



The Associated Press-NORC  
Center for Public Affairs Research

# MOST WITHIN AAPI COMMUNITIES ARE PESSIMISTIC ABOUT THE CURRENT STATE OF POLITICS AND LACK TRUST IN THE COUNTRY'S MAJOR INSTITUTIONS

## EIGHT IN TEN AAPI ADULTS ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE ROLE OF MISINFORMATION IN U.S. ELECTIONS.

With about a month until the first presidential primaries and caucuses, a new AAPI Data/AP-NORC survey finds 68% of people within Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities, including 6 in 10 Democrats, believe the country is heading in the wrong direction. Despite political differences, about half disapprove of President Biden, and there is a lack of confidence in major institutions. Although the AAPI community is pessimistic, their outlook is comparatively less dour than the general public's view. In November 2023, 81% said the country is heading in the wrong direction and approval for the president's performance was just 38%.

Trust in the political parties among AAPI communities remains on par with the rest of the United States, generally low, but varied across issues, with 3 in 10 trusting Republicans on the economy, while Democrats are trusted more on climate change (50%) and student debt (44%).

Concerns about misinformation in the U.S. election are high (83%), surpassing concerns about voter suppression (46%), voter fraud (31%), and limitations on free speech (41%).



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### Three Things You Should Know

About the AAPI Data/AP-NORC Poll Among Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander adults in the U.S.;

- 1) 12% say democracy in the U.S. is working well.
- 2) 17% are confident in the people running state government. Just one in ten feel the same about the Supreme Court and the executive branch, while only 4% are confident in Congress.
- 3) 83% are concerned about the influence of misinformation in the election.

The survey also finds low confidence in political parties' presidential nomination processes, with 27% confident in the Democrats' process and 20% in the Republicans'. AAPI adults are generally not optimistic about the future of either the Democratic (28%) or Republican (15%) parties.

Just 1 in 10 AAPI adults believe democracy is functioning well, though another 47% say it is functioning somewhat well. Most (75%) think the views of ordinary citizens should be important for shaping policies in this country. Fewer think the views of people from similar backgrounds (64%), their own political party (34%), what policy makers think is best (31%), or interest groups (7%) should be important factors.

Confidence in the people running government institutions is also low among AAPI adults. Only 17% express confidence in their state government, though the states are doing better than federal institutions - roughly one in ten are confident in the Supreme Court (12%) and the executive branch (11%), while just 4% feel the same about Congress.

Generational differences within AAPI communities are pronounced, particularly in matters of political trust and priorities for who should shape the country's laws and policies. AAPI adults under 30 are more skeptical of both Republicans and Democrats on the economy than those aged 60 and older. Thirty-eight percent of AAPI adults under 30 have no trust in either party, compared to 19% of those aged 60 and older.

In terms of governance preferences, about half oppose having a president who bends rules to get things done, or state legislatures able to overturn the results of a presidential election. A similar share favor having experts, not politicians, make decisions about what they think is best for the country (58%), while about half support military leaders refusing unconstitutional orders (47%).

The survey also disentangles the political leanings of AAPI communities, with about half (52%) identifying as Democrats, just over a quarter (27%) identifying as Republican, and about one in five (21%) identifying as independent or having no party attachment.

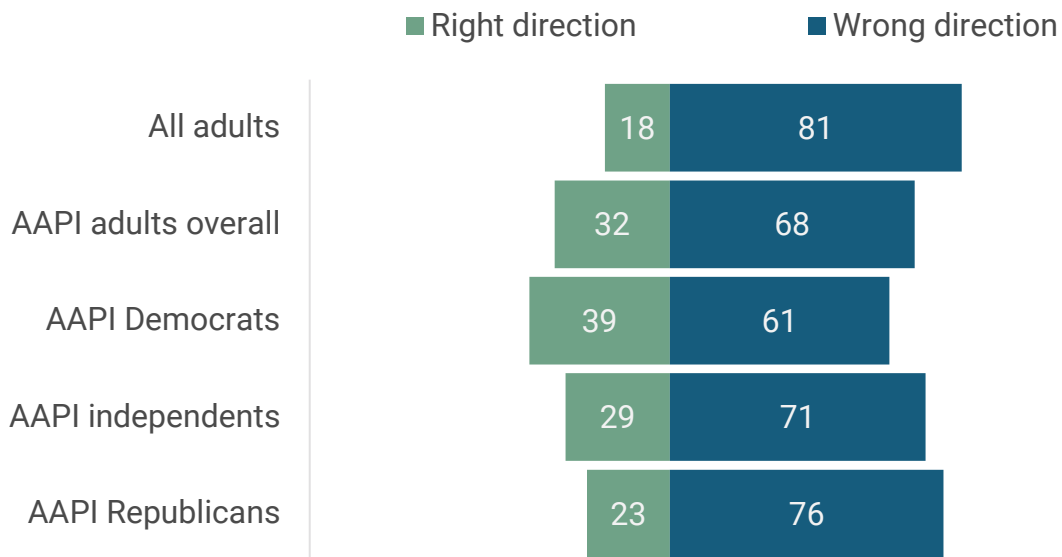
The nationwide study was conducted by The AP-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research and AAPI Data from November 6-15, 2023, using the Amplify AAPI Monthly survey drawing from NORC's Amplify AAPI® Panel designed to be representative of the U.S. Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander household population. Online and telephone interviews were offered in English, the Chinese dialects of Mandarin and Cantonese, Vietnamese, and Korean with 1,113 Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islanders aged 18 and older living in the United States. The margin of sampling error is +/- 4.4 percentage points.

## ALTHOUGH AAPI ADULTS ARE NEARLY TWICE AS LIKELY AS THE REST OF THE POPULATION TO SAY THE COUNTRY IS HEADING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION, MOST HOLD A PESSIMISTIC VIEW REGARDING THE STATE OF AFFAIRS IN THE U.S.

AAPI adults are more likely than [U.S. adults overall to think the country is heading in the right direction, but most still believe it is going in the wrong direction.](#) Within AAPI communities, majorities in both parties have a pessimistic view, though Republicans are more pessimistic than Democrats.

### AAPI adults are more likely to believe the country is heading in the right direction, but most are pessimistic.

Percent of adults



**Question:** Generally speaking, would you say things in this country are heading in the...

**Source:** AAPI Data/AP-NORC Poll conducted November 6-15, 2023 with 1,115 AAPI adults nationwide and AP-NORC Poll conducted November 2-6, 2023 with 1,121 adults nationwide.



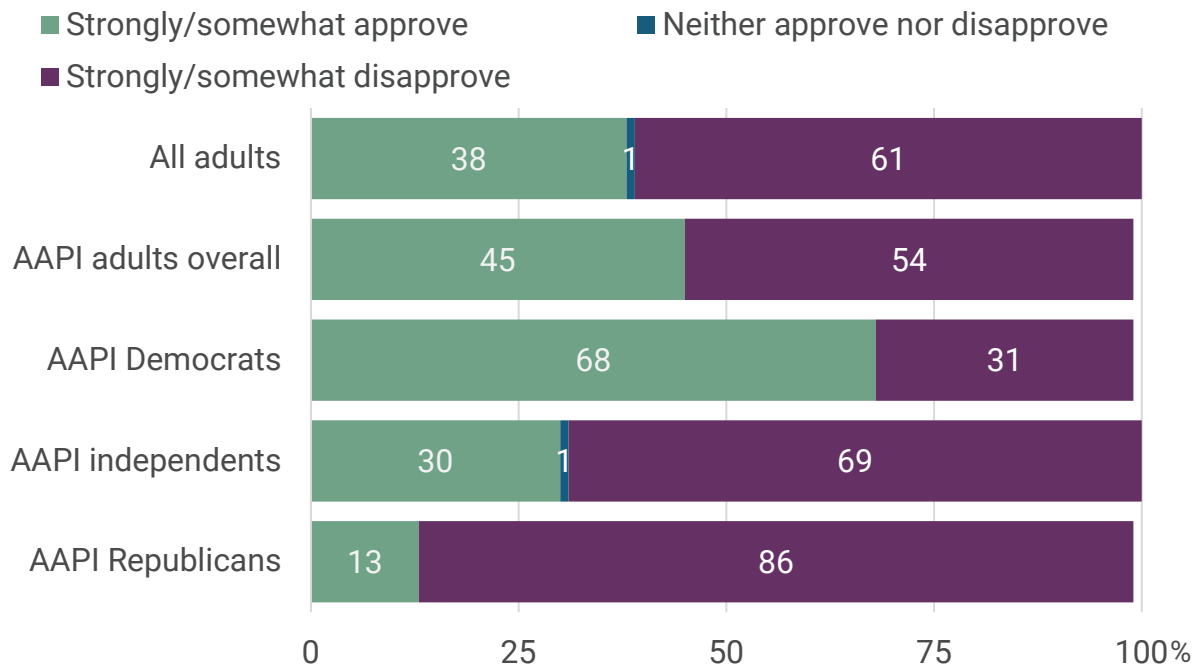
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## 54% DISAPPROVE OF BIDEN WITH PARTISAN DIFFERENCES PERSISTING.

