



**A REPORT ON AALDEF'S MULTILINGUAL EXIT POLL
FROM THE 2022 MIDTERM ELECTION**

Asian American
Legal Defense and
Education Fund



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On November 8, 2022, the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF) conducted the Asian American Exit Poll, a nonpartisan, multilingual exit poll of Asian American voters. More than 550 attorneys, law students, and community volunteers administered the survey in 12 states – California, Florida, Georgia, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Texas, Virginia – and Washington, D.C.

AALDEF's Asian American Exit Poll, the largest survey of its kind in the nation, surveyed 5,476 Asian American voters at 75 poll sites in 42 cities. AALDEF conducted the exit poll in-person in English and 11 Asian languages. AALDEF has conducted exit polls in every major election since 1988.

The mainstream media often provide a limited racial breakdown of voters in their exit polls: Whites, African Americans, Latinos, and "Others." As a result, elected officials, candidates, and policymakers often ignore the political preferences and needs of the Asian American community. In the few media reports on the Asian American vote, the data may be from polls conducted only in English or from an extremely small sample of Asian Americans.

Multilingual exit polls provide a more comprehensive portrait of Asian American voters than surveys done only in English. AALDEF surveyed Asian American voters in areas covered by Section 203 of the Voting Rights Act. Once the Director of the Census Bureau determines that the limited English proficient voting age population meets the thresholds for coverage under Section 203, the covered jurisdiction is required to provide all of the election information it provides in English, in the covered language as well as. AALDEF's Asian American Exit Poll reveals details about the Asian American community, including voter preferences on candidates, political parties, issues, and language needs.

In this past year's Midterm Election, Asian Americans played a crucial role in deciding the outcome in key swing state U.S. Senate races such as Pennsylvania, Nevada, and Georgia. A majority of Asian voters favored the Democratic Party, securing close wins for those candidates. Additionally, Asian Americans were also a decisive factor in several contested Congressional and State Assembly races throughout New York City and New York State, showcasing the voting power of this fastest growing racial group.

I. PROFILE OF RESPONDENTS

The five largest Asian ethnic groups polled in 2022 were Chinese (39%), South Asian (24%), Korean (11%), Southeast Asian (13%), and Filipino (8%). South Asians include Asian Indians, Bangladeshis, Indo-Caribbeans, and Pakistanis. Southeast Asians include Vietnamese and Cambodians. Approximately three out of four (74%) respondents were foreign-born. Close to half (43%) described themselves as limited English proficient. One out of ten voters (10%) voted for the first time in the November 2022 Midterm Election.

Democratic Majority

In the Midterm Election, more than half of surveyed Asian Americans voters were registered as a Democrat (53%), while one in five (19%) were registered Republicans, and close to a quarter (24%) were not enrolled in any political party. Over 60% of surveyed Asian Americans voted for Democratic candidates in the Gubernatorial (62%), Congressional (64%), and Senatorial Elections (66%).

Common Political Interests

Asian Americans are a diverse community, including many who are foreign-born and speak different Asian languages and dialects. In the political arena, however, they share common political interests, even across ethnic lines. In the 2022 Midterm Election, Asian Americans voted as a bloc for the same candidates and identified common reasons for their vote. Respondents identified Economy/Jobs (39%)—a 28% increase from 2020's survey—, Health Care (37%), and Education (34%)—a 15% increase from 2020—as three of the top issues that influenced their vote for Congress.

Asian Americans showed strong support for requiring teaching a unit of Asian American Pacific Islander History in the K-12 curriculum (83%), laws to protect the transgender community from discrimination (65%), and access to a legal abortion (64%). Close to half of Asian Americans approved of Joe Biden's performance as a President (45%), while (32%) disapproved of his work as President.

Language Access

Bilingual ballots and language assistance are necessary to preserve access to the vote. Forty-three percent (43%) of Asian Americans polled were limited English proficient while only thirty-six percent (36%) identified English as their native language.

Voting Barriers

AALDEF received a total of 3,075 complaints of voting problems. The most common complaints included: being unlawfully required to provide identification to vote, needing to prove citizenship, not being provided with Asian-language assistance, not being permitted to vote by regular ballot and instead voting by provisional or affidavit ballot, and being redirected to another poll site.

Methodology

On November 8, 2022, AALDEF surveyed 5,476 Asian American voters at 75 poll sites in 42 cities across 12 states— California, Florida, Georgia, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Texas, Virginia – and Washington, D.C.

The cities and states selected for the exit poll were among those with the largest or fastest-growing Asian American populations according to the 2020 U.S. Census. AALDEF selected poll sites with large concentrations of Asian American voters based on voter registration files, census data, advice from local elections officials and community leaders, and a history of voting problems. Three hundred and seventy four volunteers were stationed at poll sites throughout the day, generally between 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. in New York, and 7:00 a.m. until 7:00-8:00 p.m. in all other states and Washington D.C. Volunteers were recruited by the co-sponsoring organizations, including seven national organizations, 40 community-based organizations, 17 law firms, 13 bar associations, and 13 Asian Pacific American and South Asian Law Student Association chapters, five graduate and five undergraduate student associations. AALDEF trained all volunteers in conducting the exit poll and all volunteers were nonpartisan. AALDEF instructed volunteers to approach all Asian American voters as they were leaving poll sites to ask them to complete a confidential and anonymous questionnaire.

Survey questionnaires were available in English and 11 Asian languages: Arabic, Bengali, Chinese, Gujarati, Hindi, Khmer, Korean, Punjabi, Tagalog, Urdu, and Vietnamese. Volunteers were conversant in 29 Asian languages and dialects: Chinese (Cantonese, Fujianese, Hokkien, Malay, Mandarin, Shanghainese, Toisanese), South Asian languages (Arabic, Bengali, Dari, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Malayalam, Punjabi, Tamil, Telugu, Tuli, Tulu, Urdu), Southeast Asian languages (Bahasa Indonesia, Indonesian, Nepalese, Thai, Tibetan, Vietnamese), Chamorro, Japanese, and Korean.

Ethnicity

Survey respondents were Chinese (39%), Asian Indian (12%), Korean (11%), Vietnamese (11%), Other Asian (8%), Bangladeshi (8%), Filipino (8%), Pakistani (3%), Multi-Racial Asian (4%), Cambodian (2%), Indo-Caribbean (1%), and Arab (1%).

Figure 1. Profile of Survey Respondents by Ethnicity

Asian American respondents	Percentage of Voters
5,476 Total Surveyed	100%
Chinese	39%
Asian Indian	12%
Korean	11%
Vietnamese	11%
Bangladeshi	8%
Filipino	8%
Multi-Racial Asian	4%
Pakistani	3%
Cambodian	2%
Arab	1%
Indo-Caribbean	1%

Nativity

Almost three fourths of survey respondents were foreign-born, naturalized citizens (74%). More than half of all survey respondents were foreign-born citizens who naturalized over a decade ago (52%).

Figure 2. Profile of Survey Respondents by Nativity

Asian American respondents	Percentage of Voters
Born in the U.S.	26%
Foreign born, naturalized citizen:	74%
...0-2 years ago	4%
...3-5 years ago	7%
...6-10 years ago	10%
...more than 10 years ago	52%

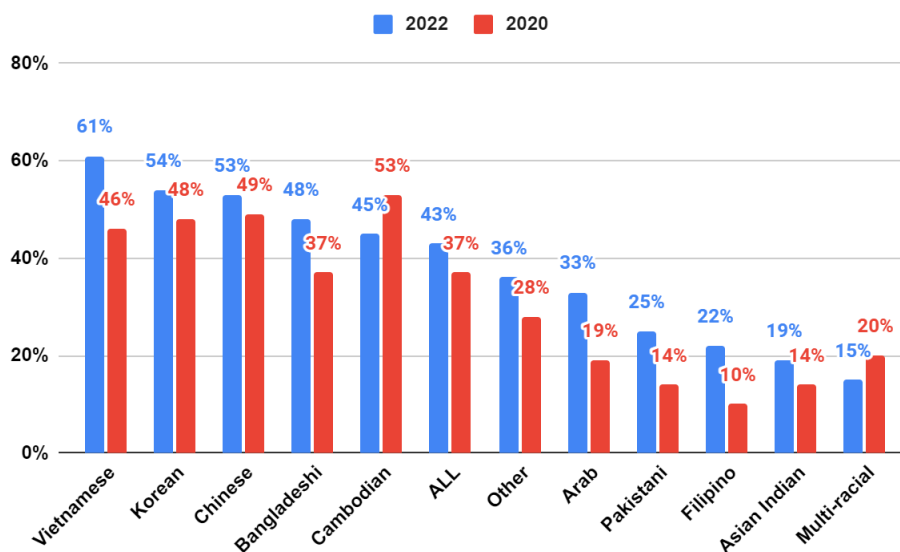
Native Language

A little more than a third of survey responders (36%) identified English as their native language, a third (31%) identified one or more Chinese languages as their native language, 14% spoke one or more South Asian languages (including Bengali, Hindi, Gujarati, Urdu, and Punjabi), 10% spoke one or more Southeast Asian languages (including Vietnamese and Khmer), 8% spoke Korean, 5% spoke Tagalog, and 6% identified another Asian language as their native language. Among South Asian voters, 7% spoke Bengali as their native language, 3% Hindi, 2% Gujarati, 2% Urdu, and 1% Punjabi.

