



NAPAWF

Understanding the Priorities and Voting Patterns of Asian American and Pacific Islander Women

Survey Findings – March 2021

Methodology

This report is based on data collected from 3,537 completed interviews of adult women (18+) in the United States who self-identify as Asian American/Pacific Islander (AAPI) or of any ethnicity/national origin recognized in the Asian race category by the U.S. Census Bureau. As part of this effort, oversamples were conducted in Georgia, Florida, and Texas.

The data were weighted by region, age, education, and ethnicity to ensure a representative sample of AAPI women based on the U.S. Census. The Georgia, Florida, and Texas oversamples were weighted down to reflect the proportion they account for among AAPI women nationwide.

Interviews were conducted online and via telephone using live, professional interviewers from February 1 to March 2, 2021. Respondents were given the option to complete the survey in English, Mandarin, Korean, or Vietnamese.

Geography	Interviews
National	2,034
Georgia	504
Florida	522
Texas	570
Total	3,537



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Concerns about health and healthcare dominate the issue landscape.

Key Findings... Issue Environment

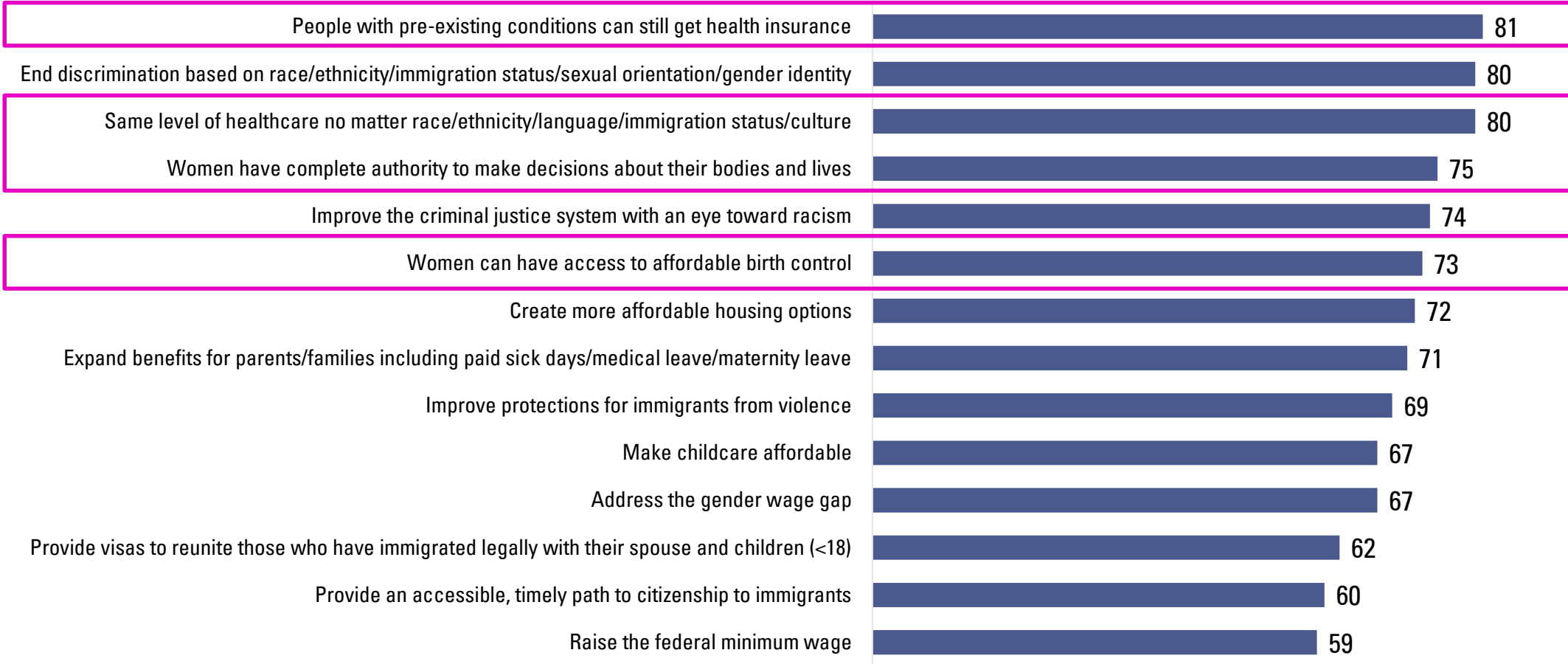
Concerns about health and healthcare dominate the issue landscape.

- 3 of the 4 top issues – both overall and among almost *every demographic group* center on healthcare. Pre-existing conditions and ensuring everyone has access being the top two.
- COVID is also part of the focus on health. Half of AAPI women say addressing COVID is the most important priority for the federal government.
- Almost a third of AAPI women note that COVID has caused their mental health to suffer – the biggest concern for AAPI women, even more so than economic impacts.

The highest tier issues largely focus on healthcare – either specifically women’s health or more generally. Ending discrimination is also a very serious concern for AAPI women.

Four out of the top six issues relate to healthcare.

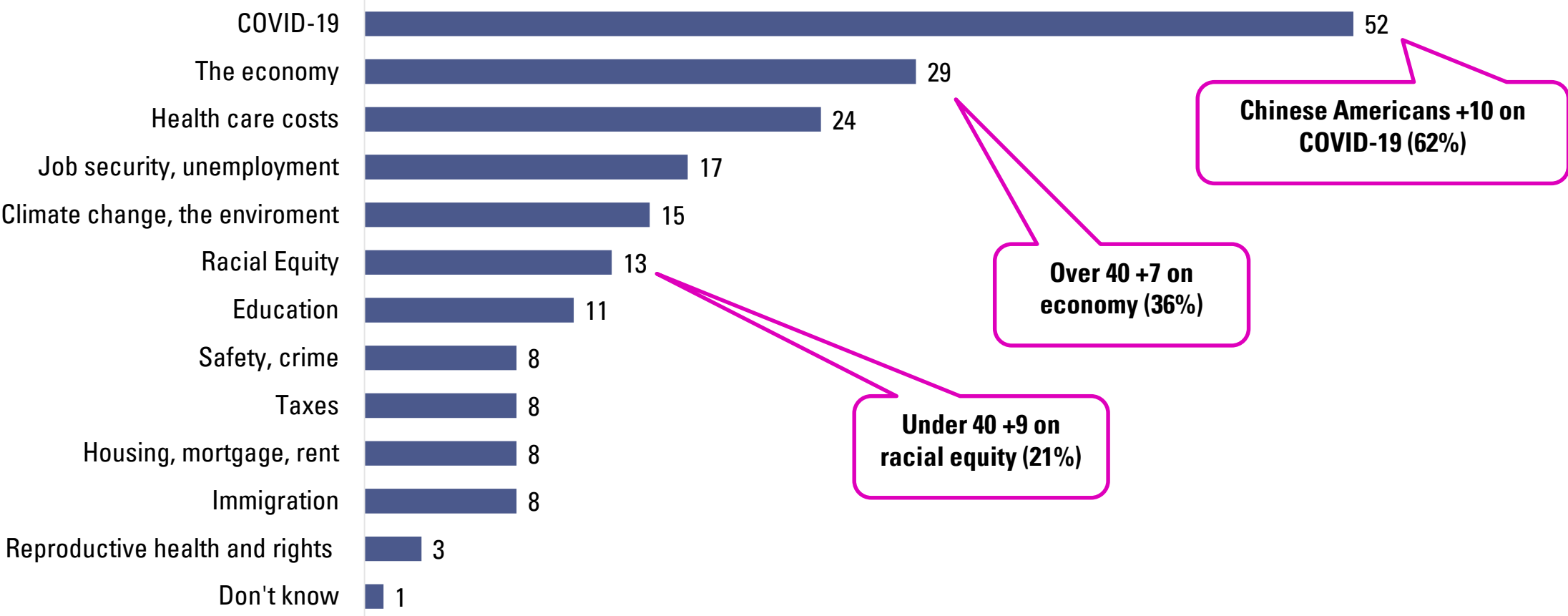
Top Tier Issues % Very/Extremely Important



COVID-19 dominates AAPI women's concerns for the federal government to address

Chinese Americans are most likely to mention COVID-19 (62%). Other groups of AAPI women disproportionately zero in on other issues: Democrats on the environment and racial equity, Republicans on immigration, under 40 on racial equity and education, and over 40 on the economy.