More AAPI adults disapprove than approve of how Joe Biden is handling his job as president (54% vs. 45%). Democrats (68%) are more likely to approve than either independents (30%) or Republicans (13%).

### More AAPI adults disapprove than approve of how Biden is handling his job as president.

Percent of adults



**Question:** Overall, do you approve or disapprove of the way Joe Biden is handling his job as president?

**Source:** AAPI Data/AP-NORC Poll conducted November 6-15, 2023 with 1,115 AAPI adults nationwide and AP-NORC Poll conducted November 2-6, 2023 with 1,121 adults nationwide.



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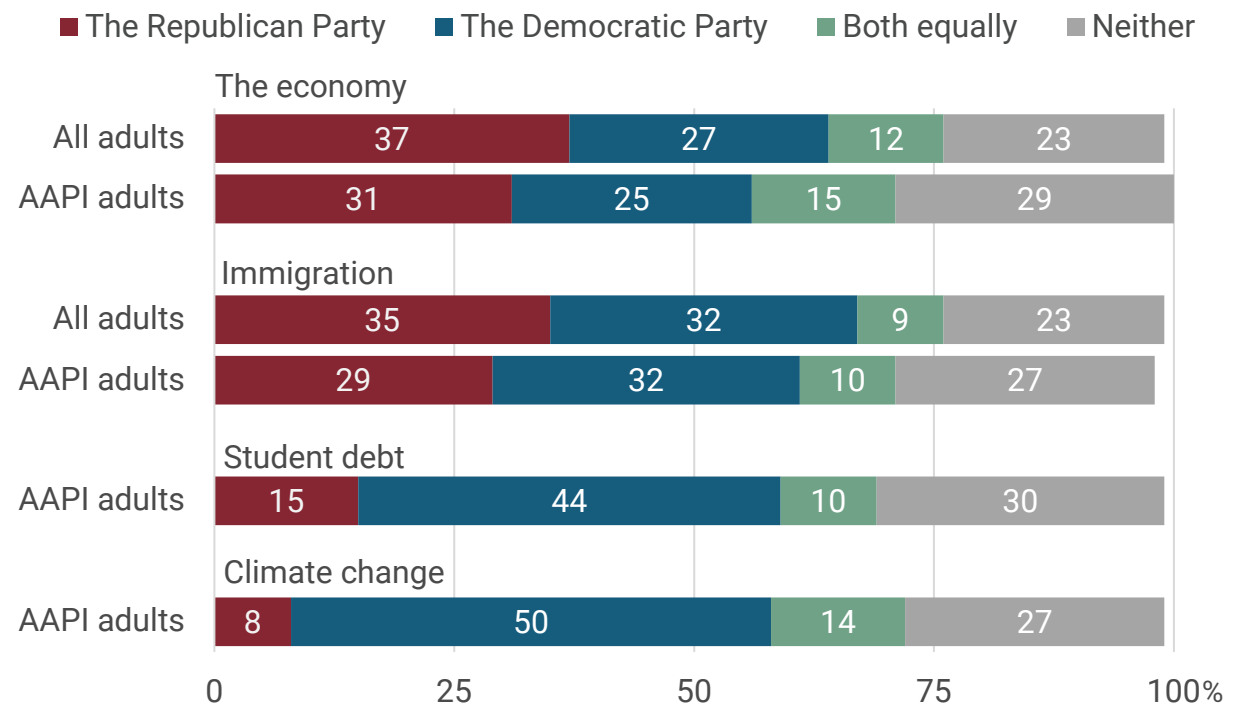
## DEMOCRATS ARE TRUSTED FOR CLIMATE AND STUDENT DEBT POLICY; TRUST IS MORE EVENLY SHARED BETWEEN BOTH PARTIES ON IMMIGRATION AND THE ECONOMY.

About 3 in 10 AAPI adults do not trust either the Republican or Democratic Party to handle major issues such as the economy, climate change, student debt, or immigration. They are significantly more likely to trust Democrats than Republicans to handle climate change or student debt.

About equal shares of AAPI adults trust the Republicans and the Democrats to handle immigration and the economy. In [October 2022](#), similar percentages of U.S. adults overall felt the same.

### There is little consensus among AAPI adults regarding which party they trust to handle specific issues.

Percent of adults



**Question:** Now, which party do you trust to do a better job of handling:

**Source:** AAPI Data/AP-NORC Poll conducted November 6-15, 2023 with 1,115 AAPI adults nationwide and AP-NORC Poll conducted October 6-10, 2022 with 1,121 adults nationwide.



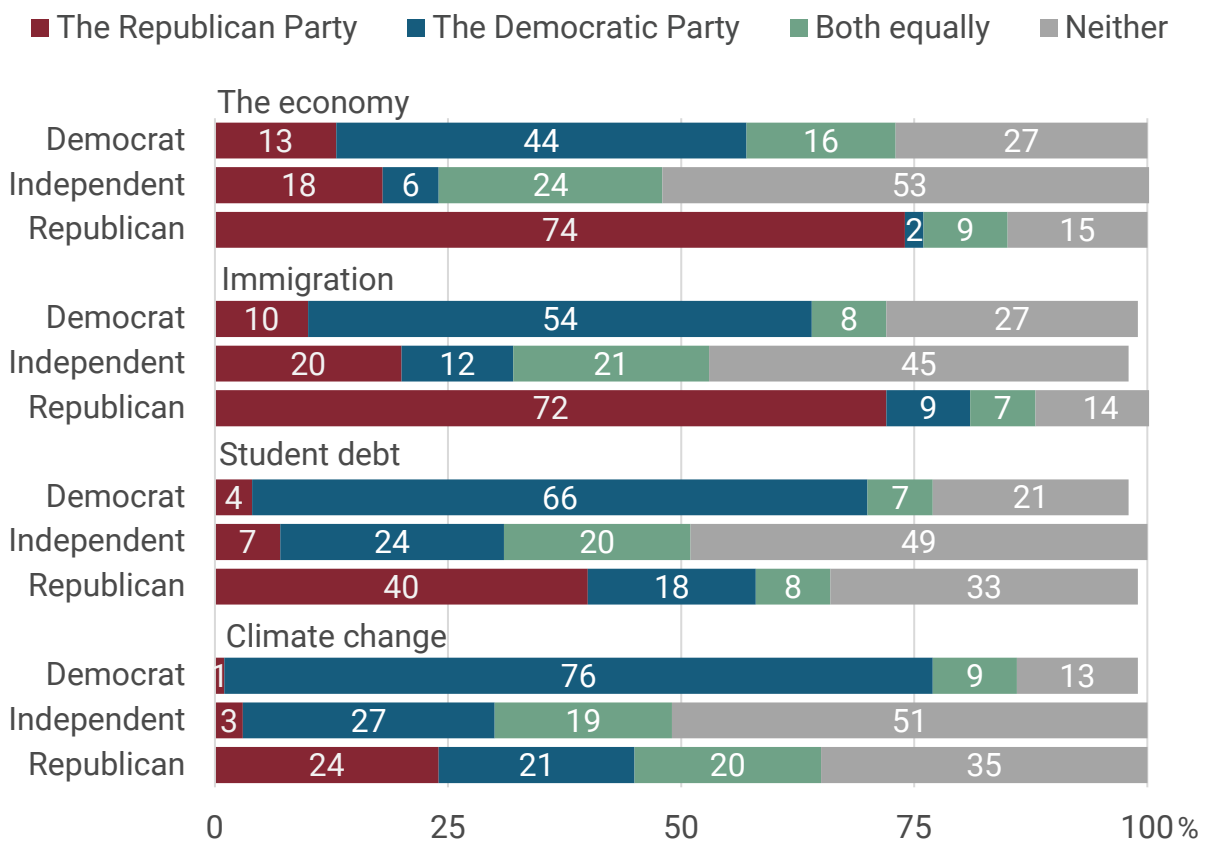
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Within AAPI communities, over two-thirds of Democrats believe their party is better equipped to handle climate change or student debt, but only about half say the same regarding immigration. Even fewer trust the Democratic Party to do a better job handling the economy, with about a quarter reporting they do not trust either party. While 7 in 10 Republicans trust their party to do a better job handling immigration and the economy, only 40% say the same about student debt and just 24% agree regarding climate change.

Independents are most likely to say that they do not trust either party to handle the economy, climate change, student debt, or immigration, but are more likely to trust the Republican Party on the economy or immigration and the Democratic Party on student debt or climate change.

