



A SPECIAL PROJECT OF THE ASIAN AMERICAN LEGAL DEFENSE AND EDUCATION FUND

The South Asian American Vote

A Report on the Multilingual Exit Poll from the 2012 Presidential Election

**A Special Presentation of
The Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund**

AALDEF Mission and Program

AALDEF is a national organization that protects and promotes the legal rights of Asian Americans through litigation, legal advocacy, and community education.

- Immigrants' Rights
- Workers' Rights - sweatshops, restaurants, construction, Katrina
- Language Rights - hospitals and courts
- Educational Equity / Youth Rights
- Human Trafficking
- Voting Rights
- New Jersey Legal Project
- Housing

Asian American Election Protection

National Election Protection Project and 100 local partnerships

Poll Monitoring

- Compliance - Voting Rights Act and Help America Vote Act
- Post Election - voter interviews and complaint letters
- 2012 - attorneys covered 46 poll sites in 6 cities

Multilingual Exit Poll

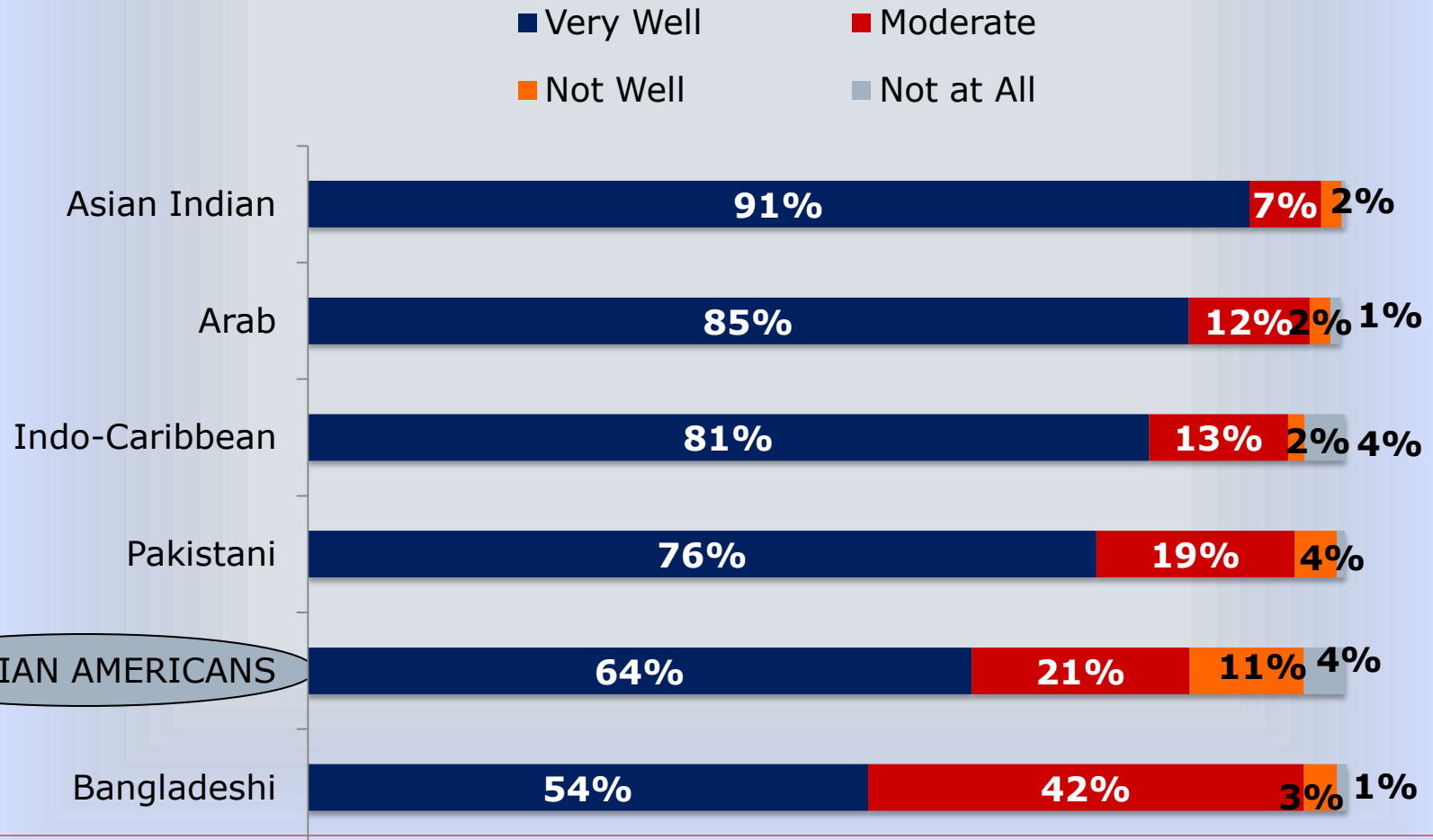
- 2012 – 9,096 Asian American voters in 14 states and DC
- 2010 – 3,721 Asian American voters in 5 states
- 2008 – 16,665 Asian American voters in 11 states and DC
- 2006 – 4,726 Asian American voters in 9 states and DC
- 2004 – 10,789 Asian American voters in 8 states
- 2002 - 3,500 Asian American voters in 4 states

| Percentage of Voters | South Asian American Respondents |
|----------------------|---|
| 100% | (2,615) Total Surveyed |
| 45% | Asian Indian |
| 40% | Bangladeshi |
| 10% | Pakistani |
| 5% | Indo-Caribbean |
| 44% | Women |
| 56% | Men |
| 22% | 18-29 years old |
| 27% | 30-39 years old |
| 23% | 40-49 years old |
| 17% | 50-59 years old |
| 8% | 60-69 years old |
| 3% | 70 and over |
| 12% | Born in the U.S. |
| 88% | Foreign born, naturalized citizen: |
| 22% | ...0-2 years ago |
| 17% | ...3-5 years ago |
| 23% | ...6-10 years ago |
| 38% | ...more than 10 years ago |
| 26% | No formal education in US |
| 74% | Educated in the U.S., highest level: |
| 1% | ...Elementary school |
| 2% | ...Some high school |
| 17% | ...High school trade school degree |
| 47% | ...College or university degree |
| 33% | ... Advanced degree |

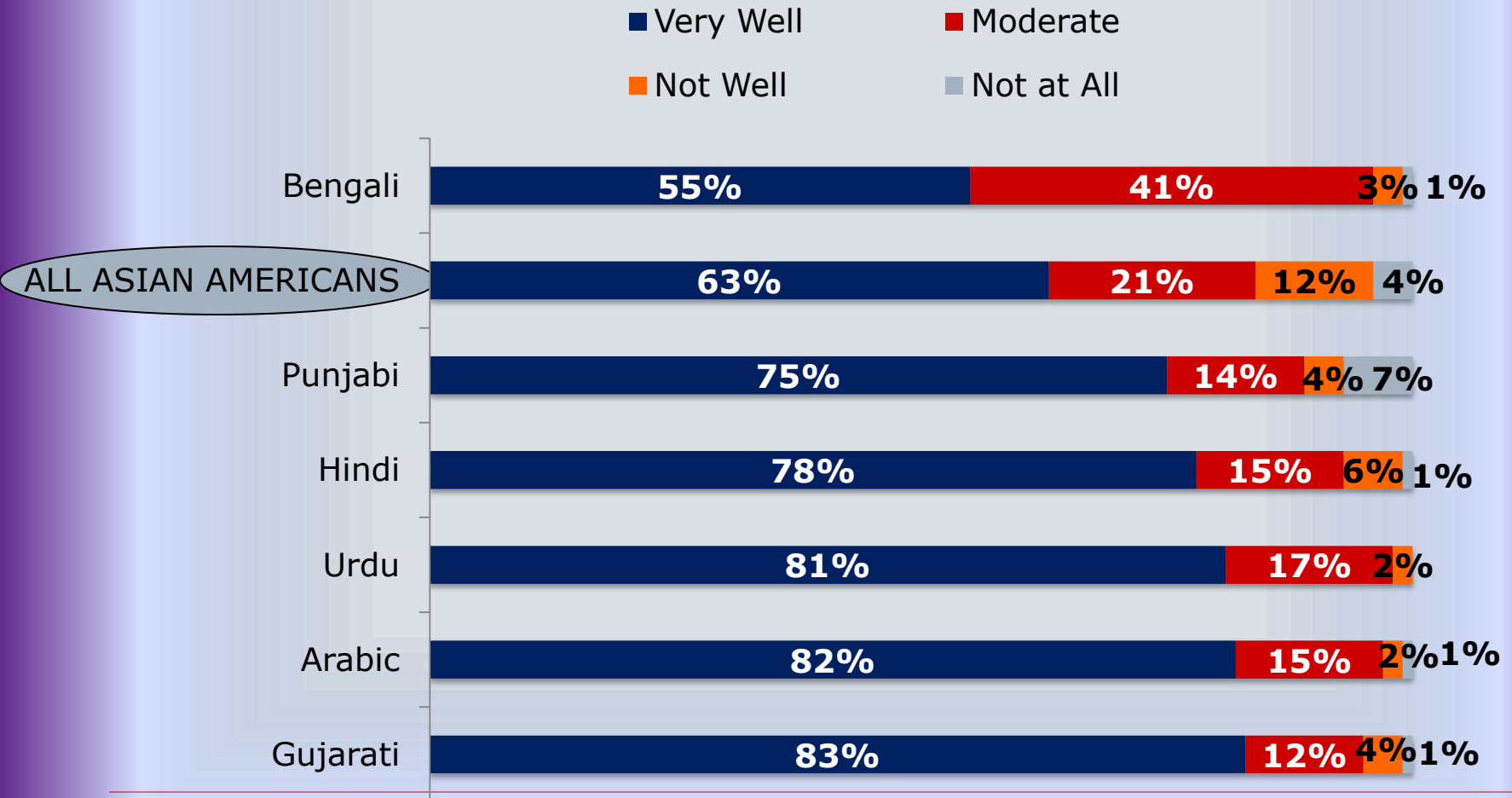
Profile of South Asian American Survey Respondents

