



STATE OF CHINESE AMERICANS SURVEY 2025

Americans favor cooperation with China, despite Washington's tougher approach

BY Sam Collitt, Carren Jao, Cindy Tsai



Committee of 100



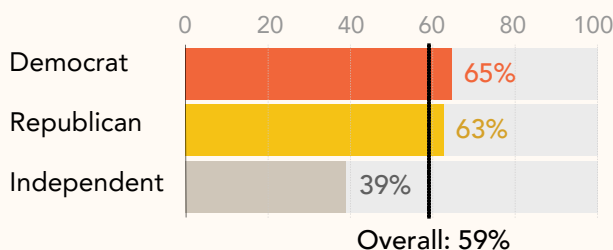
Most Americans favor cooperation with China, even as Washington pursues a tougher approach.

As Washington continues to take a harder line on China—through tariffs, limits on research collaboration, and tighter visa policies—a new survey from the Committee of 100 and the National Opinion Research Center at the University of Chicago reveals a clear gap between government policy and public opinion. Most Americans, across party lines, prefer engagement and cooperation over confrontation.

The bipartisan consensus

Almost 60% of Americans want the U.S. government to work more closely with China's government on diplomatic issues and policies that affect both countries. This isn't a fringe position, either. It reflects genuine bipartisan agreement, with 65% of Democrats and 63% of Republicans backing increased cooperation.

Percentage of Americans that say the United States government should work more closely with China's government on diplomatic issues and policies that affect both countries

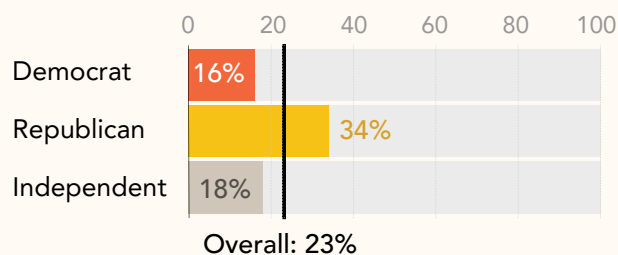


“Americans across party lines recognize that the U.S. and China can be competitors without becoming adversaries. People across the political spectrum see real value in the two countries working together, even as they compete.”

— Paul Cheung
President of Committee of 100

The collaborative sentiment extends to science and technology. Only 23% of Americans support banning Chinese researchers from working at U.S. institutions. This includes 16% of Democrats and 34% of Republicans. Yet, these are the kinds of restrictions Washington is pursuing.

Percentage of Americans that support a broad ban on students and researchers from China from entering the United States to do research



“When there is less international scientific collaboration, we curtail innovation and new discoveries. Impeding crucial research only deprives the world of life changing cures and advancements.”

— Gary Locke
Committee of 100 Board Chair

Over 2,000 U.S. adults from across the country were surveyed in June of 2025, representing the demographic diversity of the American public.¹

“In this survey, we wanted to understand what non-Chinese Americans think about issues that affect many Chinese Americans. It also helps us establish reference points on opinions and experiences of the broader public, so we can better understand how they might differ or align with those of Chinese Americans,” said Sam Collitt, research lead at Committee of 100, who collaborated with political science professors Nathan Chan of Loyola Marymount University and Vivien Leung of Santa Clara University in the design of the study. Associate Professor of Sociology and Biostatistics Emma Zhang of Yale University also contributed to research and data analysis.

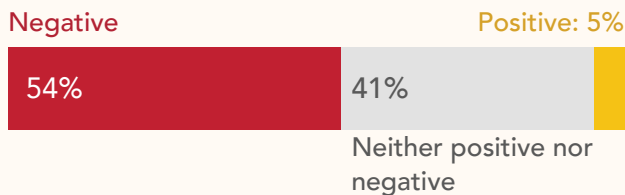
¹ Please click [here](#) for a full report on the project methodology.

Words matter

The survey also revealed widespread concern about domestic impacts.

A majority of Americans (54%) say that the rhetoric and language used by President Donald Trump when talking about China and U.S.-China relations negatively impacts how people of Chinese descent are treated in the United States. More than a quarter of Americans (27%) also say that people of Chinese descent living in the United States are more loyal to China than the U.S. To combat this collateral damage, researchers discovered a surprisingly simple tool: precise language.

- ◆ Response breakdown of “What impact, if any, do you think that the rhetoric and language used by President Donald Trump when talking about China and U.S.-China relations has on how people of Chinese descent are treated in the United States?”



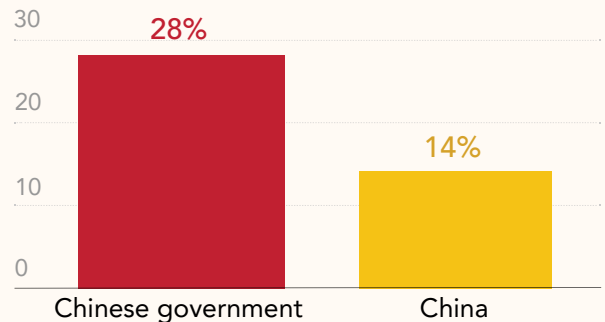
By clearly attributing foreign policy actions to the “Chinese government” rather than to “China” or to people of Chinese descent, policymakers and media outlets can both be more accurate and help reduce the negative sentiment these policies can generate.

Participants in the survey were randomly assigned to read a fictitious news article about intellectual property theft. One version attributed the actions to “China,” while the other attributed them to the “Chinese government.” Afterward, respondents were asked about their perceptions of Chinese Americans and how favorably they looked toward Chinese immigrants. The data revealed a significant difference.

When people read about the “Chinese government,” they were twice as likely to view Chinese immigrants “very favorably” compared to those that read about “China” (28% vs. 14%). Respondents also saw Chinese Americans as “very loyal” to the U.S. at significantly higher rates (21% vs. 11%).

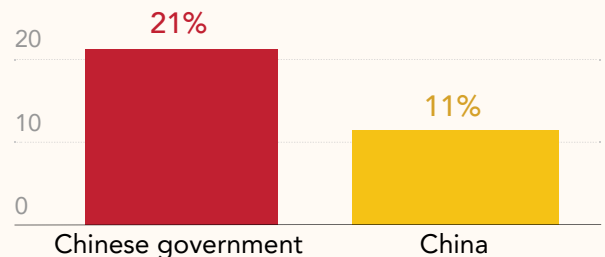
- ◆ Percentage of Americans that responded “very favorably” to “Do you have a favorable or unfavorable opinion of people that have legally immigrated from China to the United States?”

After reading an article that attributes intellectual property thefts to...



- ◆ Percentage that responded “Much more loyal to the U.S.” to “In general, do you think that people of Chinese descent living in the U.S. are more loyal to the U.S. than to China, or more loyal to China than the U.S.?”

After reading an article that attributes intellectual property thefts to...



“Words have power. When speaking about hostile actions taken by a foreign government, we all have to choose our words thoughtfully to not incidentally implicate everyday people who have no part in the matter.”

— Emma Zhang
Committee of 100 Next Generation
Leader, study researcher

This survey is the first in a series, charting the State of Chinese Americans.