Limited English Proficiency

Close to half of Asian American voters (43%) surveyed said they were limited English proficient (LEP), which is defined by the U.S. Census Bureau as speaking English “less than very well.” The ethnicities with the highest rates of LEP were Vietnamese (61%), Korean (54%), and Chinese (53%). Meanwhile, South Asian survey respondents were generally less likely to be LEP, with the exception of Bangladeshi voters who had a 48% LEP rate.

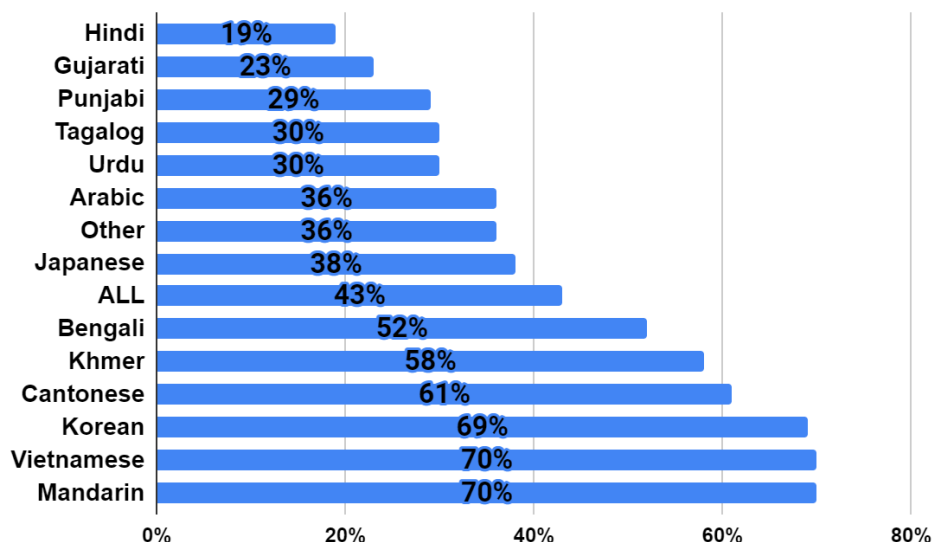
Figure 3. Limited English Proficient Voters by Ethnicity



Indo-Caribbean voters had the lowest LEP rate at only 11%.

Of all language groups polled, native Vietnamese (70%), Mandarin (70%), and Korean (69%) speaking voters exhibited the highest rate of limited English proficiency (LEP) compared to all Asian American survey respondents (43%). Among South Asian American voters, most were largely English proficient, although 52% of Bengali-speaking voters were limited English proficient.

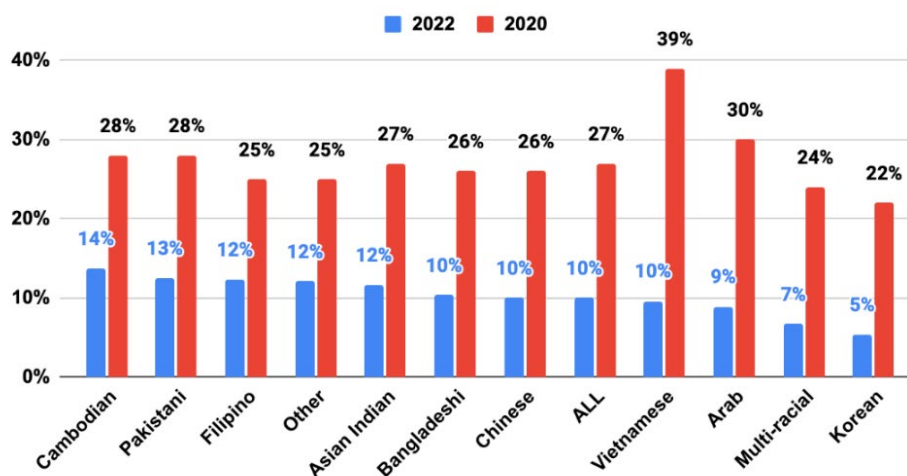
Figure 4. Limited English Proficiency by Native Language



First-time Voters

One in ten (10%) Asian Americans polled said that they voted for the first time in the Midterms Election. The highest rates of first-time voters were amongst Cambodian voters (14%), Pakistani voters (13%), and Filipino voters (12%). This 10% first time voter rate during this Midterm Election is in stark contrast from 2020 Presidential Election, where first-time voters were almost double, keeping with the trend that presidential elections tend to have more first-time voters.

Figure 5. First Time Voter by Ethnicity

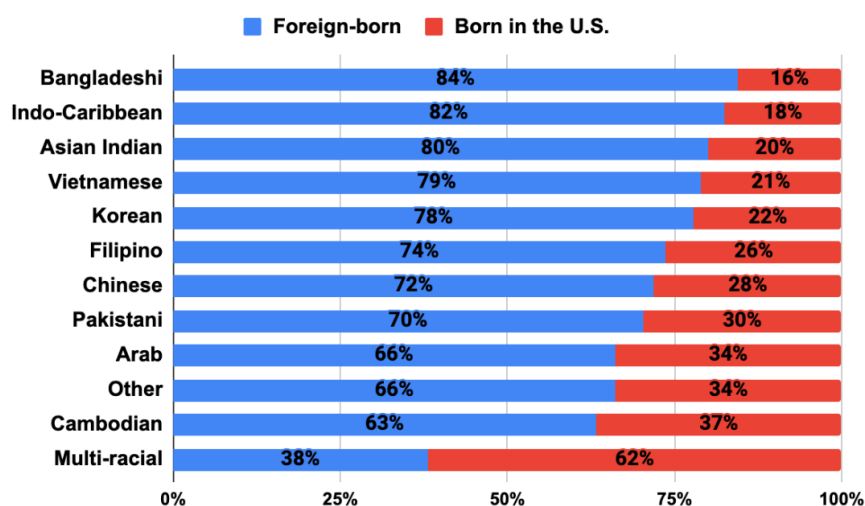


In this Midterm Election, Indo-Caribbean voters had a relatively low rate for first-time voters at 9%.

Foreign-born, Naturalized Citizens

Of survey respondents 74% were foreign-born, naturalized citizens. South Asians had among the highest rates of foreign-born, naturalized citizens: 84% of Bangladeshis, 82% of Indo-Caribbeans, and 80% of Asian Indians. Of Vietnamese Americans, 79% were foreign-born while 78% of Korean American voters were. The groups with the largest proportions of native-born citizens were Multi-racial (62%), Cambodian (37%), Arab (34%), Pakistani (30%), Chinese (28%), and Filipino (26%).

