

Press contacts: Eric Young, young-eric@norc.org or (703) 217-6814 (cell) and Amanda Ong, press@aapidata.com.

INFLATION, COST OF LIVING, IMMIGRATION, AND HEALTHCARE TOP THE LIST OF AAPI PRIORITIES FOR 2026

Like the general population, AAPI adults rank economic and personal finance issues, immigration, and health care as the top policy priorities they want the government to address in 2026. While most are pessimistic about the overall state of the country, economy, and healthcare, they are more positive about their own situation.

Chicago, January 22, 2025 – A new AAPI Data/AP-NORC poll asked AAPI adults to name, in their own words, five issues they would like the government to be working on in 2026. Economic and personal finance issues like inflation and cost of living top the list, alongside immigration and health care. These issues also rank as priorities in a [recent poll](#) of the general population.

The public is not optimistic about the federal government's ability to address these concerns, with just 10% saying they are confident the government will make progress on these issues in 2026. And 70% are not at all or just slightly confident, up from 60% in a [December 2024 AAPI Data/AP-NORC Poll](#).

About three quarters of AAPI adults mention at least one economic issue they want the government to prioritize in 2026, and another 42% mention an issue related to personal finances. About half of AAPI adults cite inflation or cost of living as a key priorities (49%), up from 37% [last year](#) and higher than the general public (33%).

“The survey highlights that even as AAPI adults share many of the concerns of the general public, inflation and cost of living are standing out for this population,” says Jennifer Benz, deputy director of The AP-NORC Center. “Compared to a year ago, AAPI adults are now more likely to mention the issue than the public overall, regardless of partisanship.”

Overall, 6 in 10 think the national economy (58%) will get worse, while about a quarter expect it to stay the same. Only 17% say it will get better. AAPI adults are slightly less pessimistic about their own personal finances, with 45% saying their finances will stay about the same compared with 35% who say they will get worse. Nineteen percent expect their personal finances to improve.

Health care is also an important issue for AAPI communities. Forty-four percent mention a health care issue, up from 32% last year. And 60% are extremely or very concerned about their health care costs increasing, while about 4 in 10 are concerned about being unable to access health care when needed, pay for health care, or maintain health insurance. These concerns mirror those of the general population.

While few list democracy as a key issue, AAPI adults express concerns about how democracy is functioning in the United States. Most AAPI adults agree the U.S. is a democracy, but a majority (57%) believe it is functioning poorly. Most AAPI adults also see major threats towards freedom of speech (58%) and freedom of press (57%), and about a third say the same about the right to vote (38%) and freedom of religion (34%). Democrats are more likely than AAPI Republicans to say each of these freedoms are threatened.

AAPI adults and the general population largely align on key aspects of the United States' national identity, with large majorities citing the importance of individual liberties and freedoms and a democratically elected government. However, the general population is more likely than AAPI adults to say that a culture grounded in Christian religious beliefs is important (36% vs. 21%).

The survey also explores how the AAPI community is giving back this holiday season. Most AAPI adults have donated to those in need in the past year, with about half giving between \$1 and \$500 dollars. While AAPI adults and the general population donate similar amounts, AAPI adults are more likely to donate to a crowdfunding campaign, an organization that provides disaster relief, or an educational institution.

Like the general population, confidence that a charity is impactful (69%) and belief in its cause (69%) are the most important reasons AAPI adults cite for donating. About three quarters say it is very or extremely important to provide charitable assistance to friends or family members, and about half say the same about neighbors or people in their communities. Fewer say it is very or extremely important to provide assistance to people living elsewhere in the United States and outside the country.

“Even amidst mounting economic concerns, most Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders are still making some sort of donation and giving back to those in need,” says Karthick Ramakrishnan, executive director of AAPI Data and researcher at UC Berkeley. “AAPI adults prioritize assisting those closest to them – friends and family, neighbors and community members, and they are also more likely than the general population to cite the importance of international giving.”

About the Study

The nationwide study was conducted by The AP-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research and AAPI Data from December 2-8, 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 interviews were offered in English, the Chinese dialects of Mandarin and Cantonese, Vietnamese, and Korean with 1,029 Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islanders aged 18 and older living in the United States. The margin of sampling error is +/- 4.7 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.

###

Contacts: Eric Young, young-eric@norc.org or (703) 217-6814 (cell) and Amanda Ong, press@aapidata.com.