

2018 Asian American Voter Survey

Sponsored by Civic Leadership USA

*In partnership with Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance
AFL-CIO (APALA), and Asian Americans Advancing Justice / AAJC*

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Asian Americans have, for two decades, been the most rapidly growing racial group in the United States. More recently, they have also been growing significantly in their political presence, as measured by the growth of registered voters (an average increase of 850,000 every four years since 2000), voters (an average increase of 750,000 voters every four years during the same period), and members of Congress (from 5 in 2000 to 18 in 2018).

Along with the growing presence of Asian American voters is a growing interest in the opinions and priorities of this electorate. This report presents the results of interviews conducted by telephone and online from August 23 to October 4, 2018, of 1,316 registered voters who identify as Asian American, producing an overall margin of sampling error of +/- 3%. Sampling was targeted towards the six largest national origin groups that together account for more than 75% of the Asian American adult citizen population. Interviews were conducted in English, Cantonese, Mandarin, Korean, and Vietnamese, and included landlines, mobile phones, and web surveys.

Key findings of the survey include:

Trump Job Approval: Overall, about 3 in 5 Asian American registered voters disapproved of Donald Trump's job as President, while only about a third approved. This is a significant contrast from our last midterm survey in 2014, where one half of Asian American registered voters approved of Barack Obama's job as president, while one third disapproved. Vietnamese Americans are the only group who give President Trump a net approval rating.

Party Prospects in 2018 Midterms: Democratic Party candidates enjoy strong advantages among Asian American voters when compared to Republican candidates, both in U.S. Senate races (52%-28%) and in House races (50%-28%). Vietnamese American voters prefer Republican candidates in House races, and Filipino voters outside of California have a slight preference for Republican Senate candidates.

Party Favorability: Asian American registered voters hold a net unfavorable view of the Republican Party, with 52% viewing the party unfavorably and 34% viewing it favorably. At the same time, Asian American registered voters give the Democratic Party a large net favorable rating (58%-28%).

Government Services: Asian Americans continue to support bigger government providing more services, including health care access for undocumented immigrants, over smaller government providing fewer services (44% versus 24%, see Table 6). And this support is consistent across ethnic groups, including among groups like Vietnamese Americans who are Republican-leaning.

Pathway to Citizenship: 64% of Asian Americans support, and 20% oppose, a pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants. Support for this policy is consistent across the board, including among Asian American Republicans.

Affirmative Action: 58% of Asian Americans think affirmative action programs designed to increase the number of black and minority students on college campuses are a "good thing,"

and an even larger 66% favor affirmative action programs designed to help African Americans, women, and other minorities get better access to higher education.

Gun Control: Gun control has strong and consistent support among Asian Americans. By a nearly a 7-to-1 ratio, Asian American registered voters favor stricter gun laws in the United States, with net support strongest among Chinese Americans and the foreign born. And, while Democrats show the strongest support, even Asian American Republicans favor stricter gun laws.

BACKGROUND: CONTINUED RAPID GROWTH IN THE ASIAN AMERICAN ELECTORATE

Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities are among the fastest growing populations in the United States, with immigration playing a significant role. More recently, these communities have been notable for their quickly developing civic and political infrastructure, including a growing base of voters, donors, elected officials, appointees, and public policy advocates. This transformation is ongoing, but the potential is already being realized in many states and localities, and especially in elections with narrow margins.

The number of Asian American voters in the last decade has nearly doubled from about 2 million voters in 2000¹ to 5 million voters in 2016, or about 3.7 percent of the total voting population.² Indeed, a report from the Center for American Progress and AAPI Data estimates that Asian Americans will reach 5 percent of voters nationally by 2025 and 10 percent of voters by 2044.³ In many states and localities, however, these milestones have already been achieved. For example, AAPIs are already 5 percent or more of the citizen voting age population (CVAP) in 8 states, including two (California and Hawaii) where they are over 10% of the CVAP.⁴ Looking next at counties, AAPIs are 5 percent or more of the CVAP in 104 jurisdictions, including 38 jurisdictions where they are greater than 10 percent. When looking at congressional districts, there are 11 where AAPIs account for more than 25 percent of the CVAP, 40 districts where they account for between 10 percent and 25 percent, and 57 districts where they account for between 5 percent and 10 percent.

As the population of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders has grown, so too has the number of registered voters, from about 2.4 million in 2000 to 5.8 million in 2016. More recently, there has also been a rapid growth in the civic infrastructure of AAPI communities. Since 2012, the number of AAPI-serving organizations participating in National Voter Registration Day has increased from 154 to over 317. Importantly, a growing number of community-based organizations are integrating voter registration into their regular activities and programs throughout the year. In doing so, these organizations amplify and reinforce the importance of civic engagement, especially as growing civic participation increases the ability of organizations to advocate for their communities' interests.

Continued population growth, coupled with increased voter registration and voter engagement efforts, have spurred AAPI serving organizations to participate in primary and special elections. With the opportunity to claim a greater portion of the vote share in lower turnout elections,

¹ Center for American Progress and AAPI Data, "State of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders" (2014), available at <http://ampr.gs/AAPIREports2014>.

² Estimates from the Current Population Survey Voter Supplement via <https://www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/voting-and-registration/p20-580.html>

³ Center for American Progress and AAPI Data, "State of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders" (2014), available at <http://ampr.gs/AAPIREports2014>.

⁴ For the most up-to-date data on the Citizen Voting Age population by geography, visit <http://aapidata.com/stats/>

AAPI community organizations dedicated additional resources to register and educate voters about the importance of voting in a primary election.

The most visible factor contributing to the growth of AAPI civic participation is due to the increased number of AAPI elected officials and candidates running for office. Each time a leader from the community decides to run for office or secure an appointment, they engage their network of extended family and friends to become involved. Recent years have seen a surge of Asian Americans running for Congress, from 8 in 2008 and 10 in 2010, to 30 in 2012,⁵ 39 in 2014,⁶ 40 in 2016⁷, to over 80 in 2018.⁸

⁵ Jeffrey Stein, “With Surging Numbers, Asian-Americans Look for Congressional Gains” (2012) CNN, available at <http://www.cnn.com/2012/07/15/politics/asian-americans-congress/> (last accessed October 2014).

⁶ Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies, “Advancement in Congress with 39 AAPI Candidates in the 2014 Elections,” (2014) available at <http://apaics.org/advancement-in-congress-with-39-aapi-candidates-in-the-2014-elections/> (last accessed October 2014).

⁷ See Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies analysis at <http://apaics.org/2016-elections/>

⁸ <http://aapidata.com/blog/aapi-candidates-congress/>

MOOD OF THE ELECTORATE

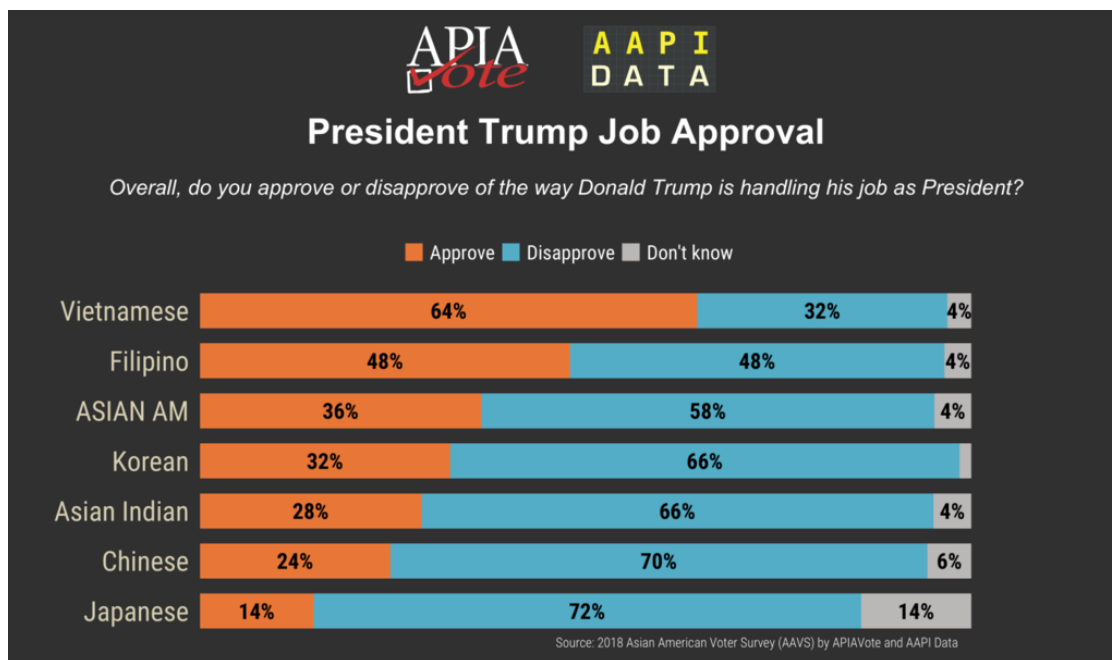
Presidential approval

Respondents were asked “Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way Donald Trump is handling his job as President?” Table 1 below presents the results for Asian Americans overall, and by national origin, gender, and nativity.