### Within AAPI communities, Democrats and Republicans are more likely to trust their own party to handle major issues.

Percent of AAPI adults



**Question:** Now, which party do you trust to do a better job of handling:

**Source:** AAPI Data/AP-NORC Poll conducted November 6-15, 2023 with 1,115 AAPI adults nationwide.



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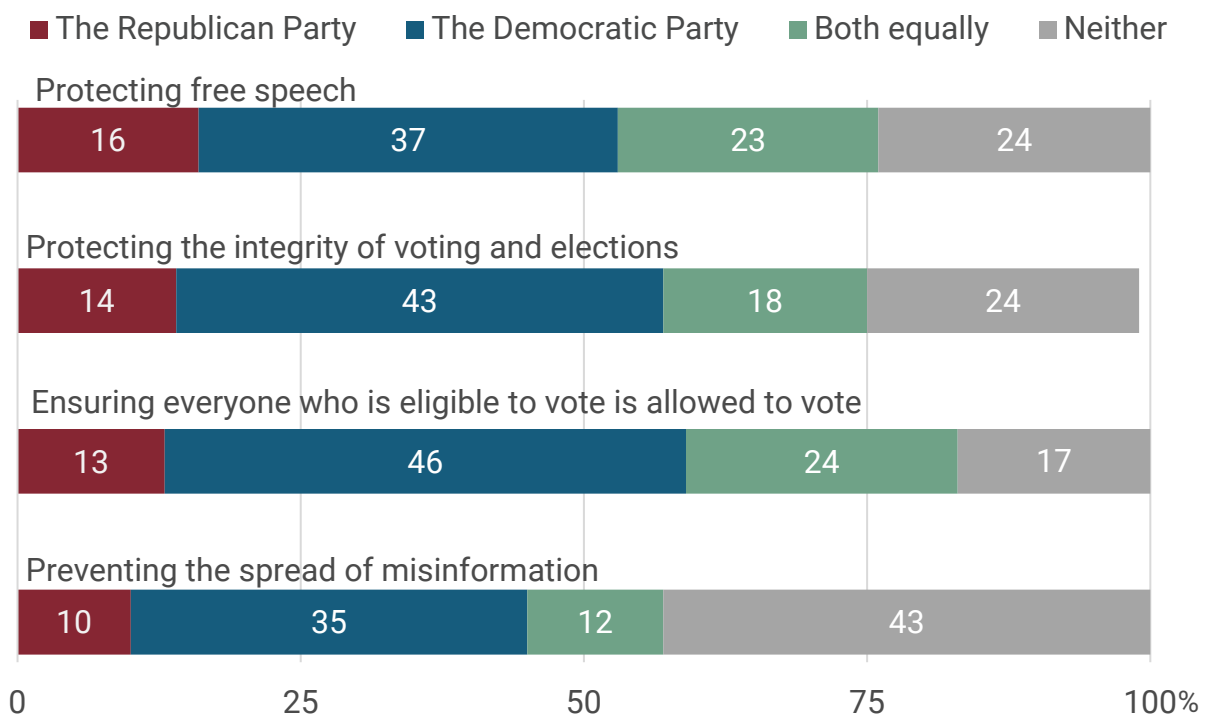
In addition, younger AAPI adults are more likely distrust both the Republicans and the Democrats when it comes to handling the economy, with 38% of those age 18-29 reporting they trust neither party compared with 19% of those 60 and older.

## AAPI ADULTS ARE MORE LIKELY TO TRUST THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY TO PROTECT DEMOCRATIC VALUES.

AAPI adults are significantly more likely to trust the Democratic Party than the Republican Party to protect the integrity of voting and elections, ensure those who are eligible to vote are allowed to do so, prevent the spread of misinformation, or protect free speech. However, about 4 in 10 do not trust either party to prevent the spread of misinformation. A quarter also do not trust either party to protect voter and election integrity or free speech.

### More AAPI adults trust the Democratic Party to protect democratic values.

Percent of AAPI adults



**Question:** Now, which party do you trust to do a better job of handling:

**Source:** AAPI Data/AP-NORC Poll conducted November 6-15, 2023 with 1,115 AAPI adults nationwide.

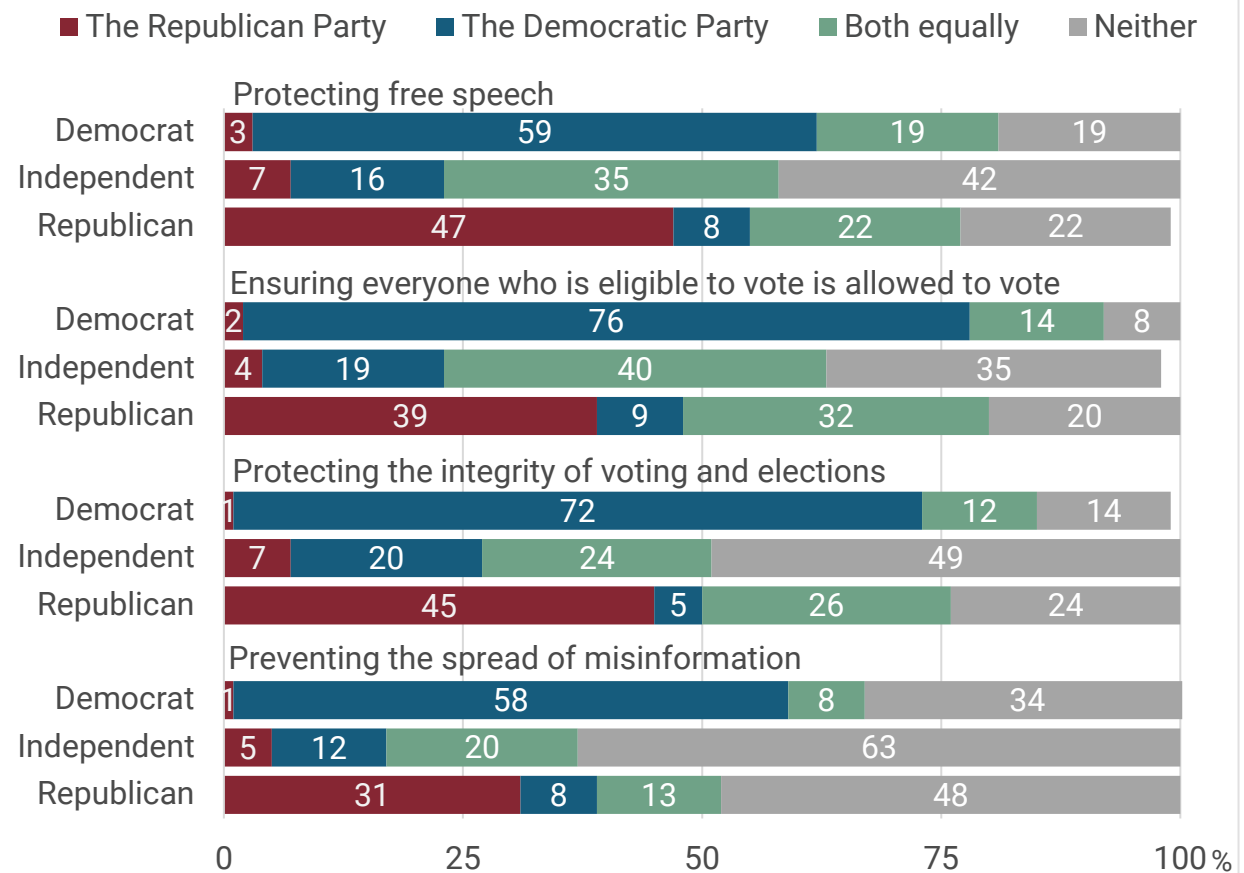


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Within AAPI communities, there is consensus among Democrats that their party is better suited to handle these democratic values, with a majority reporting they trust their party to do a better job protecting voting and election integrity, ensuring those who are eligible can vote, preventing the spread of misinformation, and protecting free speech. However, among Republicans, less than half trust their own party to do a better job protecting free speech and voting and election integrity, and only about a third trust them to ensure those eligible can vote and to prevent the spread of misinformation. Independents are most likely to report they trust neither party on most issues but are more likely to trust the Democrats more than the Republicans.

### A majority of AAPI Democrats trust their party to handle democracy-related issues.

Percent of AAPI adults



**Question:** Now, which party do you trust to do a better job of handling:

**Source:** AAPI Data/AP-NORC Poll conducted November 6-15, 2023 with 1,115 AAPI adults nationwide.



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## AAPI PARTISANS ARE CONFIDENT IN THEIR OWN PARTIES' SELECTION PROCESS FOR PRESIDENTIAL NOMINEES BUT LACK FAITH IN THE OPPOSING PARTY'S PROCESS.