- New York
- New Jersey
- Massachusetts
- Pennsylvania
- Michigan
- Illinois
- Texas
- Nevada
- Louisiana
- Georgia
- Florida
- California
- Maryland
- Virginia
- District of Columbia

Limited English Proficiency by Ethnicity



Limited English Proficiency by Native Language



First-Time Voters

| Ethnicity | % |
|---------------------|-----|
| Bangladeshi | 45% |
| Arab | 35% |
| Pakistani | 35% |
| Asian Indian | 29% |
| Indo-Caribbean | 28% |
| All Asian Americans | 27% |
| Vietnamese | 26% |
| Chinese | 23% |
| Filipino | 23% |
| Korean | 20% |

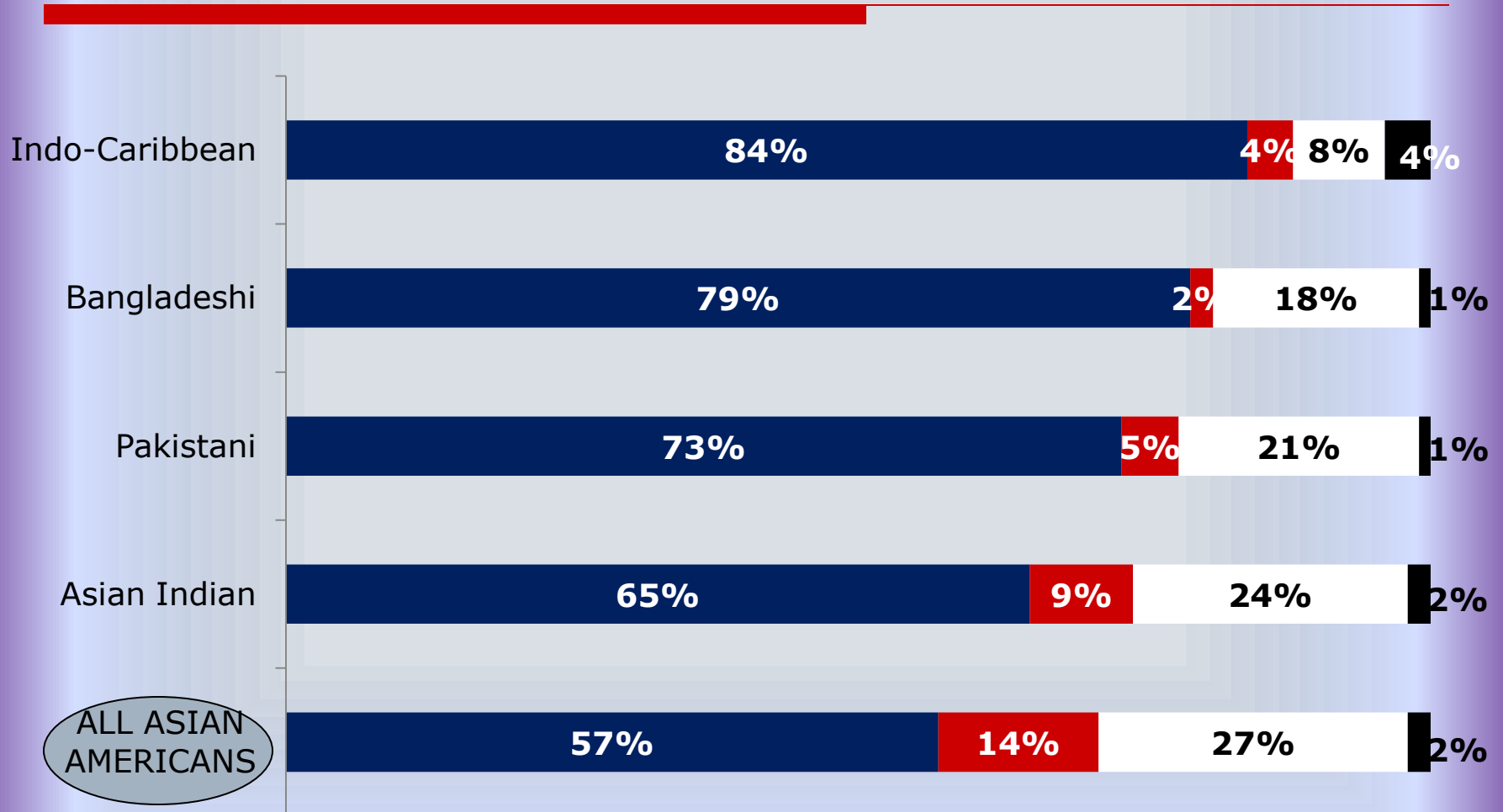
First-Time Voting Trends

Presidential Elections: 2012 2008 2004

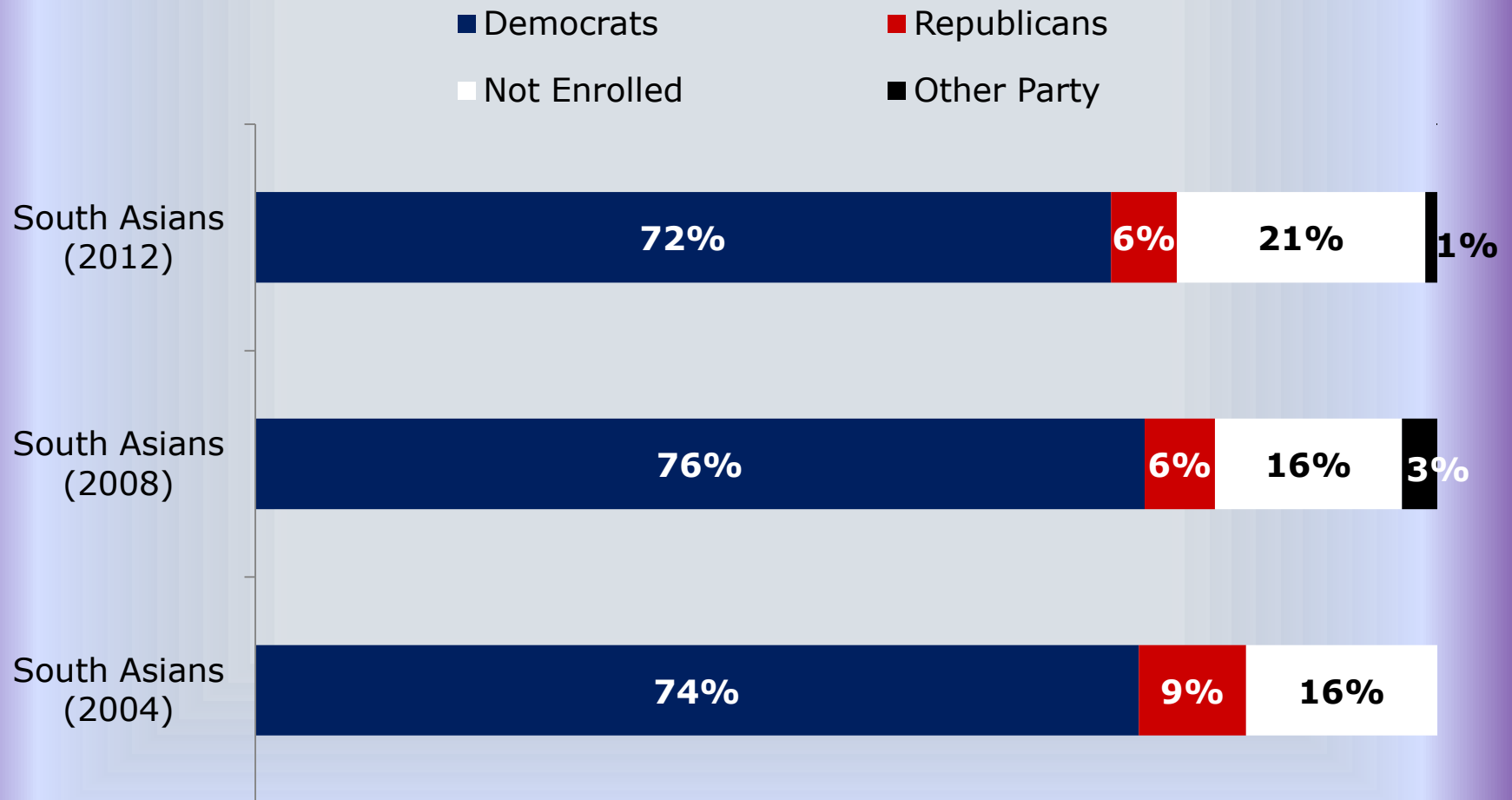
| Ethnicity | % | % | % |
|------------------|----------|----------|----------|
| Bangladeshi | 45% | 40% | 51% |
| Pakistani | 35% | 34% | 46% |
| Asian Indian | 29% | 34% | 40% |
| Indo-Caribbean | 28% | 36% | 37% |

