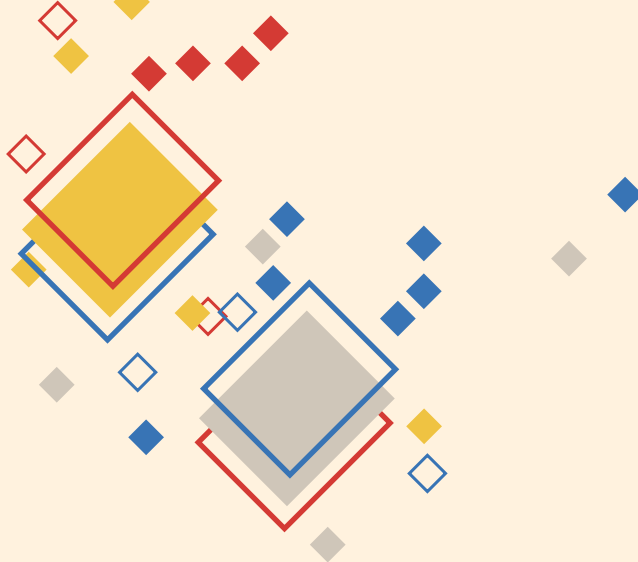




STATE OF CHINESE AMERICANS SURVEY 2025

Beyond the party line: Chinese American partisanship and vote choice

BY Nathan Chan, Sam Collitt



Committee of 100

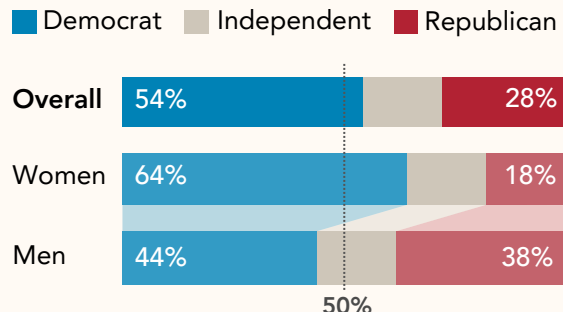


As the 2026 midterm elections approach, Asian Americans, including Chinese Americans, represent one of the fastest-growing constituencies in the U.S. electorate¹. Committee of 100's and the National Opinion Research Center (NORC) at the University of Chicago's State of Chinese American Survey is one of the few research programs that captures a detailed picture of the political leanings of Chinese Americans and how they voted in the last election cycle.²

New data from the 2025 survey reveals that Chinese Americans' political identities and voting behavior defy easy categorization. Party affiliation among Chinese Americans varies significantly by gender, birthplace, and how recently someone immigrated — and even self-identified partisans do not always vote according to party lines; some Chinese American Republicans, and Asian American Republicans more broadly, voted for Democrats in 2024.

The gender gap is wider than anywhere else

 Party affiliation among Chinese Americans, by gender



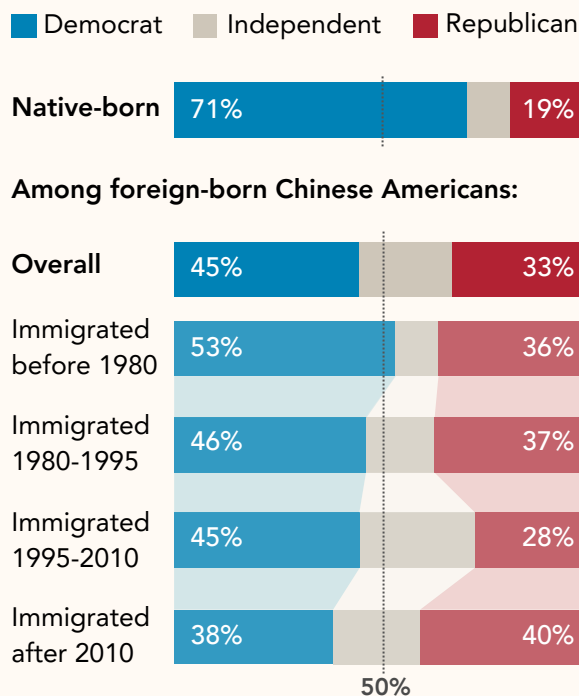
Fifty-four percent of Chinese Americans identify as Democrats, and about half as many (28%) align with the Republican Party. But that topline obscures a partisan gender divide that is larger within the Chinese American community than among any other racial or ethnic group examined in the survey.

Sixty-four percent of Chinese American women identify as Democrats. Chinese American men lean considerably more Republican — 38% identify with the GOP, compared to just 18% of women. That 20-point difference in Republican identification between men and women exceeds the equivalent gap among White (3%), Black (8%), and Hispanic and Latino (15%) respondents.

The longer you've been here, the more Democratic you lean

Birthplace and length of time in the U.S. shape party affiliation as sharply as gender does among Chinese Americans.

 Party affiliation among Chinese Americans, by U.S. nativity and time since immigrated



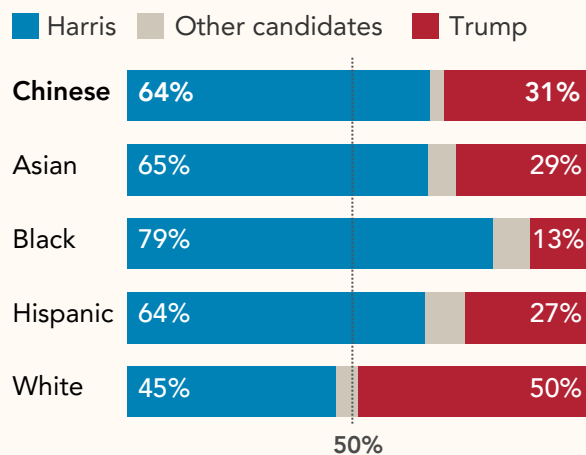
Seventy-one percent Chinese Americans born in the U.S. identify as Democrats. Among those born outside the U.S., that share drops to 45%, while Republican identification rises to 33%. Foreign-born Chinese Americans are also about 13 percentage points more likely to identify as non-partisan or independent (23% versus 10% for U.S.-born).