Forty-five percent of AAPI adults lack confidence in the fairness of the Republican Party's presidential nomination process, while 34% feel similarly about the Democratic Party's selection process. The lack of confidence resembles trends in the general population from the 2020 presidential primary season when [a February 2020 AP-NORC survey](#) showed that 43% of U.S. adults had little confidence in the Republican Party's process, while 49% felt the same about the Democratic Party.

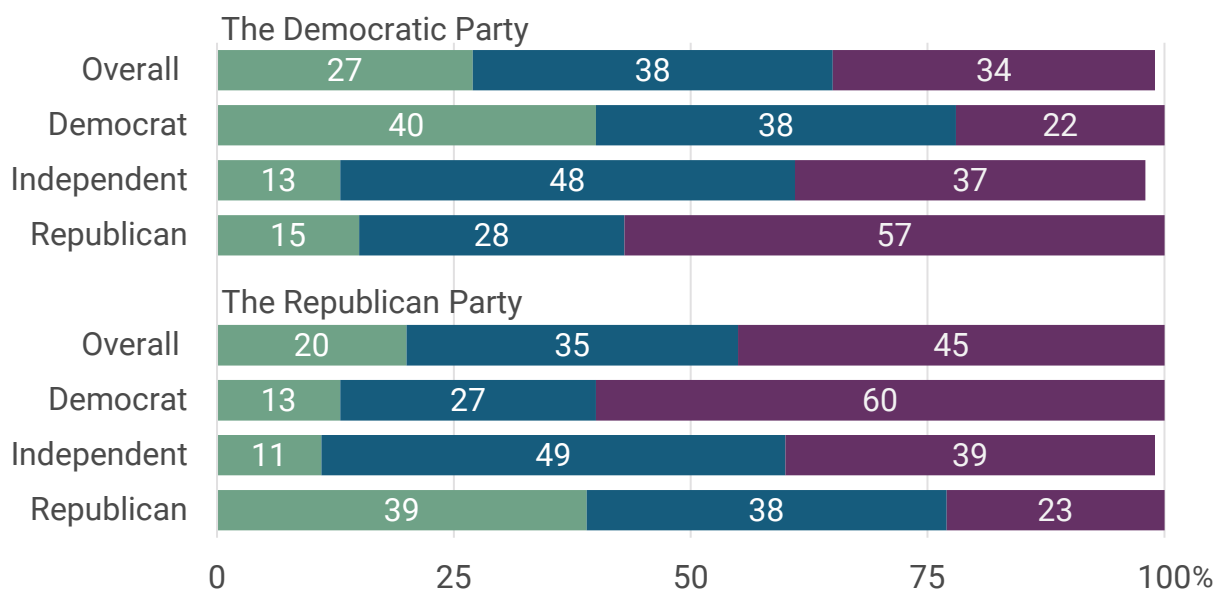
AAPI partisans are slightly more confident in their own party's selection process, with 78% of Democrats and 77% of Republicans trusting their own party's presidential nomination process at least a moderate amount.

There are also significant differences between age groups. AAPI adults under 30 have less confidence in the Democratic Party's nomination process compared with those 60 and older (22% vs. 42%).

### AAPI partisans have more faith in their own party's selection process for president than the opposing party's.

Percent of AAPI adults

■ A great deal/quite a bit   ■ A moderate amount   ■ Only a little/none at all



**Question:** Thinking about each of the following political parties, how much confidence do you have that their process for selecting a presidential nominee is fair?

**Source:** AAPI Data/AP-NORC Poll conducted November 6-15, 2023 with 1,115 AAPI adults nationwide.



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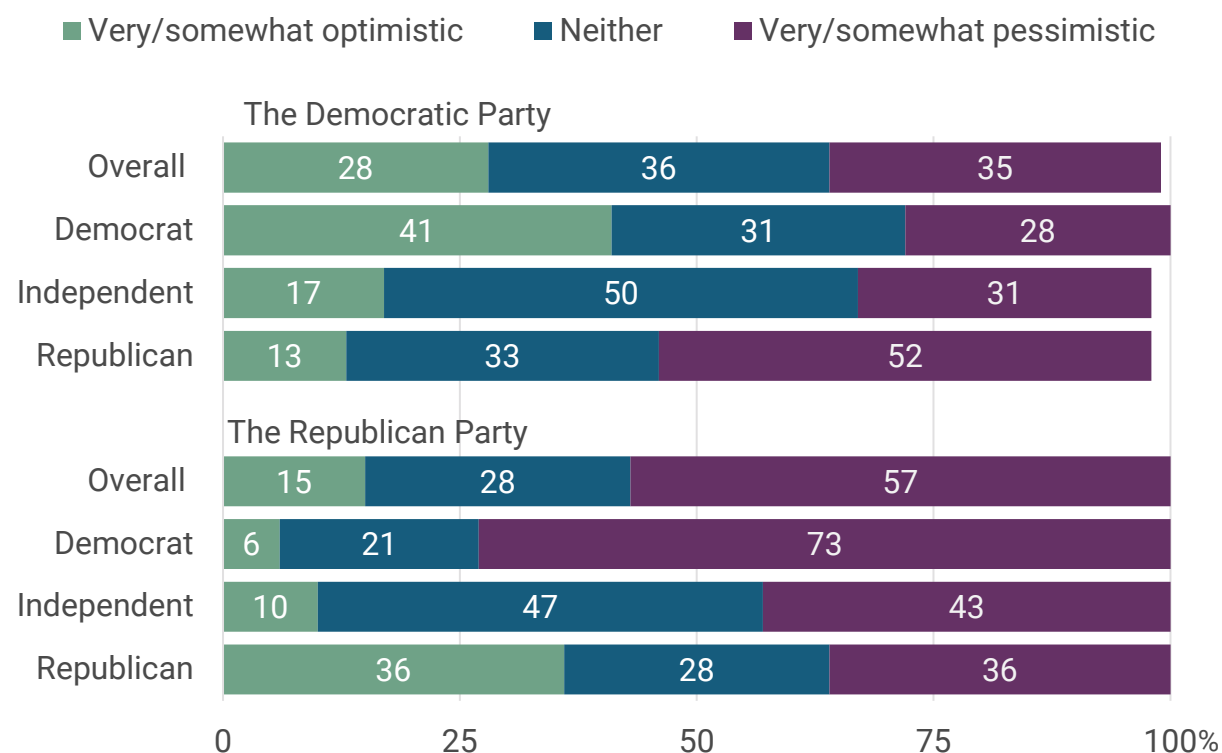
## FEW AAPI ADULTS ARE VERY OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE FUTURE OF THE POLITICAL PARTIES.

Most AAPI adults are pessimistic about the future of the Republican Party, while views about the Democratic Party are mixed. AAPI communities reflect similar feelings held by the general population, where 51% were pessimistic about the Republican Party's future, and 42% felt similarly about the Democratic Party in [January 2023](#), the last time this question was asked.

Within AAPI communities, partisans tend to be more hopeful about their own party's future, but neither a majority of Democrats nor Republicans are optimistic about the future of their political party.

### Most AAPI adults are pessimistic about the Republican Party's future and feel mixed about the Democratic Party

Percent of AAPI adults



**Question:** [The future of the Democratic Party/Republican Party] Which comes closest to your feelings about each of the following?

**Source:** AAPI Data/AP-NORC Poll conducted November 6-15, 2023 with 1,115 AAPI



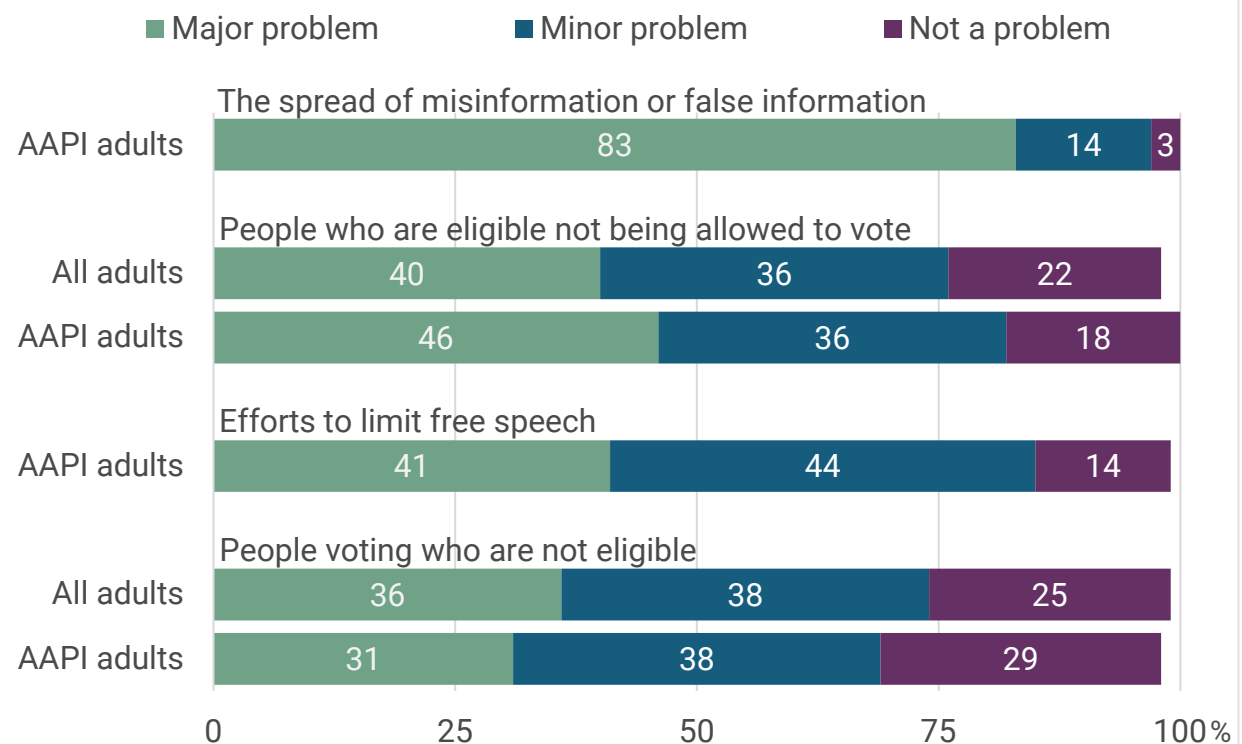
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## MOST WITHIN AAPI COMMUNITIES SEE MISINFORMATION IN AMERICAN ELECTIONS AS A MAJOR PROBLEM.

