

ASIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER (AAPI) POLL: NORTH CAROLINA

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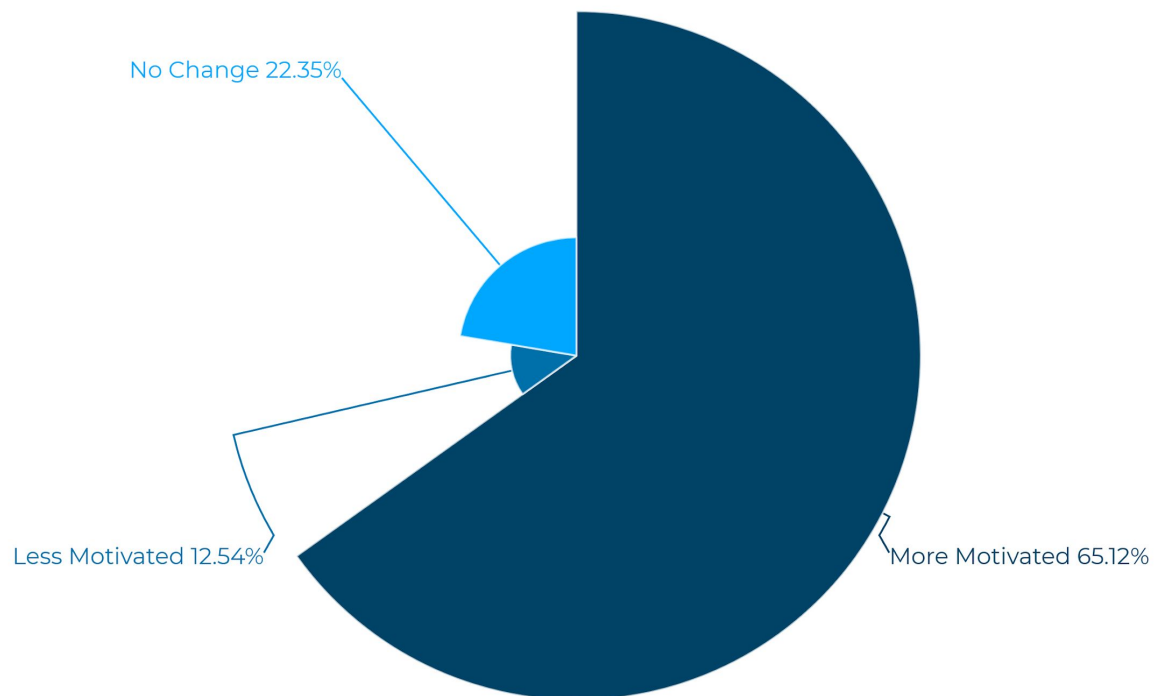
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This data and policy brief reports the results of a new election survey of Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) voters in North Carolina (n = 323). The survey was fielded from July 20th to July 30th and is the result of a collaboration between the U.S. Immigration Policy Center (USIPC) at UC San Diego and North Carolina Asian Americans Together (NCAAT), with support from the RISE Together Fund. There are an estimated 209,000 AAPI voters in North Carolina, which makes the margin of error +/- 5.4%.

- AAPI voters in North Carolina are more motivated to vote in the upcoming general election, as approximately 2 out of 3 of our respondents, 64%, say that they are more motivated to vote in November compared to previous elections
- More work needs to be done to encourage voting by mail, as only 41% say that they plan on voting via absentee ballot
- The large majority of our respondents, 75%, say that it is “absolutely essential” or “very important” to have a president that understands or tries to understand the issues facing AAPIs in the U.S. Moreover, 77%, say that it is “absolutely essential” or “very important” to have a U.S. Senator that understands or tries to understand the issues facing AAPIs in the U.S.
- AAPI voters in North Carolina want a president who publicly supports increasing family-based immigration and promotes family reunification, as the plurality of our respondents, 46%, say that this is the public position that they would most like to see a president take
- AAPI voters in North Carolina are concerned about health access, as the majority of our respondents, 59%, say that “Health access, including Medicare for all” is their most important public health issue
- AAPI voters in North Carolina want more done to address hate crimes against people of color, as the plurality of our respondents, 37%, say that this is their most important public safety issue
- Approximately 1 out of 5 of our respondents, 20.7%, report that they or their families have experienced discrimination during the pandemic