Overall, about 3 in 5 Asian American registered voters (58%) disapproved of Donald Trump’s job as President, while only about a third approved (36%). This is a significant contrast from our last midterm survey in 2014, where 50% of Asian American registered voters approved of Barack Obama’s job as president, while 36% disapproved.⁹ Asian American low approval of President Trump is in line with the low approval ratings of the American electorate in general during this period.¹⁰

There are considerable differences in approval by national origin. Vietnamese Americans are the only Asian American group with a majority that approves of President Trump’s job performance (64%), while Filipino Americans are split, and the rest express approval ratings below one third, with Japanese Americans giving President Trump the lowest approval rating (14%).

Figure 1. Trump Job Approval Among Asian American Registered Voters, Fall 2018



Source: 2018 Asian American Voter Survey (AAVS) by APIAVote and AAPI Data

⁹ See the 2014 survey at <http://aapidata.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/APV-AAJC-LeftRightCenter-oct7.pdf>

¹⁰ See a summary of several polls at <https://www.cnn.com/2018/09/11/politics/trump-approval-rating-dropped/index.html>

There are also important differences by age, with young adults (ages 18 to 34) giving President Trump the highest levels of disapproval. Differences in presidential approval by gender and nativity are more muted.

Table 1. Trump Job Approval Among Asian American Registered Voters, 2018

	Approve	Disapprove	Don't know
ASIAN AM	36%	58%	4%
Asian Indian	28%	66%	4%
Chinese	24%	70%	6%
Filipino	48%	48%	4%
Japanese	14%	72%	14%
Korean	32%	66%	2%
Vietnamese	64%	32%	4%
Male	40%	56%	4%
Female	34%	60%	6%
Native Born	36%	62%	2%
Foreign Born	38%	54%	10%
18 to 34	24%	76%	0%
35 to 49	42%	56%	4%
50 to 64	48%	46%	4%
65 plus	36%	50%	12%

Source: 2018 Asian American Voter Survey (AAVS) by APIAVote and AAPI Data

Party Favorability

Respondents were asked to rate the favorability of the Republican and Democratic parties. Asian American registered voters hold a net unfavorable view of the Republican Party, with 52% viewing the party unfavorably and 34% viewing it favorably. The net unfavorability rating for the GOP is higher than among the American public, which stands at 45% favorable-52% unfavorable according to the latest Gallup poll that coincided with our survey.¹¹ Finally, the net unfavorable rating in 2018 among Asian American registered voters is considerably higher than the 39% favorable-39% unfavorable rating the party got in our 2014 pre-election survey.¹²

Asian American registered voters give the Democratic Party a large net favorable rating (58%-28%), one that stands in sharp contrast to the party's net negative rating (44%-52%) among the general public.¹³ In addition, the Democratic Party's standing among Asian Americans is similar to its standing in 2014, when it had a rating of 55% favorable-29% unfavorable, and slightly worse than in 2016 when it had a 66%-19% favorable/unfavorable rating.¹⁴ There are some additional differences in party favorability by age, but not by gender or nativity.¹⁵

Table 2. Party Favorability Among Asian American Registered Voters, 2018

	Republican Party			Democratic Party		
	Unfavo- rable	No opinion/ never heard	Favo- rable	Unfavo- rable	No opinion/ never heard	Favo- rable
ASIAN AM	52%	14%	34%	28%	14%	58%
Asian Indian	54%	10%	36%	20%	8%	70%
Chinese	58%	24%	20%	28%	20%	52%
Filipino	44%	8%	48%	36%	12%	50%
Japanese	68%	20%	14%	26%	18%	56%
Korean	56%	10%	32%	26%	10%	62%
Vietnamese	38%	14%	48%	24%	16%	60%

Source: 2018 Asian American Voter Survey (AAVS) by APIAVote and AAPI Data

¹¹ See the Gallup Poll at <https://news.gallup.com/file/poll/243029/180924PartyFavs.pdf> and <https://news.gallup.com/poll/242906/republican-party-favorability-highest-seven-years.aspx>

¹² See the 2014 survey at <http://aapidata.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/APV-AAJC-LeftRightCenter-oct7.pdf>

¹³ See the Gallup Poll at <https://news.gallup.com/file/poll/243029/180924PartyFavs.pdf> and <https://news.gallup.com/poll/242906/republican-party-favorability-highest-seven-years.aspx>

¹⁴ See the 2016 Asian American Voter Survey (AAVS) at <http://aapidata.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/Inclusion-2016-AAVS-may23web.pdf>

¹⁵ LINK TO APPENDIX.

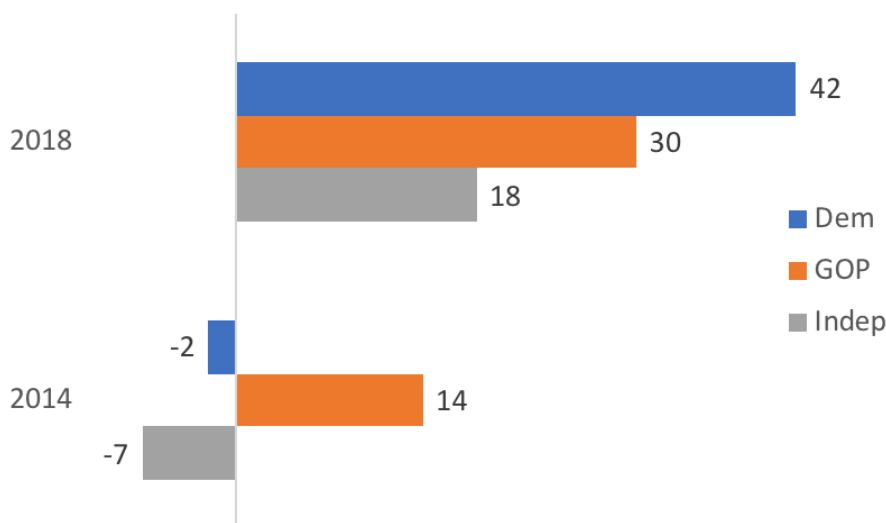
Voter Enthusiasm

Respondents were asked, “Compared to previous elections, are you more enthusiastic than usual about voting this year or less enthusiastic?” As the results indicate, Asian American registered voters overall are expressing greater enthusiasm in 2018 than they did in 2014, pointing to a midterm turnout that is potential higher than normal (Table 3). Also, Asian American Democrats have a greater net advantage in voter enthusiasm than Republicans in 2018, while the reverse was true in 2014 (Figure 2).

Table 3. Voter Enthusiasm Among Asian American Voters, Midterm Elections

	More enthusiastic	About the same	Less enthusiastic
2018	48%	28%	20%
- Democrats	58	22	16
- Republicans	52	26	22
- Independents	38	36	20
2014			
Asian Americans	28%	40%	29%
- Democrats	30	35	32
- Republicans	36	41	22
- Independents	23	44	30

Figure 2: Net Enthusiasm Among Asian American Registered Voters



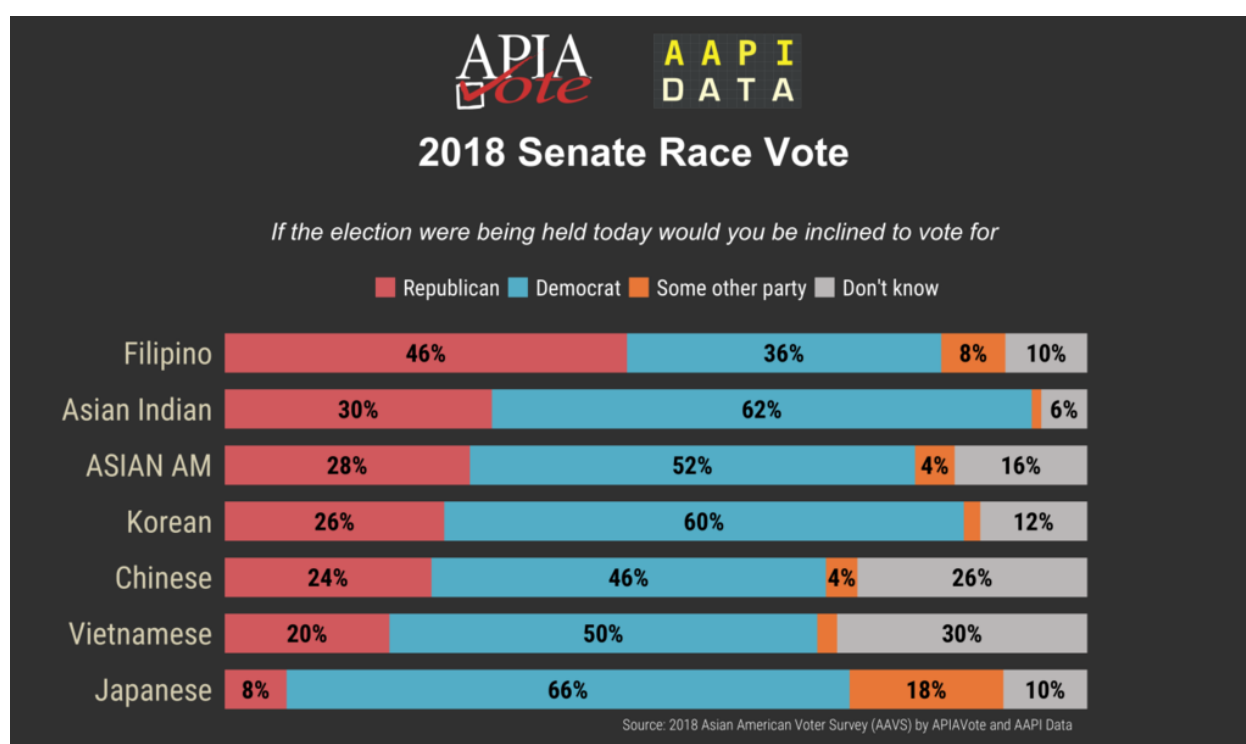
Source: 2018 Asian American Voter Survey (AAVS) by APIAVote and AAPI Data