Figure 6. Nativity by Ethnicity



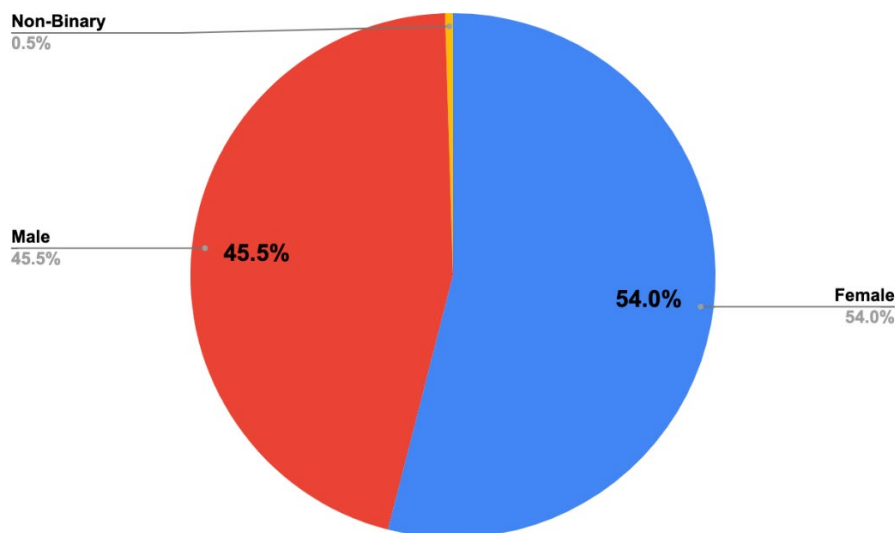
Age

Seventeen percent (17%) of respondents were between the ages of 18 to 29 and 30 to 39. Nineteen percent (19%) were between the ages of 40 to 49. Sixteen percent (15%) were between 50 to 59 years old and 60 to 69 years old. Fifteen percent (15%) were 70 years old or older.

Gender

Of the voters polled, 54.0% were female and 45.5% male, and 0.5% were non-binary.

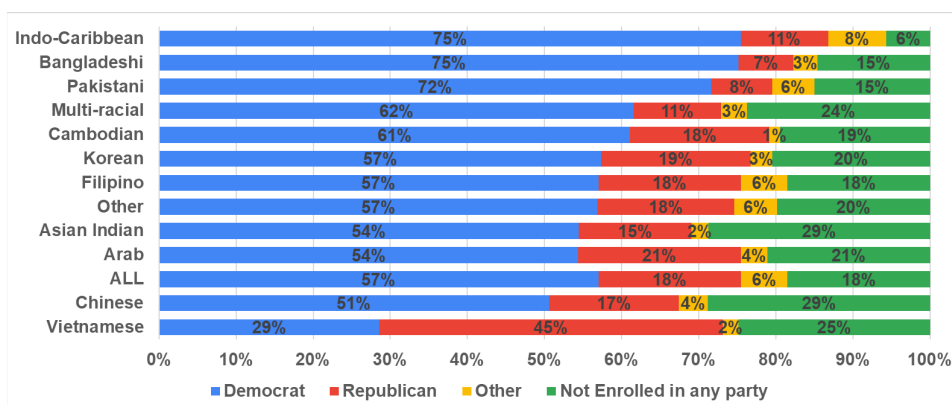
Figure 7. Gender



Party Affiliation

The majority (53%) of Asian American respondents were enrolled in the Democratic Party, compared to 54% in the 2020 Presidential Election. Nineteen percent (19%) were enrolled in the Republican Party, versus 16% in the 2020 Presidential Election. Four percent (4%) were enrolled in a party other than the Democratic or Republican parties. Almost a quarter, twenty-four percent (24%), of all Asian American respondents were not enrolled in any party.

Figure 8. Party Enrollment by Ethnicity



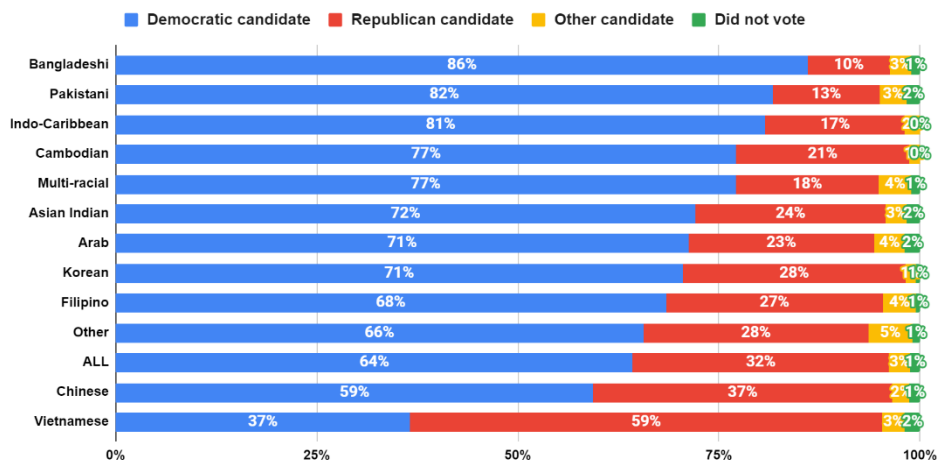
There was some variation among ethnicities. Enrollment in the Democratic Party was highest among South Asian ethnicities: 75% of Indo-Caribbeans, 75% of Bangladeshi compared to 80% in 2020, 72% of Pakistani compared to 78% in 2020 were enrolled as Democrats. Vietnamese American had the highest rate of Republican voters at 45%, followed by Korean Americans (19%) and Filipino Americans (18%). About one in three Chinese and Asian Indians voters (29%) were not enrolled in any political party.

II. THE ASIAN AMERICAN VOTE

Vote for U.S. House of Representatives

Close to two thirds of Asian Americans (64%) voted for Democratic U.S. House of Representatives candidates, while the other third (32%) voted for Republican candidates.

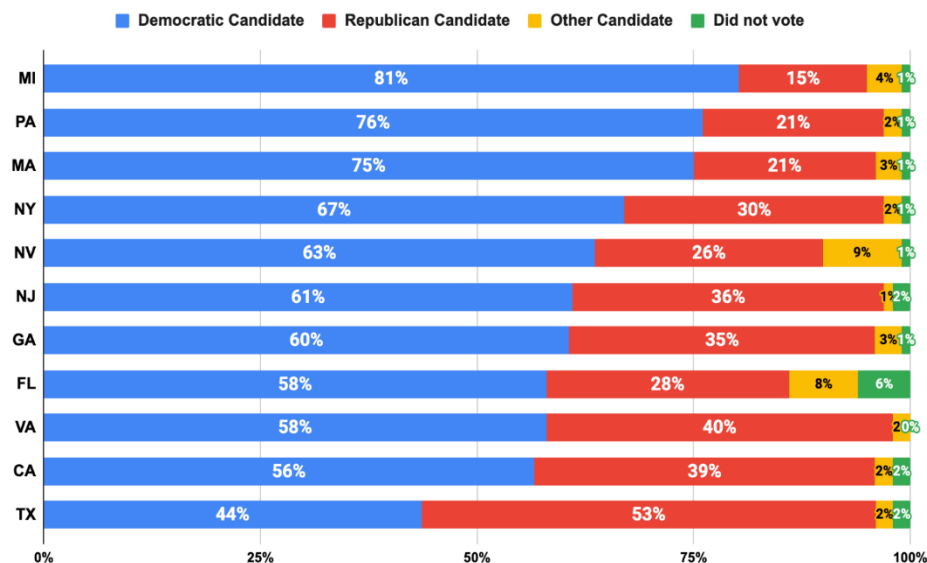
Figure 9. Vote for U.S. House of Representatives by Ethnicity



Past AALDEF exit polls have shown that South Asian voters have consistently supported Democratic candidates in presidential elections, and in this year's election they continued to support Democratic candidates for the U.S. House of Representatives. There was a 9% decrease of support amongst Chinese Americans voters for Democratic candidates: 59% in 2022 compared to 65% in 2020.