AAPI VOTERS IN NORTH CAROLINA ARE MORE MOTIVATED TO VOTE

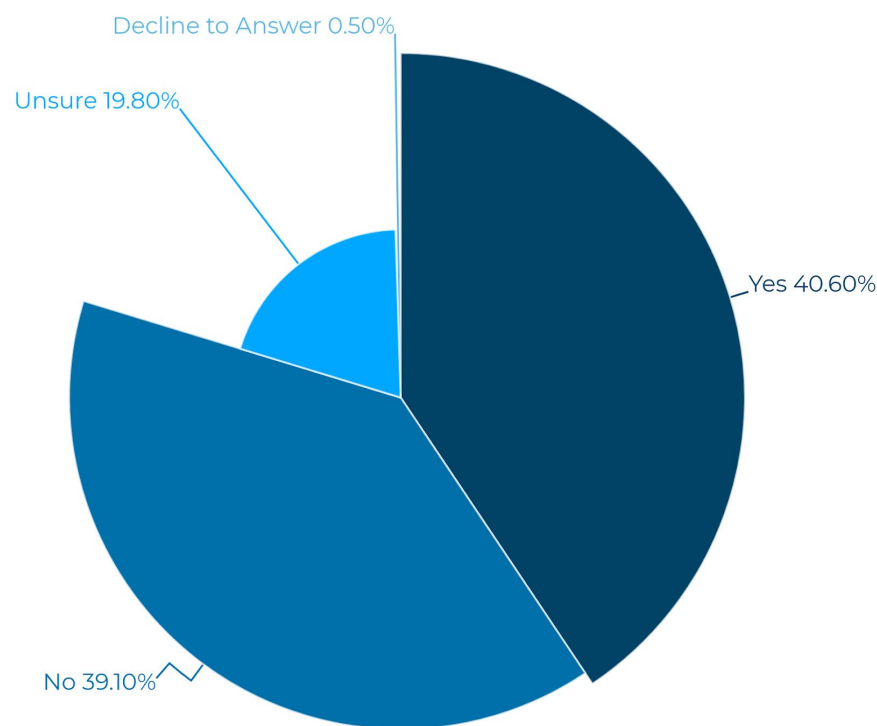
The results make clear that AAPI voters in North Carolina are more motivated to vote in the upcoming general election. When asked, “Compared to previous elections, would you say you are more motivated or less motivated to vote in this upcoming general election?” a robust 64% say that they are “more motivated,” while 13% say they are “less motivated,” and 22% say “no change.”



Question: “Compared to previous elections, would you say you are more motivated or less motivated to vote in the upcoming general election?”

MORE WORK NEEDS TO BE DONE TO ENCOURAGE VOTING BY MAIL

While AAPI Voters are motivated to vote in the upcoming general election, the results also make clear that more work needs to be done to encourage voting by mail. As the COVID-19 pandemic continues, voting via absentee ballot remains among the safest ways to cast a ballot. However, when asked, “Do you plan on voting during the November 2020 General Election via absentee ballot?” AAPI voters are mixed. While 41% say “yes,” 39% say “no”, and an additional 20% say that they are “unsure” or do not know what an absentee ballot is.



Question: [If YES to voting in November] “Do you plan on voting during the November 2020 general election via absentee ballot?”