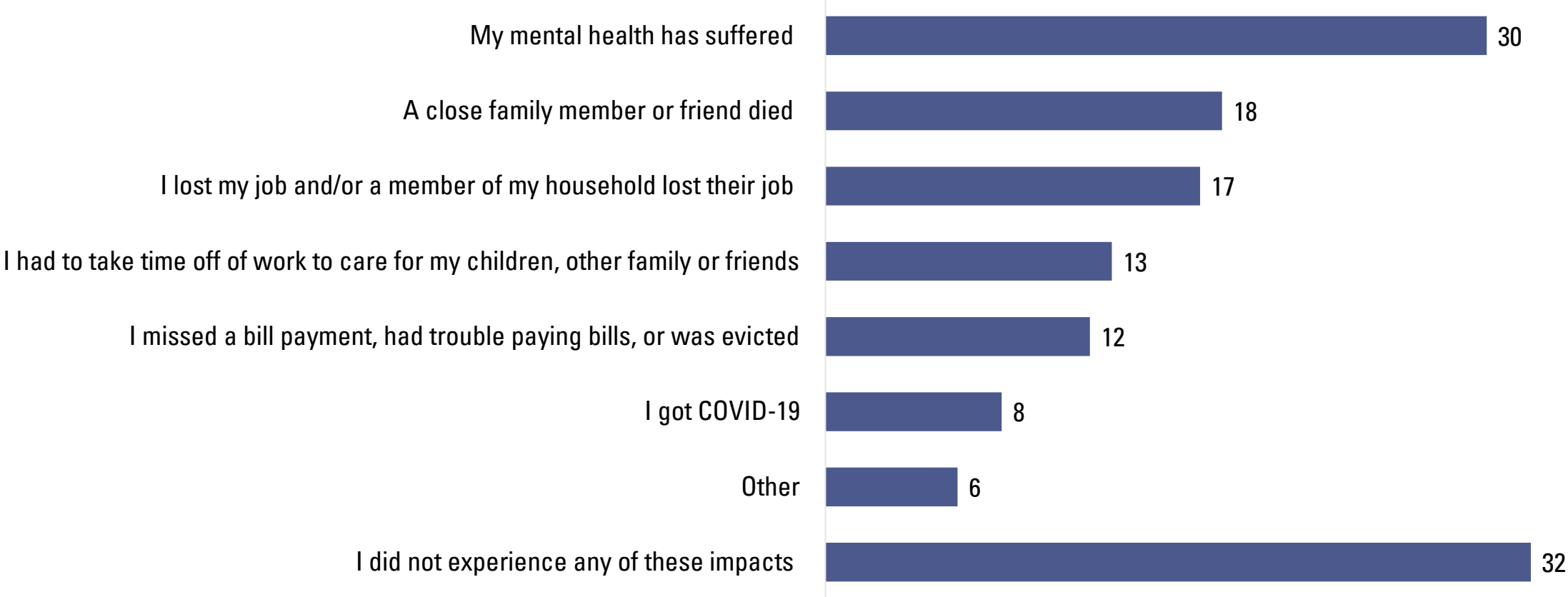
Top Two Most Important Priorities for Federal Government to Address



Two-thirds of AAPI women have been impacted by COVID-19, a plurality of whom say it has impacted their mental health. One-in-five AAPI women have seen someone close to them die.

Younger AAPI women, Pacific Islanders, and Southeast Asians report being more impacted by COVID, including an economic impact (either job loss or missing a payment). Lower income AAPI women also suffered more economic burdens, while parents report an additional childcare burden.

Impact of COVID-19 on AAPI women





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Reproductive health and justice is a top tier concern for most AAPI women, but there are nuances.

Key Findings... Issue Environment

Reproductive health and justice is a top tier concern for most AAPI women, but there are nuances.

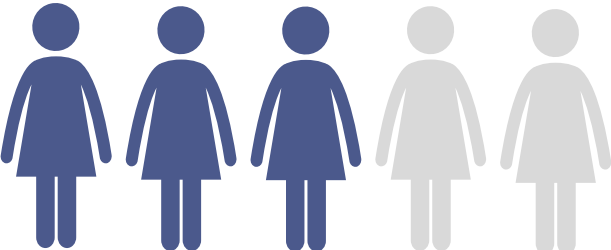
- Ensuring women have the authority to make decisions about their bodies and having access to affordable birth control are among the top tier issue priorities for AAPI women.
- Overall, AAPI women support access to abortion – East Asian women are the most supportive while Pacific Islander women are least supportive.
- 8-in-10 AAPI women understand that having control over when you have children creates better family outcomes, 59% of East Asian women think it improves the quality of the child's life.

A majority of AAPI women support abortion access. The strongest support comes from East Asian Americans – the weakest from Pacific Islanders.

Mixed race Asian Americans also strongly support (70%), as do first-generation Americans (68%), younger AAPI women (71%), and college educated (67%). On the flip side, almost a quarter (23%) of AAPI women with kids would deny any access to abortion.

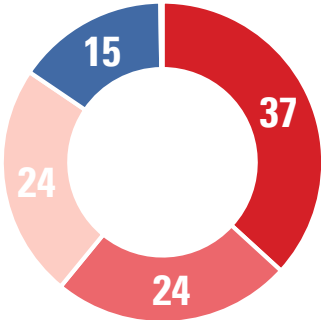
3-in-5

AAPI women think pregnant people should be able to access abortion in all or most cases



All AAPI Women	61%
East Asian	69%
South Asian	61%
Southeast Asian	61%
Pacific Islander	47%

All AAPI Women



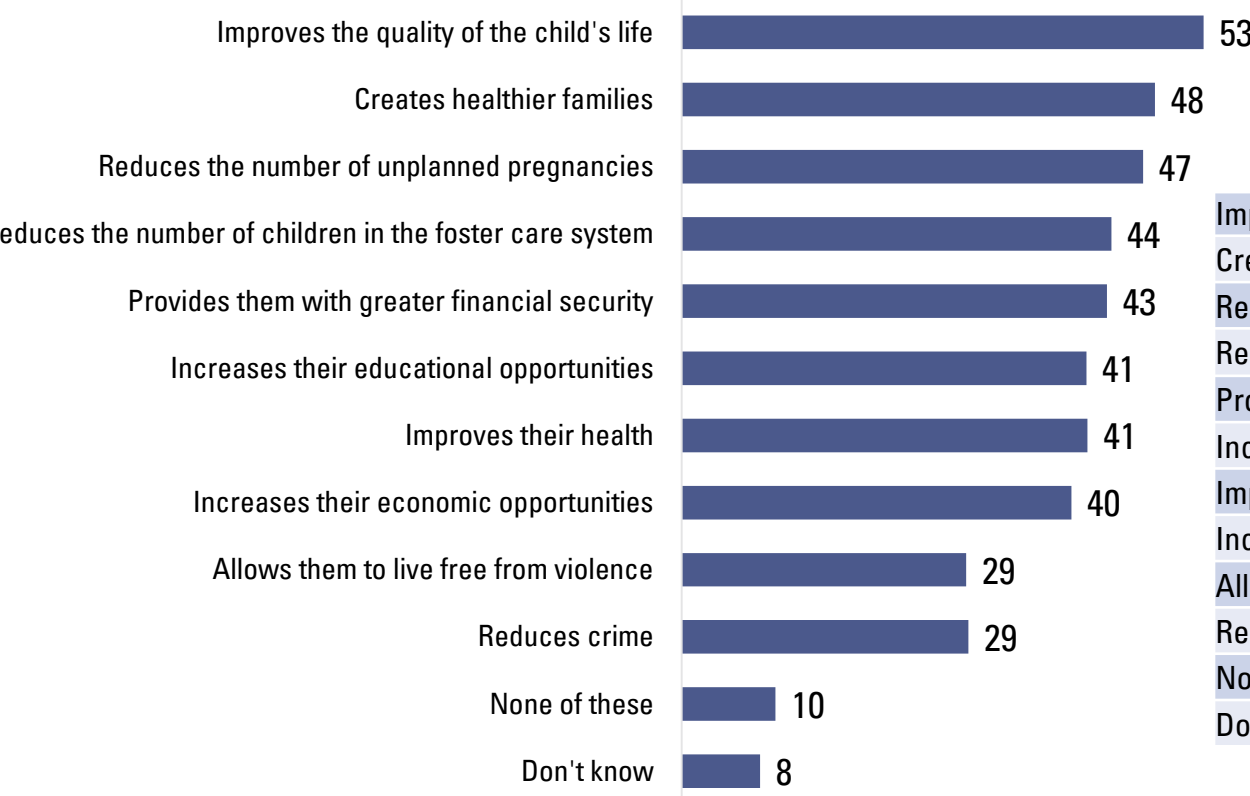
■ All cases
 ■ Most cases
 ■ Cases of rape, abuse or health risk
 ■ Never
 ■ Don't know

	East Asian	South Asian	Southeast Asian	Pacific Islander
All cases	38	39	40	31
Most cases	31	21	21	16
Cases of rape, abuse, or health risk	22	24	27	22
Never	9	16	12	31

8-in-10 AAPI women feel giving a parent control over their reproduction produces more positive outcomes.

The most popular specific outcomes involve the health of the child and families. Notably, more than half of Vietnamese women say it improves the health of the parent (51%). AAPI women with higher incomes were more likely to connect control to positive outcomes than lower income women.

How Women & Society Thrive With Agency Over Reproductive Decisions: All AAPI Women



	East Asian	South Asian	Southeast Asian	Pacific Islander
Improves the quality of the child's life	59	52	55	46
Creates healthier families	53	49	51	39
Reduces the number of unplanned pregnancies	53	44	49	34
Reduces the number of children in foster care	49	44	46	36
Provides them with greater financial security	46	43	46	38
Increases their educational opportunities	43	42	44	35
Improves their health	42	48	42	29
Increases their economic opportunities	43	40	41	34
Allows them to live free from violence	29	32	30	29
Reduces crime	31	31	30	24
None of these	9	8	13	9
Don't know	8	6	8	6



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Racism, both explicit and implicit, is a regular part of AAPI women's lives.