Eighty-three percent of AAPI adults believe that the spread of misinformation or false information is a major problem for the electoral process. Fewer view eligible voters not being allowed to vote, efforts to limit free speech or people voting who are not eligible as major issues. A slightly higher percentages of U.S. adults felt that people voting who are not eligible was a significant issue in [June 2023](#), while a slightly lower percentage said the same about eligible people not being allowed to vote.

### The vast majority AAPI adults believe the spread of misinformation or false information is a major problem.

Percent of adults



**Question:** How much of a problem is each of the following in U.S. elections?

**Source:** AAPI Data/AP-NORC Poll conducted November 6-15, 2023 with 1,115 AAPI adults nationwide and AP-NORC Poll conducted June 22-26, 2023 with 1,120 adults nationwide.

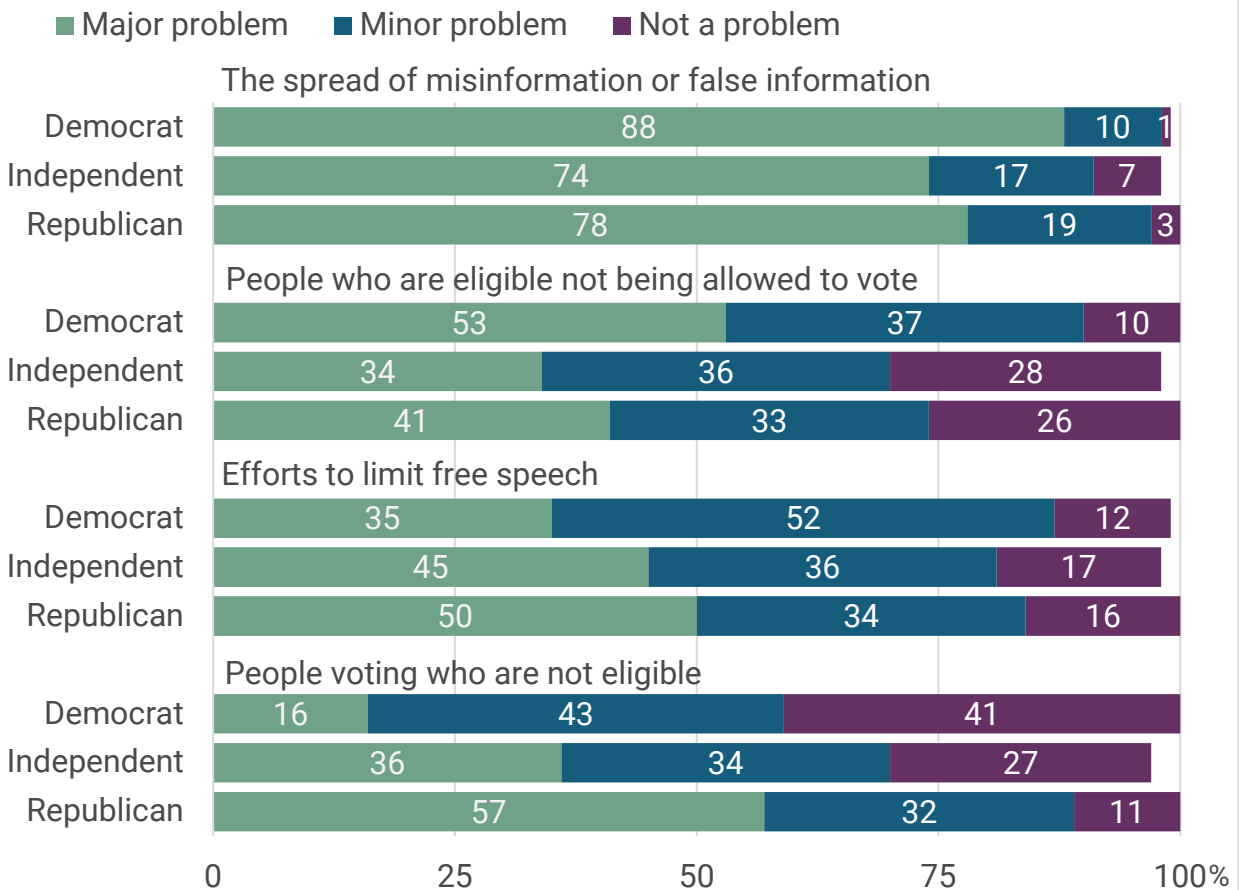


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Within AAPI communities, majorities of Democrats, independents, and Republicans view the spread of misinformation or false information as a major issue for elections, although Democrats are more likely to do so than either independents or Republicans. In addition, Democrats are more likely than both independents and Republicans to view eligible voters being prevented from voting as a major problem. Republicans are more likely than Democrats to believe the same about people voting who are not eligible or efforts to limit free speech.

### Views on democracy-related issues are driven by partisanship.

Percent of AAPI adults



**Question:** How much of a problem is each of the following in U.S. elections?

**Source:** AAPI Data/AP-NORC Poll conducted November 6-15, 2023 with 1,115 AAPI adults nationwide.



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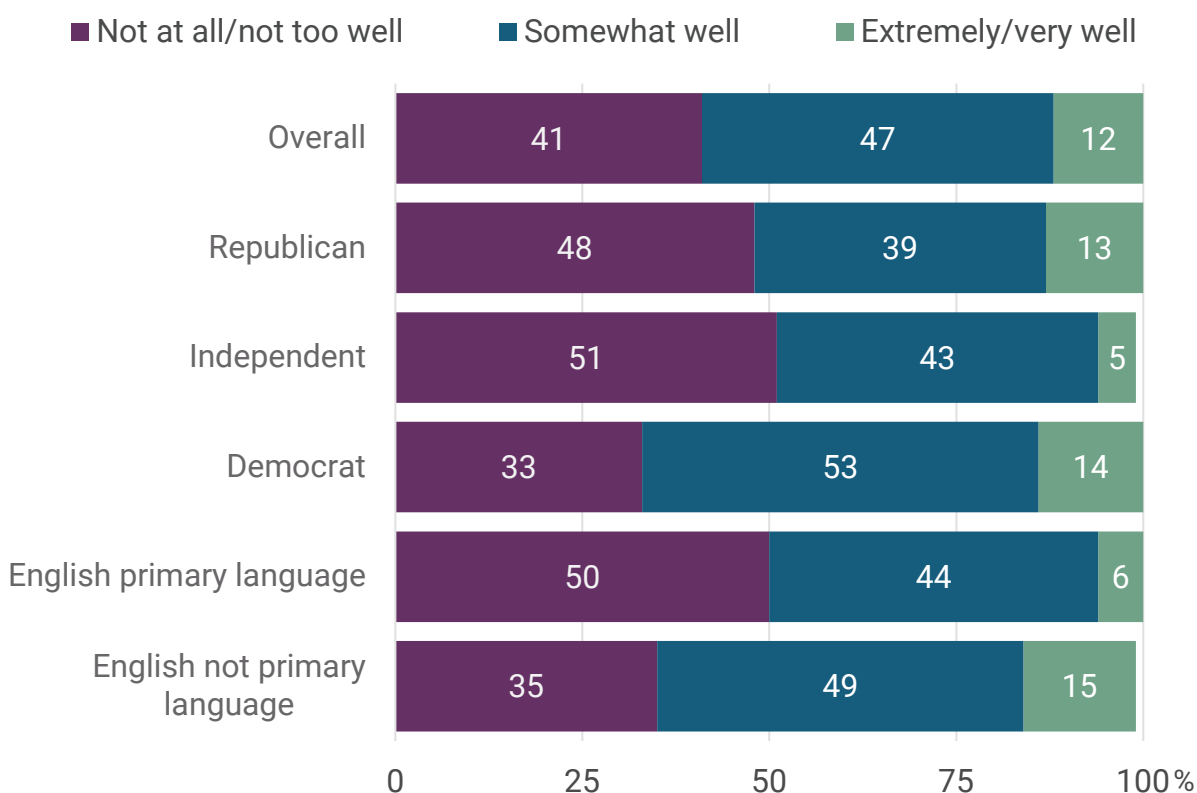
## JUST ONE IN TEN WITHIN AAPI COMMUNITIES FEEL DEMOCRACY IS WORKING WELL AND MOST PRIORITIZE LAWS THAT REFLECT THE WILL OF THE ENTIRE ELECTORATE OVER SPECIFIC INTERESTS.

