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Economic and Foreign Policy Issues Are Top Priorities Across Asian American and Pacific Islander Communities.

Doubts about the government's ability to respond to public concerns are widespread with 69% of AAPI adults reporting little to no confidence that the federal government will be able to make any progress on their issue concerns in 2024.

Chicago, January 8, 2024 – As the country eases into the new year, a new AAPI Data/AP-NORC survey, built from NORC's [Amplify AAPI Panel](#), finds that across Asian American, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander (AAPI) communities the top concerns center on the economy and foreign policy. Inflation and immigration are the specific issues identified by respondents of this nationally representative survey of AAPI adults, where about 3 in 10 listed each when asked to list up to five key issues as their top priorities for 2024. Student debt, gun issues, and crime or violence also emerged as top concerns.

“Asian Americans and Pacific Islander communities express a breadth of concerns they want the government to address in 2024, including economic issues, immigration, the environment, healthcare, education, and public safety,” says Jennifer Benz, deputy director of The AP-NORC Center. “The range of priorities cited in the study reflects the complexity of the AAPI experience in America.”

Mirroring national partisan divides, political affiliations within the AAPI community play an important role in shaping priorities. Republicans underscore immigration as a top policy concern, doubling the rate of Democrats. Conversely, AAPI Democrats are four times as likely to identify climate change and twice as likely to focus on gun-related issues.

In addition to large political differences, generational differences on priorities within AAPI communities also emerge. AAPI adults under 30 are more likely to prioritize health care reform, student debt, housing costs, and the Israel-Palestine conflict than those aged 65 and older. Older AAPI adults, particularly those 65 and above, prioritize immigration more than those age 18-29.

“One of the critical dynamics in 2024 will be youth engagement and youth voter turnout,” says Karthick Ramakrishnan, director of AAPI Data and a professor of public policy. “It will be important to see how parties and campaigns will address issues like housing costs, student debt, and the Israel-Gaza conflict, which are higher priorities among younger AAPI voters than among older voters.”

Doubts about the government's ability to respond to public concerns are widespread among both AAPI Democrats and Republicans, echoing a broader national trend. Just 3% are extremely or very confident, 29% somewhat confident, and 69% have little to no confidence at all in the government's ability to address their issue concerns this year.



The nationwide study was conducted from November 6–15, 2023, using the Amplify AAPI Monthly survey drawing from [Amplify AAPI](#), a national probability panel of Asian Americans, Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islanders, built and hosted by NORC at the University of Chicago. Online and telephone interviews were offered in English, the Chinese dialects of Mandarin and Cantonese, Vietnamese, and Korean with 1,113 Asian American and Pacific Islanders aged 18 and older living in the United States. The margin of sampling error is +/- 4.4 percentage points.

About the Study

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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 press@aapidata.com for more questions.

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