

The Associated Press-NORC
Center for Public Affairs Research

AAPI COMMUNITIES IDENTIFY TOP PRIORITIES FOR 2025

While Donald Trump's favorability has improved slightly among AAPI adults, most still oppose various parts of his policy agenda.

Just before Donald Trump returns to the White House, 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, similar to the share (29%) of the general population who felt the same when last asked in December 2024. Optimism



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among AAPI Republicans increased with Trump's electoral victory. Just 23% thought the country was headed in the right direction in November 2023, compared to 53% now. And AAPI Democrats are now more pessimistic. Sixty-one percent felt the country was on the wrong track in November 2023; now 81% feel that way.

AAPI communities' confidence in the United States' ability to tackle major challenges in 2025 remains low, with most expecting little to no progress in reducing partisanship in Congress (71%), unifying the country (70%), increasing trust in government (67%), or improving voter confidence (60%).

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) 60% have little or no confidence that the government will make progress on key issues in 2025—a slightly less pessimistic outlook compared with the 69% who felt this way last year.
- 2) 42% name immigration as a top issue, up from 29% in 2023. 38% support deporting all immigrants living in the U.S. illegally, but Republicans are more likely than Democrats to approve of the policy (70% vs. 18%).
- 3) 37% favor Trump, up slightly from 27% in 2023. Still, only about a third favor key policy priorities including reducing the size of the federal workforce (35%) or increasing oil drilling on federal lands (30%), while fewer support imposing additional tariffs on imports from China (24%) or pardoning January 6th participants (14%).

Respondents to the nationally representative survey of AAPI adults were asked to identify up to five key issues they believe should be top priorities for the federal government in the coming year. Foreign policy, economic, and health care concerns rank among the priorities AAPI communities want the government to address in 2025. Immigration tops the list, with 42% identifying it as a key issue, followed by foreign policy issues (33%), and inflation (32%). These priorities track closely with those of the broader U.S. population in December 2024, where 47% cite immigration, 32% foreign policy issues, and 29% inflation. Immigration has risen as a concern among AAPI adults, growing from 29% last year to 42% now, following months of heated rhetoric and misinformation about the issue during the campaign.

Other frequently mentioned concerns include the economy (31%), environment and climate change (28%), healthcare reform (18%), and education (18%).

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, AAPI Republicans are seven times as likely than AAPI Democrats to express confidence (28% vs. 4%).

Trust in government is highest at the local level among AAPI adults, with 26% saying they trust their local government most of the time, compared with 20% for state government and just 11% for the federal government.

AAPI adults show mixed support for various policies that Donald Trump proposed during the presidential campaign, with the highest approval for eliminating taxes on tipped earnings (48%). Roughly a third favor deporting all undocumented immigrants (38%), reducing the size of the federal workforce (35%), or increasing oil drilling on federal lands (30%). Support is lower for policies like imposing additional tariffs on imports (24%) or pardoning January 6th participants (14%).

Partisan divides are evident among AAPI adults, with Republicans far more likely than Democrats to support policies like deporting all immigrants living in the U.S. illegally (70% vs. 18%), increasing drilling on federal lands (65% vs. 14%), or reducing the federal workforce (61% vs. 19%).

Support for these policies provides additional insights on people's issue priorities for 2025. For example, those who named immigration as a top issue priority are more likely to back deportations (55% vs. 24%), while those who identified climate change tend to oppose both expanding oil drilling (57% vs. 33%) and cutting clean energy investments (68% vs. 47%).

About half (54%) of AAPI adults view abortion and reproductive rights as under major threat in 2025. Concerns also extend to freedoms of the press (35%), protection from unreasonable search and seizure (31%), and freedom of speech (29%). Fewer anticipate major threats to the right to vote (23%), freedom of religion (22%), or the right to bear arms (15%).

Six in 10 AAPI adults hold an unfavorable view of Trump, a slight improvement from October 2023 when 70% viewed him unfavorably. Opinions are similarly divided for other leaders, with about half expressing unfavorable views of the incoming vice president, JD Vance (53%), the outgoing president, Joe Biden (55%), and vice president, Kamala Harris (47%).

Emotions about Trump's second term as president among AAPI adults are mixed. Fear is the most prominent reaction, with 42% saying it described their feelings well, followed by anger at 34%. About 1 in 5 believe satisfaction (21%) or excitement (19%) captures their feelings well.

Confidence in Trump's ability to govern during his second term is low among AAPI adults across key areas of leadership. Just 20% are extremely or very confident in his ability to effectively manage the White House, the military, or government spending. Confidence is similarly low regarding his ability to appoint well-qualified officials (19%). However, AAPI Republicans are much more optimistic about Trump's abilities to govern in all areas compared with AAPI Democrats.

Few AAPI adults have confidence in Donald Trump's ability to positively impact the economy such as creating more jobs (20%), or lowering the cost of groceries (16%), housing (15%), or health care (12%). Again, confidence in Trump varies sharply by party affiliation. AAPI Democrats express far less confidence in him on these issues compared with AAPI Republicans.