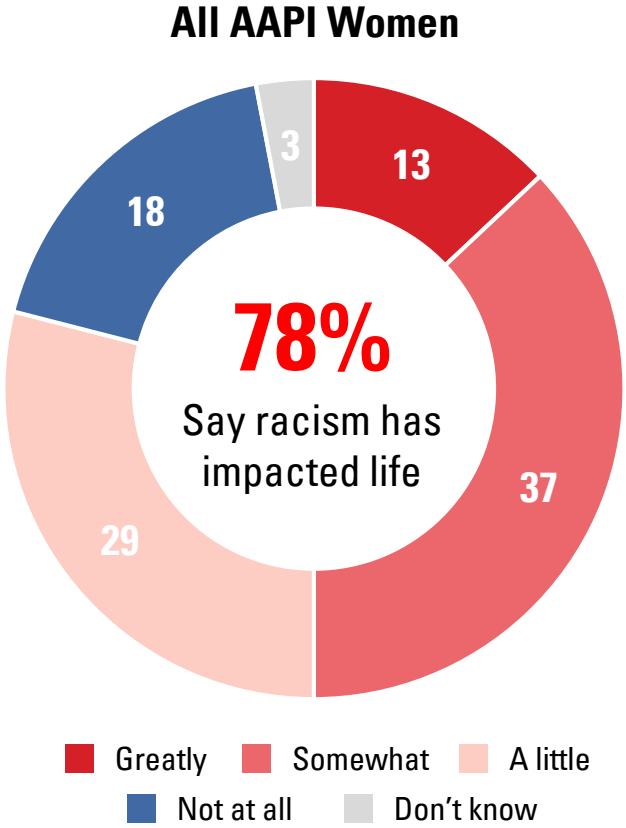
Key Findings... AAPI Women's Lived Experiences

Racism, both explicit and implicit, is a regular part of AAPI women's lives.

- Reports of racist encounters are particularly high within the East and Southeast Asian communities.
- More than half report specific instances of racism in the past two years – including more than 40% of Vietnamese and Koreans mentioning they've been called a racial slur.

Around 8-in-10 AAPI women report racism has had at least a little impact on their lives over the past two years. Pacific Islander women were the least likely to report an experience with racism.

East and Southeast Asian women were more likely to report experiences with racism.



Racism has Impacted my Life...

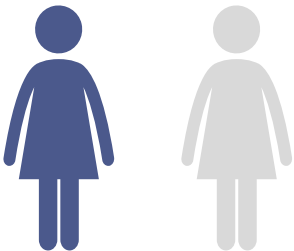
	East Asian	South Asian	Southeast Asian	Pacific Islander
Greatly	13	12	16	13
Somewhat	36	37	39	29
A little	34	24	25	31
Not at all	14	23	19	25
Don't know	3	5	3	2

A majority report experiencing a specific instance of anti-Asian racism.

Vietnamese (45%) and Korean (41%) Americans are most likely to report being called a slur. Younger (68%) and 2nd generation Americans (63%) are more likely to note racist encounters. AAPI women who speak other languages report higher instances of racism than those who only speak English.

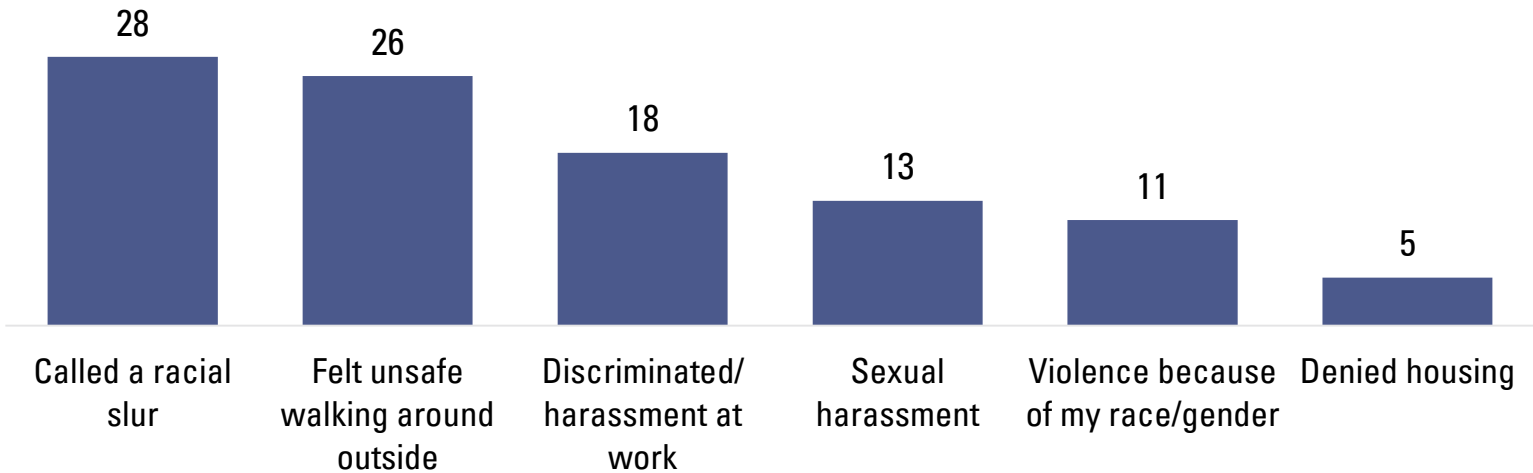
1-in-2

Have been affected by the following anti-Asian racism



All AAPI Women	55%
East Asian	55%
South Asian	52%
Southeast Asian	55%
Pacific Islander	53%

I Have Experienced the Following:



	East Asian	South Asian	Southeast Asian	Pacific Islander
Called a racial slur	30	23	34	21
Felt unsafe walking around outside	27	24	29	17
Been discriminated against or experienced harassment at work	17	16	18	22
Experienced sexual harassment	13	11	17	16
Experienced violence because of my race and/or gender	9	9	13	13
Been denied housing	3	5	5	9



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AAPI women were more motivated to vote last year than
in previous years.

Key Findings... Electoral Trends

AAPI women were more motivated to vote last year than in previous years.

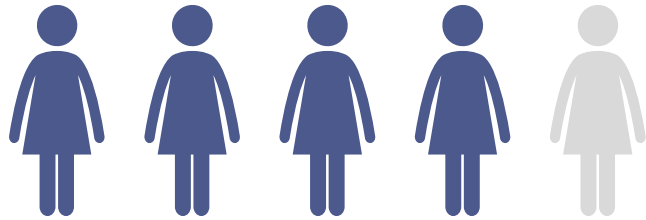
- Reports of voting for president between 2020 and 2016 increased by at least 15%. In some communities, voting increased even more – like in Texas and among Southeast Asian women.
- One-in-six AAPI women voters were voting for the first time this year – most of whom took advantage of mail-in voting.

Voter participation is growing in the AAPI community – at least 15-pt increases among those who voted for president from 2016 to 2020. The largest gains among SE Asian women and Texans.

Highest self-reported voter registration with South Asian women, lowest among Pacific Islander women. Higher turnout for U.S. Senate races in Georgia (66%) compared to Florida (53%) and Texas (48%). Multi-lingual AAPI women report voting less frequently.

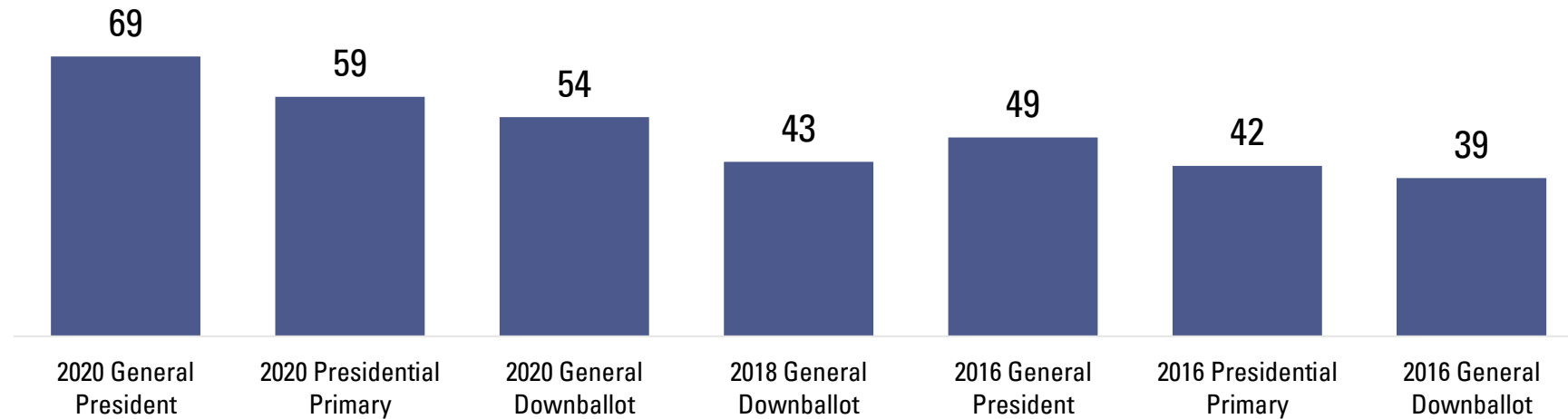
Over 4-in-5

report they were registered to vote in 2020



All AAPI Women	89%
East Asian	88%
South Asian	92%
Southeast Asian	86%
Pacific Islander	84%

In Which Elections did you Vote:



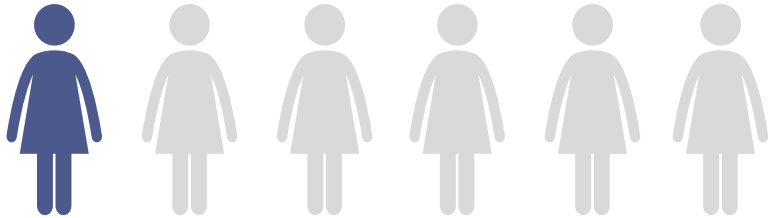
	East Asian	South Asian	Southeast Asian	Pacific Islander
2020 General for President	73	69	65	66
2016 General for President	55	49	41	50

One-in-six AAPI women voted for the first time in November, and even more in Texas (19%), among multi-lingual women (20%), and low-income women (22%). The vast majority of AAPI women voted early either by mail (in most places) or in person (Texas).