When it comes to feelings about how the country's democracy is functioning, 12% of AAPI adults say it is working extremely or very well, while about 4 in 10 feel it is working either not too well or not well at all. These findings are in line with an [AP-NORC survey of the general population in June 2023](#), which found 10% reporting democracy is working well, and 49% feeling it was not working well.

Among AAPI adults, Republicans are more negative about the state of our democracy than Democrats. About half of those who primarily speak English at home say our democracy is not working well compared with 35% of those for whom English is not their primary language.

### Just 1 in 10 AAPI adults feel our democracy is working well.

Percent of AAPI adults



**Question:** How well would you say democracy is working in the United States these days?

**Source:** AAPI Data/AP-NORC Poll conducted November 6-15, 2023 with 1,115 AAPI adults nationwide.



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The survey highlights the diverse perspectives on the importance of various factors in shaping laws and policies, by asking respondents' perceived importance versus their actual importance. When it comes to the perceived importance of who should have input on the policy process, most AAPI adults prioritize the will of the public over the specific interests of certain subgroups. Most AAPI adults believe that policy should be based on the views of most people living in the United States and people from similar backgrounds. Fewer think the views of people in their own political party, what policy makers think is best, or interest groups should be important factors. Similar findings were reported for the general population in a [June 2023 AP-NORC poll](#), with 71% prioritizing what most Americans want and far fewer feeling the same about what lawmakers (25%) or interest groups (10%) want.

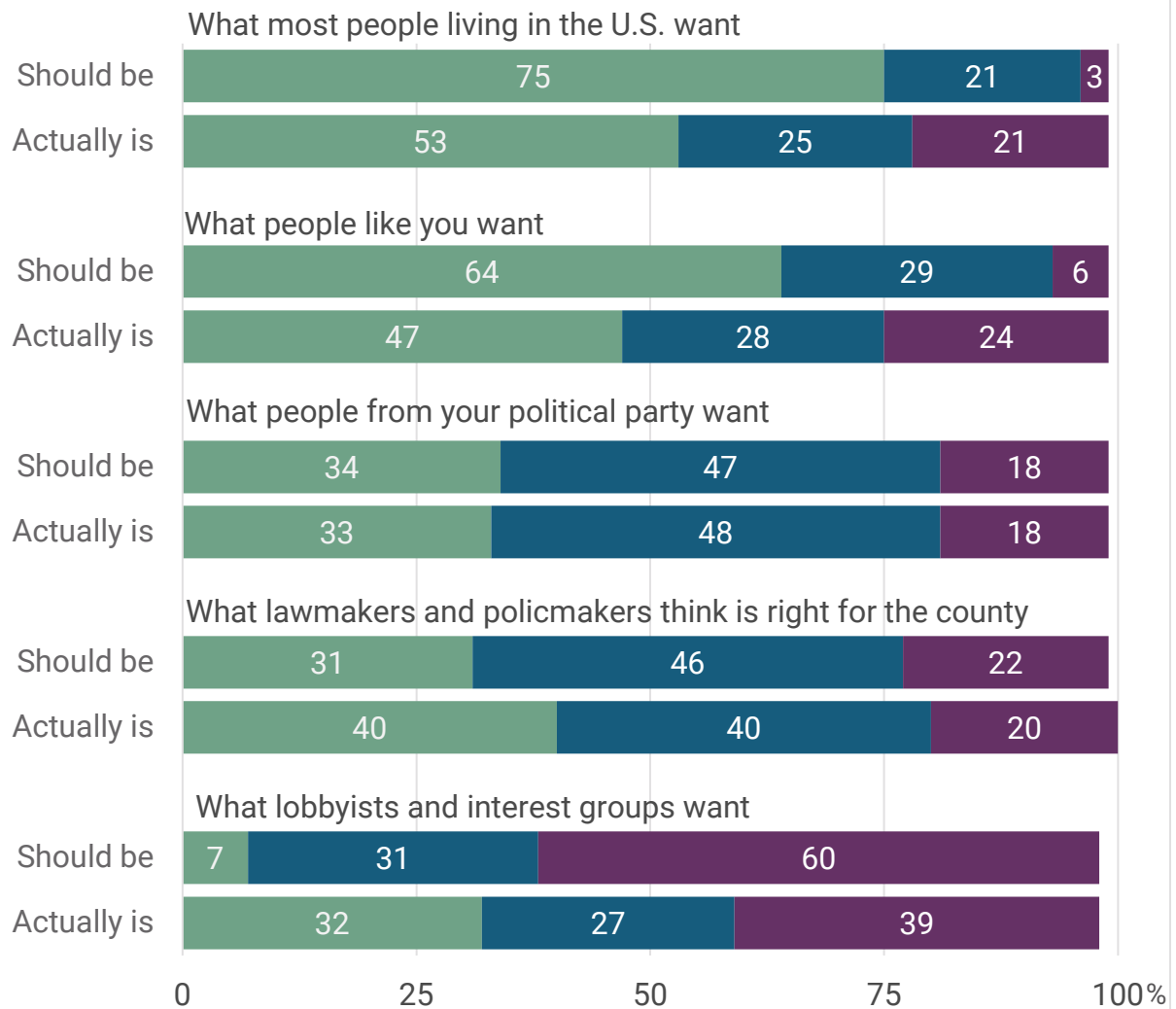
When asked whose views actually have an impact on policies, only about half say that what the general population wants or what individuals like them desire play a big role. There is a further dip in perceived importance when it comes to political party preferences. However, larger shares say the influence of lawmakers (and lobbyists are prioritized in the actual lawmaking process than those who believe it should be. The AP-NORC June 2023 poll reported similar findings among the general public.

Those who primarily do not speak English are more likely to prioritize the interests of lawmakers compared with those who do (36% vs. 23%) and say those interests are important to the actual policymaking process (45% vs. 32%).

## AAPI adults prioritize interests of entire electorate more than specific subgroups when it comes to the policymaking process.

Percent of AAPI adults

■ Extremely/very important ■ Somewhat important ■ Not very/not at all important



**Question:** [Actually is/Should be]Thinking about how laws and policies are made in the United States, how important do you think each of the following...

**Source:** AAPI Data/AP-NORC Poll conducted November 6-15, 2023 with 1,115 AAPI adults nationwide.



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## **AAPI ADULTS HAVE LOW CONFIDENCE IN CONGRESS, THE SUPREME COURT, THE PRESIDENT, AND THEIR STATE GOVERNMENTS.**

Few AAPI adults express a great deal of confidence in their state government, the Supreme Court, or the executive branch (11%). Just 4% have much confidence in Congress and nearly half say they have hardly any confidence in the legislative branch of the government.