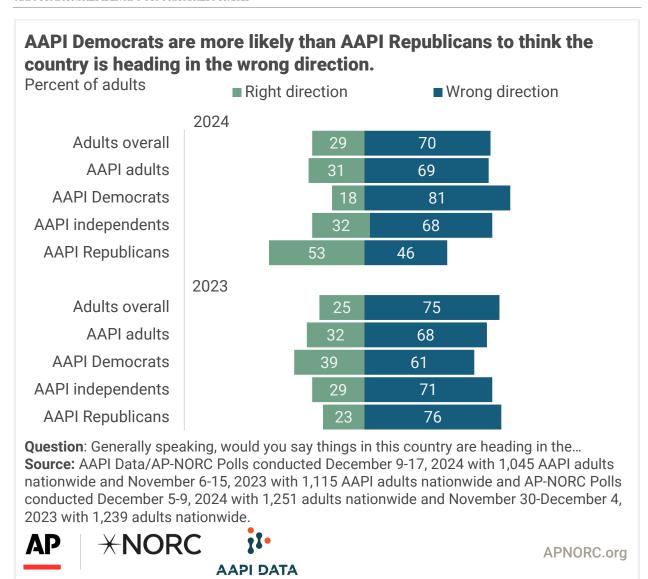
Over the past year, AAPI adults have grown more optimistic about the Republican Party (23% vs. 15%) while becoming less hopeful about the Democratic Party (14% vs. 28%). Their optimism for the Republican Party aligns with the general population's views (24% last asked in July 2024). However, AAPI adults are less optimistic about the Democratic Party compared with U.S. adults overall (31%), who were last asked in July 2024 after Biden exited the race. AAPI Republicans are nearly three times as optimistic about their party's future as AAPI Democrats are about the Democratic Party (57% vs. 21%). Optimism about the opposing party is rare, with fewer than 10% of partisans on either side expressing a positive view.

The nationwide study was conducted by The AP-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.

JUST 3 IN 10 AAPI ADULTS BELIEVE THE COUNTRY IS HEADING IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION WITH REPUBLICANS MORE OPTIMISTIC THAN DEMOCRATS.

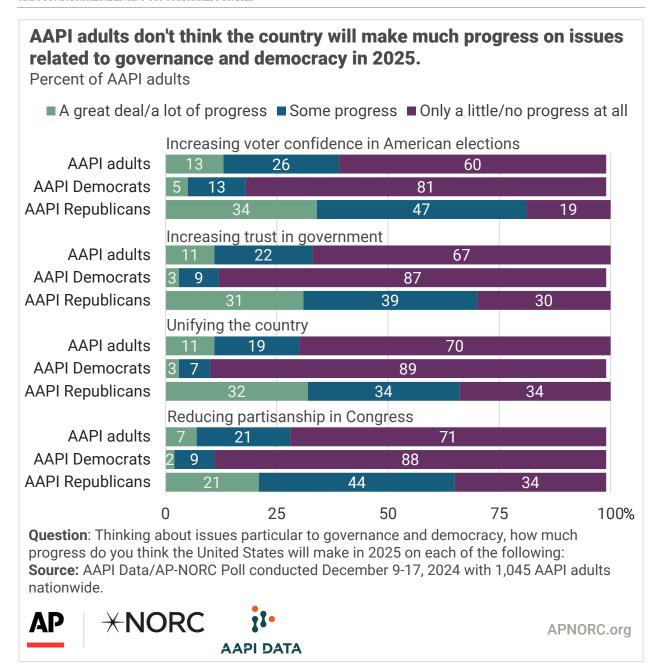
Only about 3 in 10 AAPI adults believe the country is heading in the right direction, a nearly identical share as the general population. However, while about half of AAPI Republicans believe this is the case, only about 1 in 5 AAPI Democrats agree.

Compared with the previous year, AAPI Democrats have become significantly more pessimistic about the direction the country is heading in, while AAPI Republicans have become more optimistic. The November 2023 AAPI Data/AP-NORC Poll found that 4 in 10 AAPI Democrats thought the country was moving in the right direction compared with just a quarter of AAPI Republicans.



FEW AAPI ADULTS ARE OPTIMISTIC ABOUT PROGRESS ON DEMOCRATIC AND GOVERNANCE ISSUES.

Confidence among AAPI adults in the United States' ability to address major challenges in 2025 is low. Most believe little to no progress will be made in reducing partisanship in Congress, improving voter confidence in elections, restoring trust in government, or unifying the country.



FOREIGN POLICY, & INFLATION ARE TOP CONCERNS FOR 2025 WITHIN AAPI COMMUNITIES.

About 4 in 10 AAPI adults named immigration as a key issue they would like to the government to address in 2025, while about half of U.S. adults reported the same. Three in 10 AAPI adults and U.S. adults cited inflation, foreign policy issues (excluding immigration), and the economy as top priorities, a similar result to when the question was asked in the November 2023 AAPI Data/AP-NORC Poll. Like the general population, AAPI adults also listed climate change, health care reform, education, and housing costs among their most pressing issues for the coming year.