Republicans and conservative leaning AAPI women were the only groups that disproportionately voted in person on Election Day.

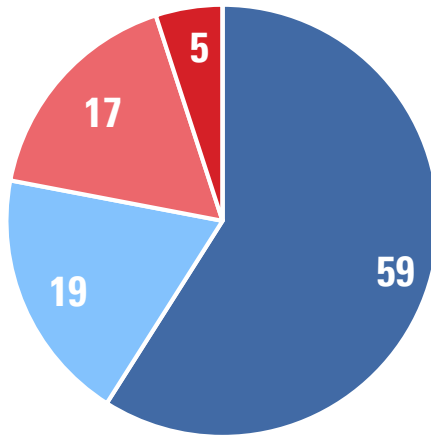
1-in-6

AAPI women voted for the first time



All AAPI Women	16%
Georgia	12%
Florida	14%
Texas	19%

All AAPI Women



■ Early by mail ■ Early & in person ■ In-person on Election Day ■ Absentee

Voting Method

	Georgia	Florida	Texas
Early by mail	48	57	20
Early & in person	28	26	62
In-person on Election Day	20	15	15
Absentee	4	2	3



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AAPI women overwhelmingly supported Biden (and Democrats) in the 2020 elections.

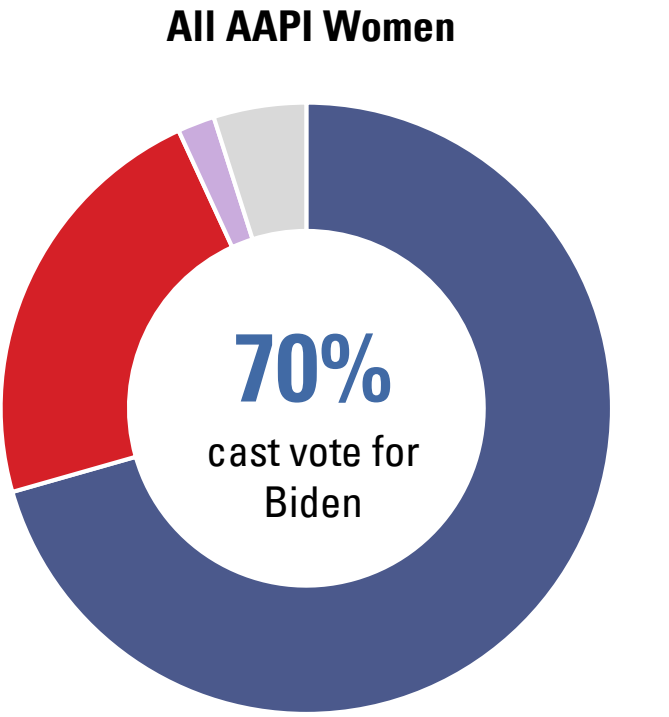
Key Findings... Electoral Trends

AAPI women overwhelmingly supported Biden (and Democrats) in the 2020 elections.

- 7-in-10 AAPI women voted for Biden. His performance was strongest with South Asian women and 1st generation Americans.
- Biden voters mostly voted FOR Biden and not just AGAINST Trump. Roughly a quarter voted solely against Trump.
- AAPI women were motivated for many reasons, Trump was part of it, but also COVID, the economy, abortion rights, and fighting racial inequality were additional factors.
- Democratic AAPI women were generally satisfied with their choices, but only 35% were very satisfied. Republican and independent AAPI women were more likely to be dissatisfied with their choice of candidates.

Biden won 7-in-10 AAPI women. His performance was strongest with South Asian women, 1st generation Americans, younger voters, college educated, and of course Democrats.

A third of Pacific Islanders voted for Trump, and he performed slightly better with Southeast Asian women, as well as with 40–54-year-old women.



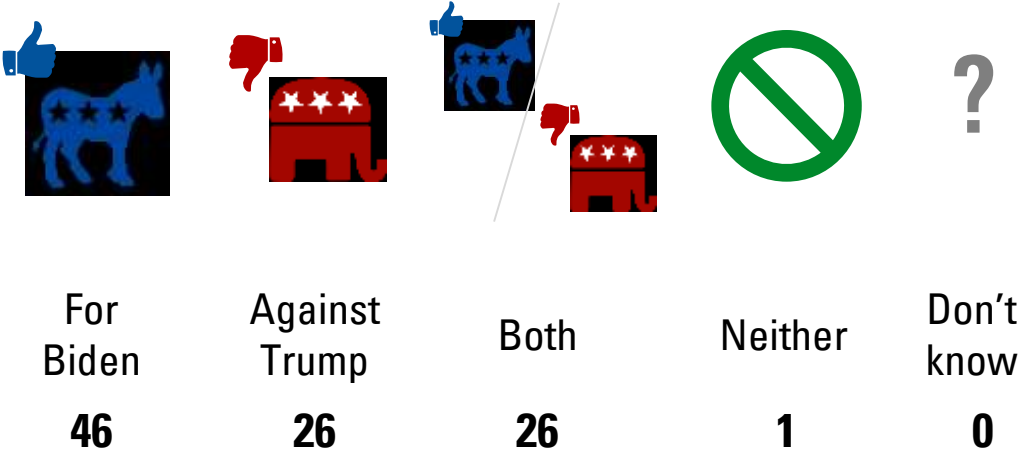
■ Biden ■ Trump ■ Someone else ■ Don't know

	East Asian	South Asian	Southeast Asian	Pacific Islander
Biden	72	80	66	61
Trump	22	13	26	33
Someone else	2	0	4	1

Nearly 3-in-4 AAPI women Biden voters report that they at least somewhat made their pick FOR Biden, including 26% who both wanted to vote for Biden while also voting against Trump.

South Asian and Pacific Islander women were most likely to cast their ballot for Biden as opposed to against Trump.

Among Biden Voters: Casting Ballot For or Against



	East Asian	South Asian	Southeast Asian	Pacific Islander
Voted for Biden	43	52	43	53
Voted against Trump	27	19	31	20
Both	28	27	24	22

Although AAPI women were motivated to vote for many reasons – COVID-19 dominated the responses. Trump was mentioned, but he wasn't the overwhelming motivating factor.

What motivated you to vote in November

All AAPI Women

- *Preserving the nation's democracy.*
- *Nonexistent government response to COVID.*
- *COVID-19 vaccines, COVID-19 relief checks, economy.*
- *COVID-19 and the racial discrimination towards Asians.*
- *Abortion, economy, immigration.*
- *Women's safety.*
- *Rejoin global climate accord.*
- *Yes, I love to vote.*

Florida

- *America cannot take another Donald Trump era.*
- *I wanted an adult president.*
- *COVID-19 issues.*
- *Racial inequality, education, healthcare, and the pandemic.*
- *Immigration and racial equality.*
- *Equality, taxes, and employment.*
- *I never miss out on my right to vote as a woman. I will always vote even if I don't like either candidate.*

Georgia

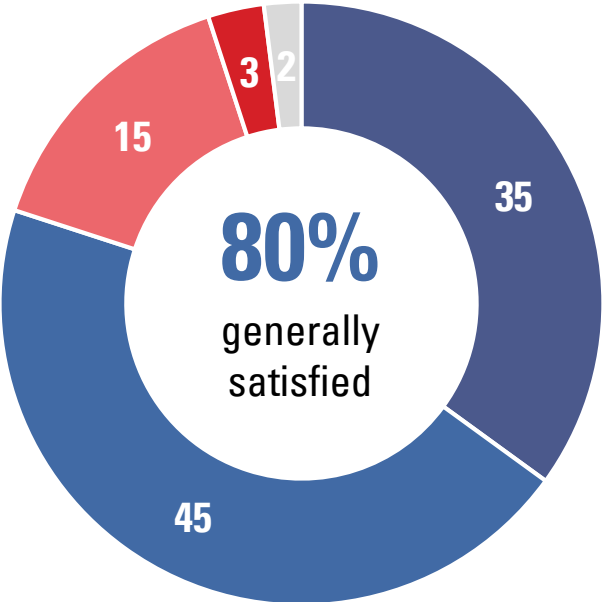
- *Donald Trump's behavior over the last 4 years.*
- *COVID-19 and mistreatment of immigrants.*
- *Abortion, economy.*
- *Medical and health care problems in the society.*
- *Our economy is affected, and racial discrimination is serious.*
- *I always vote, but due to racial and COVID issues I wanted to vote more.*
- *Wanted to create change.*

Texas

- *Trump's hatred toward minority groups. The country was going down hill and we needed change.*
- *COVID-19 and racial inequality.*
- *Environment, civil rights & equality, healthcare.*
- *Racial inequality and women rights.*
- *Talked about reducing anti-Asian discrimination and xenophobia.*
- *My right to vote.*

Democratic AAPI women were generally satisfied with their choices, but only 35% were very satisfied. Republican and independent AAPI women were more likely to be dissatisfied with their choice of candidates.