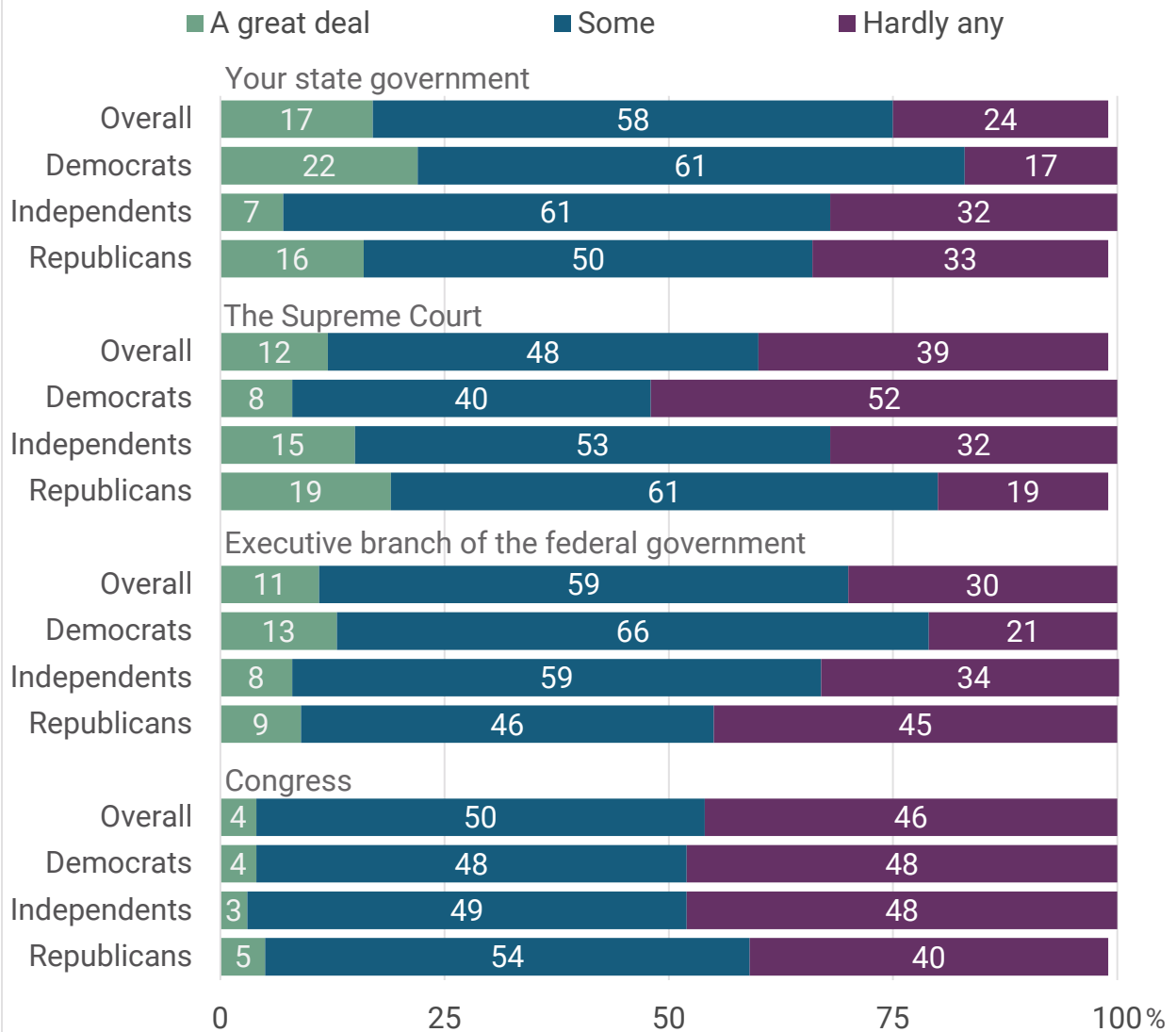
These results mirror the rest of the country who also lack confidence in the Supreme Court (14%), the executive branch (11%), or Congress (3%) according to an [October 2023 AP-NORC poll](#).

Confidence in the Supreme Court, executive branch, and state governments is heavily influenced by partisanship among AAPI communities. Democrats have less confidence in the Supreme Court than Republicans, while Republicans are less confident than Democrats in the executive branch or their state government. A similar number of AAPI Democrats and Republicans have little confidence in Congress.



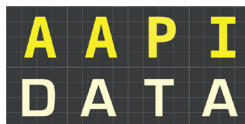
## Most AAPI do not have a great deal of confidence in democratic institutions.

Percent of AAPI adults



**Question:** As far as the people running these institutions are concerned, would you say you have a great deal of confidence, only some confidence, or hardly any confidence at all in them?

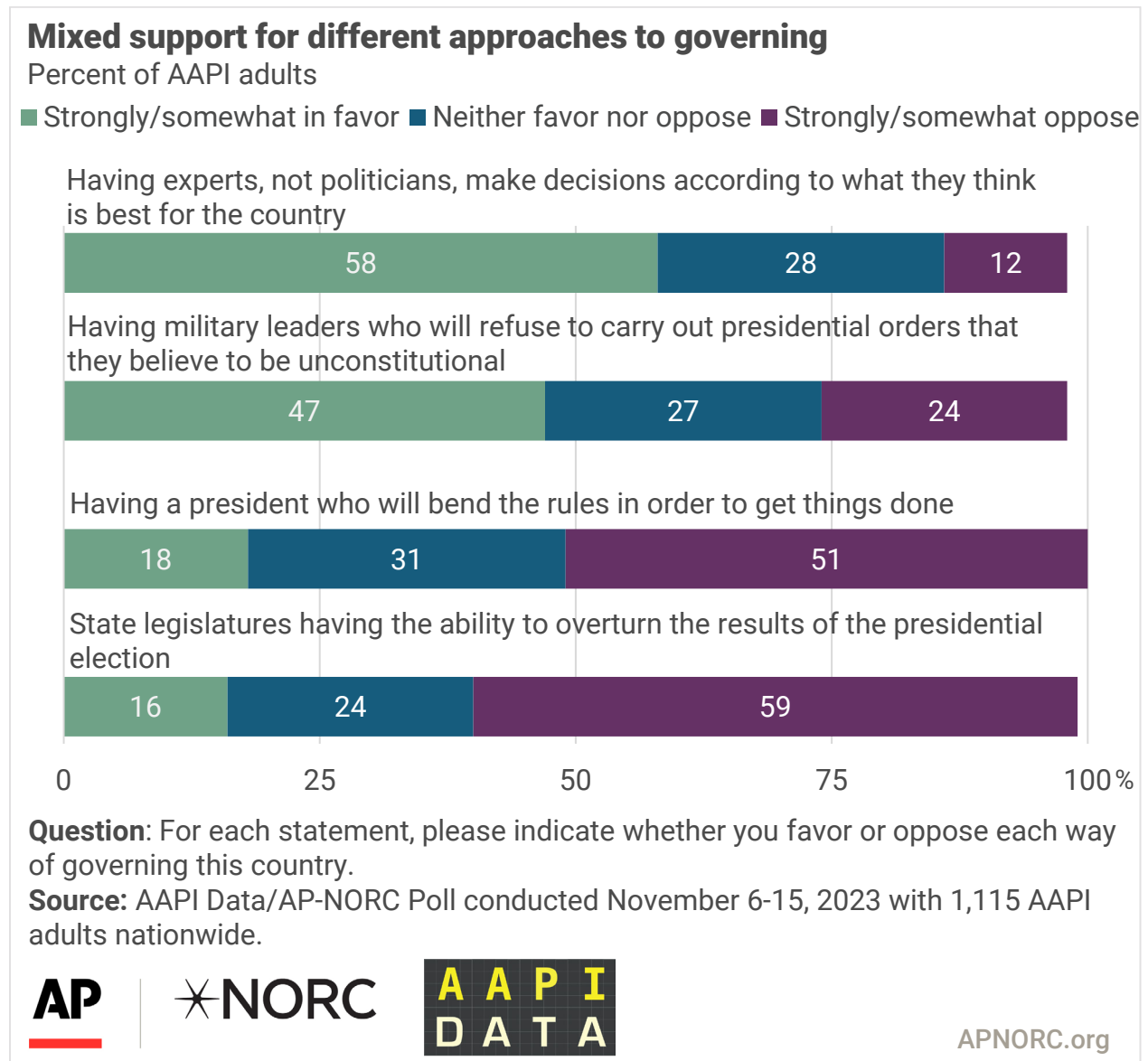
**Source:** AAPI Data/AP-NORC Poll conducted November 6-15, 2023 with 1,115 AAPI adults nationwide.



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## AAPI COMMUNITIES HOLD A RANGE OF VIEWS ON DIFFERENT APPROACHES TO GOVERNING.

When it comes to ways of governing the country, 58% of AAPI adults favor having experts rather than politicians make decisions according to what they think is best for the country, and 48% support military leaders who will refuse to carry out presidential orders they believe are unconstitutional. Few favor having a president who will bend the rules to get things done or state legislatures having the ability to overturn the results of a presidential election.