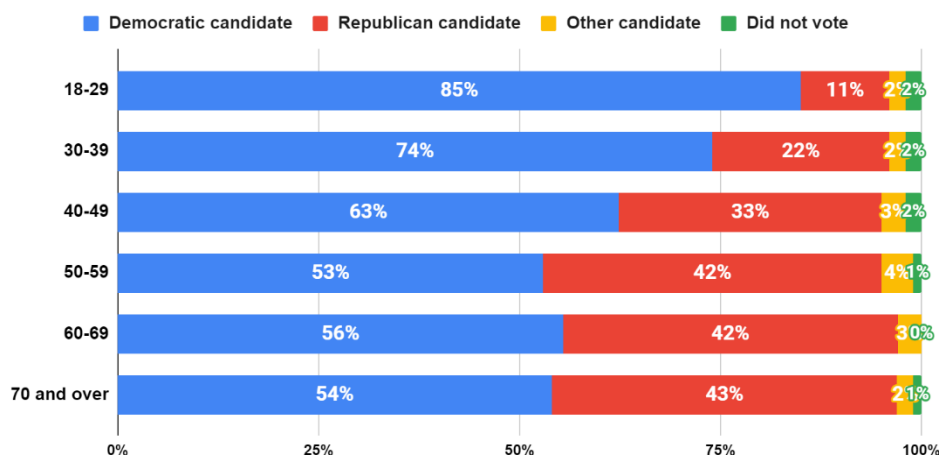
Vietnamese Americans have traditionally registered as Republicans and voted for Republican candidates, which is reflected again in this year's survey result with 59% of Vietnamese Americans surveyed voting for Republican candidates for U.S. House of Representatives.

Figure 10. Vote for U.S. House of Representatives by State



Asian Americans overwhelmingly voted for Democratic candidates in the Asian American Exit Poll with 10 out of 11 states having more than 50% of voters supporting Democratic candidates. However, there has been a slight increase in voting for Republican candidates in California, New York, and Georgia compared to past years. A little more than half of voters surveyed (53%) in Texas voted for a Republican candidate.

Figure 11. Vote for U.S. House of Representatives by Age

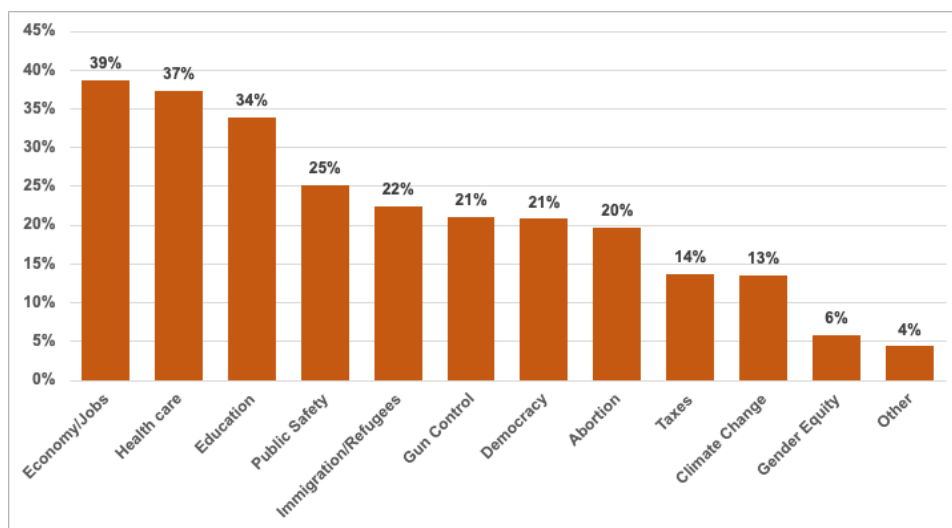


A majority of Asian American voters between the ages of 18-49 voted primarily for Democratic Congressional candidates: 18-29 (85%), 30-39 (74%), 40-49 (63%). Voters over 50 demonstrated more of a partisan split, with slim majority support for Democratic candidates among age groups: 50-69 (53%), 60-69 (56%), and 70+ (54%).

Important Factors Influencing the Vote for U.S. House of Representatives

Based on all factors mentioned, the top three factors influencing the vote for U.S. House of Representatives were Economy/Jobs (39%), Health Care (37%), and Education (34%). The top three issues are followed by Public Safety (25%), Immigration/Refugees (22%), Democracy (21%), Gun Control (21%), and Abortion (20%). Taxes (14%), Climate Change (13%), and Gender Equity (6%) were the issues that were the least influential.

Figure 12. Important Factors Influencing the Vote for U.S. House of Representatives



The Brooklyn Vote

In our exit poll survey, among voters at PS896—located in Sunset Park, Brooklyn’s majority Chinese American community—more than half of voters voted for the Republican congressional candidate (57%). Meanwhile 60% voted for the Republican gubernatorial candidate, Lee Zeldin over the Democratic candidate, Kathy Hochul (40%).

Figure 13. Vote for U.S. House of Representatives in Brooklyn – Sunset Park

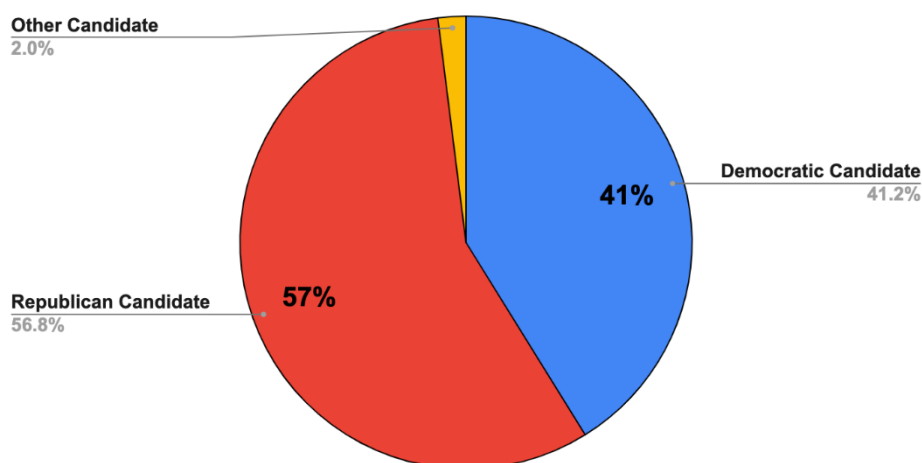
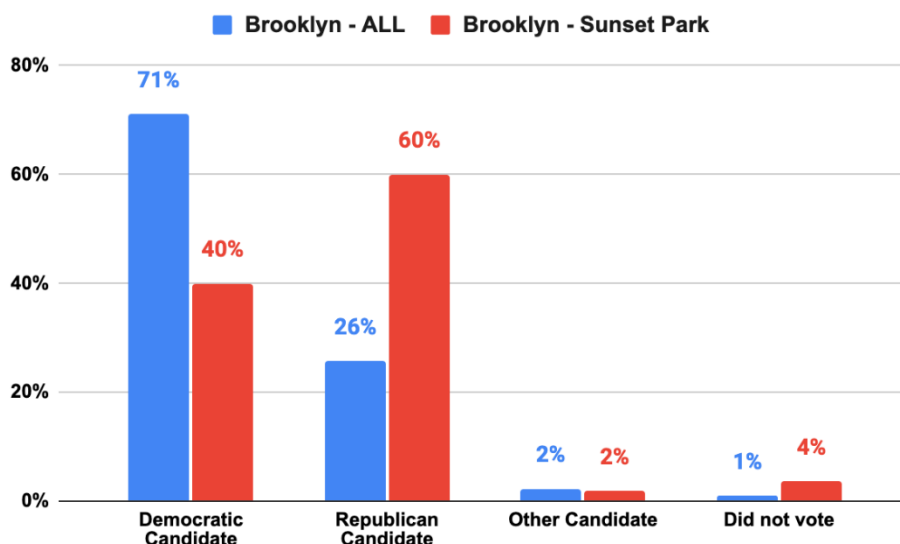


Figure 14. Vote for Governor in Brooklyn – ALL compared to Sunset Park



While AALDEF did not ask a question on our exit poll survey about any New York State Assembly District races, there was one race in particular worth noting. In the State Assembly District 49 race, that covers Southern Brooklyn: Sunset Park, Bensonhurst, and Dyker Heights, a majority-Asian American district for over a decade, long-time Democratic Assemblyman since 1987, Peter Abbate, Jr. (47.5%), lost to Navy veteran, and Republican Asian American candidate, Lester Chang (52.4%)—by a 4.9% margin.

In newly drawn New York State Senate District 17, that covers Bensonhurst, Dyker Heights, Gravesend, and Sunset Park, Iwen Chu, a Democratic candidate who was previously chief of staff for New York State Assemblyman, Peter Abbate, Jr., ran in this race and won 50.2% of the vote, defeating Vito LaBella (49.6%)—by a 0.6% margin. Both Lester Chang, a Chinese American Republican candidate and Iwen Chu, a Chinese American Democratic candidate won their elections with strong support from the Chinese American community in Sunset Park and Bensonhurst, confirming racially polarized voting in this community, regardless of party affiliation.