Among Democratic AAPI Women



■ Very satisfied
 ■ Fairly satisfied
■ Not too satisfied
 ■ Not at all satisfied
 ■ Don't know

	East Asian	South Asian	Southeast Asian	Pacific Islander
Very satisfied	31	38	33	35
Fairly satisfied	49	42	45	46
Not too satisfied	14	14	17	10
Not at all satisfied	3	4	3	4



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Georgian AAPI women were more actively engaged in politics this cycle than Floridians and Texans.

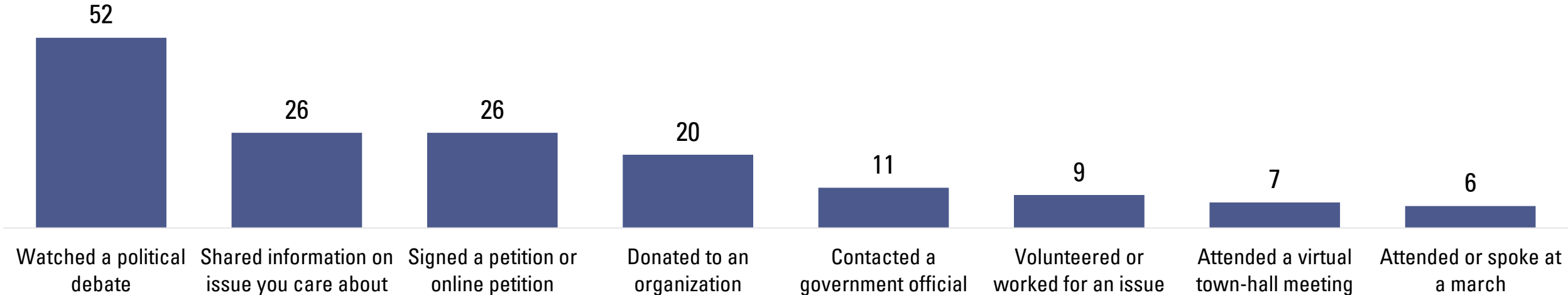
Key Findings... Electoral Trends

Georgian AAPI women were the most actively engaged in politics this cycle.

- They were more likely to volunteer or participate in campaign events.
- Reported turnout among Georgian AAPI women increased between November and January, and support for Democrats was stronger in the runoff.
- Georgians were also less likely to report that candidates for office fail to acknowledge their priorities.
- Although there is overall trust in the voting system, there were some reported difficulties in the voting process in Georgia.

About half of AAPI women watched a debate, and around a quarter engaged in issues on the internet. On average, Georgians were the most engaged and significantly more likely to volunteer on a campaign.

Political Activities in the Past 12 Months



	Georgia	Florida	Texas
Watched a political debate	51	54	49
Shared information or commented on an issue you care about on the internet	34	28	26
Signed a petition or online petition	25	21	27
Donated to an organization, cause, charity, or political candidate	26	22	17
Contacted a government official	14	11	10
Volunteered or worked for an issue, cause, or political candidate	21	11	12
Attended a virtual town-hall meeting	12	8	7
Attended or spoke at a march, rally, or protest	10	6	6



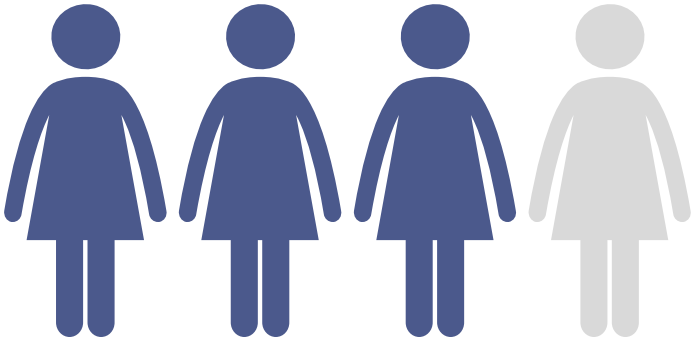
Q. In the past 12 months have you done any of the following? Please select all that apply.

Two-thirds of Georgians reported voting for U.S. Senate in November, that jumped to 74% in January. Georgians favored early by mail in November, but more voted early and in-person in the runoff.

78% of multilingual Georgians voted in the runoff (compared to 71% of English only).

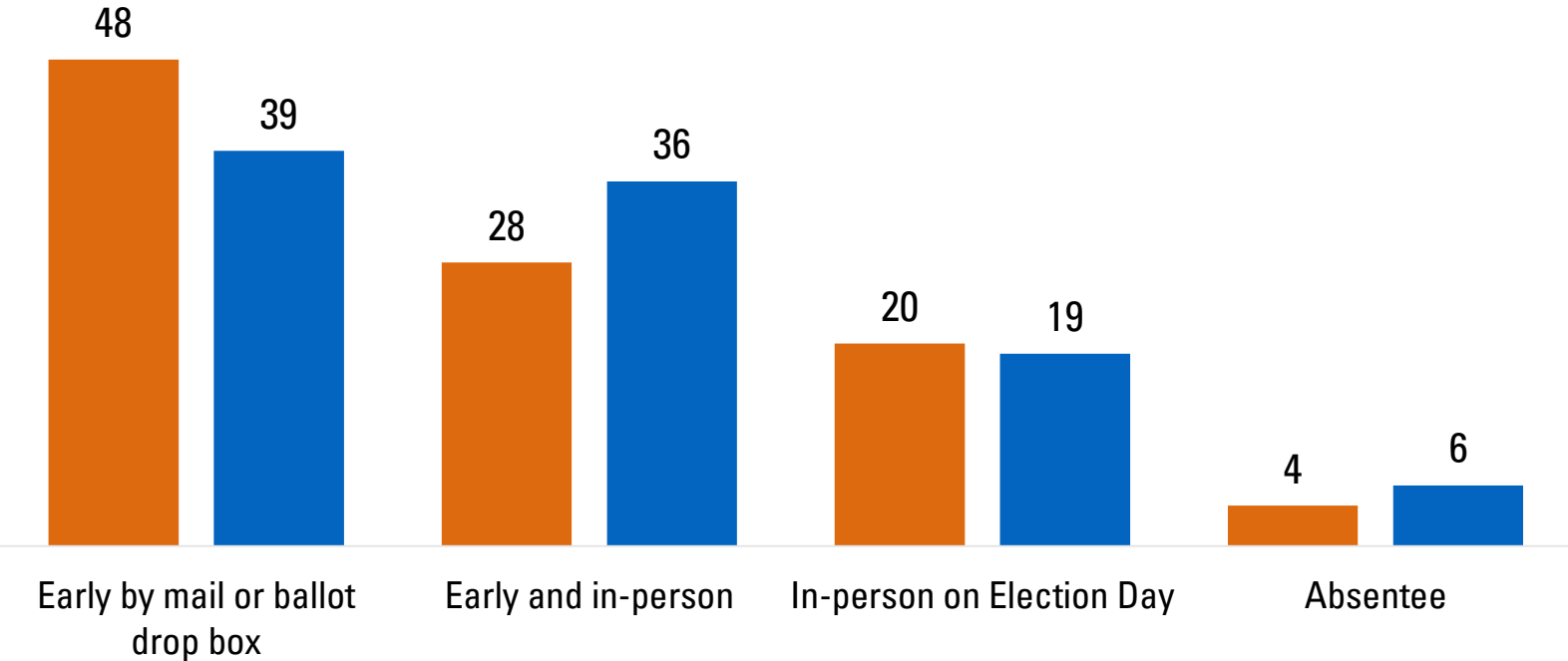
3-in-4

registered AAPI Georgians voted in the runoff election



ONLY GA: How did you Vote?

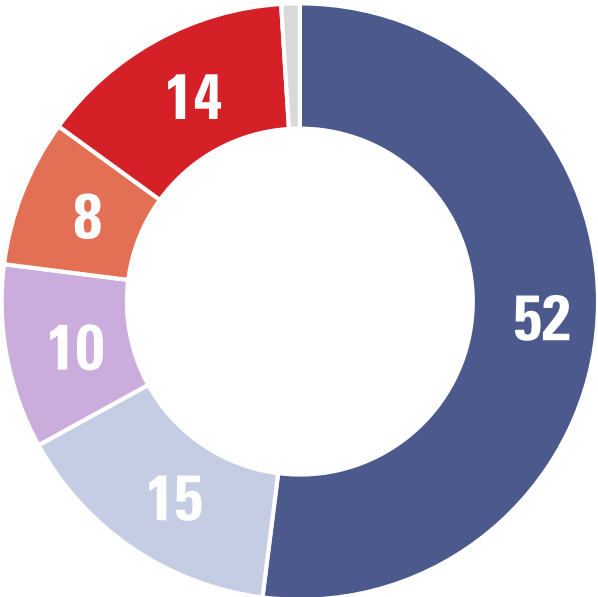
November January



More Georgian AAPI women report voting for at least one Democrat in the run-off than voting for Biden in November.

Almost a quarter of Georgians report voting for more Democrats in January than in November, 32% of parents voted for more Democrats.