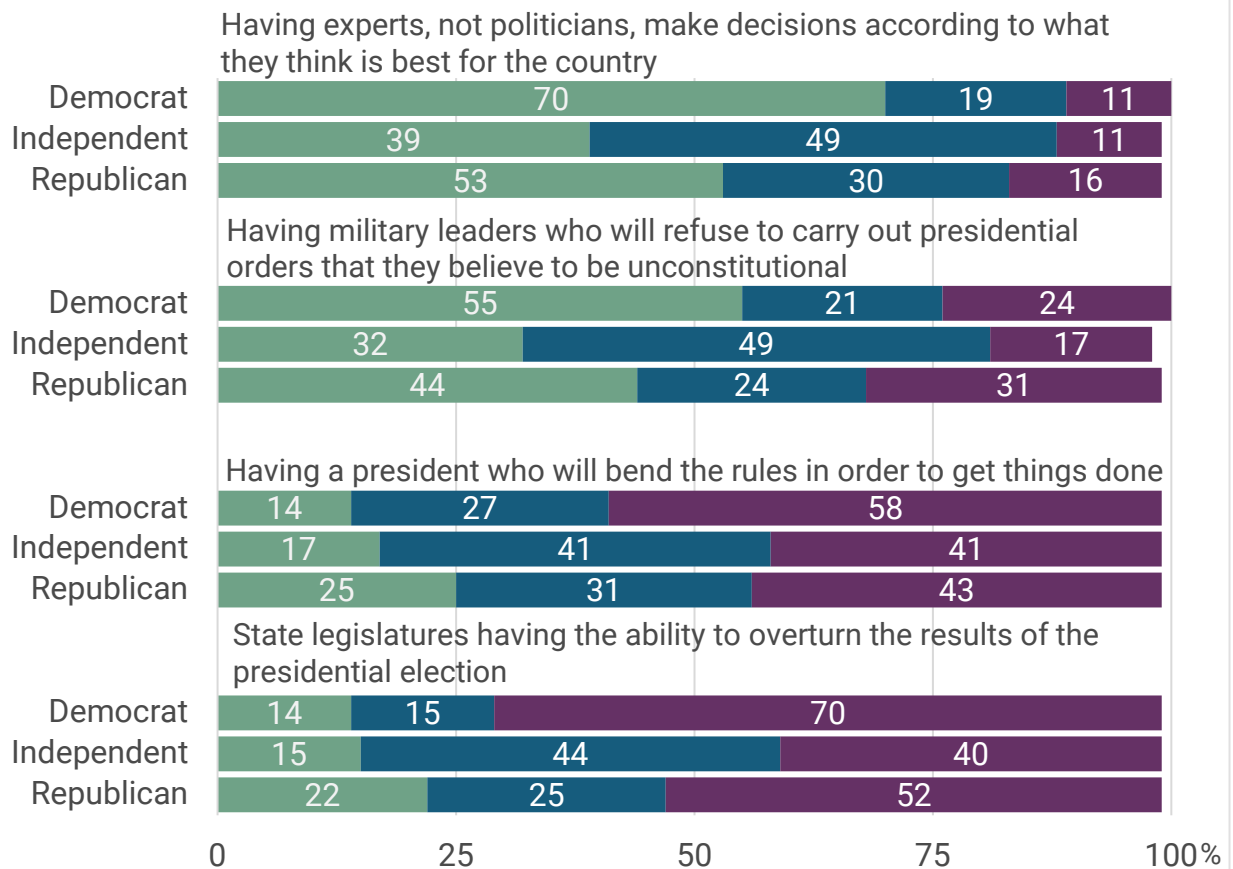


Within AAPI communities, Democrats are significantly more likely than independents or Republicans to oppose state legislatures having the ability to overturn the results of a presidential election or having a president who will bend the rules to get things done. Democrats are more likely to favor of having experts make decisions rather than politicians or having military leaders who will refuse to carry out presidential orders they believe to be unconstitutional.

## Views on how the country should be governed are influenced by partisanship.

Percent of AAPI adults

■ Strongly/somewhat in favor ■ Neither favor nor oppose ■ Strongly/somewhat oppose



**Question:** For each statement, please indicate whether you favor or oppose each way of governing this country.

**Source:** AAPI Data/AP-NORC Poll conducted November 6-15, 2023 with 1,115 AAPI adults nationwide.



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In addition, those born outside the United States are more likely than those born in the United States to favor having a president willing to bend the rules to get things done (22% vs. 10%) or having experts make decisions according to what they think is best (62% vs. 52%).

## METHODS

This survey was conducted by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research and AAPI Data with funding from the University of California (UC) Riverside.

Data were collected using the Amplify AAPI Monthly survey drawing from NORC's Amplify AAPI® Panel designed to be representative of the U.S. Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) household population. The survey was part of a larger study that included questions about other topics not included in this report.

Amplify AAPI is a blend of multiple sample designs. Each stage seeks to provide maximum coverage of the AANHPI population, and all are combined through base-weighting to arrive at a representative overall cross-section of AANHPI in the United States. The first stage included recruitment of approximately 850 active AANHPI panelists from NORC's flagship probability panel, AmeriSpeak. These panelists now serve as members of both the AmeriSpeak and the Amplify AAPI panels. During the initial recruitment phase of the AmeriSpeak panel, randomly selected U.S. households were sampled with a known, non-zero probability of selection from the NORC National Sample Frame or a secondary national address frame, both with over 96% coverage of all U.S. addresses, and then contacted by U.S. mail, email, telephone, or field interviewers (face to face).

The second stage began in the spring of 2022, when Amplify AAPI recruited 150 households from a 30,000-sample pool as a pilot to test the sample design's feasibility and participation rates. In 2023, Blue Shield Foundation of California and UC Riverside/AAPI Data sponsored a recruitment effort in California generating 1,150 additional panelists. Finally, the Rockefeller Foundation funded a national recruitment effort, including new recruits and those from the 2022 Pew Asian American Survey, generating 4,700 panelists who are eligible for the monthly survey.

By providing recruiting and interviewing in the languages noted below, Amplify AAPI covers approximately 90 percent of Asian language "linguistically isolated" households, that is, households in which no adult can speak English or Spanish at least "well." Those excluded from the sample include people with P.O. Box only addresses, some addresses not listed in the USPS Delivery Sequence File, and some newly constructed dwellings population.

Interviews for this survey were conducted between November 6-15, 2023, with Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Pacific Islanders 18 years of age or older representing the 50 states and the District of Columbia. Panel members were randomly drawn from the Amplify AAPI Panel, and 1,115 completed the survey—1,113 via the web and two by telephone. Panel members were invited by email or by phone from an NORC telephone interviewer. In addition to English, the survey was offered in the Chinese dialects of Mandarin and Cantonese, Vietnamese, and Korean, depending on respondent preference.

Respondents were offered a small monetary incentive (either \$5 or \$10) for completing the survey. The final stage completion rate is 28.7 percent. Because the Amplify AAPI Panel is so new, the final weighted household panel response rate, weighted household panel retention rate, and cumulative response rate have not been calculated. All rates can be made available upon request by January 2024 and will be included in reports after that date. The overall margin of sampling error is +/-4.4 percentage

points at the 95 percent confidence level, including the design effect. The margin of sampling error may be higher for subgroups.

Sampling error is only one of many potential sources of error and there may be other unmeasured error in this or any other survey.

Quality assurance checks were conducted to ensure data quality. In total, 38 interviews were removed for nonresponse to at least 50% of the questions asked of them, for completing the survey in less than one-third the median interview time for the full sample, or for straight-lining all grid questions asked of them. These interviews were excluded from the data file prior to weighting.

Once the sample was selected and fielded, and all the study data were collected and made final, a poststratification process was used to adjust for any survey nonresponse as well as any noncoverage or under and oversampling resulting from the study specific sample design. Poststratification variables included age, gender, census region, race/ethnicity, education, U.S. born, and Asian origin. Weighting variables were obtained from the American Communities Survey (ACS) 5 years data 2017-2021. The weighted data reflect the U.S. Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) household population, including all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

Complete questions and results are available at [www.apnorc.org](http://www.apnorc.org). For more information about the study, email [info@apnorc.org](mailto:info@apnorc.org).

Additional information on the Amplify AAPI Panel methodology is available at: <https://amplifyaapi.norc.org/>. For more information about the panel, email [Amplifyaapi-bd@norc.org](mailto:Amplifyaapi-bd@norc.org).

## **ABOUT THE ASSOCIATED PRESS-NORC CENTER FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS RESEARCH**

The AP-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research taps into the power of social science research and the highest-quality journalism to bring key information to people across the nation and throughout the world.

The Associated Press (AP) is an independent global news organization dedicated to factual reporting. Founded in 1846, AP today remains the most trusted source of fast, accurate, unbiased news in all formats and the essential provider of the technology and services vital to the news business. More than half the world's population sees AP journalism every day. [www.ap.org](http://www.ap.org)

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The two organizations have established The AP-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research to conduct, analyze, and distribute social science research in the public interest on newsworthy topics, and to use the power of journalism to tell the stories that research reveals. Learn more at [www.apnorc.org](http://www.apnorc.org).

## ABOUT AAPI DATA

AAPI Data's reputation—among journalists, government agencies, community organizations, and scholars—is built on data, research, and narratives that are accurate, compelling, and timely.

Since 2018, the program has organized its work along the principles of DNA: Data, Narrative, Action, aiming for meaningful improvements in policies, practices, and investments that serve AAPI communities.

Email [info@aapidata.com](mailto:info@aapidata.com) for more questions.