Note: Net enthusiasm is the proportion more enthusiastic minus those less enthusiastic

Senate Races

In states where there is a Senate election in November, respondents were asked “Thinking about the upcoming November election for the U.S. Senate in your senate... If the election were being held today would you be inclined to vote for the Republican or Democratic candidate?”¹⁶ The choice of Republican and Democrat were rotated in a random order. Our results indicate that Asian American voters favor Democratic over Republican candidates by nearly a two-to-one ratio (Table 4, next page). This party advantage is particularly pronounced among young Asian Americans, and holds across all ethnic groups with the exception of Filipino Americans (Figure 3).

Figure 3. Party Preference for U.S. Senate Among Asian American Registered Voters, 2018



Source: 2018 Asian American Voter Survey (AAVS) by APIAVote and AAPI Data

Note: Data exclude California, which had two Democratic Senate candidates in the general election

¹⁶ In California, we asked voters about Dianne Feinstein and Kevin de Leon, both Democrats, and found overwhelming support for Feinstein across all Asian ethnic groups except for Japanese Americans, who were split. See <http://aapidata.com/surveys/> for more questions and detailed cross-tabs.

Table 4. Party Preference for U.S. Senate Among Asian American Registered Voters, 2018

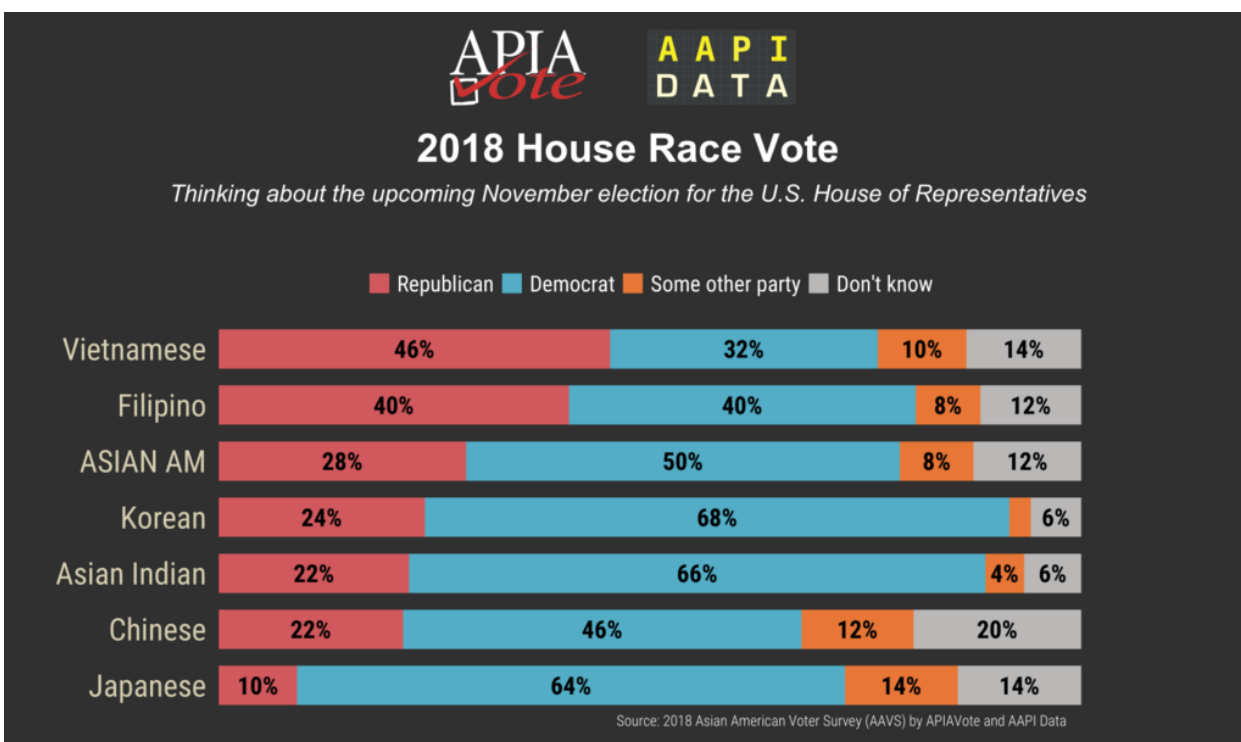
	Republican	Democrat	Some other party	Don't Know
ASIAN AM	28%	52%	4%	16%
Asian Indian	30%	62%	2%	6%
Chinese	24%	46%	4%	26%
Filipino	46%	36%	8%	10%
Japanese	8%	66%	18%	10%
Korean	26%	60%	2%	12%
Vietnamese	20%	50%	2%	30%
Male	30%	54%	2%	12%
Female	28%	50%	6%	18%
Native Born	30%	52%	2%	16%
Foreign Born	24%	50%	8%	16%
18 to 34	24%	60%	2%	12%
35 to 49	32%	44%	6%	20%
50 to 64	40%	32%	12%	16%
65 plus	22%	64%	2%	12%

Source: 2018 Asian American Voter Survey (AAVS) by APIAVote and AAPI Data

House Races

Respondents were asked “Thinking about the upcoming November election for House of Representatives in your district... If the election were being held today would you be inclined to vote for the Republican or Democratic candidate?” The choice of Republican and Democrat were rotated in a random order. As we can see from Table 5, Asian American voters favor Democratic over Republican candidates by 50% to 28%. This party advantage is particularly pronounced among young Asian Americans, and holds across all ethnic groups except for Filipinos and Vietnamese Americans.

Figure 4. Party Preference for U.S. House Among Asian American Registered Voters, 2018



Source: 2018 Asian American Voter Survey (AAVS) by APIAVote and AAPI Data

Table 5. Party Preference for U.S. House Among Asian American Registered Voters, 2018

	Republican	Democrat	Some other party	Don't Know/Ref
ASIAN AM	28%	50%	8%	12%
Asian Indian	22%	66%	4%	8%
Chinese	22%	46%	12%	20%
Filipino	40%	40%	8%	12%
Japanese	10%	64%	14%	14%
Korean	24%	68%	2%	6%
Vietnamese	46%	32%	10%	14%
Male	32%	48%	8%	12%
Female	26%	52%	8%	14%
Native Born	30%	52%	10%	10%
Foreign Born	26%	48%	6%	20%
18 to 34	22%	60%	4%	14%
35 to 49	32%	46%	12%	10%
50 to 64	40%	34%	12%	12%
65 plus	26%	54%	6%	14%

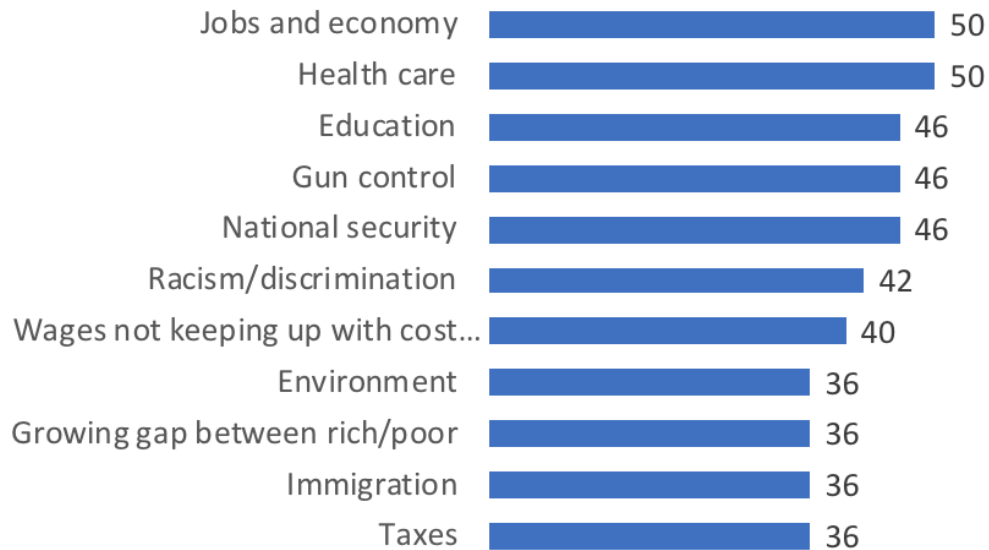
Source: 2018 Asian American Voter Survey (AAVS) by APIAVote and AAPI Data

MOST IMPORTANT ELECTION ISSUES

Respondents were asked “Now I'd like to ask you about some issues that might be important in the elections in November. Please tell me how important the following issues are to you personally in deciding how to vote.” Respondents were given a choice of “extremely important, very important, somewhat important, or not that important.”