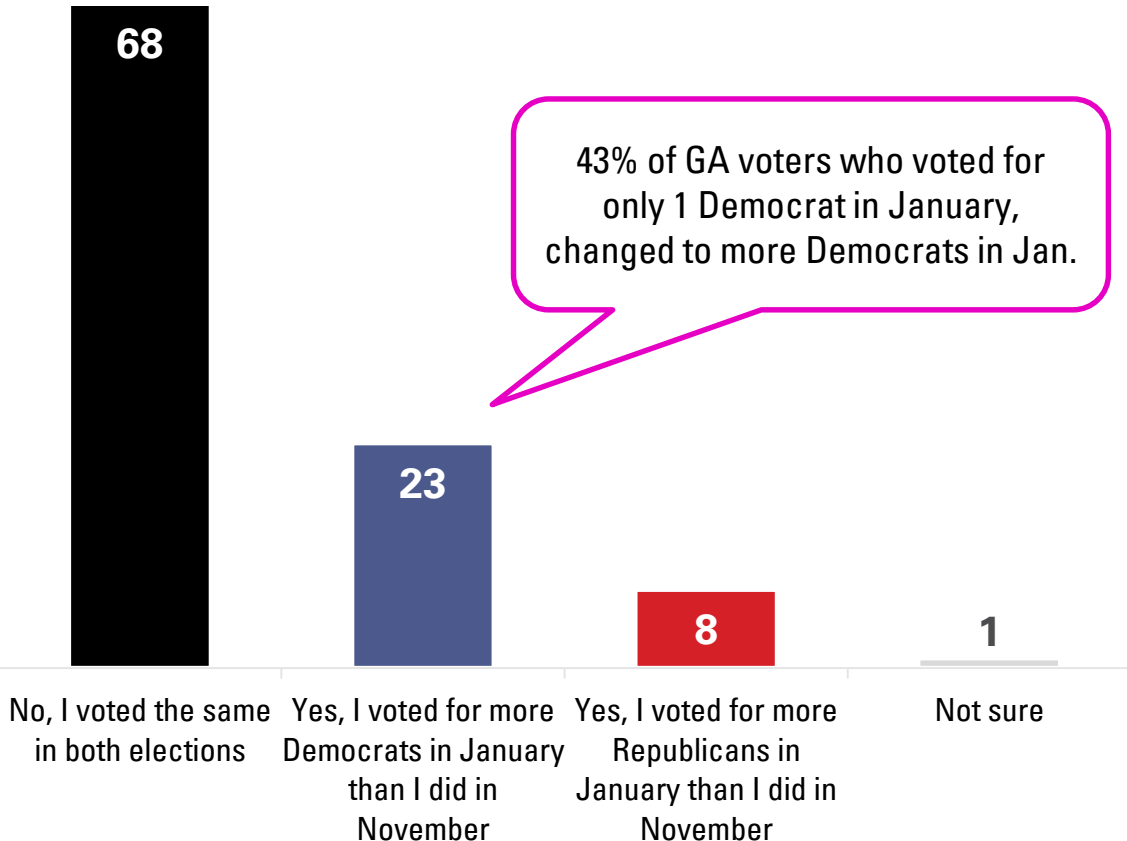
GA ONLY: Who did you vote for in run-offs



67% Voted only for Dems
77% voted for at least one Dem

- Both Dems
- Only one Dem
- One Dem & one Rep
- Only one Rep
- Both Reps
- Don't know

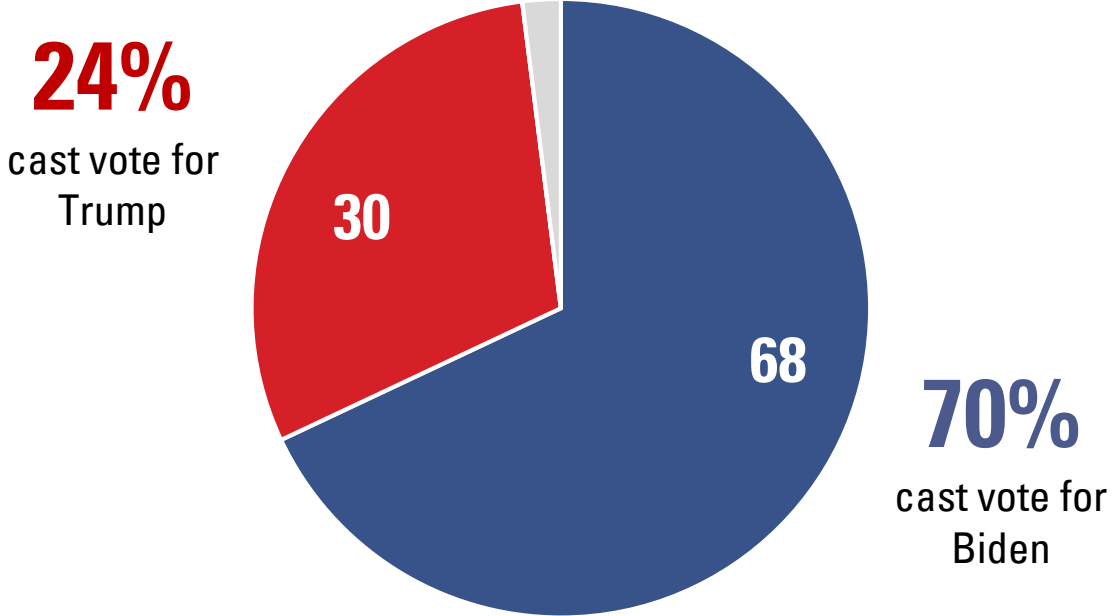
GA ONLY: Who changed their vote



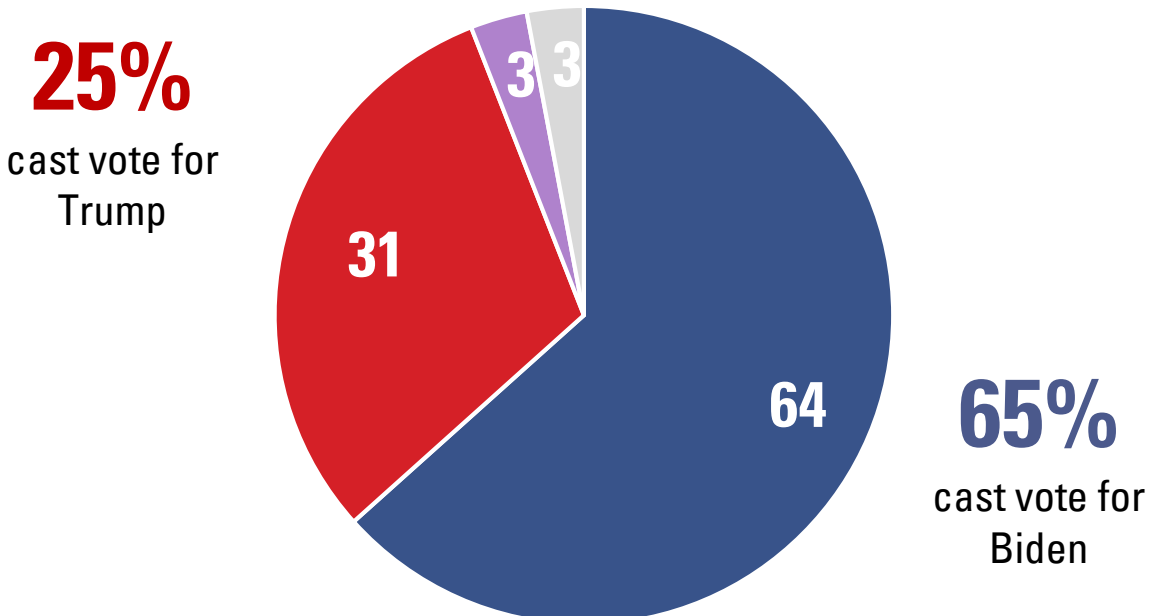
Republicans for federal races did 5-6 points better with AAPI women than Donald Trump, while Democrats largely matched Biden's vote share.

In Florida, AAPI women who speak multiple languages were more supportive of Democrats. In Texas, those women were more supportive of Republicans – driven by the Vietnamese population.

FL ONLY: Congressional Vote



TX ONLY: Senate Vote



■ Democratic candidate ■ Republican candidate ■ Someone else ■ Don't know/NA

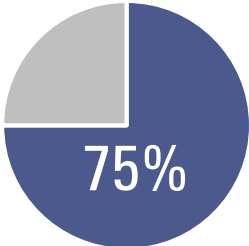
Three quarters of AAPI women feel candidates for office fail to acknowledge their priorities. In Georgia, AAPI women are slightly happier with their candidates.

Nearly 8-in-10 East Asian women report candidates fail to acknowledge what is important to them. Trump voters were more likely than Biden voters to feel candidates don't acknowledge their priorities.

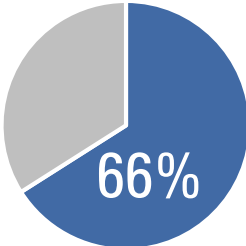
% Agree

“Too often, the candidates running for office fail to acknowledge what matters most to me.”