Vote for U.S. Senate

Three of the most consequential battleground states in the 2022 election were Georgia, Pennsylvania, and Nevada. Asian Americans in these three states favored Democratic Candidates: Georgia – 60% Democrat, 35% Republican; Pennsylvania – 76% Democrat, 21% Republican; Nevada – 63% Democrat, 26% Republican.

Figure 15. 2022 Senate Races

State	Democratic Candidate	AALDEF Survey Respondents	Statewide Respondents	Republican Candidate	AALDEF Survey Respondents	Statewide Respondents
GA	Raphael Warnock*	60%	49.4%	Herschel Walker	35%	48.5%
NV	Catherine Cortez Masto*	63%	49%	Adam Laxalt	26%	48%
PA	John Fetterman*	76%	51%	Mehmet Oz	21%	46%

**winning candidate*

The Georgia Senate Runoff

In November's General Election, neither Raphael Warnock (Democrat) or Herschel Walker (Republican) was able to secure more than 50% of the vote for Senate. Warnock received 49.4% of the vote, and Walker received 48.5%. Since neither candidate reached 50% of the vote, it triggered a runoff election on December 6, 2022.

Figure 16. Georgia Senate Runoff

Democratic Candidate	AALDEF Survey Respondents	Statewide Respondents	Republican Candidate	AALDEF Survey Respondents	Statewide Respondents
Raphael Warnock*	78.1%	51.4%	Herschel Walker	21.9%	48.6%

**winning candidate*

In the December Runoff Election, Democratic Candidate Raphael Warnock was able to win the election with 51.4% of the general vote. His opponent, Herschel Walker, received 48.6% of the vote.

Amongst the 337 Asian American voters we polled in Gwinnett and DeKalb County, voters heavily favored Warnock (78%) versus Walker (22%). The December 2022 Runoff Election drew nearly double the amount of voters surveyed by AALDEF, compared to the January 2021 Georgia Runoff Elections, where AALDEF surveyed 179 voters, versus 337 voters, a 46% increase.

Summary of the Asian American Vote

In the 2022 Midterm Election, Asian Americans provided substantial support for Democratic candidates and were a deciding factor in Democratic victories that retained control of the Senate for the party.

The Asian American community is a diverse and fast-growing segment of the population, that has large portions of its electorate not enrolled in any major political party, and that are united on several key issues. AALDEF's Asian American Exit Poll also revealed that language assistance and bilingual ballots are needed to preserve access to the vote, especially since 43% of Asian American voters surveyed were limited English proficient, with even higher LEP percentages among particular ethnic groups.

III. THE ISSUES

As COVID-19 entered its third year in 2022, Asian Americans continued to be targeted in different parts of America. In addition to polling for instances of harassment and violence against members of the Asian community, we asked a new set of questions that address current issues, such as Asian American and Pacific Islander education, transgender rights, access to legal abortions, and presidential approval rating.

Anti-Asian Violence and Teaching of a Unit of Asian American and Pacific Islander History in the K-12 System

Throughout the past three years many members of the Asian American community have been scapegoated for COVID-19 and targeted for violence, harassment, and discrimination. Highly visual tragedies and deadly attacks have filled headlines, as rising instances of Anti-Asian hate and harassment have been reported across the country.

One suggestion to help mitigate the targeting of the Asian American community, is the teaching of Asian American history in school, which several states have approved. AALDEF asked Asian American voters whether they support teaching a unit of Asian American and Pacific Islander history in kindergarten through 12th grade, 83% of surveyed Asian Americans supported this initiative, and 17% opposed.

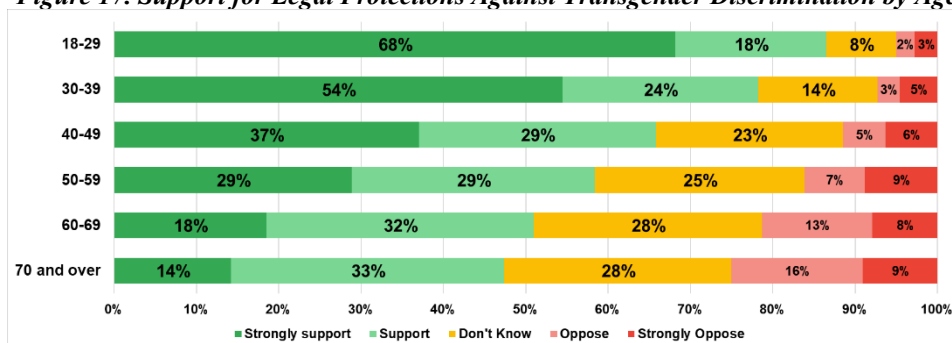
Questions of school choice and how we tell the history of America have taken a prominent role in the political sphere. Several states have now passed legislation to mandate AAPI history in their K-12 curriculum. New Jersey, Connecticut, and Rhode Island passed such legislation in 2022, following the example of Illinois which became the first state to do so in 2021. In the fall of 2022, New York City began piloting such a program, and will see a full rollout during the Spring of 2023.

This is important because for far too long, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders have been excluded from history books. This lack of representation causes harm to the AAPI community as it exacerbates the impressions that Asians are perpetual foreigners and diminishes their contributions to American society. This otherness contributes to the hatred directed towards the Asian American community related to events such as the COVID-19 pandemic and the terrorist attacks on 9/11. Promoting understanding and acknowledging the AAPI community's contribution to American society in the classroom is viewed as an important step in reducing violence and harassment towards the community at large.

Legal Protections Against Transgender Discrimination

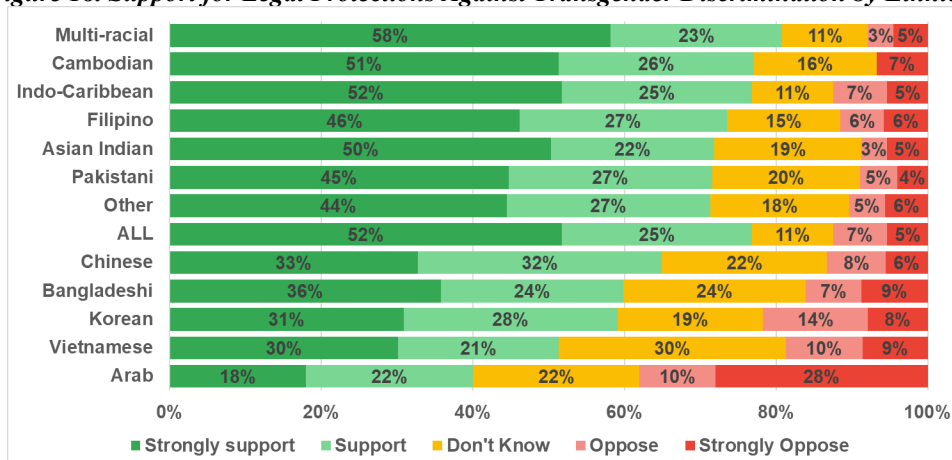
Legislation impacting the rights of transgender people has been introduced in several states across the country. The legislation ranges from bills that would protect access to healthcare and combat employment discrimination to those that would restrict youth participation in athletics, access to gender affirming healthcare, and access to restrooms or other facilities of choice.

Figure 17. Support for Legal Protections Against Transgender Discrimination by Age



Younger voters between the age of 18-49 showed a majority of support for legal protections against transgender discrimination, with 18-29 at 86%, 30-39 at 78%, and 40-49 at 66%. Voters who are 50 and above showed the strongest amount of uncertainty, with a quarter unsure about how to feel about this issue.