Figure 5 presents the order of issues that Asian American registered voters ranked as extremely important, with jobs and the economy, health care, education, gun control, and national security topping the list.

**Figure 5. “Extremely” Important Election-Related Issues
Among Asian American Registered Voters, 2018**



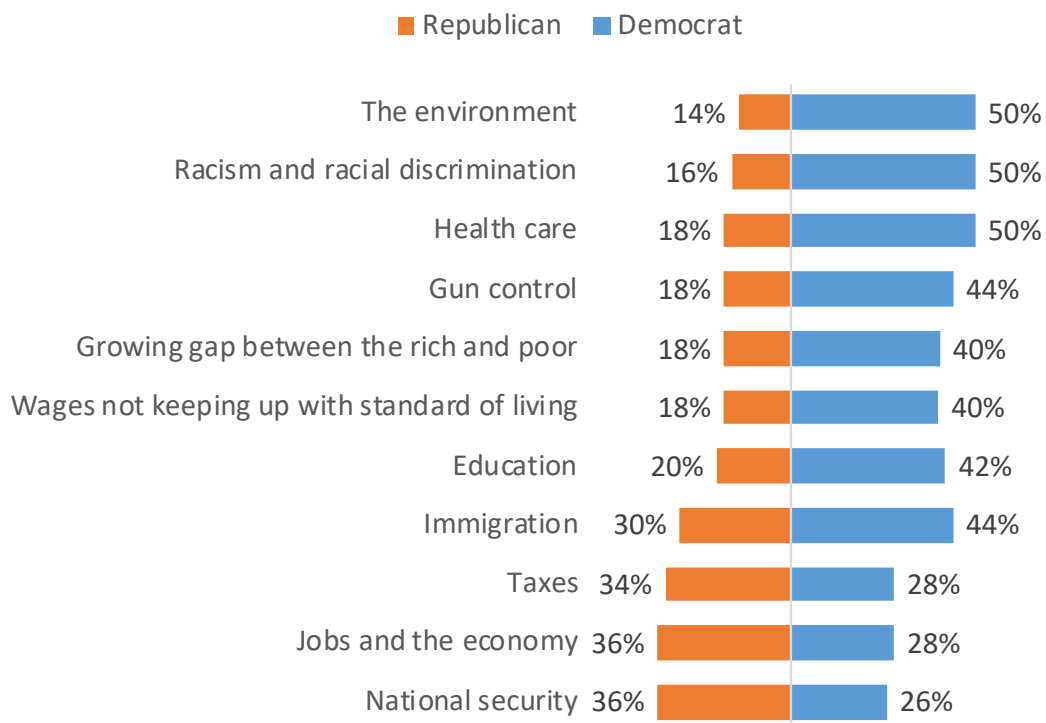
Source: 2018 Asian American Voter Survey (AAVS) by APIAVote and AAPI Data

VIEWS OF PARTIES ON ISSUES

Respondents were asked “For each of the following issues, please tell me whether you think the Democratic Party or the Republican Party is doing a better job with this issue, or if there is no difference.”

Figure 6 presents the results for Asian American registered voters overall. As we can see, the Democratic Party holds a sizable advantage on most issues, with the greatest gaps found on the environment, racial discrimination, health care, and gun control. At the same time, the Republican Party fares stronger on issues like taxes, jobs and the economy, and national security. This performance among the Republican Party is stronger than in 2014, where it held an advantage only on issues of national security.

Figure 6: Views of Party Advantage on Issues, Among Asian American Registered Voters



Source: 2018 Asian American Voter Survey (AAVS) by APIAVote and AAPI Data

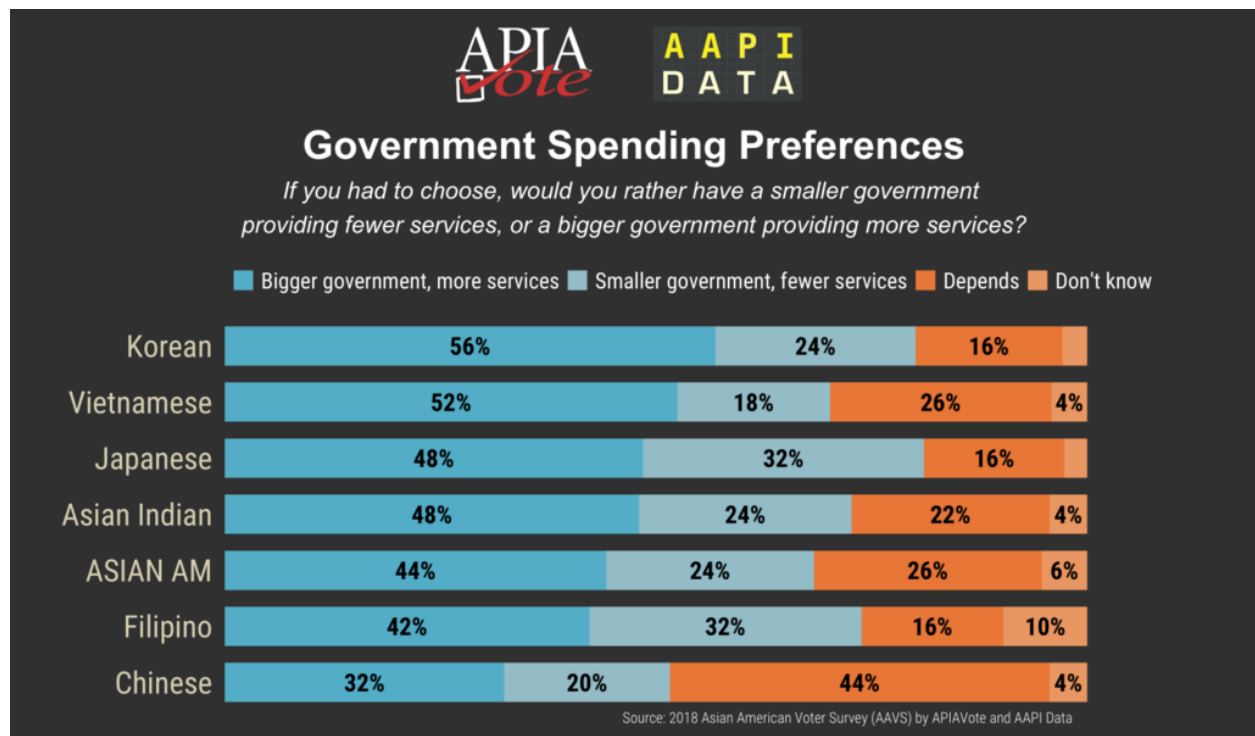
OPINION ON ISSUES

Despite variation across Asian American ethnic groups on matters of party identification, there is a strong level of consistency in opinion on a range of public policy issues.

Government Spending

We asked “If you had to choose, would you rather have a smaller government providing fewer services, or a bigger government providing more services?” This replicates a question from a Pew Research Center survey of Asian Americans in 2012, and over several years for the general population. The 2012 Pew survey of Asian Americans found consistent support for bigger government across Asian American ethnicities, at levels significantly higher than the national average.¹⁷ Just as in the 2012 Pew study, we find that Asian Americans continue to support bigger government providing more services over smaller government providing fewer services (44% versus 24%, see Table 6). And this support is consistent across ethnic groups, including among groups like Vietnamese Americans who are Republican-leaning.

Figure 7. Preferences on Government Spending, 2018



Source: 2018 Asian American Voter Survey (AAVS) by APIAVote and AAPI Data

Health Insurance for All Immigrants

Asian American support for expanded government services includes health care access for undocumented immigrants. We asked whether respondents agreed or disagreed with the statement that “the government should expand access to health insurance for all immigrants, regardless of their legal status.” Asian American registered voters supported such expansion by a 46% to 32% ratio (see Table 6 next page). There was net support for health care expansion to

¹⁷ Pew survey results can be found at <http://www.pewsocialtrends.org/2012/06/19/the-rise-of-asian-americans/>

undocumented immigrants across demographic categories, with a few exceptions: Chinese and Filipino Americans were split on the issue, while those closer to retirement age (ages 50 to 64) opposed it. Perhaps not surprisingly, Asian American Republicans are opposed to providing this kind of health care expansion.

