The Republican candidate	42.5%	<b>51.1%</b>	13.5%	35.3%	37.1%	<b>55.7%</b>	
Undecided	13.6%	11.0%	12.8%	23.7%	15.1%	10.0%	
<b>PRRI Poll</b>							
The Democratic candidate	33.0%	30.0%	46.0%	35.0%	<b>37.0%</b>	38.0%	
The Republican candidate	30.0%	39.0%	8.0%	19.0%	18.0%	21.0%	

Sources: Emerson College Polling October 2025 national survey of U.S. registered voters conducted on October 13-14; PRRI survey of U.S. adults conducted August 15- September 8, 2025.

## Notable Opinions of the Month

### [Democracy's Crisis of Faith](#)

Fareed Zakaria

The Washington Post (October 24, 2025)

A recent [Pew Research Center survey](#) of 23 countries finds that a median of 58 percent of adults are dissatisfied with how their democracy works. In the United States, more than 60 percent share that view. Fareed Zakaria, a Washington Post columnist and CNN anchor, writes "In the U.S., inflation, Vietnam and Watergate had eroded public confidence during the 1970's. Yet in the 1980s, things turned around. Economic reform and technological dynamism restored faith. Within a decade, communism collapsed,

and liberal democracy stood triumphant... But today's malaise feels different — and deeper..... The 1970s crisis ended when leaders set about making democracy deliver. The people had doubted government competence but not its legitimacy. Today's challenge is moral, not managerial. Institutions still function, but they have lost their aura of fairness.”

### [Trump's Crackdown on Chinese Students Ignores a Startling New Reality](#)

Bethany Allen and Jenny Wong Leung

The New York Times (October 19, 2025)

In a recent guest essay, Allen and Leung of the Australian Strategic Policy Institute argue that President Trump and other influential Republicans' push to stop Chinese students from enrolling [in strategic technology fields](#) at top U.S. colleges and universities overlooks a startling new reality. That is, China is already surpassing the United States in science and technology research. Chinese students no longer need to go to America for world-class research experience in certain critical emerging technologies. Allen and Leung write, “Barring China's best minds from American campuses will only drive more of them into a Chinese academic research system increasingly integrated with the country's defense sector and geared toward building national power.” It will put China in a position to claim leadership in science, weakening American competitiveness and national security.

(More opinion essays can be found on the Opinion page of the [AAIPP website](#))

### [Recent Releases](#)

#### [Expiring ACA Premium Tax Credits Could Lead to Nearly 340,000 Jobs Lost Across the U.S. in 2026](#)

The Commonwealth Fund (October 16, 2025)

In this brief, researchers draw on recent data provided by the Urban Institute and the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) to update their analysis from earlier this year exploring the economic impact of letting the enhanced ACA marketplace tax credits expire. CBO estimated that it would cost the federal government \$31 billion to restore the expiring credits and make related changes.

#### [Trump receives worse marks with AAPI adults than general public on key issues](#)

AAPI Data / AP-NORC (October 15, 2025)

As the Trump administration intensifies its enforcement of policies targeting illegal immigration, this new AAPI Data/AP-NORC Poll conducted September 2-9, 2025 shows growing disapproval among AAPI adults of its approach. More AAPI adults disapprove of President Trump's handling of immigration than six months ago (71% vs. 58%), and two-thirds say Trump's deportation policies have gone too far.

#### [How Americans View the Israel-Hamas Conflict 2 Years into the War](#)

Pew Research Center (October 3, 2025)

About six-in-ten Americans now have an unfavorable view of the Israeli government, with a rising share saying Israel is 'going too far'. This recent national survey conducted Sept. 22-28 among 3,445 adults, finds that 42% of U.S. adults disapprove of the Trump

administration's response to the conflict between Israel and Hamas, while 30% approve. Roughly a quarter (27%) say they are not sure

### [KFF Health Tracking Poll: Public Weighs Political Consequences of Health Policy Legislation](#)

KFF (October 3, 2025)

As Congress debates federal health care spending as part of spending bill negotiations, including extending the enhanced premium tax credits, the latest KFF Health Tracking Poll finds three-quarters (78%) of adults say Congress should extend the enhanced tax credits for people who buy their own insurance through the ACA Marketplace. This is more than three times the share of the public (22%) who say Congress should let the credits expire. Notably, majorities across political party want Congress to extend the tax credits including nine in ten (92%) Democrats, eight in ten (82%) independents, and six in ten (59%) Republicans.

### [Changing Origins, Rising Numbers: Unauthorized Immigrants in the United States](#) Migration Policy Institute (October 2025)

This fact sheet sketches the changes in the unauthorized immigrant population, drawing on a unique MPI methodology that allows the assignment of legal status in data from the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS). It provides key information on countries/regions of birth, years of U.S. residence, top job sectors, workforce participation, educational attainment, family composition, U.S. destinations, and more. Among the findings, 6% of total unauthorized immigrants in the U.S. in 2023 came from Asia. Of those, 34% came from the Philippines, 23% from India, 20% from China/Hong Kong, and 13% from Korea.

### [4.8 Million People Will Lose Coverage in 2026 If Enhanced Premium Tax Credits Expire](#) Urban Institute and the Commonwealth Fund (September 2025)

In this brief, the Urban Institute estimates the impact on coverage of the expiration of enhanced PTCs that would occur in 2026 without action by Congress. It models these scenarios against a baseline that incorporates the rules expected to be in effect in 2026, including the major provisions of the OBBBA that will be in effect in 2026 and 2026 provisions of the Marketplace Integrity and Affordability rule released by the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS),<sup>3</sup> except for provisions stayed by a Maryland District Court on August 22.

#### **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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