

Press contacts: Eric Young, young-eric@norc.org or (703) 217-6814 (cell) and Nicholas Turton, press@aapidata.com or (213) 343-5264 (cell).

AAPI Communities Remain Pessimistic about the State of Politics, But Key Shifts Have Emerged along Party Lines

Immigration is a top concern for AAPI Communities in 2025, but support for mass deportation is low.

Chicago, January 15, 2025 – Days before the presidential inauguration, a new AAPI Data/AP-NORC survey finds 31% of Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AAPI) adults believe the country is heading in the right direction, tracking closely with the 29% of the general population who felt the same in [December 2024](#).

The survey reveals shifting political views among AAPI communities. Optimism among AAPI Republicans increased with Donald Trump’s electoral victory. Just 23% thought the country was headed in the right direction in [November 2023](#), compared to 53% now. In contrast, AAPI Democrats are now more pessimistic with sixty-one percent feeling the country was going in the wrong direction in November 2023, now 81% feel that way.

When asked to list up to five key priorities for 2025, AAPI adults cited immigration (42%), foreign policy issues (33%), and inflation (32%), as top concerns. Immigration has gained prominence, increasing 13 percentage points from 29% last year, reflecting heightened attention during the campaign.

Confidence in the federal government’s ability to address the nation’s challenges in 2025 remains low among AAPI adults, with 60% expressing little or no confidence and only 11% feeling highly confident. While still quite pessimistic, 28% of AAPI Republicans express confidence, compared to just 4% of AAPI Democrats.

“The survey highlights shifting political views, particularly among AAPI partisans,” says Jennifer Benz, deputy director of The AP-NORC Center. “Optimism among AAPI Republicans about the state of the country has risen with Trump’s electoral victory, along with improved favorability for Trump and the Republican Party. In contrast, AAPI Democrats have become more pessimistic about the country’s trajectory, Biden’s favorability, and their own party’s prospects.”

AAPI communities are not very supportive about many elements of Trump’s policy agenda. While 48% favor eliminating taxes on tipped earnings, fewer support deporting undocumented immigrants (38%), reducing the federal workforce (35%), or increasing oil drilling on federal lands (30%). Partisan divides are stark – AAPI Republicans are far more likely than Democrats to back deportations (70% vs. 18%) and drilling (65% vs. 14%), for example.

Concerns about threats to rights and freedoms also feature prominently. Over half (54%) of AAPI adults view abortion and reproductive rights as under major threat in 2025. Other concerns include press freedom (35%), protection from unreasonable search and seizure (31%), and freedom of speech (29%).

Emotions within AAPI communities regarding Trump’s second term are mixed. Fear is the most prevalent reaction (42%), followed by anger (34%), while fewer report feelings of satisfaction (21%) or excitement (19%). Confidence in Trump’s ability to govern is low across key areas, with just 20% expressing high confidence in his ability to manage the White House, the military, or government spending. However, AAPI Republicans show considerably higher confidence in his abilities than AAPI Democrats.

“These survey findings set provide critical context on where Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders stand on various policy priorities in 2025,” says Karthick Ramakrishnan, executive director of AAPI Data and researcher at UC Berkeley. “While immigration has now become a top concern, support for mass deportation remains relatively low, highlighting the disconnect between AAPI opinion and proposed policy actions.”

Over the past year, AAPI adults have grown more optimistic about the Republican Party (23% vs. 15%) while becoming less hopeful about the Democratic Party (14% vs. 28%). However, optimism about the opposing party remains rare, with fewer than 10% of partisans expressing positive views about the other side.

About the Study

The nationwide study was conducted by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research and AAPI Data from December 9–17, 2024, 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 1,045 Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islanders aged 18 and older living in the United States. The margin of sampling error is +/- 4.9 percentage points.

About the Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research

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NORC at the University of Chicago is one of the oldest objective and nonpartisan research institutions in the world. www.norc.org

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.

About AAPI Data

AAPI Data is a leading research and policy organization producing accurate data to shift narratives and drive action toward enduring solutions for Asian American (AA) and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander (NHPI) communities across the nation. AAPI Data aspires to transform public and private systems to ensure that all AA and NHPI communities are recognized, valued, and prioritized. Learn more at aapidata.com. Email press@aapidata.com for more questions.

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