Table 6. Opinion Among Asian American Registered Voters, 2018

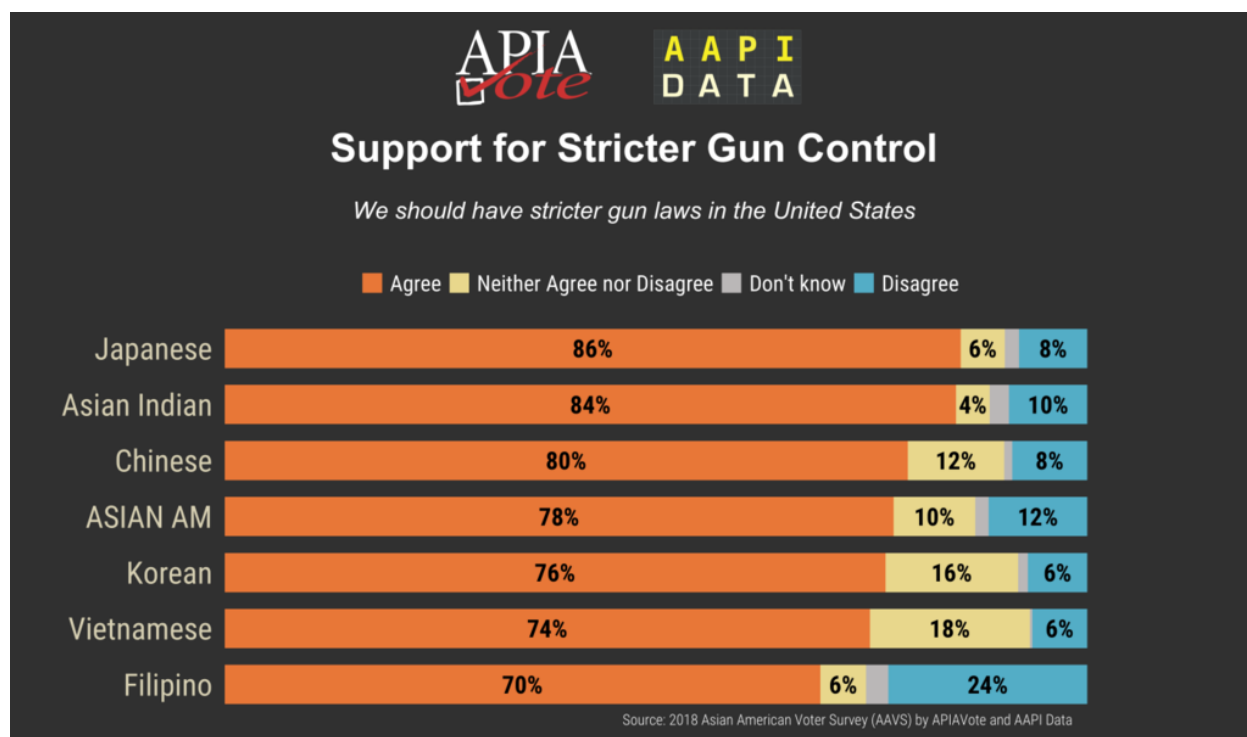
	Size of Government		Health Care for All Immigrants Regardless of Legal Status		
	Smaller govt	Bigger govt	Disagree	Neither/ Don't Know	Agree
ASIAN AM	24%	44%	32%	22%	46%
Asian Indian	24%	48%	26%	10%	64%
Chinese	20%	32%	38%	26%	36%
Filipino	32%	42%	42%	20%	40%
Japanese	32%	48%	30%	22%	46%
Korean	24%	56%	30%	24%	46%
Vietnamese	18%	52%	22%	24%	52%
Male	30%	44%	36%	16%	48%
Female	20%	44%	30%	24%	46%
Native Born	22%	44%	30%	20%	48%
Foreign Born	28%	44%	38%	20%	42%
18 to 34	24%	56%	24%	18%	58%
35 to 49	20%	36%	28%	24%	48%
50 to 64	36%	42%	52%	16%	32%
65 plus	26%	46%	42%	20%	40%
Democrat	18%	56%	20%	22%	60%
Independent	28%	30%	38%	24%	40%
Republican	28%	48%	44%	16%	38%

Source: 2018 Asian American Voter Survey (AAVS) by APIAVote and AAPI Data

Gun control

Respondents were asked if they agree or disagree with this statement: “We should have stricter gun laws in the United States.” As in findings from prior surveys,¹⁸ we find very strong and consistent support for stricter gun control among Asian Americans (See Figure 7 and Table 7). By nearly a 7-to-1 ratio, Asian American registered voters favor stricter gun laws in the United States, with net support strongest among Chinese Americans and the foreign born. And, while Democrats show the strongest support, even Asian American Republicans favor stricter gun laws.

Figure 7. Support for Stricter Gun Laws among Asian American Registered Voters, 2018



Source: 2018 Asian American Voter Survey (AAVS) by APIAVote and AAPI Data

Minimum Wage

We asked respondents if they agree or disagree with this statement: “My state government should raise the state minimum wage [above its current level / to \$15 an hour],” and respondents were randomly assigned to one of the two options. As with our findings in 2016 indicating strong support for an increase in the federal minimum wage,¹⁹ we also found strong and consistent support for an increase in the state minimum wage among Asian American registered voters (Table 7).

¹⁸ See the 2016 Asian American Voter Survey (AAVS) at <http://aapidata.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/Inclusion-2016-AAVS-may23web.pdf>

¹⁹ See the 2016 Asian American Voter Survey (AAVS) at <http://aapidata.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/Inclusion-2016-AAVS-may23web.pdf>

Table 7. Opinion Among Asian American Registered Voters, 2018

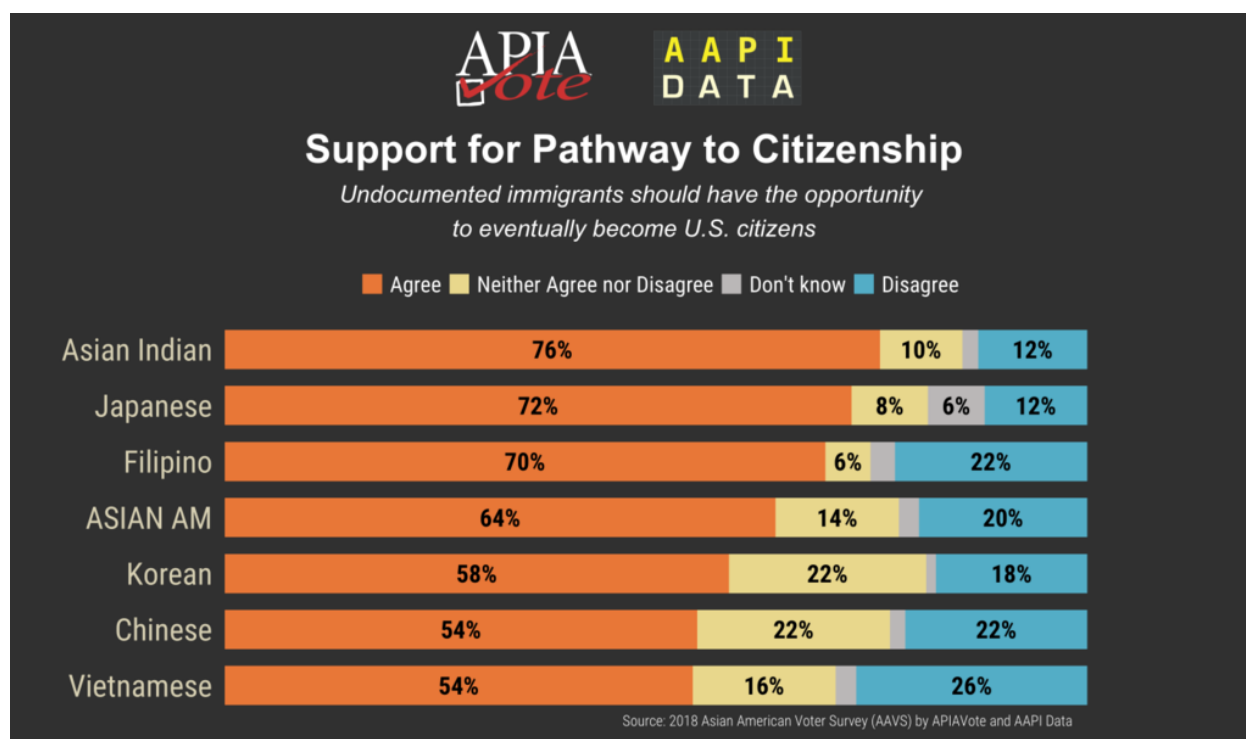
	Stricter Gun Laws Needed			Raise State Minimum Wage		
	Disagree	Neither/ Don't Know	Agree	Disagree	Neither/ Don't Know	Agree
ASIAN AM	12%	12%	78%	18%	18%	64%
Asian Indian	10%	6%	84%	10%	10%	80%
Chinese	8%	12%	80%	14%	26%	60%
Filipino	24%	8%	70%	24%	12%	66%
Japanese	8%	8%	86%	24%	20%	56%
Korean	6%	18%	76%	18%	30%	52%
Vietnamese	6%	18%	74%	30%	12%	56%
Male	16%	12%	72%	22%	18%	60%
Female	8%	10%	82%	16%	18%	66%
Native Born	12%	14	74%	18%	16%	64%
Foreign Born	8%	8%	84%	18%	18%	62%
18 to 34	14%	12%	74%	18%	18%	64%
35 to 49	8%	12%	82%	16%	18%	65%
50 to 64	20%	16%	62%	24%	18%	58%
65 plus	8%	6%	86%	20%	20%	60%
Democrat	6%	8%	88%	10%	16%	74%
Independent	10%	12%	78%	18%	20%	62%
Republican	24%	16%	60%	34%	14%	50%

Source: 2018 Asian American Voter Survey (AAVS) by APIAVote and AAPI Data

Pathway to Citizenship

Respondents were asked if they agree or disagree with the statement: “Undocumented immigrants should have the opportunity to eventually become U.S. citizens.” Consistent with past support,²⁰ Asian American registered voters support a pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants, with 64% in support and 20% opposed (see Figure 8 and Table 8). Support for this policy is consistent across the board, including among Asian American Republicans.