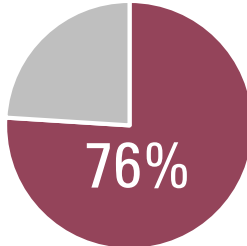
All AAPI Women



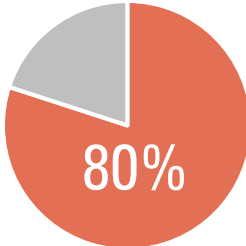
Georgia



Florida



Texas

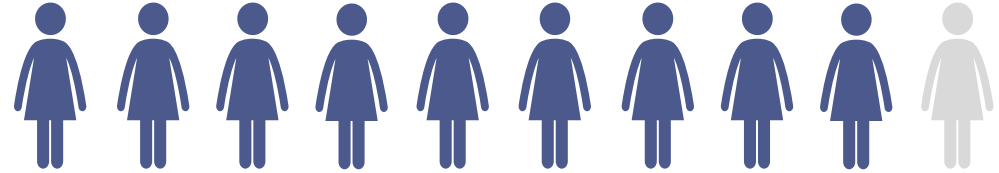


The vast majority of AAPI women felt their vote was counted accurately – but there was slightly more distrust in Georgia.

More right-leaning groups were also more likely to doubt whether their vote was counted correctly.

1-in-10

AAPI women voters are not confident that their vote was counted accurately



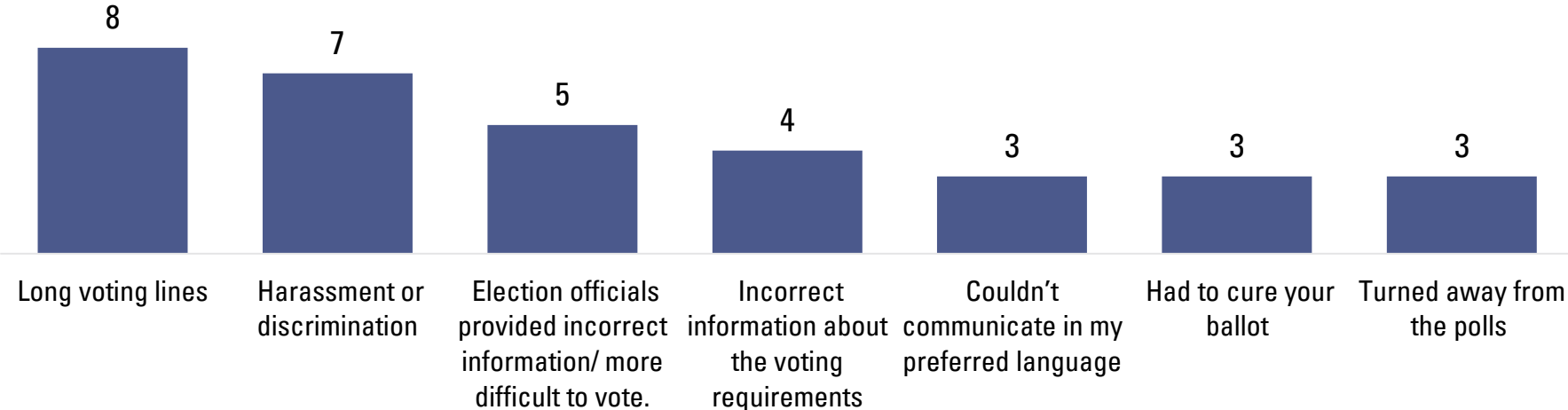
	All AAPI	East Asian	South Asian	Southeast Asian	Pacific Islander
Yes	83	84	89	78	81
No	10	8	7	10	15
Don't know	7	8	3	12	4

Those Who Most Question Whether Their Vote Was Counted Accurately
Georgians
55-64 year olds
High School Only or less
Trump Voters
Republicans
Conservatives

Few report experience any problems while voting, though these reports were much higher in our target states (Georgia, Florida, and Texas), particularly in Georgia.

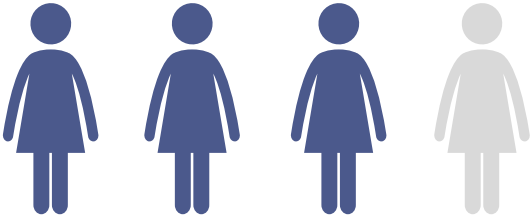
More than half of Georgians experienced an issue while voting. The most likely challenge was long lines. Parents were more likely to be deterred by long lines.

Faced the Following When Voting: All AAPI Women



3-in-4

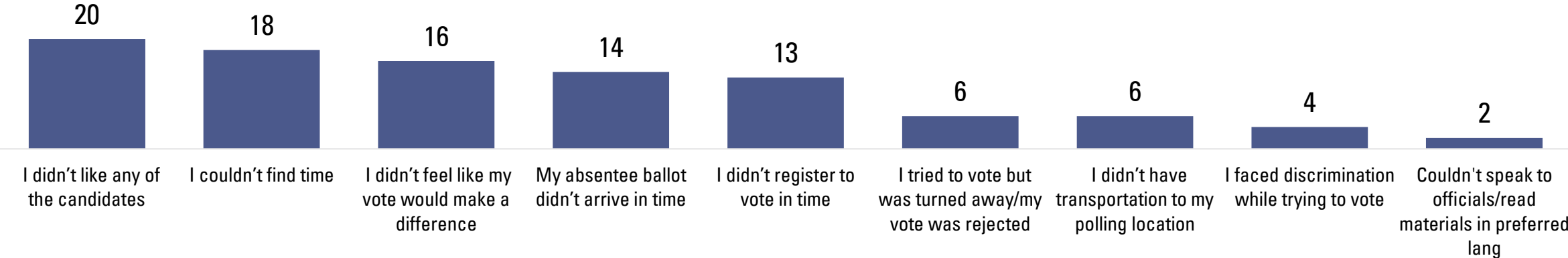
women of color voters did not experience any of the named issues voting



	Georgia	Florida	Texas
Long voting lines to vote either early or on Election Day	18	16	14
Harassment or discrimination	10	9	10
Election officials provided incorrect information or made it more difficult to vote.	11	11	6
Incorrect information about the voting requirements	12	8	7
Couldn't communicate in my preferred language	10	9	7
Had to cure your ballot	10	6	6
Turned away from the polls	8	3	4
<i>Did not experience any of these issues</i>	<i>48</i>	<i>60</i>	<i>63</i>

Most AAPI women who didn't vote mention some form of indifference or lack of time. But, in Georgia, 20% of AAPI women reported not having transportation or faced discrimination while voting that prevented them from casting a ballot.

Reasons AAPI women did not vote for President



	Georgia	Florida	Texas
I didn't like any of the candidates	14	17	22
I couldn't find time	28	25	20
I didn't feel like my vote would make a difference	26	12	19
My absentee ballot didn't arrive in time	15	16	9
I didn't register to vote in time	14	10	16
I tried to vote but was turned away/my vote was rejected	13	10	7
I didn't have transportation to my polling location	21	9	4
I faced discrimination while trying to vote	17	9	5
Wasn't able to speak to election officials or read election materials in my preferred language	5	6	3



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AAPI women want to see more of themselves in elected officials and candidates for office, but it's not the most important motivating factor.

Key Findings... Electoral Trends

AAPI women want to see more of themselves in elected officials and candidates for office, but it's not the most important motivating factor.

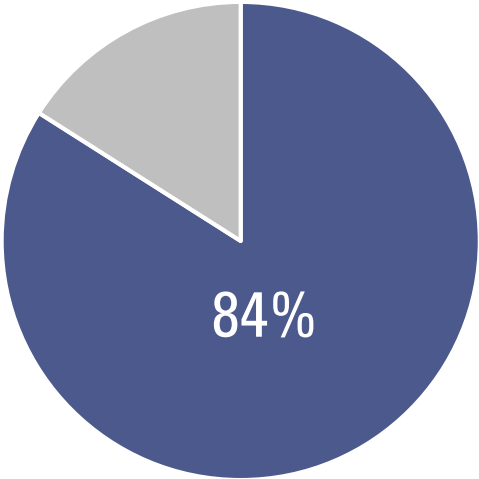
- AAPI women like to see women on the ballot but believe there needs to be more diverse candidates. In addition to women, they also want to see the AAPI community represented more in politicians and elected officials.
- While representation is important, AAPI women voters care more about having candidates that excite them and assurance that their vote matters.
- More than 8-in-10 AAPI women expect elected officials to understand the differences both within the AAPI community and with regards to white women.

Large majorities of AAPI women want to see more AAPI **and** women represented in government and running for office.

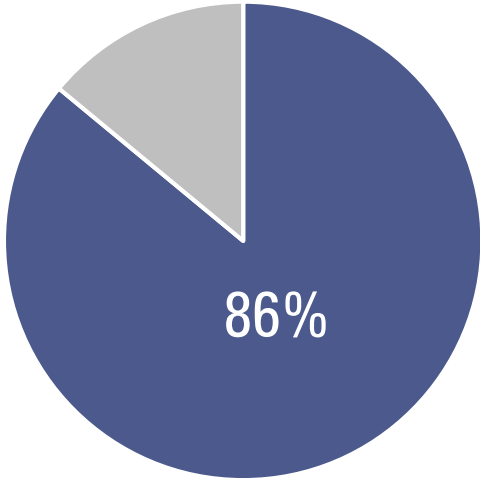
Texans report the greatest desire to see more women and AAPI representation in politics. More than half (56%) of multi-lingual AAPI women say they strongly want to see more AAPI representation in government and politics.

% Agree: All AAPI Women

“I’d like to see more women candidates running for office.”



