

**MEDIA RELEASE: Focus on Asian American and Pacific Islanders in Battleground States for 2018 Elections**  
**July 26, 2018**

**Resources**

- [Infographic](#)
- [Slideshow of the polling](#)
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- [List of polled districts](#)

Los Angeles, CA – The AAPI Civic Engagement Fund co-sponsored a poll of multi-racial voters in 61 battleground states across the United States that are central to the future make-up of Congress. Other co-sponsors are America’s Voice, Mi Familia Vota, Indivisible, NAACP, and The Immigration Hub. Conducted jointly by Asian American Decisions, Latino Decisions, and the African American Research Collaborative, the poll surveyed Asian American and Pacific Islander, Black, Latinx, Native American, and White voters in five languages (Chinese, English, Korean, Vietnamese, and Spanish).

These results are illuminating. From vote choice to views on the Trump administration, AAPIs hold similar views with Black, Latinx, and in many respects, Native American voters. In sum, AAPIs are again poised to overwhelmingly favor Democratic candidates in 2018 and on issues ranging from gay marriage to gun control, more than 70% express a viewpoint that aligns with the Democratic Party and candidates. At the same time, both the Democratic Party and Republican Party will have to do more to secure the AAPI vote as just under 35% are not affiliated with either political group.

When it comes to the job performance of Donald Trump, only 11% strongly approve while 41% strongly disapprove. The high disapproval is reflected in the feelings that Mr. Trump elicits — 70% are angry or ashamed and just less than a quarter feel proud or respected. As well, it should be sobering to the Republican Party that 75% feel that Mr. Trump’s racist statements and policies has caused a setback for the AAPI community.

**EunSook Lee, Fund Director** said, “2018 is a high stakes elections. Unlike other midterms, the majority of all voters including AAPIs see this election year as more important. At the same time, only a quarter report being contacted by a political party. That means it’ll be up to the community organizations on the ground to make sure that AAPIs are not left behind and community voices are heard.”

**Taeku Lee, Principal, Asian American Decisions**, said, “In 2012, an election that demobilized many voters, 1.14 million Asian American voters mobilized. Going into these midterms, AAPI voter turnout will increase further. As the data shows, AAPI voters find it much more important to vote in 2018 when compared to 2014. Minority voters are the reason for the strong presence of democratic votes because of both the issues and the ways in which the Trump administration has affected them specifically. The poll shows upwards of 70% of AAPI voters are likely to support issues of democratic candidates, and this constituency believes that Trump is increasing hate and racism against them and other minorities.”

The AAPI Civic Engagement Fund was established in 2014 to foster a culture of civic participation within AAPI communities by supporting the growth of AAPI groups as organizational movement and power building leaders that achieve specific policy, systems, and transformational change.

### **About the Poll**

2,045 registered voters were interviewed in the 61 congressional districts deemed most competitive by Cook, CNN and Crystal Ball, and the overall poll has a margin of error of +/- 2.1%. A minimum of 400 registered voters were interviewed from each racial and ethnic group: Latinx, African Americans, Asian Americans or Pacific Islanders, Native Americans, and white non-Hispanics, which each carry a margin of error of +/- 4.8%. The AAPI subgroup sample is as follows: 25% Chinese, 17% Indian, 14% Filipino, 11% Vietnamese, 10% Korean, 7% Japanese, Taiwanese 6%, 3% Pakistani, 3% Southeast Asian, 2% Pacific Islander, 8% Other.

Due to sample size considerations, Native Americans were drawn from a 50-state national sample, while the other four groups were drawn only from the 61 competitive districts. The overall data are weighted to the most recent Census estimates for the registered voter population for age, gender, education, and nativity, and then weighted proportionately to match the overall racial demographics of the combined 61 districts which is 68% white, 15% black, 12% Latino, 4% Asian, 1% Native American. Respondents were randomly selected for interviews through online panels, verified to be registered to vote, and to live in one of the 61 competitive house districts, in order to participate in the survey. The survey was in the field July 5-July 14, 2018.

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