- Democrats
- Republicans
- Not Enrolled
- Other Party

South Asian American Party Enrollment



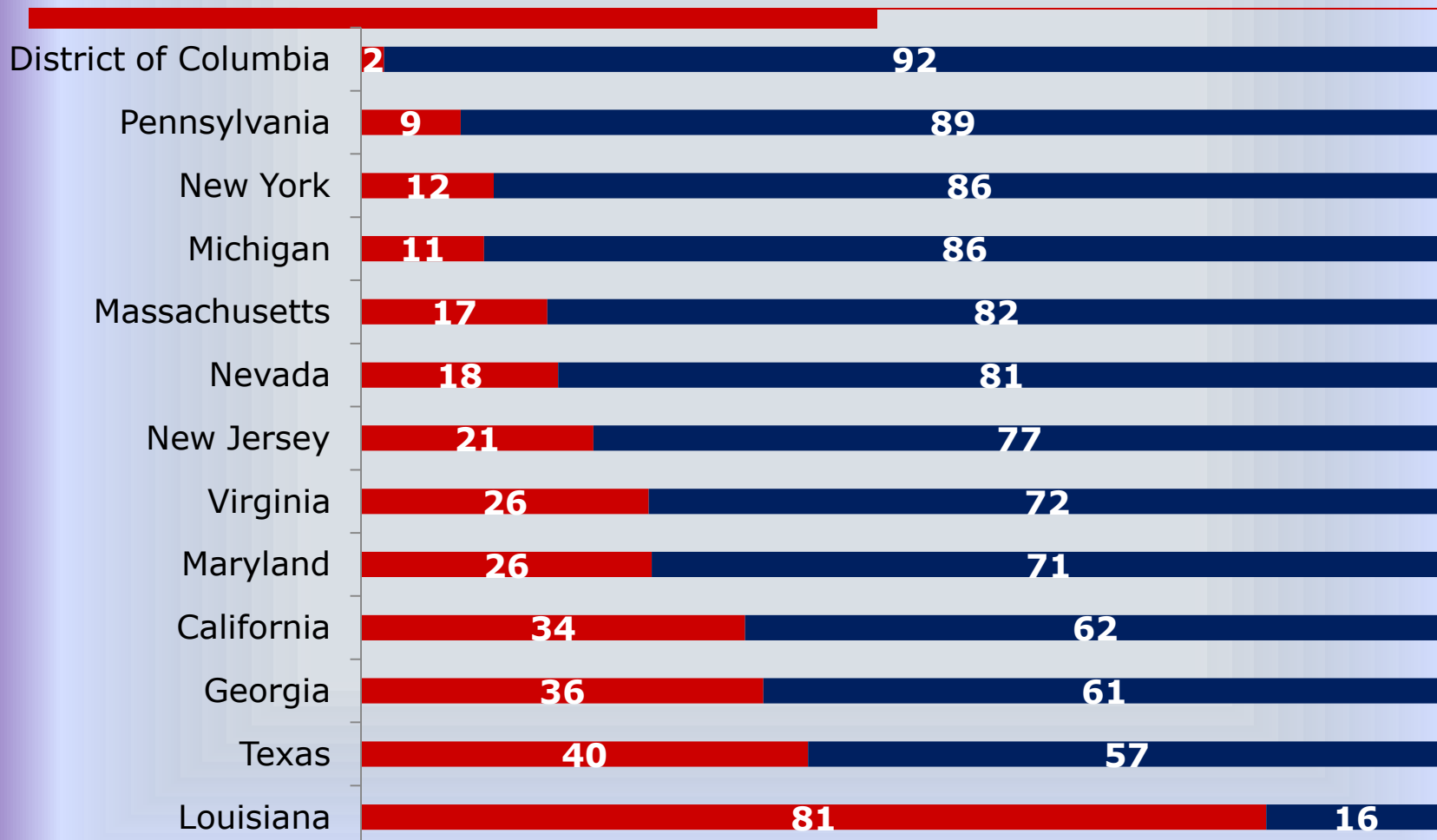
Party Enrollment Trends



Vote for President by State

■ Voted for Romney - R

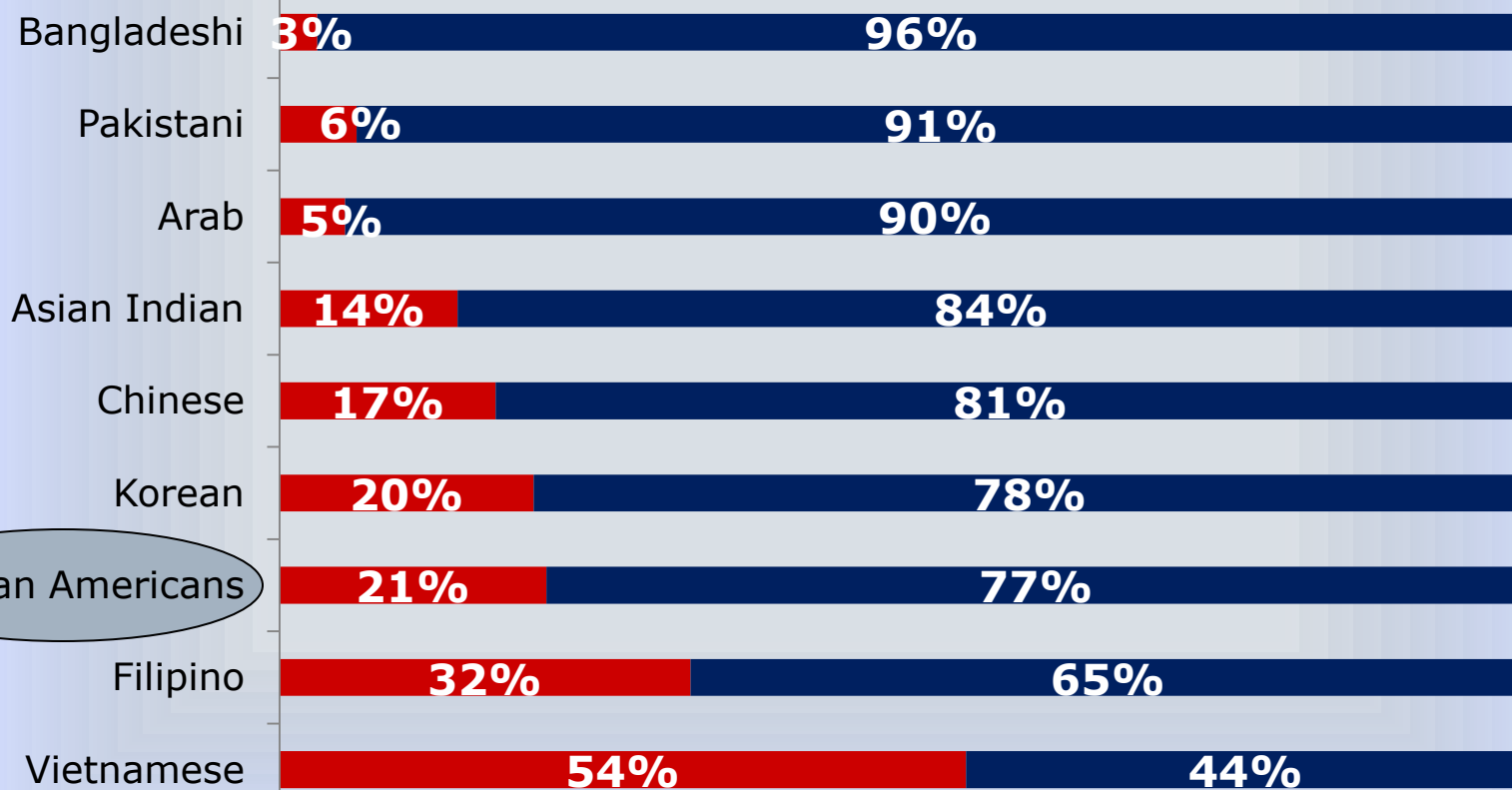
■ Voted for Obama - D



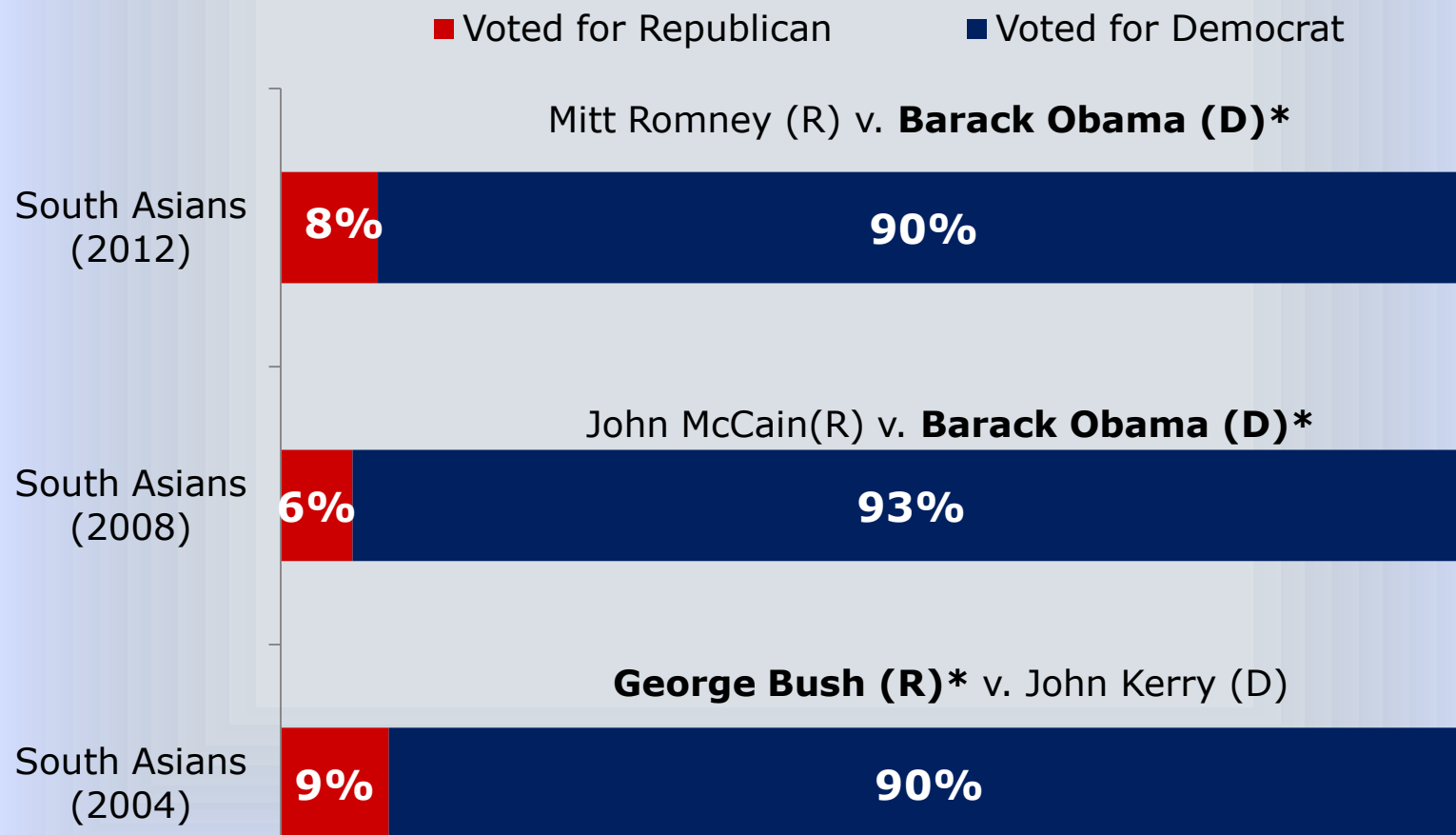
Vote for President by Ethnicity

■ Voted for Romney - R

■ Voted for Obama - D



Vote for President Trends

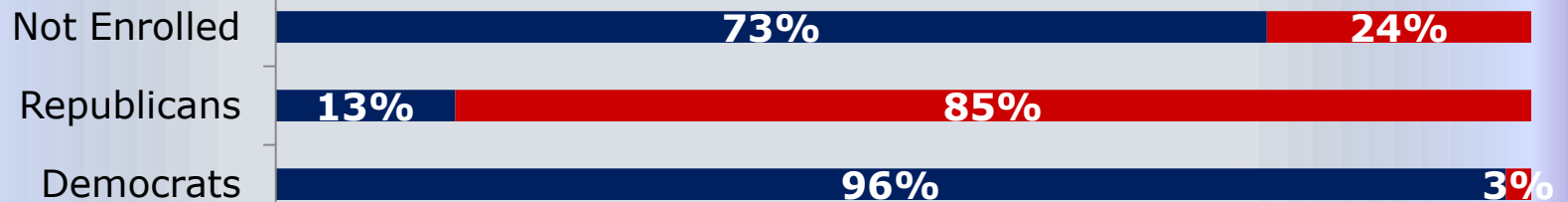


*Winning Candidate