AAPI VOTERS WANT ELECTED OFFICIALS WHO UNDERSTAND THE ISSUES FACING ASIANS AND PACIFIC ISLANDERS

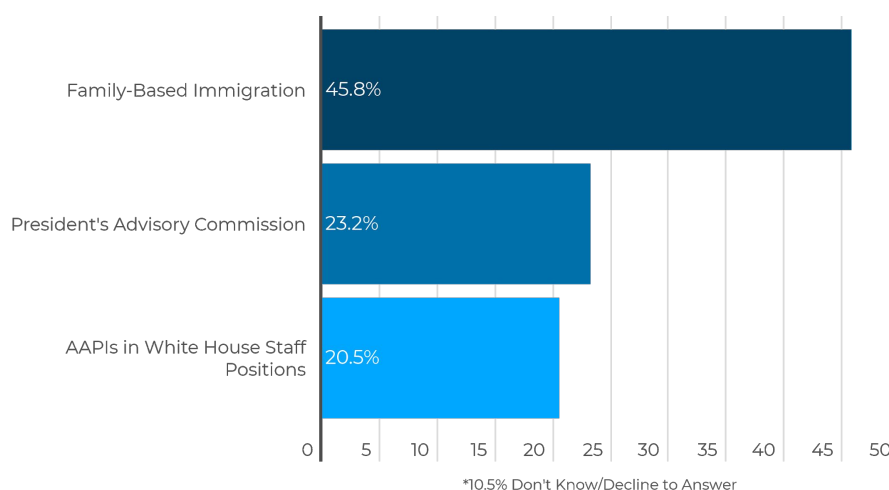
Against the backdrop of an increasingly diverse American electorate, many AAPI voters continue to feel invisible. To quantify this, we asked AAPI voters in North Carolina, “How important is it for you to have a president that understands or tries to understand the issues facing AAPIs in the U.S.?” The large majority of our respondents, 75%, say that it is “absolutely essential” or “very important” to have a president that understands or tries to understand the issues facing AAPIs in the U.S. Just 17% say that this is “of average importance,” 3% say that this is “of little importance,” and 4% say that this is “not important at all.”

We also asked, “How important is it for you to have a U.S. Senator that understands or tries to understand the issues facing AAPIs in the U.S.?” The large majority of our respondents, 77%, say that it is “absolutely essential” or “very important” to have a U.S. Senator that understands or tries to understand the issues facing AAPIs in the U.S. Only 18% say that this is “of average importance,” 3% say that this is “of little importance,” and 3% say that this is “not important at all.”

Question: “How important is it for you to have a President/U.S. Senator who understands or tries to understand the issues facing Asian American and Pacific Islanders in the U.S.?”

AAPI VOTERS WANT A PRESIDENT WHO SUPPORTS FAMILY-BASED IMMIGRATION

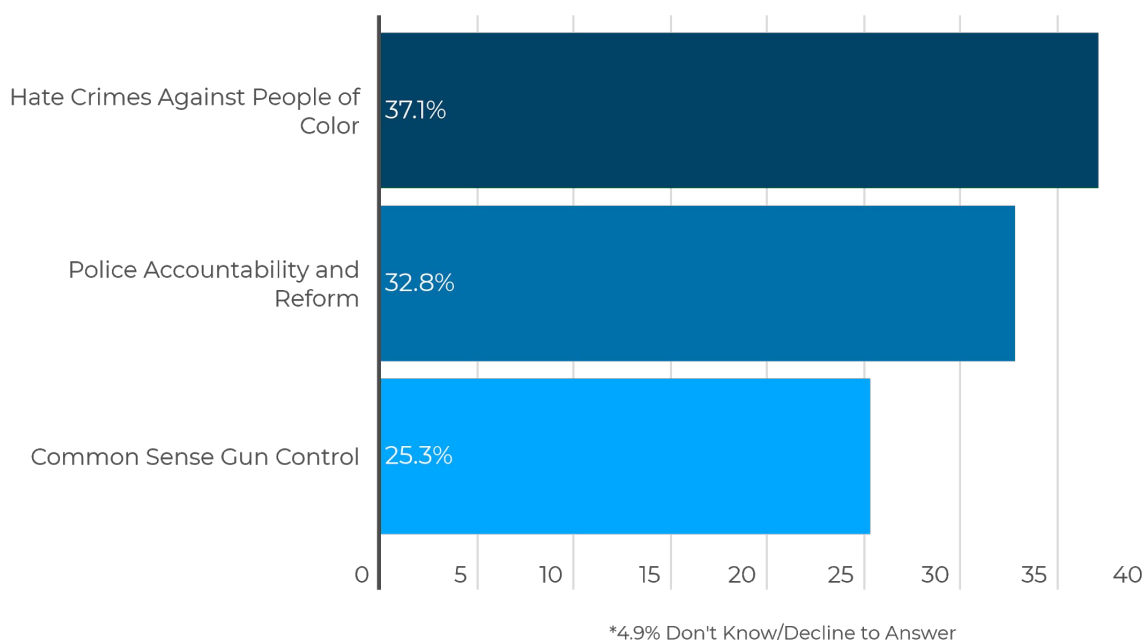
In asking, “Which of the following three public positions would you most like to see a President take?” respondents were asked to choose between an executive order that establishes a President’s Advisory Commission that seeks to empower Asians and Pacific Islanders and address specific challenges experienced by AAPIs, a public commitment to include AAPIs in senior White House staff positions, or publicly supporting legislation that increases family-based immigration and promotes family unification. Reflective of the disproportionate impact that efforts to limit or eliminate family-based immigration pathways have on AAPIs, the plurality of our respondents, 46%, say that supporting legislation that increases family-based immigration and promotes family unification is the public position, among our answer options, that they would most like to see a President take.