Figure 18. Support for Legal Protections Against Transgender Discrimination by Ethnicity

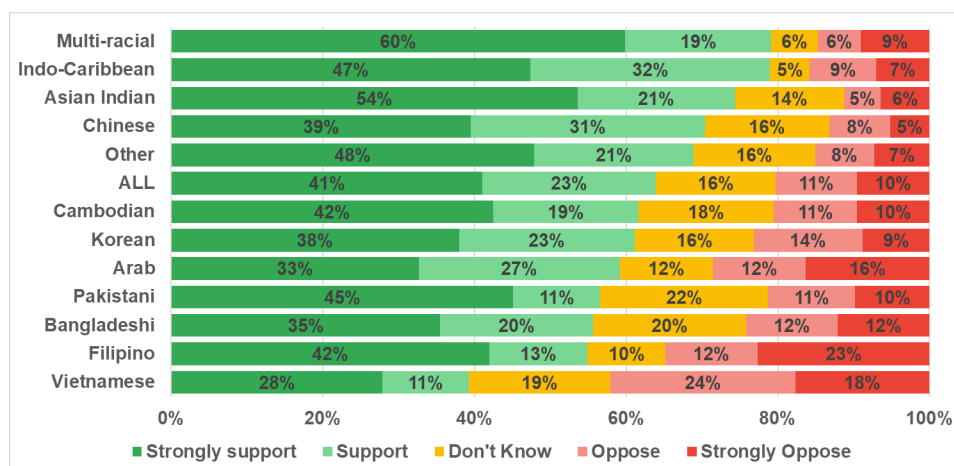


Across ethnic groups, the greatest support for legal protections against transgender discrimination came from Multi-Racial Asian Americans (81%), Indo-Caribbean and Cambodian (77%), Asian Indian and Pakistani (72%). The strongest opposition came from Arab Americans (38%), Korean Americans (22%), and Vietnamese Americans (19%). Vietnamese Americans also had the highest portion of voters, roughly one in three, unsure about this issue.

Support for Access to Legal Abortion

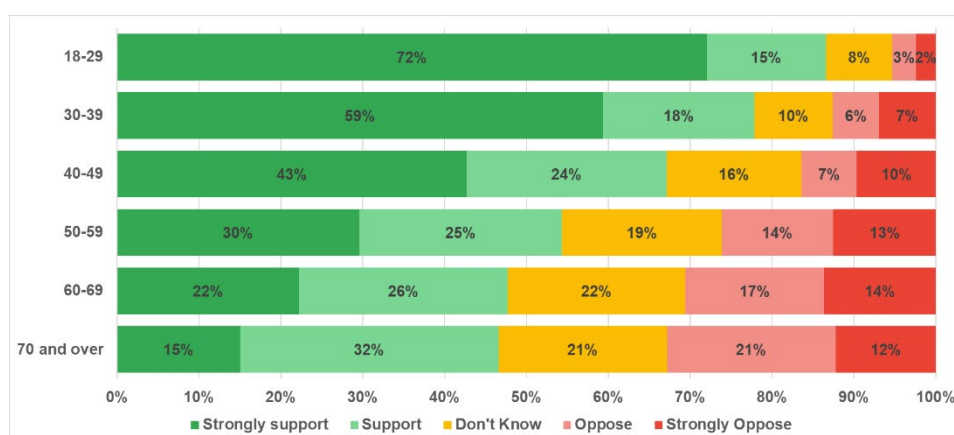
On June 24th, 2022 the United States Supreme Court's decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* overturned the constitutional right to an abortion previously established in *Roe v. Wade* in 1973. The majority of Asian Americans surveyed (64%) support access to a legal abortion, while 21% are in opposition and 16% do not know.

Figure 19. Support for Access to Legal Abortion by Ethnicity



Among different ethnic groups, Multi-Racial Asian Americans (79%), Indo-Caribbean (79%), Asian Indian (75%), and Chinese (70%) exhibited the highest level of support for abortion access, while Vietnamese (39%) showed the least amount of support. A fifth (22%) of Bangladeshi Americans surveyed were unsure of how to feel about this issue.

Figure 20. Support for Access to Legal Abortion by Age



A majority of all age groups 60 and under supported abortion access, with 18-29 supporting at 87%, 30-39 at 77%, 40-49 at 67%, and 50-59 supporting with 55%. People who were 60 and over supported abortion access to a lesser degree, but still a plurality of both age cohorts supported access with 48% of voters between 60-69 years old and 47% of people aged 70+.

Support for Access to a Legal Abortion by State

The majority of voters in states surveyed support abortion access, with New York showing the highest amount of support at 70%, Pennsylvania at 67%, Massachusetts at 62%, Georgia at 59%, and New Jersey at 56%. In our 2020 Exit Poll Survey, Texans demonstrated 69% of support, whereas this year, they supported at 55%, a 14% decrease.

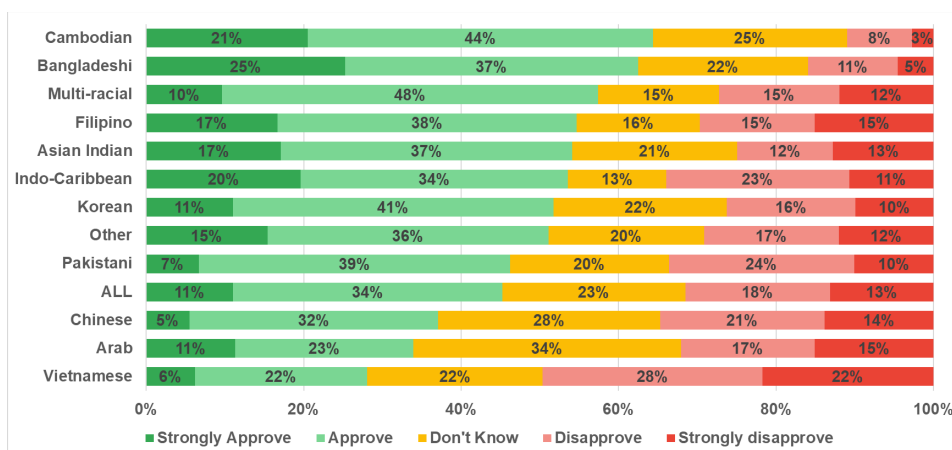
The strongest opposition for access to a legal abortion came from voters in Texas at 30%, Pennsylvania and Georgia at 20%, and Virginia at 25%.

Biden Approval

Overall, Asian Americans showed moderate approval for Biden's work as president at less than half of voters approving at 45%, with close to a quarter (23%) unsure of his work as president, and 31% disapproving.

Massachusetts (58%) and Michigan (48%) demonstrated the greatest amount of approval of Biden as president. In contrast, Texas (43%), California (40%), New Jersey (36%), Virginia (35%), and Georgia (36%) demonstrated the least amount of approval.

Figure 21. Biden Approval by Ethnicity



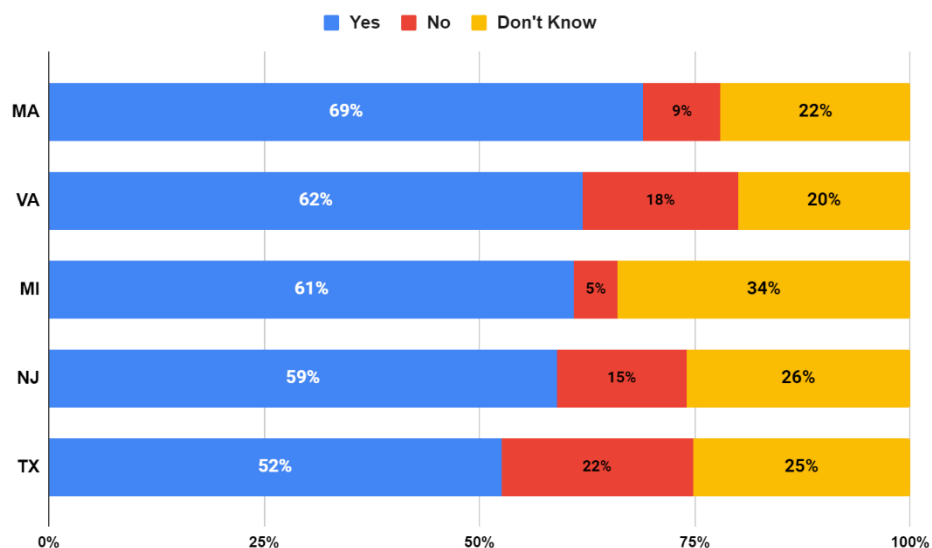
Amongst all ethnic groups, South Asians and Southeast Asians demonstrated the strongest approval for Biden as President: Cambodian (65%), Bangladeshi (62%), Multi-racial Asian American (58%), and Filipino (55%).

Out of all ethnicities, Biden received the most disapproval from Vietnamese (50%), Chinese (35%), Indo-Caribbean (34%), and Pakistani (34%), and Filipino (30%) voters.