AAPI adults' top policy priorities for the next year.

Percent of AAPI adults 2024 Immigration Foreign policy issues other than immigration Inflation 32 Economy 31 (general mentions) Environment/climate 28 change Health care reform 18 Education 18 Housing costs 2023 Foreign policy issues 37 other than immigration Inflation 31 Immigration 29 Environment/ 25 climate change Economy 24 (general mentions) Health care reform 23 Education/ 19 student debt

Source: AAPI Data/AP-NORC Polls conducted December 9-17, 2024 with 1,045 AAPI adults nationwide and November 6-15, 2023 with 1,115 AAPI adults nationwide.

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Gun issues



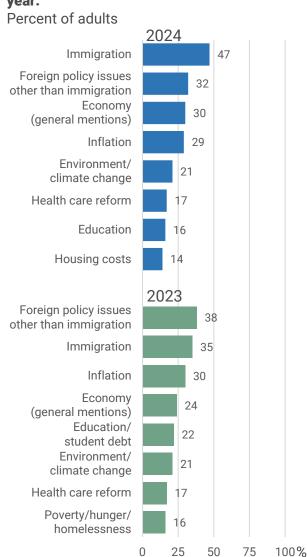
25

50

75

100%

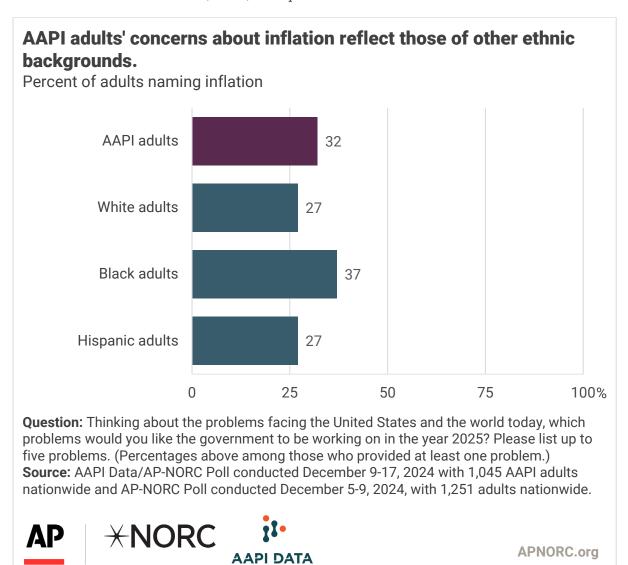
U.S. adults' top policy priorities for the next year.



Source: AP-NORC Polls conducted December 5-9, 2024, with 1,251 adults nationwide and November 30-December 4, 2023, with 1,239 adults nationwide.

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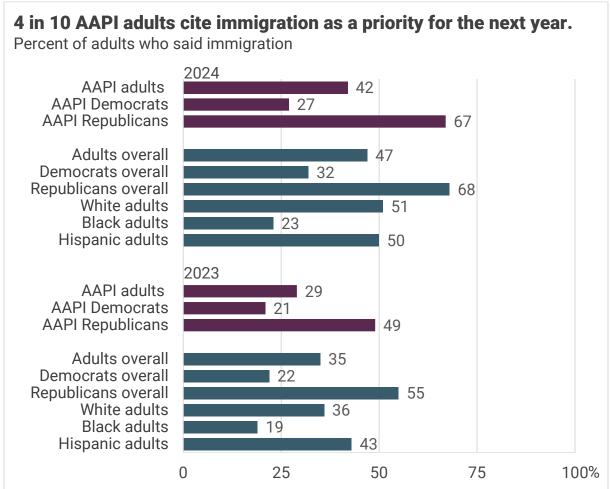
While more Black adults cite inflation as a key issue for 2025 than white adults, there is little variation between AAPI adults and white, Black, or Hispanic adults.



IMMIGRATION TOPS POLICY PRIORITIES FOR AAPI COMMUNITIES, TRACKING WITH NATIONAL TRENDS.

Similar shares of AAPI adults and adults overall cite immigration as a key priority. Views on immigration are heavily influenced by partisanship, with Republicans more than twice as likely than Democrats within both groups to name it as a key issue. Additionally, Hispanic and white adults are more likely than Black adults to do so.

Prioritization of immigration has increased from last year, when only about a third of AAPI or U.S. adults cited it as a top priority.



Question: Thinking about the problems facing the United States and the world today, which problems would you like the government to be working on in the year 2025? Please list up to five problems. (Percentages above among those who provided at least one problem.) **Source:** AAPI Data/AP-NORC Polls conducted December 9-17, 2024 with 1,045 AAPI adults nationwide and November 6-15, 2023 with 1,115 AAPI adults nationwide and AP-NORC Polls conducted December 5-9, 2024 with 1,251 adults nationwide and November 30-December 4, 2023 with 1,239 adults nationwide.