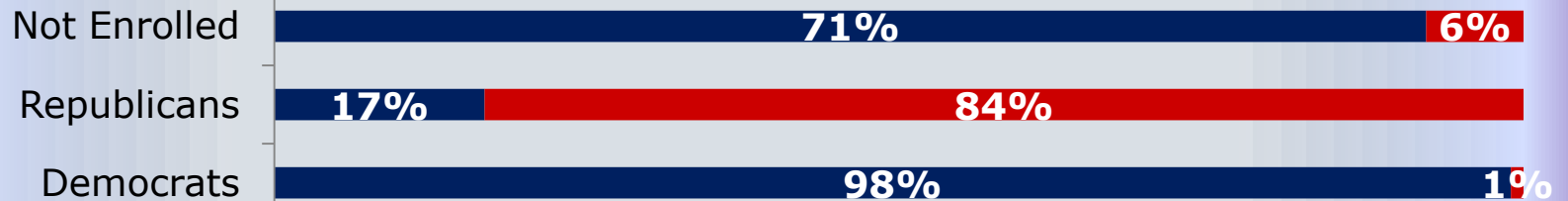
■ Voted for Obama
■ Voted for Romney

South Asian American Crossover Voting

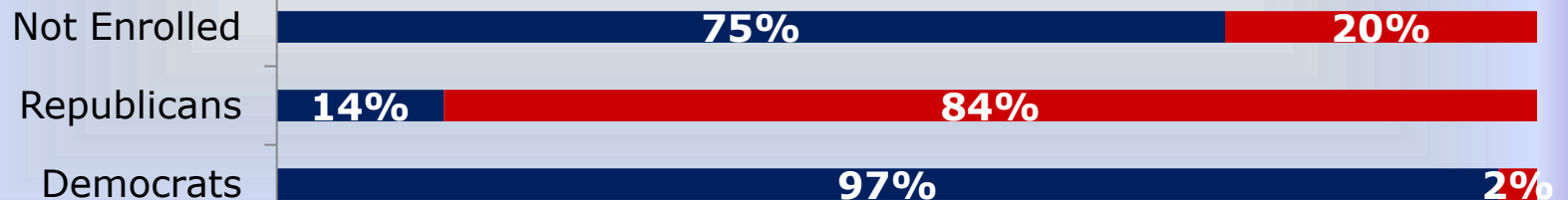
All Asian Americans



Arabs



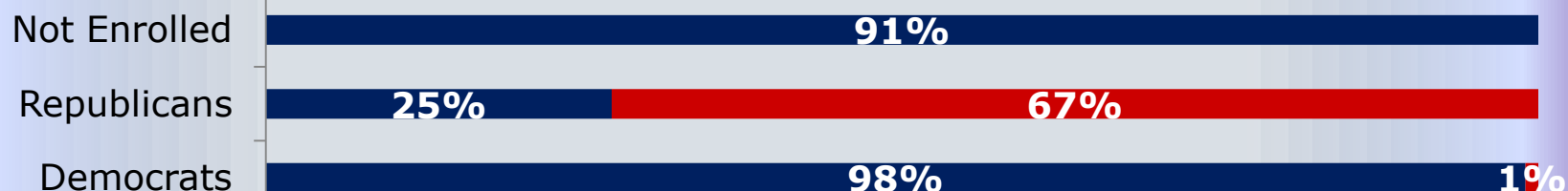
Asian Indians



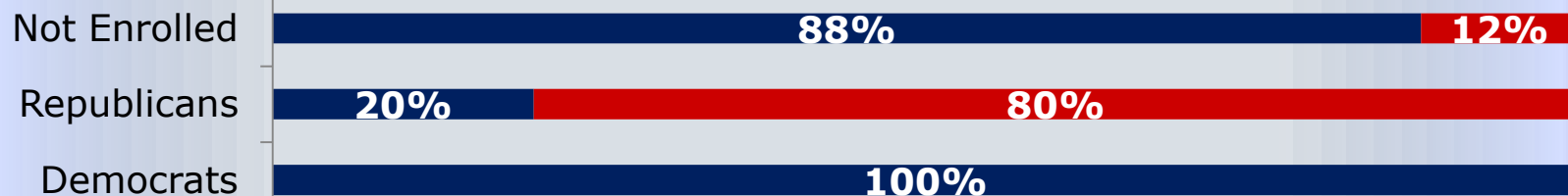
South Asian American Crossover Voting

■ Voted for Obama
■ Voted for Romney

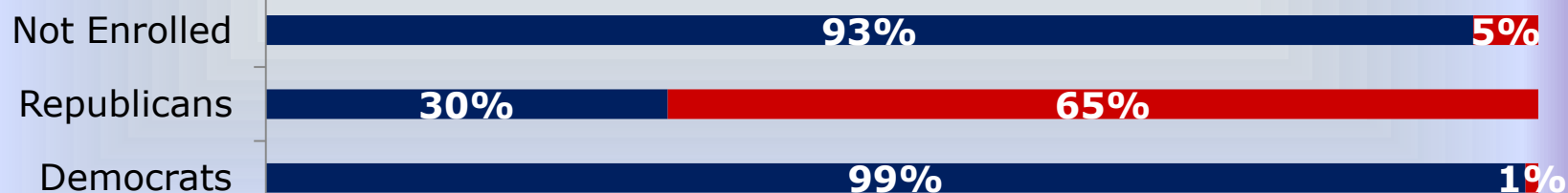
Pakistani



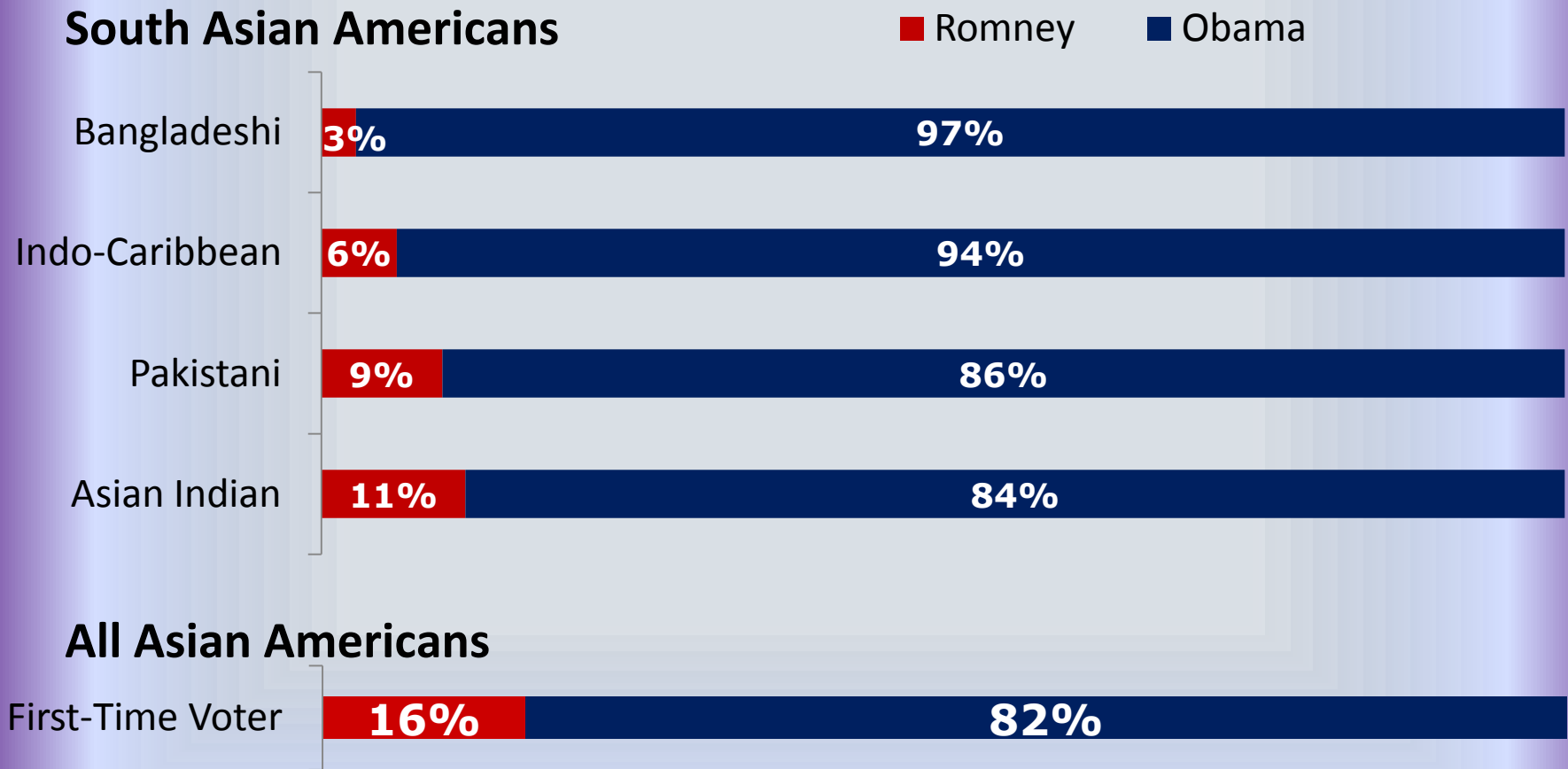
Indo-Caribbean