Legitimacy of the 2022 Presidential Election

In Massachusetts, Michigan, New Jersey, Texas, and Virginia, we asked voters if the 2020 Presidential Election outcome was legitimate, and a majority of voters agreed that it was. Massachusetts (69%), Virginia (62%), and Michigan (61%) showed the greatest amount of support, while Texas (22%) showed the least amount of confidence in the 2020 Election. About a quarter or more voters did not know how to feel about this issue.

Figure 22. Was the Outcome of the 2020 Presidential Election legitimate?



Gun Control – New Jersey

In New Jersey's exit poll survey, out of 265 voters, 77% supported stricter gun control laws.

Affordability for Undocumented Students – Virginia

In Virginia's exit poll survey, out of 425 voters surveyed, 64% of voters supported college affordability for undocumented students, while 21% opposed.

IV. ACCESS TO THE VOTE

The federal Voting Rights Act of 1965 ensures that all American citizens can fully exercise their right to vote. It protects racial and language minorities from voter discrimination and ensures equal access to the vote. Section 203 of the Voting Rights Act, one of the Language Assistance Provisions in the Voting Rights Act, covers a jurisdiction or political subdivision when the Director of the Census Bureau determines that more than 10,000 or 5% of all voting age citizens in that jurisdiction, who are of the same covered language minority group—Alaskan Native, Asian, Latino, or Native American—are limited English proficient (LEP) and have an average illiteracy rate higher than the national average.

The list of covered jurisdictions and languages is updated every five years, using data from the Census and the American Community Survey (ACS). The new list was released on December 8, 2021. Figure 23 reflects these updates.

Figure 23. Asian Language Coverage Under Section 203 of the Voting Rights Act

ALASKA
-- Aleutians West Census Area: Filipino
-- Kodiak Island Borough: Filipino
CALIFORNIA
-- Alameda: Chinese, Filipino, Vietnamese
-- Contra Costa: Chinese
-- Los Angeles: Cambodian, Chinese, Korean, Filipino, Vietnamese, Other (not specified)
-- Orange: Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese
-- Sacramento: Chinese, Vietnamese
-- San Diego: Chinese, Filipino, Vietnamese
-- San Francisco: Chinese
-- San Mateo: Chinese, Filipino
-- Santa Clara: Chinese, Filipino, Vietnamese
HAWAII
-- Honolulu: Chinese, Filipino
-- Maui: Filipino
ILLINOIS
-- Cook: Chinese, Indian, Sikh*
MASSACHUSETTS
-- Lowell: Cambodian
-- Malden: Chinese
-- Quincy city: Chinese
-- Randolph: Vietnamese
MICHIGAN
-- Hamtramck city: Bengali

MINNESOTA
-- Ramsey: Hmong
NEVADA
-- Clark: Filipino
NEW JERSEY
-- Bergen: Korean
-- Middlesex: Indian, Sikh*
NEW YORK
-- Kings (Brooklyn): Chinese
-- New York (Manhattan): Chinese
-- Queens: Bangladeshi, Chinese, Korean, Indian, Sikh*
PHILADELPHIA
-- Philadelphia: Chinese
TEXAS
-- Dallas: Vietnamese
-- Harris: Vietnamese, Chinese
-- Tarrant: Vietnamese
VIRGINIA
-- Fairfax: Vietnamese
WASHINGTON
-- King: Chinese, Vietnamese

Section 203 covers 14 states and 27 jurisdictions for ten Asian language groups: Bengali, Cambodian (Khmer), Chinese, Filipino, Hmong, Korean, Vietnamese, “Asian Indian (including Sikh)” (which has been designated as Bengali in Queens County, New York, Hindi in Cook County, Illinois, and Gujarati in Middlesex County, New Jersey), and “Other” (which has been designated as Thai in Los Angeles County, California). Of the jurisdictions in which the survey was conducted, these additional Asian languages were required after the 2020 Census: Chinese in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Filipino in Kodiak Island, Alaska, San Mateo, California, Maui, Hawaii; Hmong in Ramsey, Minnesota; Vietnamese in Sacramento, California, Randolph, Massachusetts, and Dallas, Texas.

Section 208 of the federal Voting Rights Act gives voters the right to an assistor of choice, which can be a family member or friend, a minor, a non-citizen, or someone who is not a registered voter. The only prohibited assistor is the voter’s employer or union representative. If a voter needs assistance to cast a ballot, the assistor can accompany the voter inside the voting booth and throughout the entire voting process. This provision of the Voting Rights Act is essential for many LEP Asian American voters, particularly those in jurisdictions not covered under Section 203 for Asian language assistance or for LEP voters who are in covered jurisdictions, but the jurisdiction is not covered for their language.

Language Assistance

AALDEF's exit poll showed that a little more than one third (36%) of Asian Americans identified English as their native language.

Certain jurisdictions in which AALDEF conducted exit polls and which were covered under Section 203 were required to provide Asian language assistance, such as bilingual poll workers and interpreters, and translated election information, such as translated ballots, instructions, and sample ballots. For example, in New York City, in Kings County (Brooklyn) and New York County (Manhattan), Chinese language assistance is required. In Queens County, Chinese, Korean, and Bengali are required. Boston, Massachusetts is required to provide bilingual ballots in Chinese and Vietnamese by state legislation. Other jurisdictions provide voluntary language assistance, such as Vietnamese in Philadelphia, PA, and Chinese in Washington, D.C.

Figure 24. AALDEF Multilingual Exit Poll: Language Minority Groups
(jurisdictions with ≥ 10 native language speaker respondents)

State	Jurisdiction	Language	LEP %
CA	Santa Clara County	Vietnamese	79%
FL	Broward County	Tagalog	8%
GA	Dekalb County	Bengali	38%
GA	Gwinnett County	Mandarin	46%
GA	Gwinnett County	Korean	58%
GA	Gwinnett County	Hindi	23%
GA	Gwinnett County	Urdu	10%
GA	Gwinnett County	Vietnamese	57%
MA	Boston	Cantonese	67%
MA	Boston	Mandarin	59%
MA	Boston	Vietnamese	76%
MI	Hamtramck	Bengali	53%
MI	Hamtramck	Arabic	50%
MI	Warren	Bengali	68%
NJ	Bergen County	Korean	75%
NJ	Hudson County	Tagalog	11%
NJ	Middlesex County	Hindi	11%
NJ	Middlesex County	Gujarati	60%
NV	Clark County	Cantonese	85%
NY	Kings County	Cantonese	59%
NY	Kings County	Mandarin	80%
NY	Kings County	Bengali	71%
NY	Kings County	Urdu	48%
NY	New York County	Cantonese	59%
NY	New York County	Mandarin	71%
NY	Queens County	Cantonese	57%
NY	Queens County	Mandarin	77%

NY	Queens County	Korean	78%
NY	Queens County	Tagalog	33%
NY	Queens County	Hindi	38%
NY	Queens County	Bengali	47%
NY	Queens County	Urdu	42%
NY	Queens County	Gujarati	23%
NY	Queens County	Punjabi	41%
NY	Queens County	Vietnamese	60%
PA	Philadelphia	Cantonese	74%
PA	Philadelphia	Mandarin	77%
PA	Philadelphia	Tagalog	43%
PA	Philadelphia	Vietnamese	76%
TX	Dallas County	Vietnamese	84%
TX	Fort Bend County	Mandarin	80%
TX	Harris County	Cantonese	71%
TX	Harris County	Mandarin	57%
TX	Harris County	Korean	33%
TX	Harris County	Vietnamese	71%
TX	Travis	Mandarin	33%
TX	Travis	Hindi	10%
VA	Fairfax	Cantonese	23%
VA	Fairfax	Mandarin	27%
VA	Fairfax	Korean	65%
VA	Fairfax	Tagalog	17%
VA	Fairfax	Hindi	10%
VA	Fairfax	Urdu	10%
VA	Fairfax	Vietnamese	51%
VA	Mirror Ridge	Vietnamese	77%

Voting Barriers

Asian Americans were also asked about voting problems they encountered on Election Day. Of those polled, missing or no interpreters, poll workers incorrectly requiring voters to provide identification, voters being sent to incorrect poll sites, voters not being provided provisional ballots, and machine breakdowns were some of the biggest problems in the 2022 Midterm Election.