Figure 8. Support for Pathway to Citizenship among Asian American Registered Voters, 2018



Source: 2018 Asian American Voter Survey (AAVS) by APIAVote and AAPI Data

Public Charge

In September 2018, the Trump administration announced a rule that would make it more difficult for legal immigrants to renew their green cards or obtain U.S. citizenship if they utilize government benefits.²¹ This move was widely anticipated for several months.²² Anticipating this change in policy, we asked respondents if they agree or disagree with this statement: “It is all right for the federal government to take away the legal status of immigrants with green cards who have used government assistance.” We find considerable opposition to this policy among Asian American registered voters (Table 8), with 52% opposed and 26% in favor. Opposition is

²⁰ See question Q14E in the Appendix of the 2016 Asian American Voter Survey (AAVS) at <http://aapidata.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/Inclusion-2016-AAVS-may23web.pdf>

²¹ See <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/immigration/trump-admin-rule-would-deny-visas-green-cards-immigrants-who-n910791>

²² Story in August 2018 from NBC News: <https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/immigration/now-trump-administration-wants-limit-citizenship-legal-immigrants-n897931>

consistent across all groups, with the notable exception of Asian American Republicans who are split on this policy.

Table 8. Opinion Among Asian American Registered Voters, 2018

Pathway to Citizenship				Restrict Green Cards for Immigrants Using Govt. Assistance		
	Disagree	Neither/ Don't Know	Agree	Disagree	Neither/ Don't Know	Agree
ASIAN AM	20%	16%	64%	50%	22%	26%
Asian Indian	12%	12%	76%	54%	22%	26%
Chinese	22%	24%	54%	48%	30%	24%
Filipino	22%	8%	70%	50%	14%	34%
Japanese	12%	14%	72%	48%	28%	24%
Korean	18%	24%	58%	56%	30%	14%
Vietnamese	26%	18%	54%	50%	16%	34%
Male	20%	16%	66%	50%	22%	28%
Female	20%	18%	62%	52%	24%	26%
Native Born	14%	16%	70%	52%	22%	28%
Foreign Born	30%	18%	52%	50%	24%	26%
18 to 34	8%	14%	78%	54%	20%	28%
35 to 49	22%	20%	56%	50%	22%	26%
50 to 64	28%	12%	58%	40%	26%	32%
65 plus	26%	16%	58%	52%	26%	22%
Democrat	8%	14%	78%	64%	18%	18%
Independent	22%	20%	58%	46%	28%	26%
Republican	36%	14%	50%	36%	24%	40%

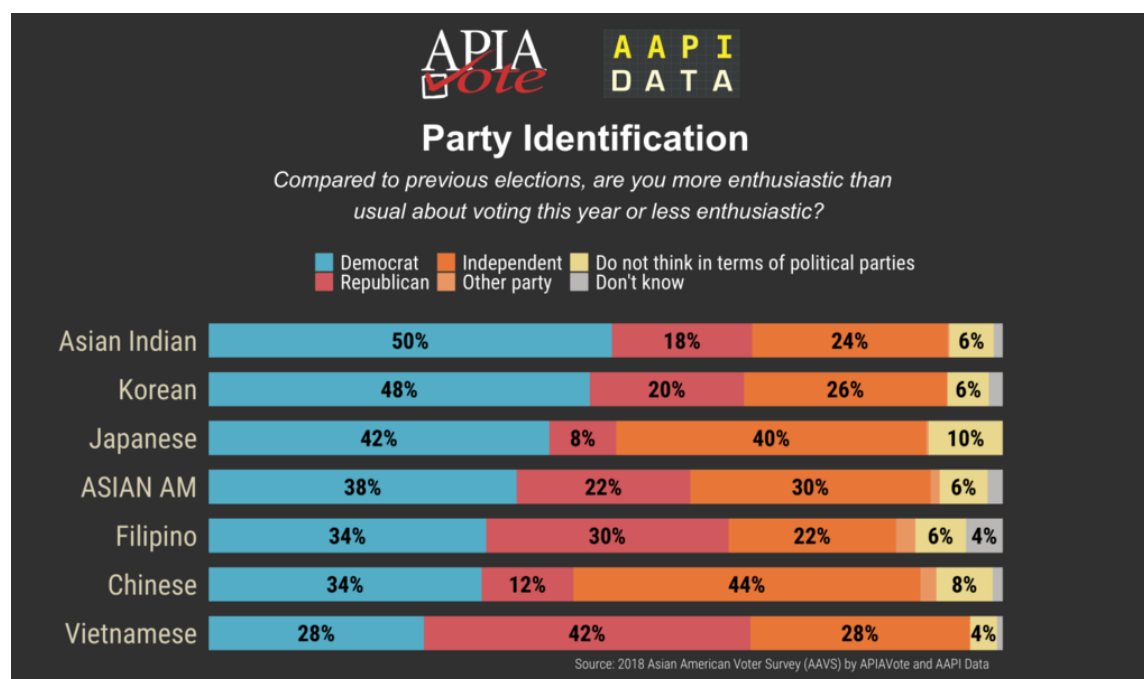
Source: 2018 Asian American Voter Survey (AAVS) by APIAVote and AAPI Data

PARTY IDENTIFICATION

Ever since the arrival of national, in-language polling on Asian Americans in 2008, one finding has remained fairly consistent: Asian Americans may vote for Democrats and may hold progressive opinions on a range of issues, but they have tended to have weak party identification. As noted in prior studies, this pattern is largely due to the fact that Asian Americans are the most heavily immigrant racial group in the United States, and have had far less experience with political parties.²³ At the same time, studies have also found that, among Asian Americans who identify with a party, Democrats outnumber Republicans by about a 2-to-1 ratio.²⁴

As we can see in Table 9, our 2018 survey shows a similar pattern, of relatively high proportion of Asian American registered voters who do not identify with either party (38% can be classified as Non-Identifiers, with 30% identifying as Independent, 2% saying that they do not know and 6% saying that they do not think of themselves in terms of political parties). Democratic Party identification is strongest among Indian Americans and weakest among Vietnamese Americans, while Republican Party identification is strongest among Vietnamese Americans. Finally, there are also some significant differences in party identification by age and nativity.

Figure 9. Party Identification among Asian American Registered Voters, 2018



Source: 2018 Asian American Voter Survey (AAVS) by APIAVote and AAPI Data

²³ See Center for American Progress and AAPI Data, “State of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders,” available at <http://ampr.gs/AAPIREports2014>

²⁴ See the 2016 Asian American Voter Survey (AAVS) at <http://aapidata.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/05/Inclusion-2016-AAVS-may23web.pdf> and the 2014 survey at <http://aapidata.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/APV-AAJC-LeftRightCenter-oct7.pdf>

Table 9. Party Identification Among Asian American Registered Voters, 2018

	Democrat	Non-Identifier	Republican
ASIAN AM	38%	38%	22%
Asian Indian	50%	32%	18%
Chinese	34%	54%	12%
Filipino	34%	32%	30%
Japanese	42%	50%	8%
Korean	48%	34%	20%
Vietnamese	28%	32%	42%
Male	36%	38%	26%
Female	42%	40%	18%
Native Born	42%	36%	22%
Foreign Born	32%	42%	24%
18 to 34	52%	34%	14%
35 to 49	36%	42%	22%
50 to 64	24%	38%	34%
65 plus	36%	42%	24%

Source: 2018 Asian American Voter Survey (AAVS) by APIAVote and AAPI Data

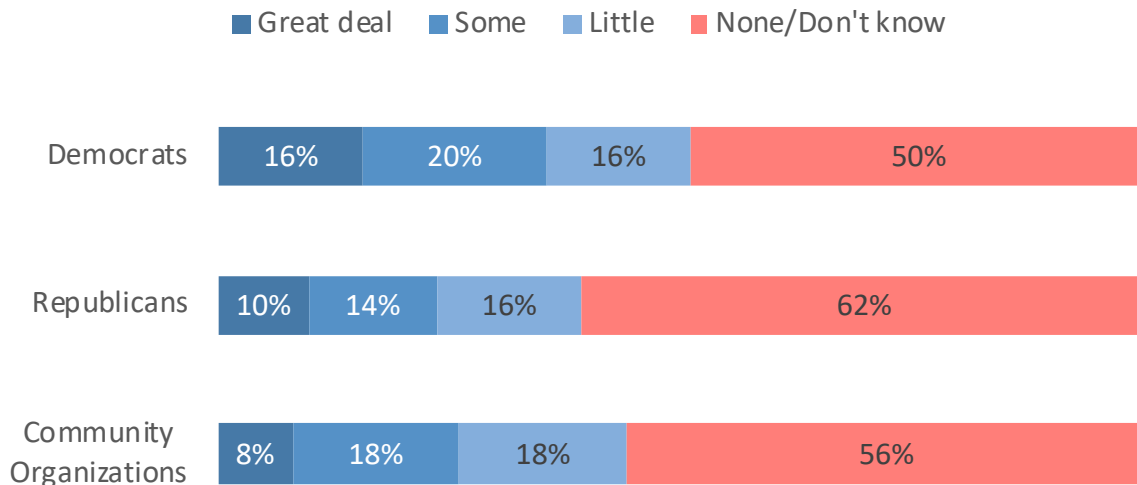
Note: "Some other party" not included

VOTER CONTACT

Respondents were asked whether they were contacted by the Democratic Party, Republican Party, and community organizations, “have you been contacted any of the following groups in the past year: a great deal, some, a little, or not at all?”