Bangladeshi



South Asian Vote for President by First-Time Voter

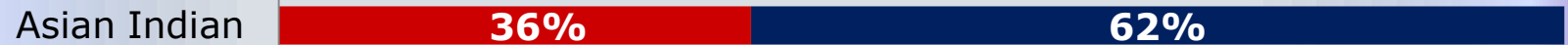


■ Voted for Romney - R

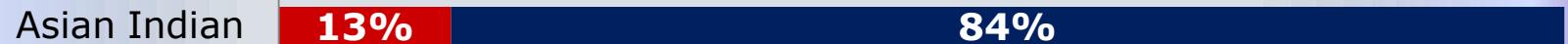
■ Voted for Obama - D

South Asian Vote for President by State

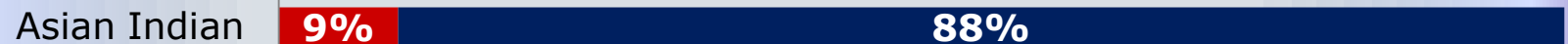
Georgia



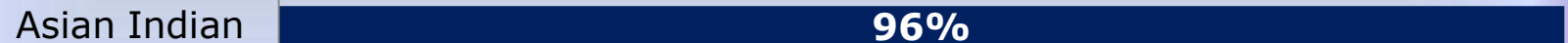
Maryland



Michigan



New Jersey

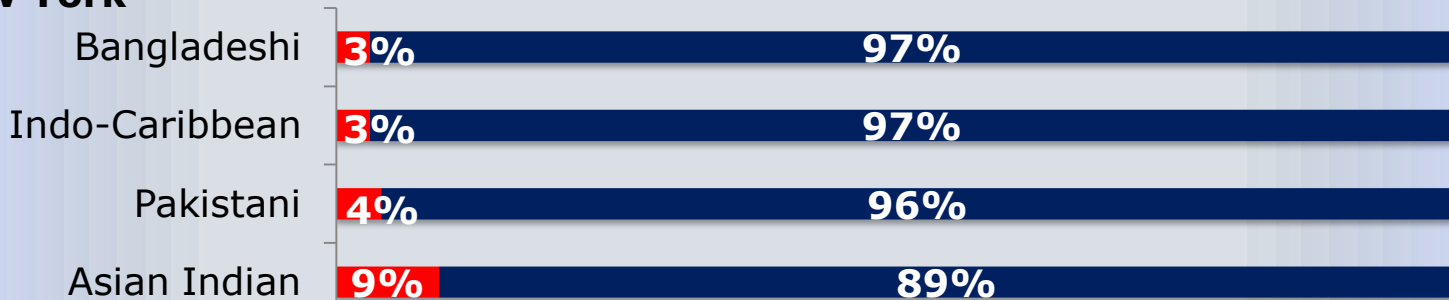


■ Voted for Romney - R

■ Voted for Obama - D

South Asian Vote for President by State