Many voters were not informed of poll site changes and could not travel to another poll site, or were sent to multiple poll sites, closed poll sites or wrong addresses, denying them the ability to cast a ballot on Election Day. Multiple voters were also informed that they were not on the voter roll and were denied access to provisional ballots. AALDEF will release the “Access to Democracy Report” in 2023, a detailed report on all of the voting problems observed on Election Day.

CONCLUSION

The Asian American community is the fastest growing racial group in the country, increasing at over five times the rate of the total U.S. population. Despite this immense growth, mainstream media polls and politicians still ignore Asian American voters and exclude this community from national polling. More outreach and education is needed in this community if candidates and political parties are interested in winning the votes of this electorate.

As in past years, Asian Americans encountered many voting barriers. While Section 203 of the Voting Rights Act requires bilingual language assistance and information in certain jurisdictions, mitigating some barriers, there are still shortcomings in local compliance. In other jurisdictions that are not covered under Section 203, there are still significant numbers of limited English proficient Asian voters who face language barriers. Full compliance by 203 covered jurisdictions and voluntary compliance by non-covered jurisdictions with LEP Asian voters, including thorough training of poll workers in treating all voters fairly, including LEP voters, better recruitment of interpreters and bilingual poll workers, and complete and accurate translations of election materials, are necessary measures to ensure that all Americans can fully exercise their right to vote.

AALDEF's exit poll shows that Asian Americans strongly favored Democratic candidates during the 2022 Midterm election. Economy/Jobs, Health Care, and Education are all important issues that most influenced Asian American voters' choice for the House of Representatives. Asian Americans overwhelmingly supported access to legal abortion, transgender rights, and requiring the teaching of a unit of Asian American and Pacific Islander history from Kindergarten to 12th Grade. Significant rates of unaffiliated voters, and undecided voters on many of these issues indicate an opportunity for outreach and potential support for candidates and parties that decide to engage the Asian American electorate.

Democratic candidates in Senate races in battleground states received strong support from their Asian American constituents, which may have been the difference in determining the winner in these close elections. These elected representatives and potential challengers should address the needs and concerns of the Asian American community in their jurisdictions if they expect to receive support from this community in the future. AALDEF will conduct the Asian American Exit Poll again in Michigan, New York, New Jersey, and Virginia in 2023 and in multiple states for the 2024 Presidential Election.

APPENDIX: POLL SITES

State	County	City	Poll Site
CA	Santa Clara	San Jose	Tully Community Branch Library – Community Room
			Santa Clara County Fairgrounds – Heritage Town Hall
	San Diego	San Diego	Paradise Hills Vote Center
			UCSD Geisel Library – Seuss Room
DC	DC	DC	Bancroft Elementary School
	Broward	Southwest Ranches	Southwest Regional Library
	Orange	Orlando	Apopka Community Center
GA	DeKalb	Doraville	Oakcliff Elementary School
	Gwinnett	Norcross	Lucky Shoals Community Center
		Duluth	Shorty Howell Park Activity Building (GC Park)
MA	Suffolk	Boston	Wang YMCA of Chinatown
			Dr. William Henderson Inclusion Elementary School
			Cathedral High School
	Middlesex	Malden	Beebe School
		Lowell	Senior Center
	Norfolk	Quincy	North Quincy High School
MD	Montgomery	Rockville	Richard Montgomery High School
	Washtenaw	Ann Arbor	Clague Middle School
MI		Detroit	Lasky Recreation Center
	Wayne	Hamtramck	Hamtramck Community Center
			Hamtramck Senior Plaza
			Housing Administration Buliding
		Canton	Summit on the Park
	Oakland	Troy	First United Methodist Church
	Macomb	Sterling Heights	Gibbing Admin Buliding
		Warren	Beer Middle School
NV	Clark	Las Vegas	Boulevard Mall
			Chinatown Plaza
PA	Delaware	Upper Darby	Philadelphia International Alliance Church
	Philadelphia	Chinatown	Chinese Church & Christian Center
			DiSilvestro Recreation Center*

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TX		South Philadelphia	Ford PAL Recreation Center Mastery Thomas Charter School* South Philadelphia Branch Library South Philadelphia High School St. George’s Greek Orthodox Church Furness School Columbus Square Recreation Center			
	Collin	Frisco	Frisco Fire Station #8			
	Dallas	Dallas	LeCroy Center – Dallas College			
	Fort Bend	Sugar Land	Jacks Conference Center Museum of Natural Science			
	Harris	Houston	Houston Community College Alief Center Alief ISD Building Admin Building Trini Mendenhall Community Center Tracy Gee Community Center Vietnamese Community Center			
			Travis	Austin	Spicewood Springs Branch Library	
			VA	Fairfax	Annandale Falls Church Centreville Burke Fairfax	Annandale Fire Station Co., #8 Woodrow Wilson Library Powell Elementary School Lake Braddock Secondary School Providence Community Center
					Loudoun	Mirror Ridge South Bank
	NJ	Bergen			Fort Lee Palisades Park	Fort Lee Senior Citizen Activities Center Lindbergh School
Hudson		Jersey City			Liberty High School	
Middlesex		Edison		J.P. Stevens High School		
NY	Kings	Kensington	PS 230			
		Midwood	PS 217			
		Sunset Park	PS 896			
	New York	Manhattan	Confucius Plaza			

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			PS 130
			MS 131
			PS 126
	Queens	Elmhurst	Newtown High School
		Glen Oaks	PS 115
		Jackson Heights	PS 69
		Richmond Hill	JHS 226
		Sunnyside	PS 150-Queens
		Woodside	PS 12
			PS 20 John Bowne
		Flushing	JHS 189
			PS 214
			PS 22 Thomas Jefferson
		Bayside	Benjamin N. Cardozo High School
	* indicates sites where we poll monitored (not exit poll)		

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National Co-Sponsors

Asian and Pacific Islander American Vote (APIA Vote)
Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance (APALA)
National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA)
National Federation of Filipino American Associations (NaFFAA)
National Queer Asian Pacific Islander Alliance (NQAPIA)
OCA – Asian Pacific American Advocates
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Asian Family Support Services of Austin, Austin Asian communities Civic Coalition
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Asian and Pacific Islander American Vote – Michigan (APIA VOTE MI)**
Asian Texans for Justice (ATJ)**
Association of Chinese Americans (ACA)**
Boat People SOS – Houston**
Cambodian Mutual Assistance Association (CMAA Lowell)**
CAPI MN
Caribbean Equality Project**
Center for Pan Asian Community Services (CPACS)**
Charles B. Wang Community Health Center (CBWCHC)
Coalition of Asian American Leaders (CAAL MN)**
Florida Asian Services (FASC)**
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Hamkae Center**
Houston in Action**
Japanese American Citizens League – Houston**
KAYF - We Are Future Leaders
Korean Community Services of Metropolitan New York**
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New Jersey Alliance for Immigrant Justice
OCA Dallas and Fort Worth (OCA DFW)**
OCA Detroit**
OCA Greater Houston Chapter**
OCA South Florida
Pilipino American Unity for Progress NY (UniPro NY)**
Southeast Asian Mutual Assistance Associations Coalition, Inc. (SEAMAAC)**
Upper Manhattan Asian American Alliance
VietLEAD**
Vietnamese American Young Leaders Association of New Orleans (VAYLA)
Woodside on the Move**

Legal

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Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund

Founded in 1974, the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund (AALDEF) is a national organization that protects and promotes the civil rights of Asian Americans. By combining litigation, advocacy, education, and organizing, AALDEF works with Asian American communities across the country to secure human rights for all.

AALDEF focuses on critical issues affecting Asian Americans, including immigrant rights, civic participation and voting rights, economic justice for workers, educational equity, housing and environmental justice, and the elimination of anti-Asian violence, police misconduct, and human trafficking.

This report was written by Judy Lei, AALDEF Community Organizer, with the assistance of Democracy Program Director Jerry Vattamala, Associate Director of Democracy Susana Lorenzo-Giguere, Staff Attorney Patrick Stegemoeller, and Executive Director Margaret Fung. AALDEF also acknowledges Equal Justice Works Fellow Ronak Patel and 2021 Fall Legal Intern Michelle David for providing data analysis for this election cycle.

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