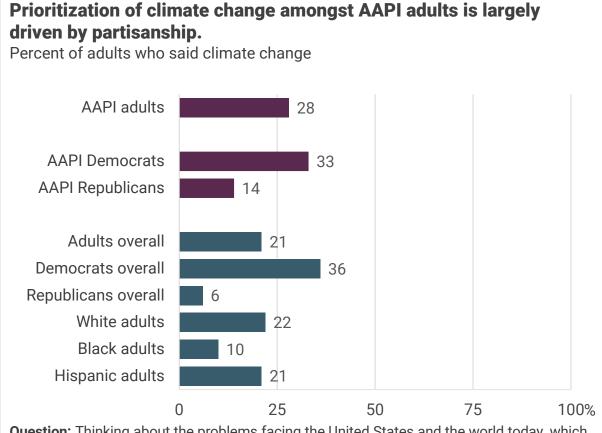




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CLIMATE CHANGE LEADS AAPI DOMESTIC PRIORITIES, BUT AAPI DEMOCRATS ARE ABOUT TWICE AS LIKELY AS AAPI REPUBLICANS TO CITE IT AS A TOP CONCERN.

Like immigration, the prioritization of climate change as a key issue is largely driven by partisanship. About a third of AAPI Democrats and Democrats overall view it as a top priority, while just 14% of AAPI Republicans and 6% of U.S. Republicans agree.



Question: Thinking about the problems facing the United States and the world today, which problems would you like the government to be working on in the year 2025? Please list up to five problems. (Percentages above among those who provided at least one problem.) **Source:** AAPI Data/AP-NORC Poll conducted December 9-17, 2024 with 1,045 AAPI adults nationwide and AP-NORC Poll conducted December 5-9, 2024, with 1,251 adults nationwide.





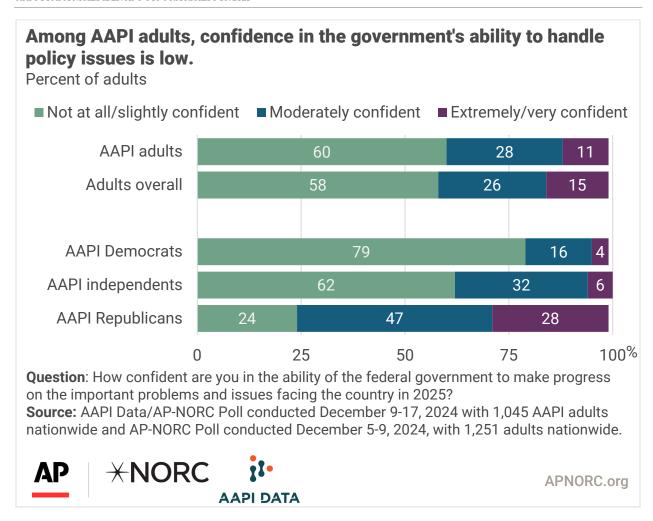


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AAPI DEMOCRATS AND REPUBLICANS HAVE LIMITED CONFIDENCE IN GOVERNMENT'S ABILITY TO ADDRESS KEY POLICY CHALLENGES.

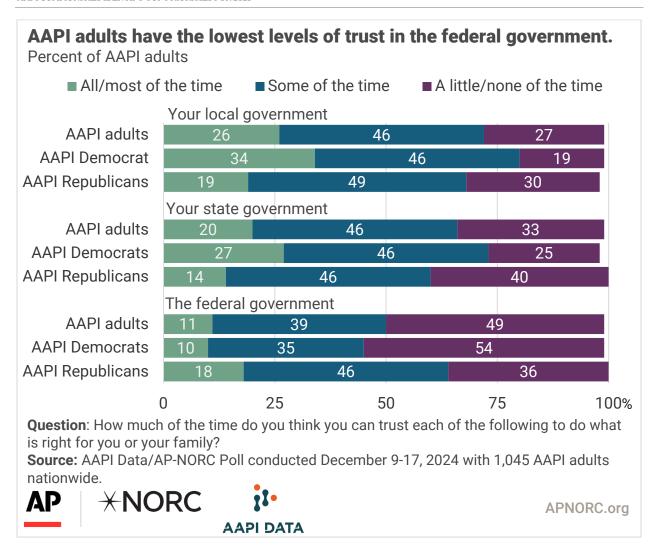
Six in 10 AAPI adults are not confident in the federal government's ability to make progress on the important problems and issues facing the country in 2025. These sentiments are comparable to the broader public mood in which 58% of U.S. adults lack confidence.

While majorities of those who identify with each party lack a great deal of confidence, AAPI Democrats are especially pessimistic with about 8 in 10 reporting they are not confident compared with about a quarter of AAPI Republicans.



MANY ACROSS AAPI COMMUNITIES LACK TRUST IN ALL LEVELS OF GOVERNMENT TO DO RIGHT BY THEIR FAMILY.