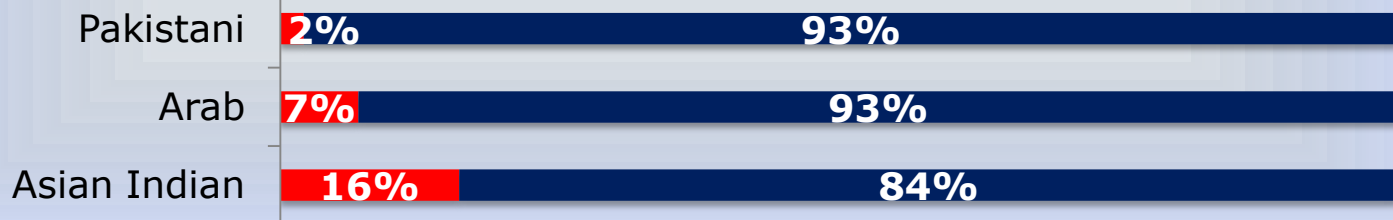
New York



Texas

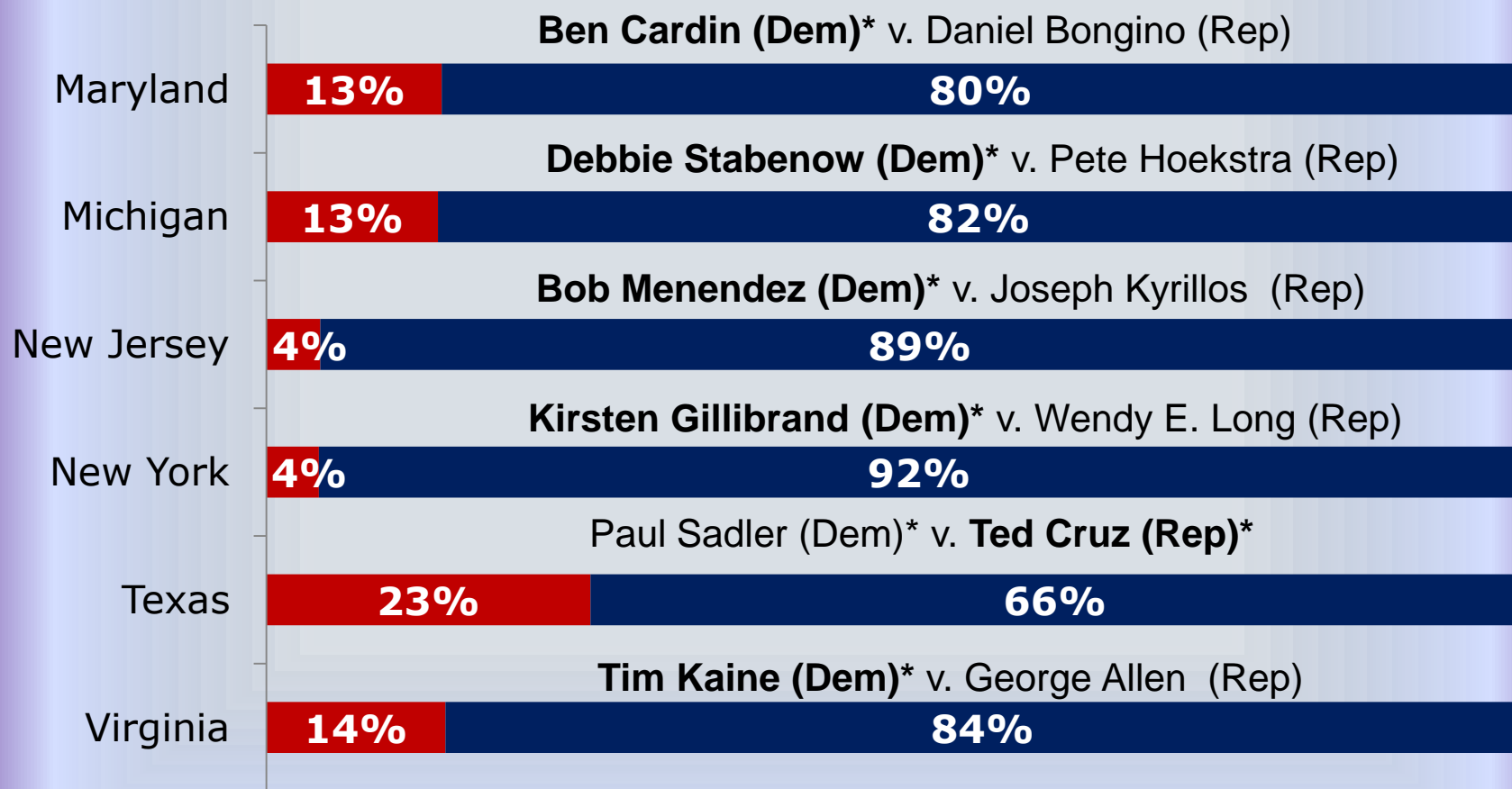


Virginia



South Asian Vote for Senate by State

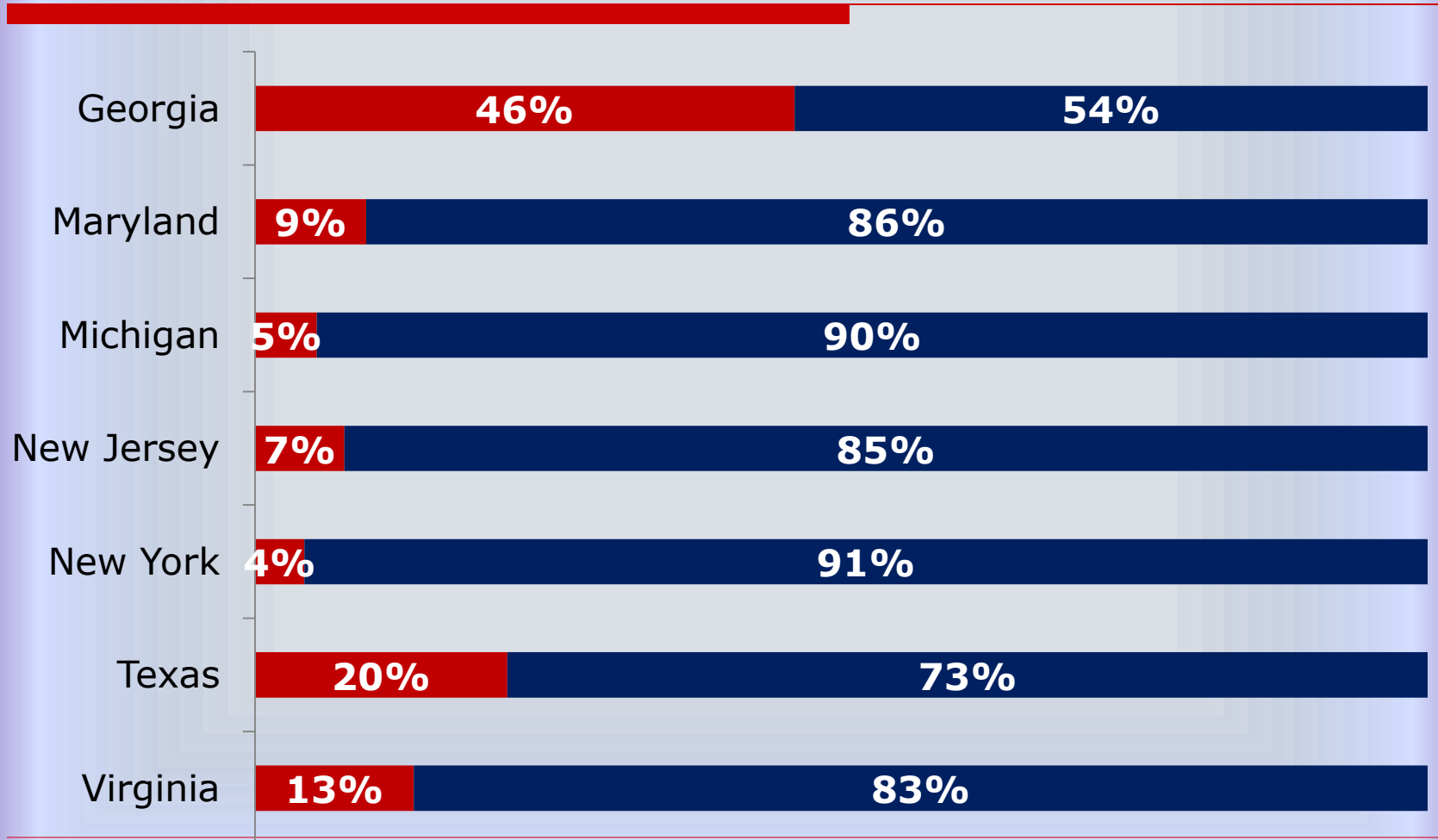
- Voted for Republican Candidate
- Voted for Democratic Candidate



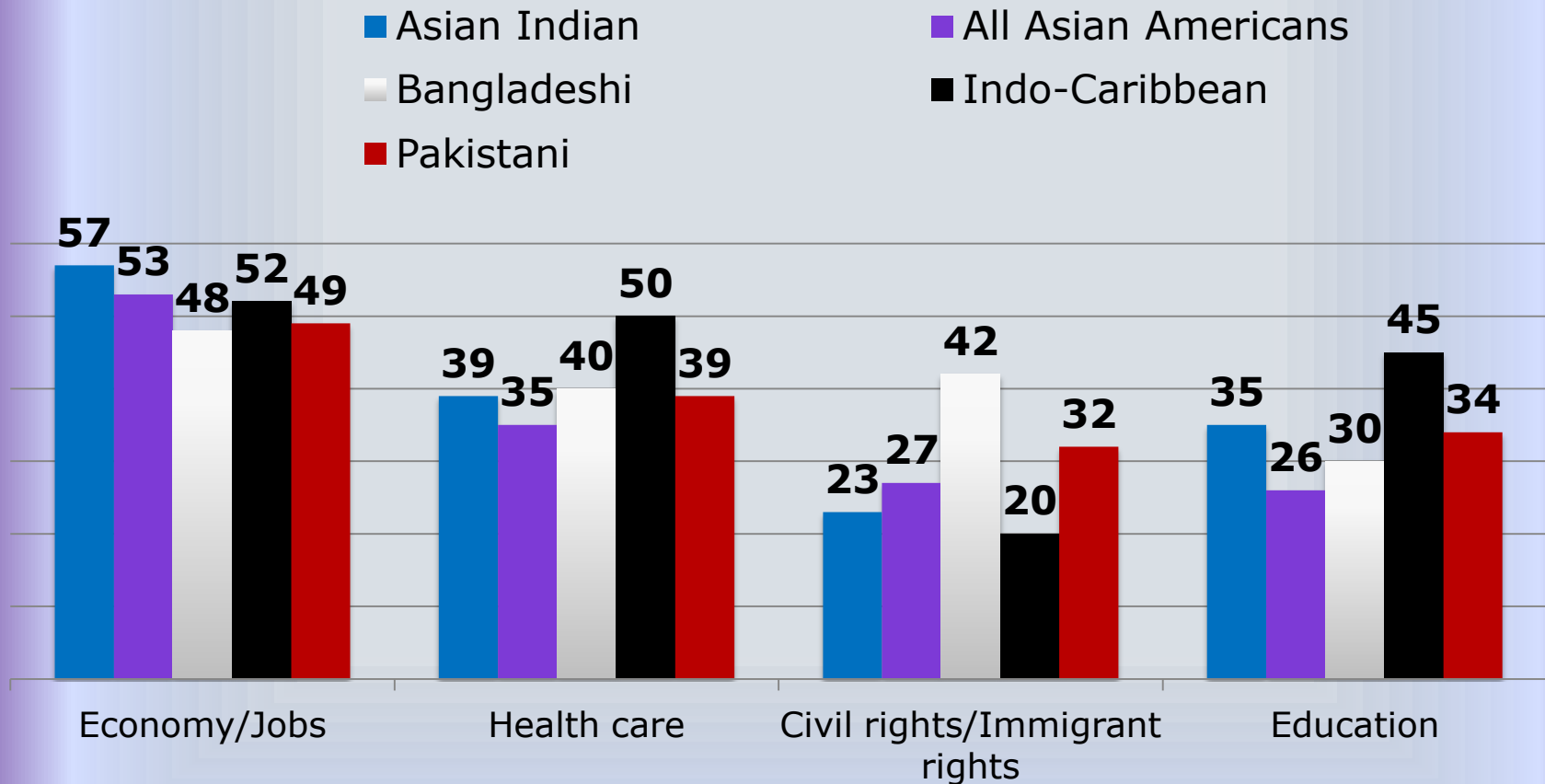
*Winning candidate

- Voted for Republican Candidate
- Voted for Democratic Candidate

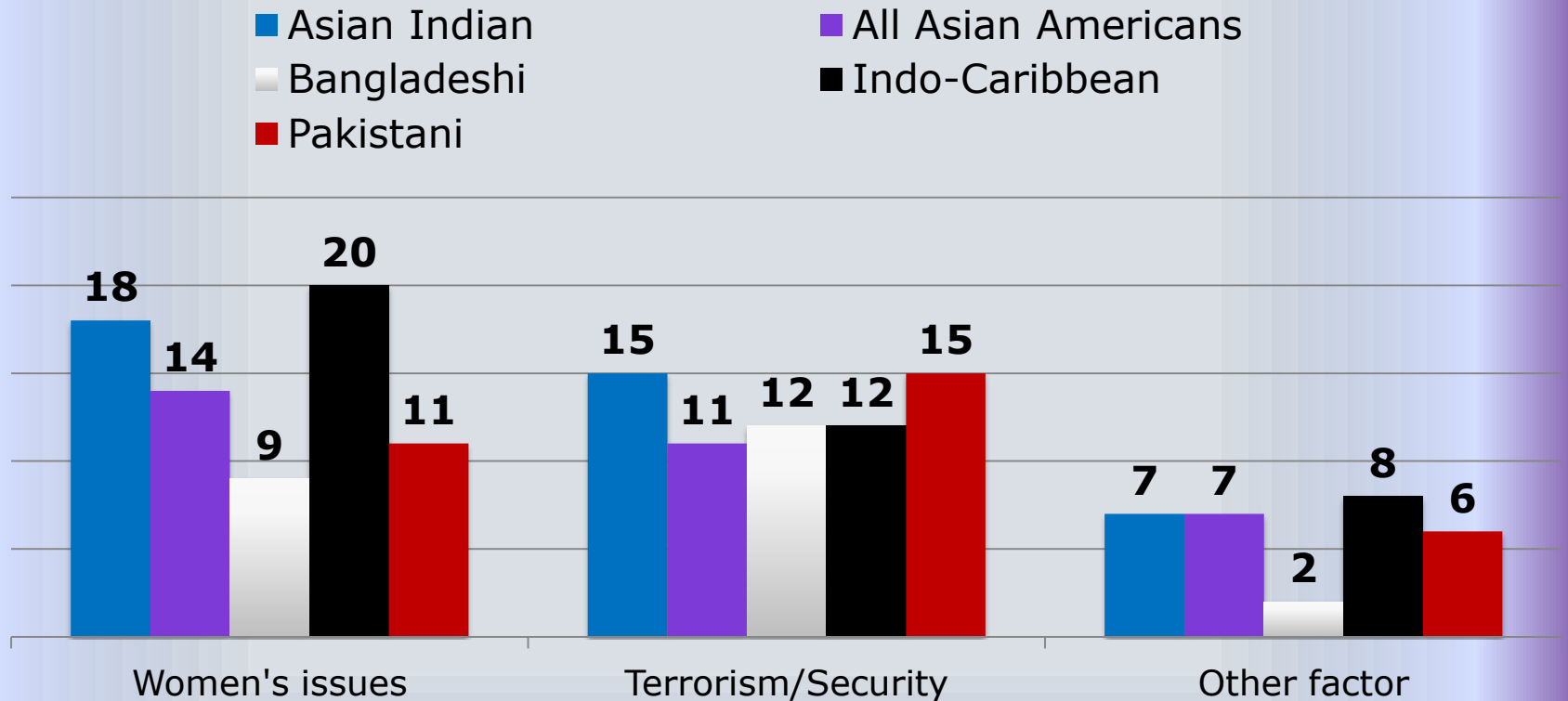
South Asian Vote for House of Representatives