Question: “Which of the following public positions would you most like to see a President take? We have three options. The first is An executive order that establishes a President’s Advisory Commission that seeks to empower Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders and address specific challenges experienced by AAPIs. The second is A public commitment to include AAPIs in senior White House staff positions. The third is Supporting legislation that increases family-based immigration and promotes family unification.”

AAPI VOTERS WANT MORE DONE TO ADDRESS HATE CRIMES AGAINST PEOPLE OF COLOR

We asked our respondents about the public safety issues that are most important to them. In asking, “Which of the following public safety issues are most important to you?” respondents were asked to choose between common sense gun control, police accountability and reform, or hate crimes against people of color. The plurality of our respondents, 37%, say that “hate crimes against people of color” is the most important public safety issue among our answer options. This is followed closely by 33% who say “police accountability and reform” and 25% who say “common sense gun reform.”



Question: “Which of the following three public safety issues are most important to you? The first is Common sense gun control. The second is Police accountability and reform. The third is Hate crimes against people of color.”

AAPI VOTERS IN NORTH CAROLINA ARE EXPERIENCING DISCRIMINATION DURING THE PANDEMIC

The fact that AAPI voters in North Carolina see hate crimes against people of color as a pressing public safety issue can, perhaps, be explained by experiences of discrimination during the pandemic. When asked, “Have you or your family experienced discrimination of any kind during the COVID-19 pandemic?” 21% say “yes.” In other words, approximately 1 out of 5 of our respondents or their families have experienced discrimination during the pandemic.

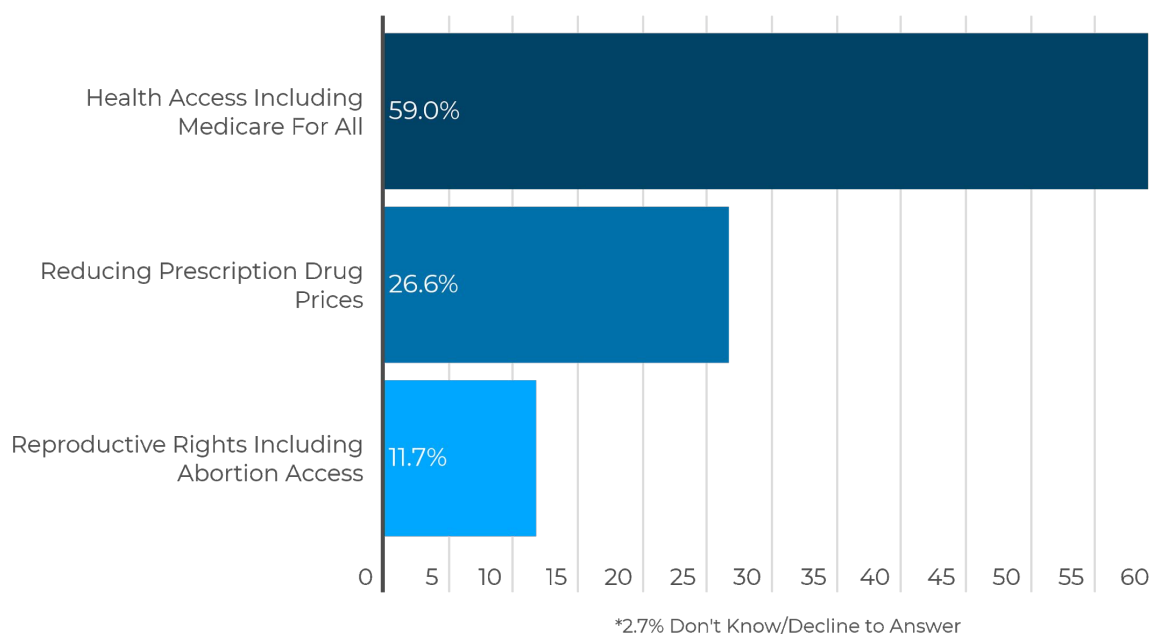
We also asked, “Does a political candidate’s usage of terms like ‘Chinese Virus’, ‘Wuhan Virus’, and ‘Kung Flu’ increase, decrease, or makes no difference in your support for the candidate?” Two-thirds of our respondents, 67%, say that this decreases support while 27% say this makes no difference and just 2% say that this increases their support.