We find that, by and large, Asian American registered voters are not being contacted by either Democrats or Republicans (Figure 10). About 1 in 2 Asian American registered voters reported being contacted by Democrats, with 16 percent reported being contacted “a great deal.” A smaller proportion of voters (40%) reported being contacted by Republicans, with 10 percent saying they were contacted “a great deal.” Finally, 44% of registered voters said they were contacted by community organizations. These are all significant improvements since 2014, where 35% were contacted by Democrats, 26% by Republicans, and 28% by community organizations.²⁵

Figure 10. Reports of contact by political parties/candidates and community organizations



Source: 2018 Asian American Voter Survey (AAVS) by APIAVote and AAPI Data

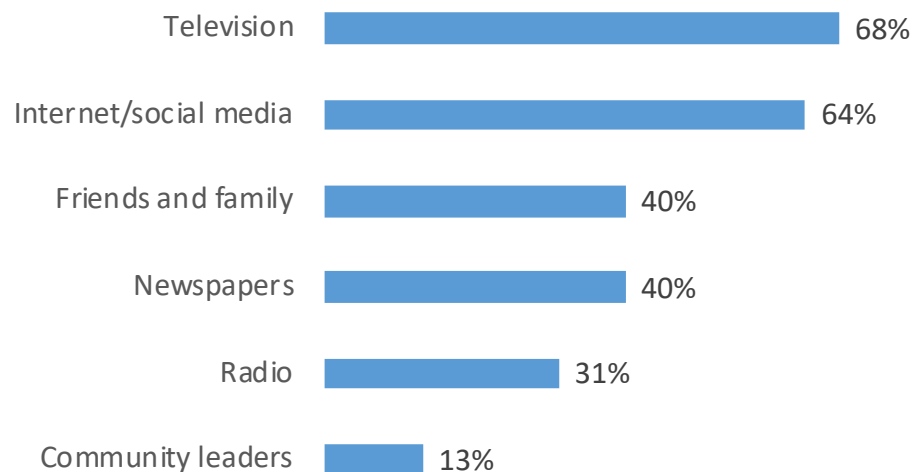
²⁵ See the 2014 survey at <http://aapidata.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/APV-AAJC-LeftRightCenter-oct7.pdf>

IMPORTANCE OF ETHNIC MEDIA

Asian Americans have among the highest rates of limited English proficiency (35%) and languages other than English spoken at home (77%).²⁶ As a consequence, it is important to gauge the extent to which Asian American registered voters get their political news from mainstream or ethnic news sources. Respondents were asked: “Thinking about news, which of the following sources would you say you use to get news about politics in the United States?” Choices included “newspapers, radio, television, Internet and social media, friends and family, and community organizations and leaders in my community.”

As we can see from Figure 11, television is the most frequent sources of information, followed by Internet/social media, and newspapers. These figures are very similar to those we found in 2014.²⁷ Of note: Asian American youth, ages 18 to 34, are significantly less likely to rely on television (59%) and newspapers (30%), and more likely to rely on Internet/social media (80%).

Figure 11. Sources of News About Politics, Asian American Registered Voters, 2016



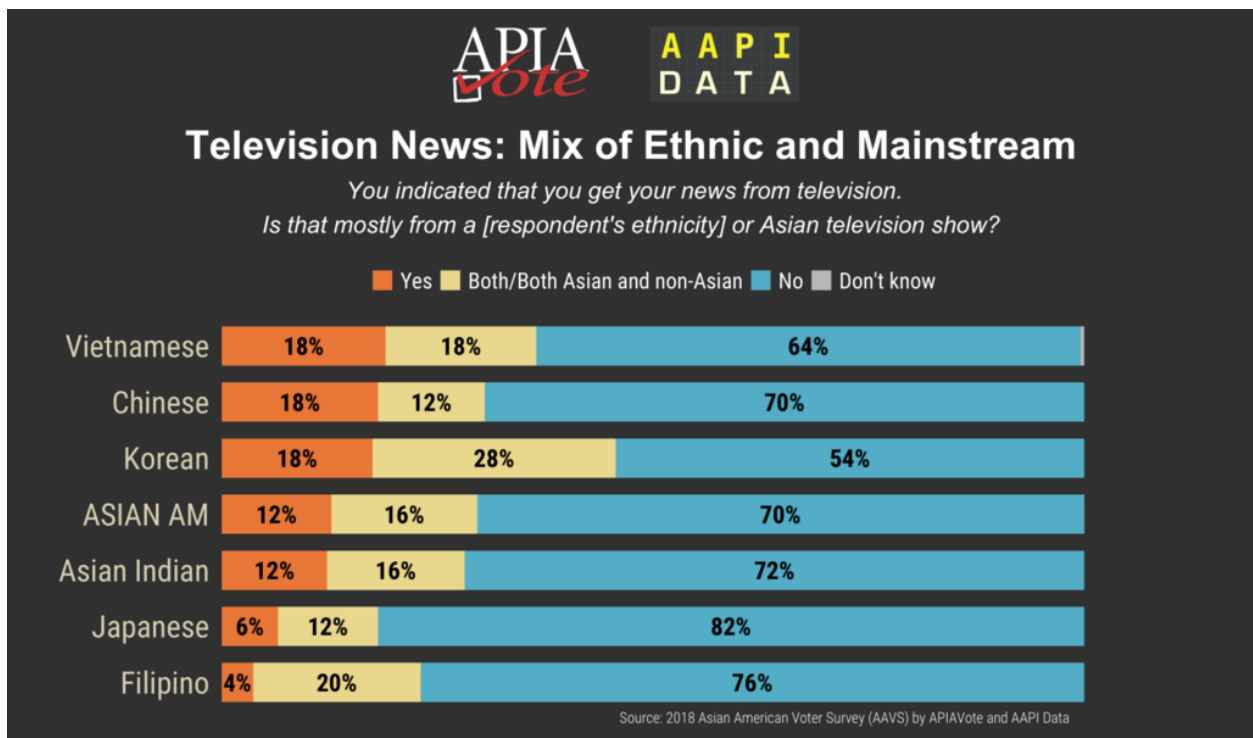
Source: 2018 Asian American Voter Survey (AAVS) by APIAVote and AAPI Data

²⁶ Center for American Progress and AAPI Data, “State of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders” (2014), available at <http://ampr.gs/AAPIREports2014>.

²⁷ See the 2014 survey at <http://aapidata.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/10/APV-AAJC-LeftRightCenter-oct7.pdf>

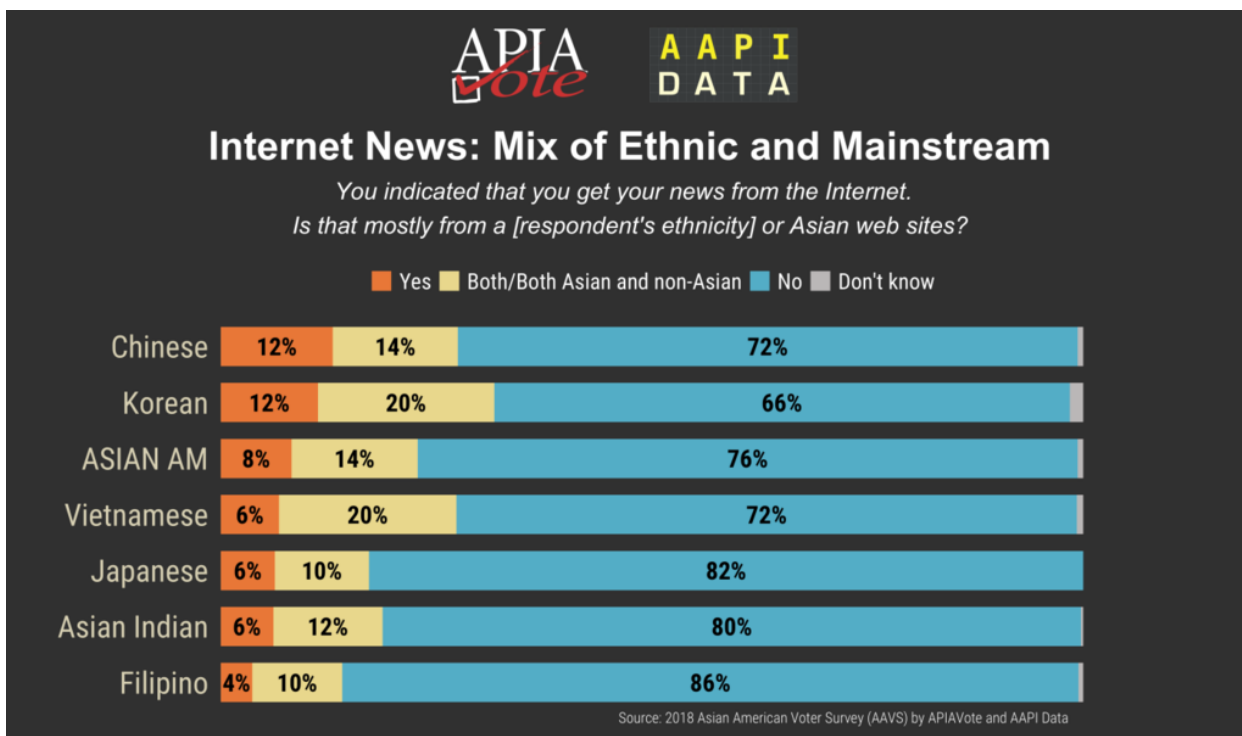
Next, for every media source selected, we asked respondents if the sources were Asian or ethnic-oriented (we also allowed them to say that they consumed both mainstream and ethnic news from that particular type of source). In Figures 11a through 11d, we present the findings on ethnic media utilization across source types. There are important differences that emerge by national origin, as Korean Americans and Vietnamese Americans are those most likely to be exclusive consumers of Asian media. Those consuming news from Internet and social media were least likely to rely on ethnic sources, although the proportions were still relatively high for Chinese Americans and Korean Americans.