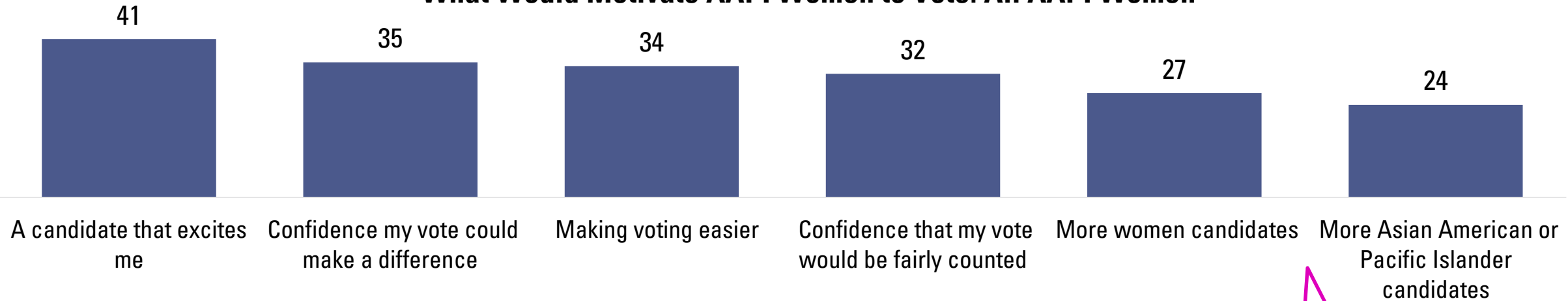
“I’d like to see more Asian American and Pacific Islander representation in government and politics.”



While representation is important, AAPI women voters care more about having candidates that excite them and assurance that their vote matters.

Georgians also note that making voting easier and having more AAPI candidates (more so than women candidates) would motivate them to vote.

What Would Motivate AAPI Women to Vote: All AAPI Women



	Georgia	Florida	Texas
A candidate that excites me	40	39	50
Confidence my vote could make a difference	37	32	41
Making voting easier	45	28	24
Confidence that my vote would be fairly counted	35	30	26
More women candidates	24	28	28
More Asian Americans or Pacific Islander candidates	38	23	23

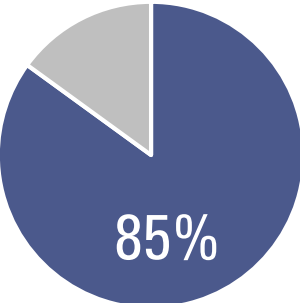
In Georgia, having more AAPI candidates is more motivating (38%) than having more women candidates (24%).

More than 8-in-10 AAPI women expect elected officials to understand there are differences between AAPI people **and** between white and AAPI women.

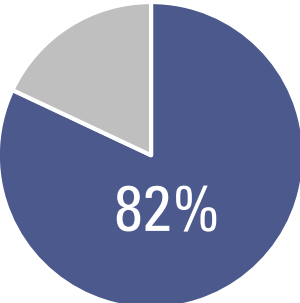
East Asian, Southeast Asian, and younger AAPI women were most likely to state elected officials shouldn't treat AAPI as a monolith. Younger AAPI women are also more concerned about lawmakers understanding intersectionality.

"Elected officials need to understand that there are differences within the Asian American and Pacific Islander community – not everyone thinks the same."

All AAPI Women



"As an Asian American or Pacific Islander woman, I want my elected officials to understand how my values and priorities differ from their white women constituents."



% Agree

	East Asian	South Asian	Southeast Asian	Pacific Islander
"Elected officials need to understand that there are differences within the Asian American and Pacific Islander community – not everyone thinks the same."	88	83	88	76
"As an Asian American or Pacific Islander woman, I want my elected officials to understand how my values and priorities differ from their white women constituents."	83	82	83	77



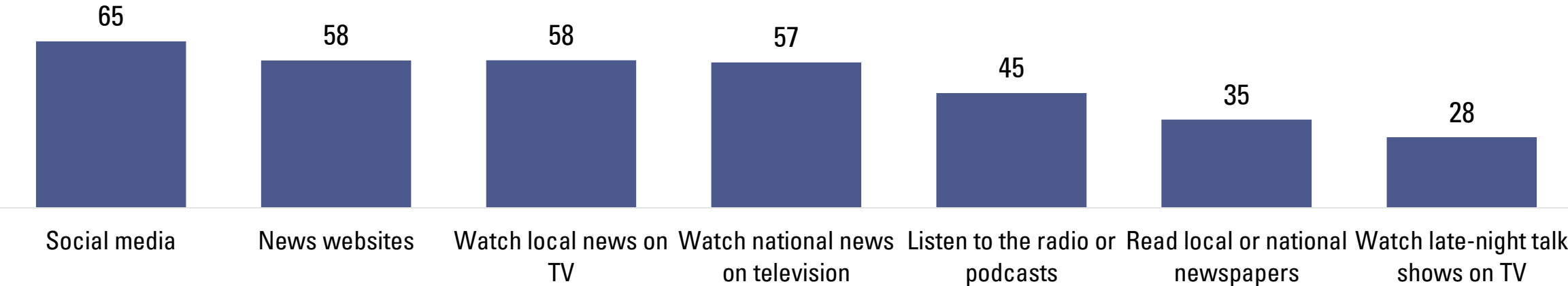
NAPAWF

Appendix: Media Use

Most AAPI women engage in social media, read the news, and watch local and national TV news programs.

Younger women engage more frequently with social media (77%) with a more than 20% drop before the next most frequented, news websites (54%). Those who mostly consume media in another language do so through news website and local tv news.

Visit At Least A Few Times a Week



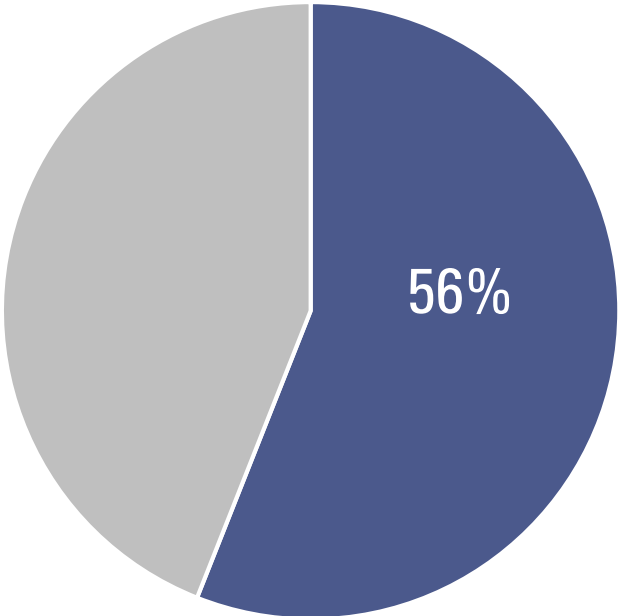
	East Asian	South Asian	Southeast Asian	Pacific Islander
Social media	61	70	70	61
News websites	62	57	55	54
Watch local news on TV	61	57	53	60
Watch national news on TV	58	64	51	51
Listen to the radio or podcasts	46	47	41	50
Read local or national newspapers	38	35	29	42
Watch late-night talk shows on TV	25	33	24	36

More than half of AAPI women regularly speak a language other English with their family.

First-generation Americans, younger AAPI women, and South Asian women are the most likely to speak in a language other than English with their families.

% Speak Another Language at Home

All AAPI Women

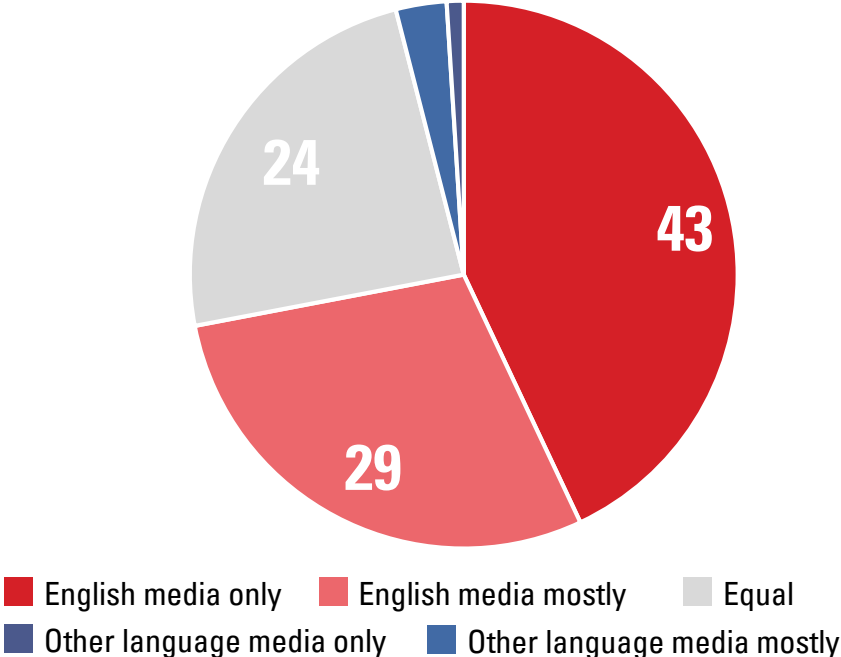


	East Asian	South Asian	Southeast Asian	Pacific Islander
Yes	49	69	59	37
No	51	31	41	63

Four-in-ten AAPI women who speak a language other than English at home note that they consume English media only, more than half consume at least some form of non-English media.

When they do consult in-language news, it is evenly split between news produced in the U.S. and another country.

Language Media Consumed In – Among Those Who Speak Multiple Languages



When Consuming In-Language Media, Where is it From? – Among Those Who Speak Multiple Languages