Question: “Which of the following public health issues are most important to you? Reproductive rights, including abortion access. Health access, including Medicare for all. Or reducing prescription drug prices.”

Question: “Does a political candidate’s usage of terms like “Chinese Virus”, “Wuhan Virus”, and “Kung Flu”, increase, decrease, or makes no difference in your support for the candidate?.”

HEALTH ACCESS IS THE MOST IMPORTANT PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUE AMONG AAPI VOTERS IN NORTH CAROLINA

We also asked our respondents about the public health issues that are most important to them. In asking, “Which of the following public health issues are most important to you?” respondents were asked to choose between: reproductive rights, including abortion access; health access, including Medicare for all; or reducing prescription drug prices. The majority of our respondents, 59%, say that “Health access, including Medicare for all” is the most important public health issue among our answer options. This is followed by 27% who say “reducing prescription drug prices” and 12% who say “reproductive rights, including abortion access.”



Question: “Which of the following public health issues are most important to you? Reproductive rights, including abortion access. Health access, including Medicare for all. Or reducing prescription drug prices.”

AAPI VOTERS IN NORTH CAROLINA HAVE DIVERSE POLICY AND ISSUE PRIORITIES

The survey also makes vivid that AAPI voters in North Carolina are not monolithic when it comes to their opinions about what the most pressing policies or issues are that a president should prioritize. We asked AAPI voters in North Carolina, “What policy or issue would you like a President to prioritize?” adding “What stands out the most?” if respondents stated multiple policies or issues. The open-ended responses were coded into discrete policy and issue categories. Among the AAPI voters we surveyed, and perhaps reflective of the broader reckoning the country is currently experiencing when it comes to racial (in)justice, 13% want a president to prioritize addressing discrimination against people of color, 9% say foreign policy, and 8% say healthcare/addressing the COVID-19 pandemic.

We also asked, “What policy or issue would you like a U.S. Senator to prioritize?” adding “What stands out the most?” if respondents stated multiple policies or issues. Among our respondents, 12% want a U.S. Senator to prioritize healthcare/addressing the COVID-19 pandemic, 10% say addressing discrimination against people of color, and 7% say education.

Question: “In general, what policy or issue would you like a president to prioritize?”

METHODOLOGY

This survey was fielded from July 20th to August 20th. The total sample size is 323. Registered voters were identified using voter files obtained directly from the North Carolina State Board of Elections. Likely Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) voters were identified using self-reported race/ethnicity, as well as an algorithm designed by Tom K. Wong at the U.S. Immigration Policy Center (USIPC) at UC San Diego. This algorithm has been used to enhance counts of AAPI voters, as well as to identify likely Muslim, Arab, and South Asian (MASA) voters in 501c3, 501c4, and political campaigns across the country. All surveys were conducted via phone. Landlines and cell phones were sampled in the proportion they appeared in each state's voter file. The raw data are weighted to reflect the likely AAPI registered voter population by party, by age group (18-34, 35-55, 55+), and by sex.



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