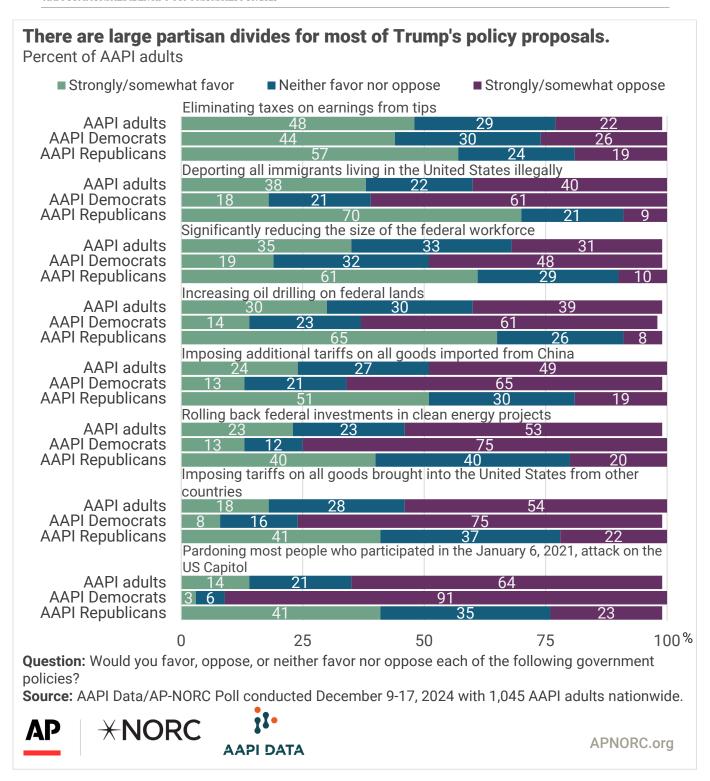
Trust in government among AAPI adults varies across levels of government. While trust in local and state governments to do what is right most or all of the time hovers near a quarter of the AAPI public, faith in the federal government is even lower at 11 percent. AAPI Democrats trust their local or state governments more often than AAPI Republicans.



SUPPORT AMONG AAPI ADULTS FOR TRUMP'S AGENDA IS LARGELY INFLUENCED BY PARTISANSHIP.

Nearly half of AAPI adults support eliminating taxes on earnings from tips, while about a third favor deporting all undocumented immigrants, reducing the size of the federal workforce, and increasing oil drilling on federal lands. Less popular measures include imposing additional tariffs on goods from China or other countries, rolling back federal investments in clean energy, and pardoning participants in the January 6th Capitol attack.

AAPI Republicans are more likely than AAPI Democrats to support this set of campaign proposals, with the partisan divide especially pronounced regarding deporting all immigrants living in the United States illegally (70% vs. 18%), increasing drilling on federal lands (65% vs. 14%), and decreasing the size of the federal workforce (61% vs. 19%).



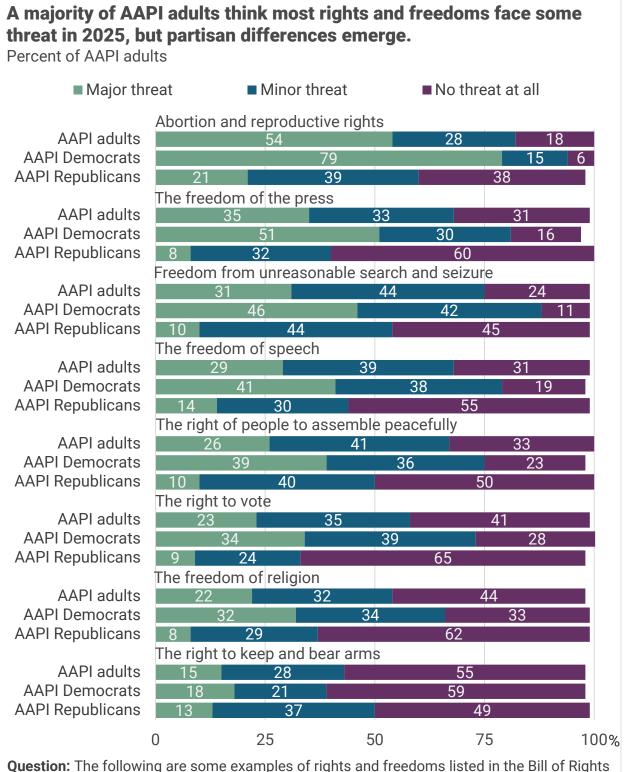
Opinions on what the federal government should prioritize in 2025 are also related to policy positions. AAPI adults who cite immigration as a top priority for the government to address in 2025 are more likely to support deporting all immigrants living in the U.S. illegally (55% vs. 24%), while those who cite climate change are more likely to oppose both increasing oil drilling (57% vs. 33%) and rolling back investments in clean energy projects (68% vs. 47%).

MANY AAPI ADULTS SEE REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS UNDER THREAT IN 2025.

Eight in 10 AAPI adults believe abortion and reproductive rights face a major (54%) or minor (28%) threat in 2025.

Concerns also extend to freedoms of the press (35%), protection from unreasonable search and seizure (31%), and freedom of speech (29%). Fewer anticipate major threats to the right bear arms (15%).