Figure 11a. Reliance on Ethnic Media (Television), Asian American Registered Voters, 2018



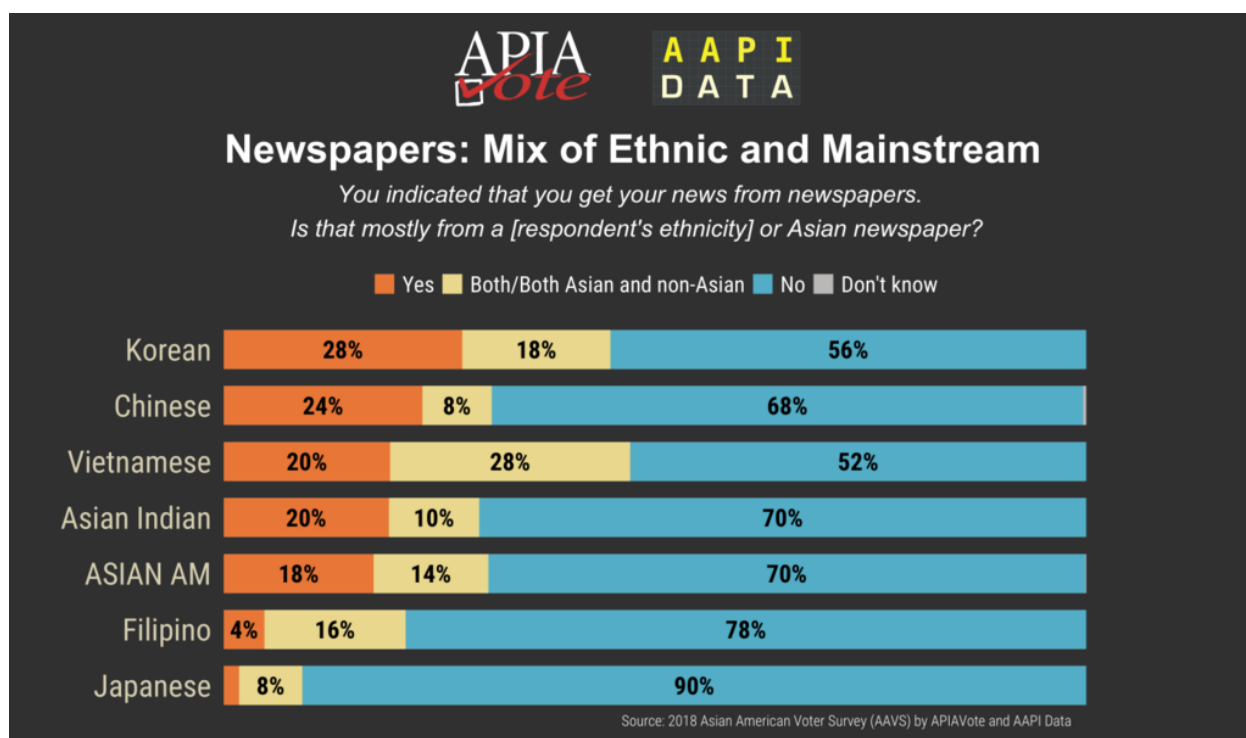
Note: Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding

Figure 11b. Reliance on Ethnic Media (Internet), Asian American Registered Voters, 2018



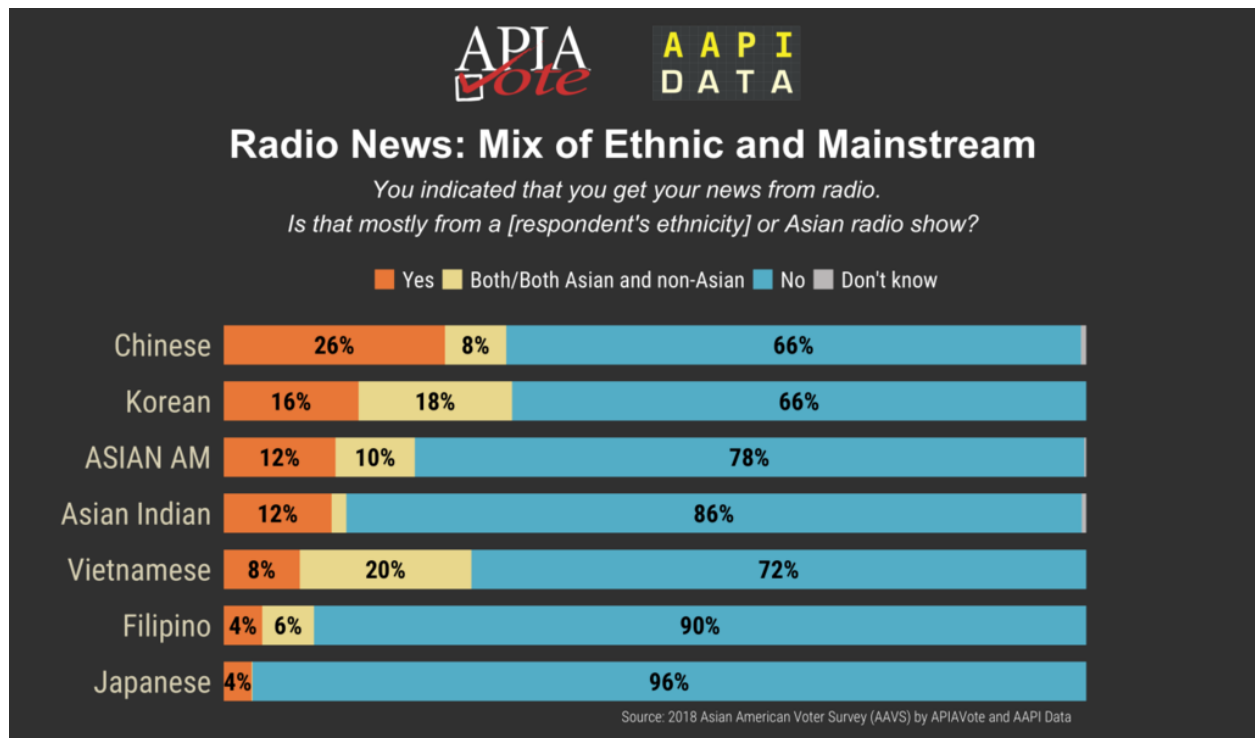
Note: Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding

Figure 11c. Reliance on Ethnic Media (Newspapers), Asian American Registered Voters, 2018



Note: Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding

Figure 11d. Reliance on Ethnic Media (Radio), Asian American Registered Voters, 2018



Note: Totals may not add to 100% due to rounding

Methodology

This report presents the results of interviews conducted by telephone and online from August 23 to October 4, 2018, of 1,316 registered voters who identify as Asian American, producing an overall margin of sampling error of +/- 3%. Sampling was targeted towards the six largest national origin groups that together account for more than 75% of the Asian American adult citizen population. Interviews were conducted in English, Cantonese, Mandarin, Korean, and Vietnamese, and included landlines, mobile phones, and web surveys.

The sample sizes by ethnicity are as follows, along with an estimation of the margin of error associated with each sample size (in parentheses):

Total: 1,316 (+/- 3%)

Asian Indian: 227 (+/- 7%)

Chinese: 230 (+/- 7%)

Filipino: 205 (+/- 7%)

Japanese: 218 (+/- 7%)

Korean: 217 (+/- 6%)

Vietnamese: 219 (+/- 6%)

Sampling error from the size of our sample is only one type of error possible in surveys like the 2018 Asian American Voter Survey (AAVS). Findings may also be subject to variation from question wording, question order, and the time and date when the survey was conducted. The findings in this report are weighted statistically to account for any demographic differences of interest between the sample and population parameters for analyses of the national Asian American population, as well as for subgroups of the population, on the following dimensions: size of group within a state, educational attainment, gender, age, and nativity.

Contact information

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