Important Factors Influencing the Vote for President

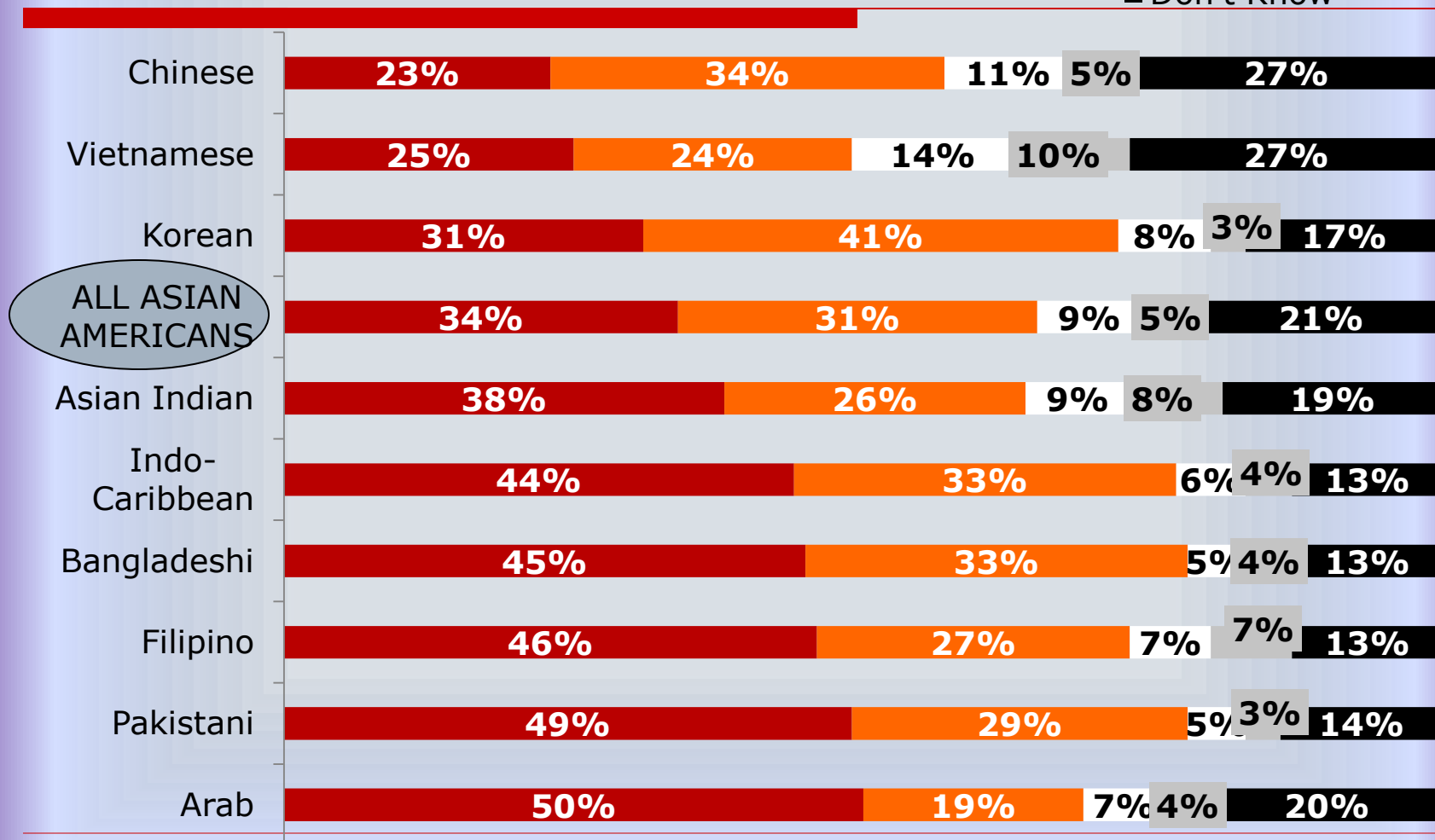


Important Factors Influencing the Vote for President



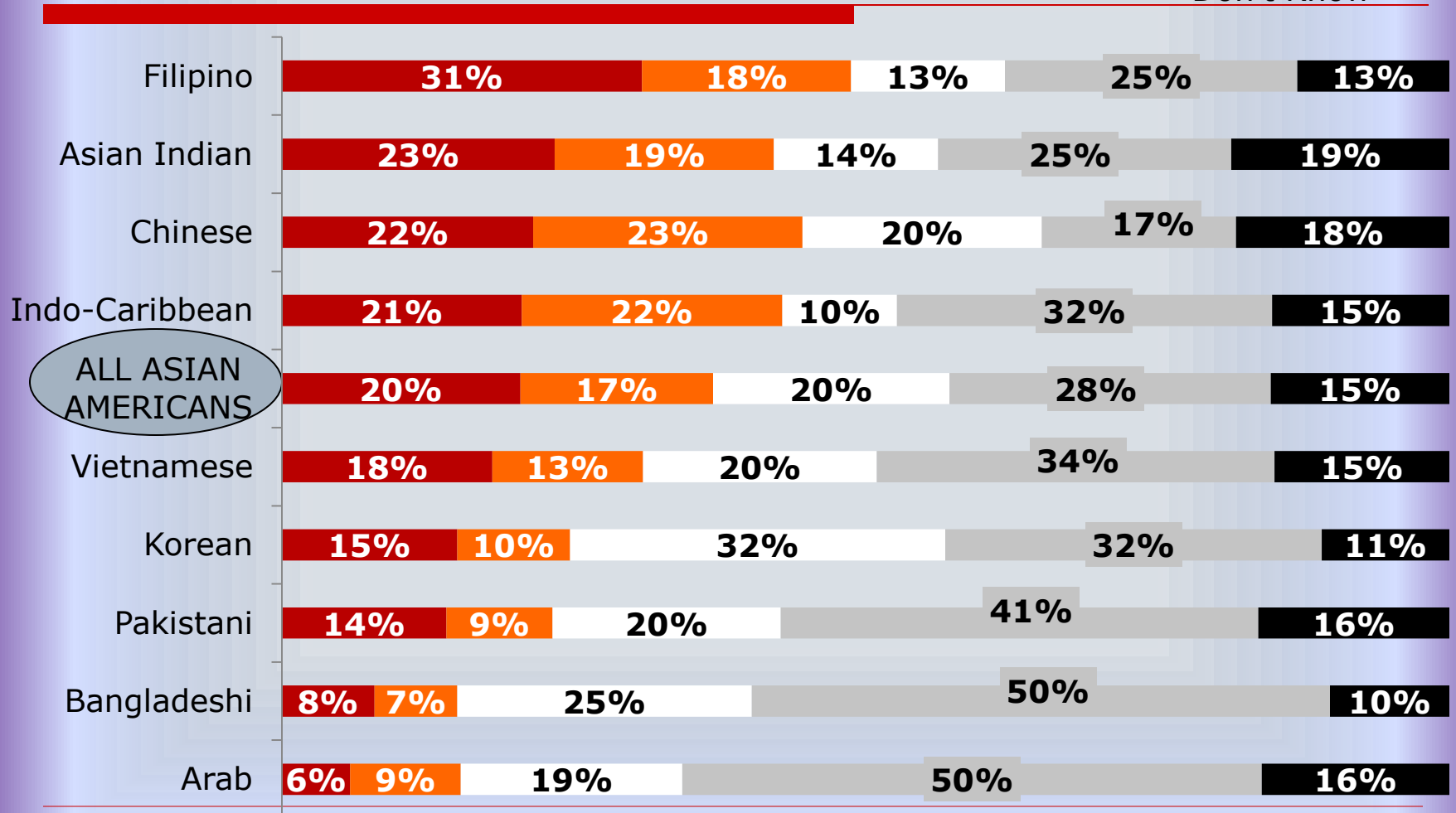
Comprehensive immigration reform, including a path to citizenship for undocumented people