Perceptions on the threats each of these rights face differ according to party affiliation, especially regarding abortion and reproductive freedom. Eight in 10 AAPI Democrats report that they face major threats in 2025 compared with only a fifth of AAPI Republicans. In addition, AAPI Democrats are more likely than AAPI Republicans to believe freedom of the press, freedom from unreasonable search and seizure, the right of people to assemble peacefully, freedom of speech, the right to vote, or freedom of religion are significantly threatened.



Question: The following are some examples of rights and freedoms listed in the Bill of Rights or that are protected under various American laws and court rulings. For each one, please select how much of a threat do you think each may face in 2025?

Source: AAPI Data/AP-NORC Poll conducted December 9-17, 2024 with 1,045 AAPI adults nationwide.





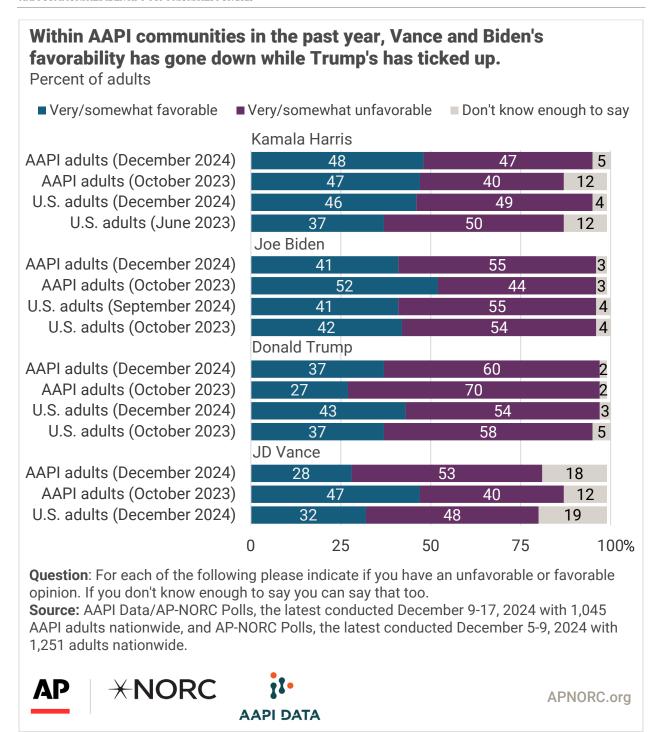
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AAPI ADULTS HOLD LARGELY NEGATIVE VIEWS ON POLITICAL LEADERS.

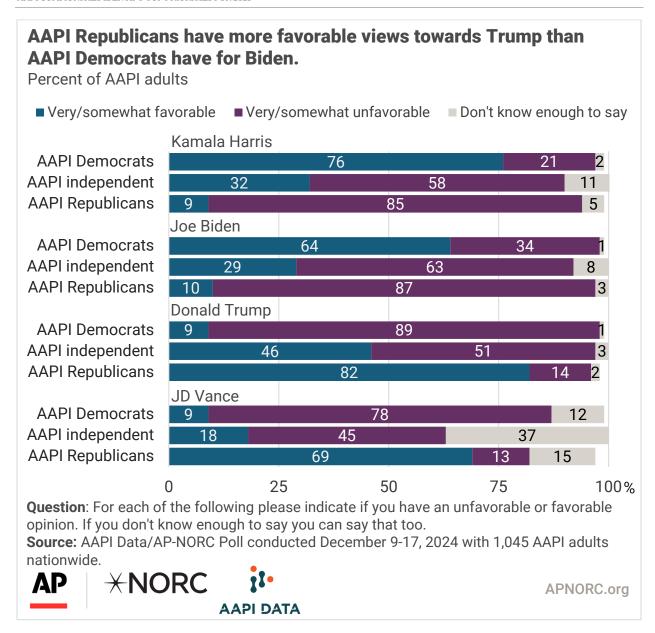
As Trump prepares to return to the White House, most AAPI adults hold an unfavorable view of him, and about half feel similarly about his running mate, JD Vance. Biden also faces comparable disapproval, while about half express negative opinions about Harris.

Views of these political leaders have shifted in varying ways over the past year when comparing trends among the general population and AAPI adults.

Though U.S. adults are more likely to view Harris favorably than they were in June 2023, AAPI adults have held steady since October of the same year. The opposite trend is observed for Trump—U.S. adults' opinions have changed little, if at all, while AAPI adults have become slightly more likely to support him. Biden's favorability with AAPI adults has declined, even as the general population's views of him have remained constant. Vance's favorability has fallen nearly 20 percentage points among AAPI adults since October 2023.



