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Trump receives lower marks from AAPI adults than general public on key issues, including immigration

Most AAPI adults prioritize the economy, jobs, and inflation, but few approve of how Trump is handling these issues. AAPI support for the administration's immigration enforcement tactics is also low.

As the Trump administration intensifies its enforcement of policies targeting illegal immigration, a new AAPI Data/AP-NORC Poll shows growing disapproval among AAPI adults of its approach. More AAPI adults now disapprove of Trump's handling of immigration than [six months ago](#) (71% vs. 58%), and two-thirds say Trump's deportation policies have gone too far.

Only about 2 in 10 support targeting neighborhoods with higher immigrant populations, deploying the military or National Guard to carry out arrests and deportations, detaining immigrants at their workplaces, or allowing agents to cover their faces during arrests. Roughly 6 in 10 oppose these tactics.

While about half of AAPI adults favor deporting immigrants living in the United States illegally who have been charged with misdemeanors, fewer favor deporting all immigrants living in the United States illegally (35%), those who express views that the federal government disagrees with (30%), or those who have lived in the U.S. for more than a decade (24%).

Foreign-born AAPI adults tend to be older and less Democratic leaning than those who were born in the United States. They are more likely to approve of Trump's handling of crime (43% vs. 24%) and immigration (33% vs. 22%) and are more in favor of deporting all immigrants who are in the country illegally (39% vs. 28%) and those charged with misdemeanors (56% vs. 41%).

"Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders widely disapprove of the Trump administration's handling of immigration, even more so than earlier in this year," says Karthick Ramakrishnan, executive director of AAPI Data and a researcher at UC Berkley. "Most AAPI adults believe that the administration has gone too far on immigration enforcement, and they oppose various tactics that immigration agents have used in large-scale enforcement operations."

AAPI adults also express large disapproval of Trump's handling of several major issues. Compared to the general public, more AAPI adults disapprove of his approach to trade with other countries (75% vs. 63%), the Israeli-Palestinian conflict (75% vs. 60%), foreign policy (74% vs. 59%), immigration (71% vs. 56%), the economy (74% vs. 62%), and crime (63% vs. 53%).

And while few AAPI adults approve of Trump's handling of key issues, most say these topics are important to them personally, particularly those related to the economy. Ninety-two percent say the economy is extremely or very important to them, followed by inflation (89%), and jobs (79%). A majority also say crime (73%), trade negotiations (68%), immigration (63%), and foreign policy (59%) are important.

On the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, only 37% say it is an extremely or very important issue to them personally. Still, more sympathize with Palestinians (39%) than with Israelis (13%), while 20% sympathize with both sides equally and 28% with neither. Two-thirds of AAPI adults say Israel's military response in Gaza has gone too far, compared to about half of the general public (66% vs. 49%).

When it comes to various political and economic ideologies, AAPI adults tend to view left-leaning positions more favorably. Economically, capitalism is viewed more positively than socialism. A majority hold a favorable view of capitalism (57%), while about half feel the same about the progressive movement (51%) and liberalism (47%). Fewer express favorable views of socialism (44%), conservatism (35%), or the Make America Great Again (MAGA) movement (26%).

Reflecting their ideological positions, many AAPI adults support government action on market-based issues such as prescription drug prices and housing costs. Most AAPI adults support the federal government capping prescription drug prices (85%), providing free daycare to children (71%), and requiring new housing developments to include affordable units (70%). About half favor the government forgiving student loan debt for low-income borrowers (53%).

“These findings underscore the nuanced political and economic perspectives within the AAPI community,” said Jennifer Benz, deputy director of The Associated Press-NORC Center. “While the community embraces capitalism, their more progressive ideologies mean they support government action when the private sector falls short on issues like housing and prescription drug costs.”

About the Study

The nationwide study was conducted by The AP-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research and AAPI Data from September 2-9, 2025, 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 1,027 Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islanders aged 18 and older living in the United States. The margin of sampling error is +/- 5.0 percentage points.

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. Email press@aapidata.com for more questions.

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