■ Strongly Support
■ Support
■ Oppose
■ Strongly Oppose
■ Don't Know



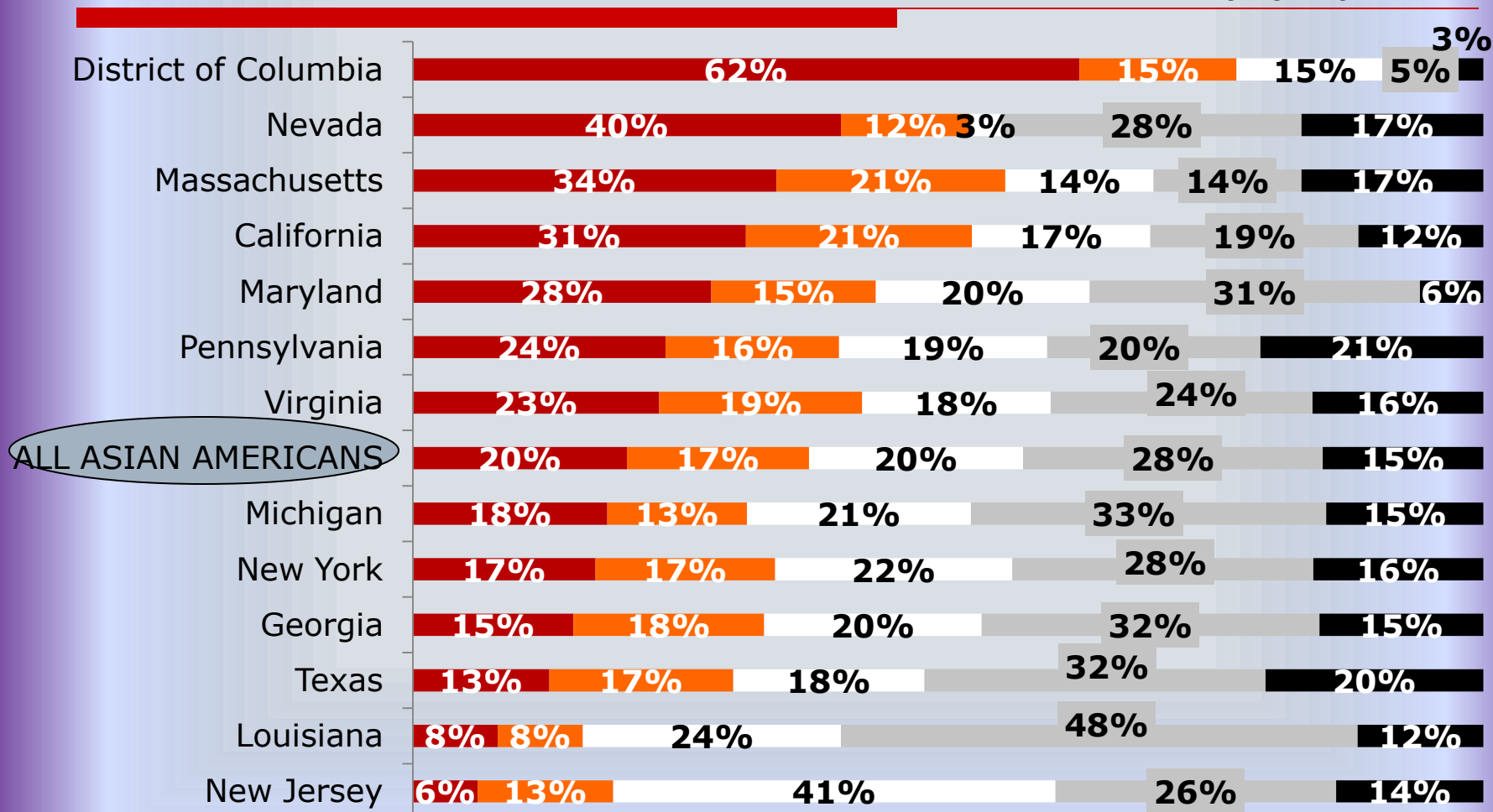
- Strongly Support
- Support
- Oppose
- Strongly Oppose
- Don't Know

Support for Same-Sex Marriage and Ethnicity

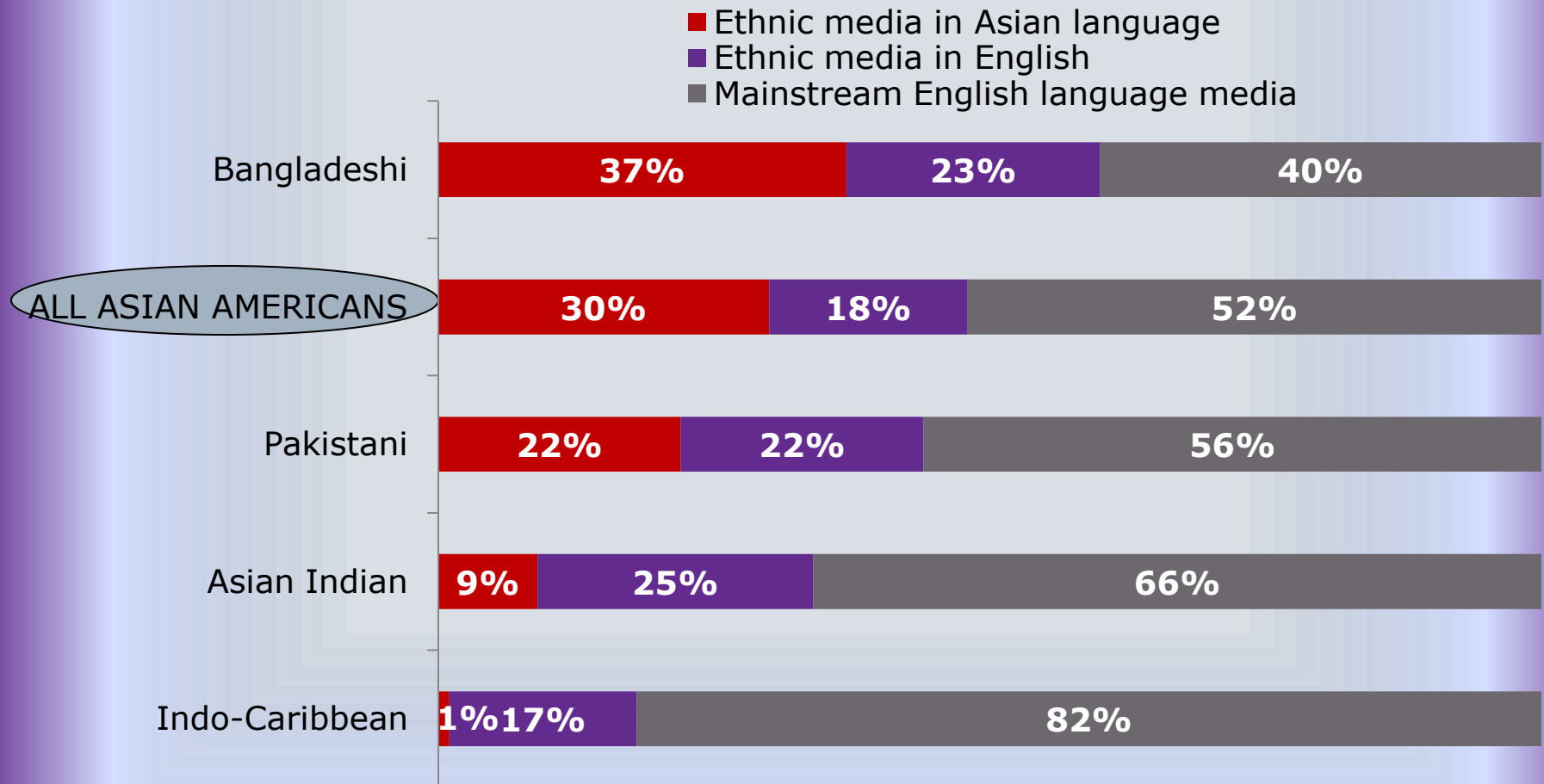


Support for Same Sex Marriage by State

- Strongly Support
- Support
- Oppose
- Strongly Oppose
- Don't Know



Main source of news about politics and community issues ...



Voting Problems

- 66 were required to prove their U.S. citizenship
- 80 complained that their names were missing or had errors in the list of voters at poll sites
- 67 had to vote by provisional ballot
- 22 voters complained that poll workers did not know what to do
- 16 voters complained that poll workers were rude or hostile
- 33 voters complained that no interpreters or translations were available when they needed the help
- 23 were directed to the wrong poll site or voting machine/table within a site



Next Steps

- **U.S. Supreme Court - Challenge to Enforcement Provisions (Section 5) of Voting Rights Act** (*Shelby v. Holder*)
- **U.S. Supreme Court - Challenge to Proof of Citizenship Requirements** (*Gonzalez v. Arizona*)
- **Enforcement of Language Assistance Provisions (Section 203/208) of Voting Rights Act for:**
 - New York assistance in Bengali
 - Michigan assistance in Bengali
 - New Jersey assistance in Korean
 - Louisiana assistance in Vietnamese
- **Enforcement of State Election Law and Voting Rights Act for:**
 - Pennsylvania voter photo Identification (*Applewhite v. Pennsylvania*)
 - Virginia voter discrimination against Korean American voters

Thanks to our co-sponsors!

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National Queer Asian Pacific Islander Alliance
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Asian Pacific American Bar Association of South Florida
Asian Pacific American Lawyers Association of NJ
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Georgia Asian Pacific American Bar Association
Greater Boston Legal Services: Asian Outreach Unit
Korean American Bar Association of the Greater Washington DC Area
Korean American Lawyers Association of Greater NY
Louisiana Asian Pacific American Bar Association
Muslim American Bar Association of New York
Pace Law School, Public Interest Law Center – NY
South Asian Bar Association of New York
South Asian Bar Association of Washington, DC
Suffolk University Law School, Rappaport Center for Law and Public Service
University of Pennsylvania School of Law, Public Interest Office

and Asian Pacific American Law Student Association chapters across the country.

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Chinese Progressive Association – MA
Coalition of Asian Pacific Americans of Virginia
East Coast Asian American Student Union
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Korean American Resource and Cultural Center - IL
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OCA: Georgia
OCA: Greater Houston
OCA: South Florida
Pace University, ACE House – NY
Pennsylvania Immigration and Citizenship Coalition
Philadelphia Chinatown Development Corporation – PA
Princeton University, Asian American Students Association – NJ
Q-WAVE – NY
South Asian Lesbian & Gay Association of New York City
University of California San Diego, Lambda Phi Epsilon
University of Maryland, College Park, Asian American Studies Program
University of Massachusetts Boston, Asian American Studies Program
Vietnamese American Young Leaders Association of New Orleans





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