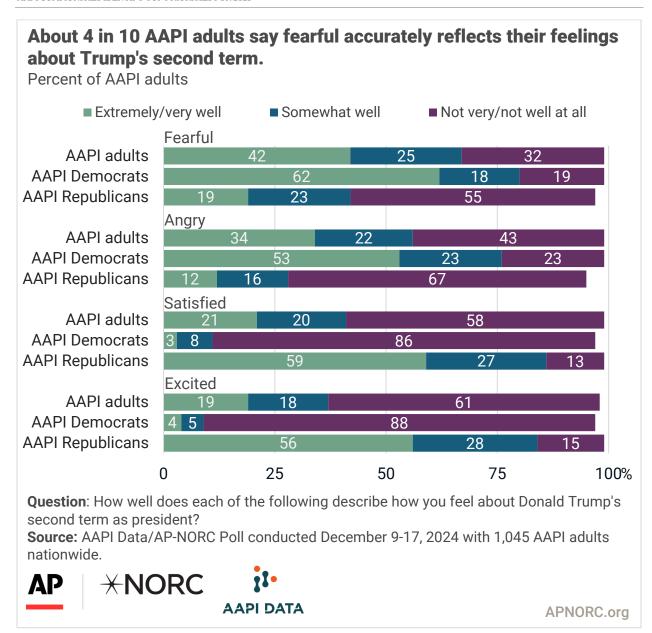
AAPI partisans are more likely to support candidates from within their own political party. Among AAPI independents, Trump is the most favored candidate, though even in this group, just about half of independents view the incoming president positively.



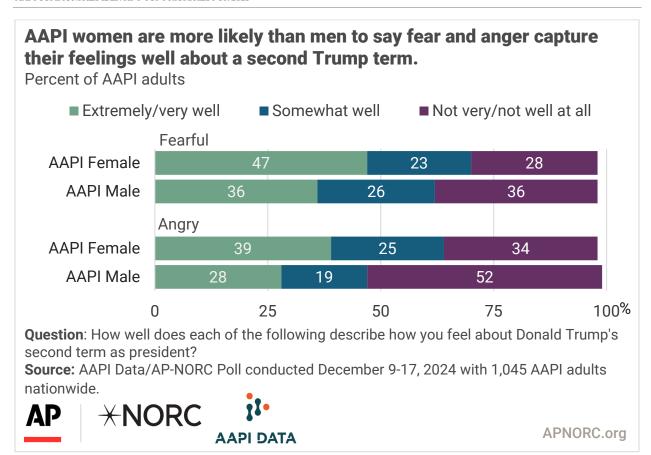
TRUMP'S RETURN TO THE WHITE HOUSE EVOKES MIXED FEELINGS ACROSS AAPI COMMUNITIES—MOST LACK CONFIDENCE IN HIS ABILITIES TO GOVERN OR MAKE PROGRESS ON KEY ISSUES.

Feelings about Trump's second term among AAPI adults are mixed. Fear is the most strongly felt emotion, with 4 in 10 saying it describes their feelings well. Anger is also prominent, with about a third saying it captures their feelings well. Conversely, about 1 in 5 say satisfaction and excitement reflect their feelings well.

AAPI Democrats are more likely than AAPI Republicans to feel fearful or angry about a second Trump term, while AAPI Republicans are more likely to feel satisfied or excited.

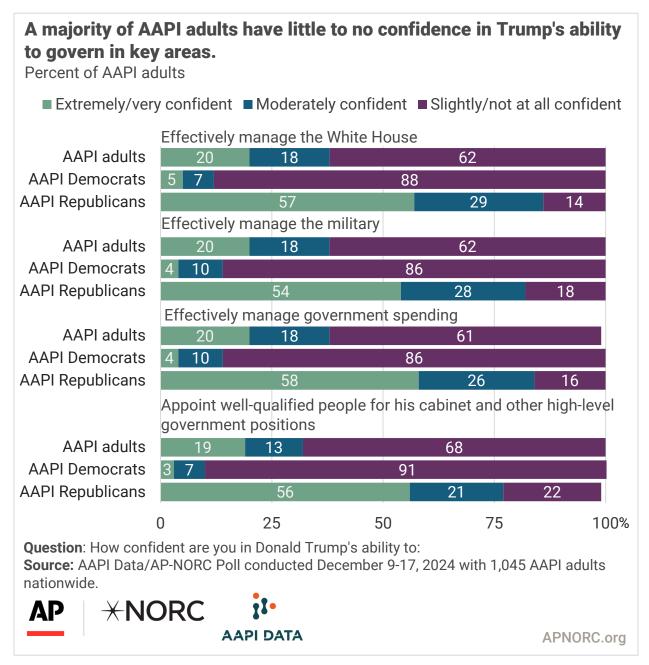


AAPI women express more negative emotions about a second Trump presidency than AAPI men. Nearly half of AAPI women say the word fearful captures their feelings well, compared with about one-third of AAPI men. Similarly, around 4 in 10 women feel the word angry sums up their emotions, compared with 3 in 10 men. AAPI men and women express satisfaction and excitement at similar levels.

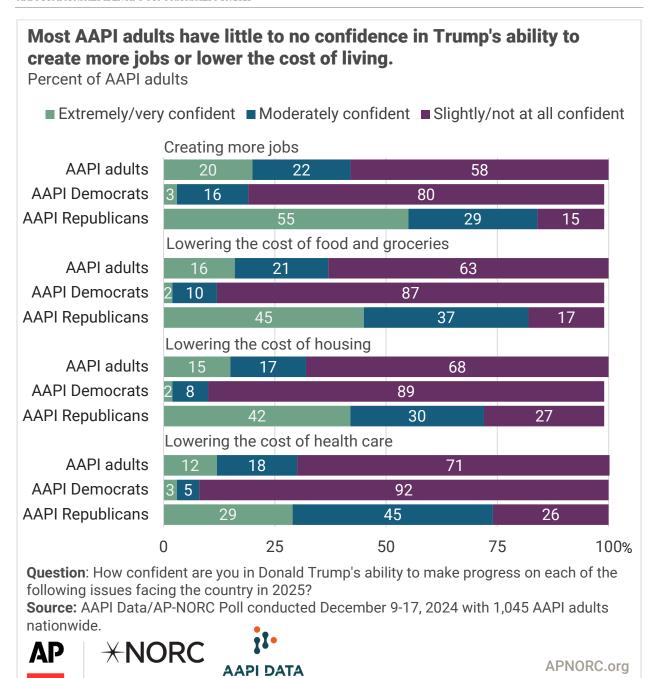


Confidence in Trump's ability to govern during his second term is low among AAPI adults across key areas of leadership. Less than a quarter are very confident in his ability to appoint well-qualified cabinet members or effectively manage the White House, military, or government spending.

More AAPI Democrats have little or no confidence in Trump's ability to govern than AAPI Republicans, who feel the opposite.

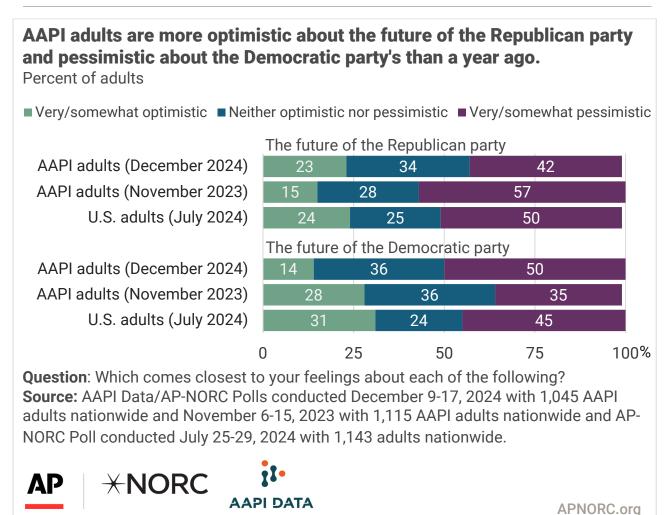


Most AAPI adults also have little confidence in Trump's ability to create more jobs or lower the cost of healthcare, housing, or groceries. AAPI Democrats have much less confidence in Trump on these issues than AAPI Republicans.

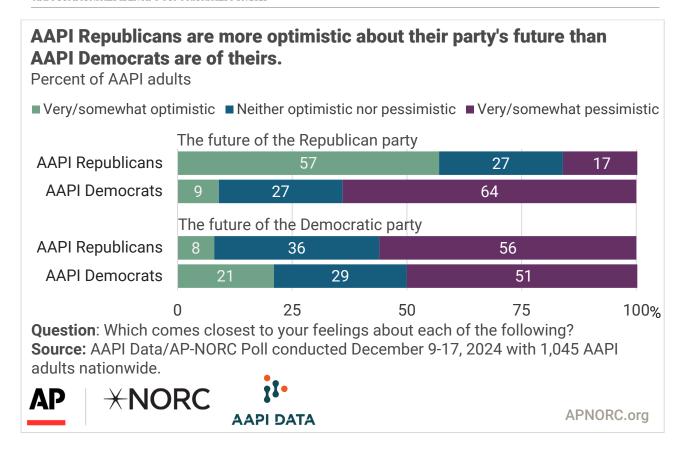


AAPI ADULTS ARE MORE OPTIMISTIC ABOUT THE REPUBLICAN PARTY AS PESSIMISM FOR DEMOCRATS RISES.

Over the past year, AAPI adults have grown more optimistic about the Republican Party's future while becoming less optimistic about the Democratic Party's future. Optimism for the Republican Party among AAPI adults is comparable to that of the general population when this question was last asked in July 2024. However, AAPI adults are less optimistic about the Democratic Party than U.S. adults overall.



AAPI Republicans are nearly three times as optimistic about the future of the Republican Party as AAPI Democrats are about the future of the Democratic Party (57% vs. 21%). Fewer than 10% of partisans on either side express optimism about the future of the opposing party.



METHODOLOGY

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 December 9-17, 2024, 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 1,045 completed the survey—1,042 via the web with 3 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 \$3 or \$10) for completing the survey. The overall margin of sampling error is +/-4.9 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.

For the open-ended question PROB1, responses were classified using Canvs AI, an online platform that codes open-ended data. These codes were validated by a human coder and were then collapsed into more general categories based on topic for reporting.

Complete questions and results are available at www.apnorc.org. For more information about the study, email 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.

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

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.