Within the foreign-born population, the timing of immigration shapes partisan affiliation. Among Chinese Americans who arrived before 1980, 53% identify as Democrats. Among those who arrived after 2010, only 38% identify as Democrats — while a plurality, 40%, identify as Republicans. The most recently arrived segment of the Chinese American community now leans right, with about 40% identifying as Republican. As immigration patterns shift, so does the political composition of Chinese America.

Partisanship isn't destiny, whether in presidential or down-ballot races

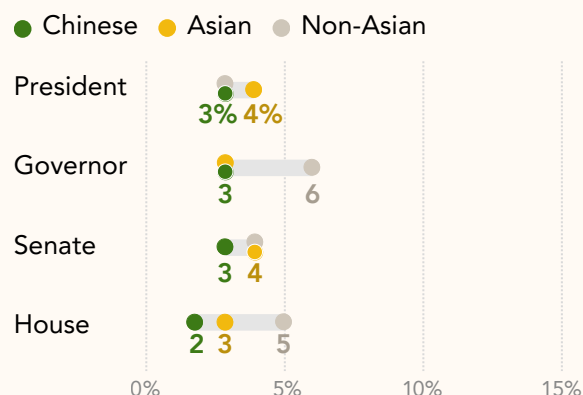
Among Chinese American registered voters who turned out in 2024³, the survey finds 64% voted for Kamala Harris, and 31% voted for Donald Trump. That preference tracked closely with Hispanic and Latino voters and was consistent with broader Asian American patterns.

Presidential vote choice in 2024, by race and ethnicity



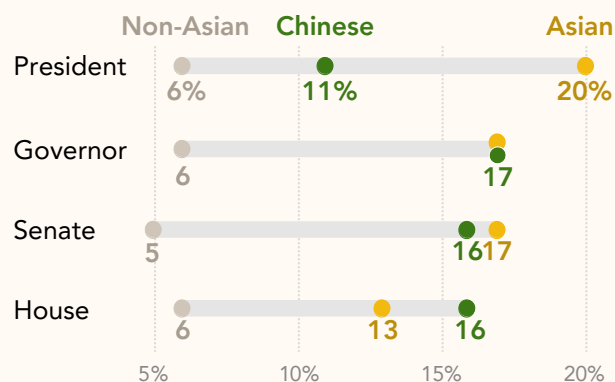
Nearly all Chinese American Democrats supported Harris (92%), as did 94% of Asian American Democrats overall. But a share of Republicans crossed party lines. Eleven percent of Chinese American Republicans voted for Harris. Among Asian American Republicans more broadly, that crossover figure reached 20% — surpassing the rate of cross-party voting seen among Republican voters of other racial and ethnic backgrounds.⁴

Share of Democratic voters who voted for Republican candidates in 2024



Compared to Republicans in the rest of the electorate, Chinese and Asian American Republicans appeared to be the most willing to cross party lines in the 2024 elections.

Share of Republican voters who voted for Democratic candidates in 2024



These patterns are also apparent among other national and state races. Among Chinese American Republicans, about 16-17% voted for a Democratic House, Senate, or gubernatorial candidate in 2024. Among Asian American Republicans overall, approximately 13% voted for a Democratic House candidate, and 17% voted for both a Democratic Senate and gubernatorial candidate.^{5 6}

An electorate neither party can afford to ignore

With midterm elections approaching, that pattern of cross-party voting takes on added significance. Between 2020 and 2024, Asian Americans recorded the largest increase in their share of the voting electorate compared to White, Black, and Hispanic Americans.⁷ In competitive congressional and state races — particularly those decided by narrow margins — a community this large, this fast-growing, and this willing to split its ticket could increasingly determine election outcomes.

With presidential approval facing headwinds and economic concerns ranking among the top priorities for Asian American voters⁸, continued Democratic-leaning among Chinese Americans seems likely in 2026. But the independence documented here — nearly one in five identifying as non-partisan, and consistent cross-party voting even among nominal partisans — is a reminder that this electorate's vote should not be taken for granted.

Notes and references

1. Based on non-Hispanic Asian alone or in combination with another race.
U.S. Census Bureau. (2021). 2020 CPS Voting and Registration [Data set]. U.S. Department of Commerce.
U.S. Census Bureau. (2025). 2024 CPS Voting and Registration [Data set]. U.S. Department of Commerce.
2. View the full methodological report [here](#).
3. Registration and turnout are based on survey self-reports.
4. The difference in the rate of Asian American Republicans that did not vote for Trump in 2024 and the rate of non-Asian Republicans that did not vote for Trump in 2024 is statistically significant at $p < .5$.
The difference in the rate of Chinese American Republicans that did not vote for Trump in 2024 and the rate of non-Asian Republicans that did not vote for Trump in 2024 is statistically significant at $p < .10$.
5. The difference in the rate of Asian American Republicans that did not vote for Republican candidates and the rate of non-Asian Republicans that did not vote for Republican candidates is statistically significant at $p < .5$ for Senate and gubernatorial races, and is significant at $p < .10$ for House races in 2024.
The difference in the rate of Chinese American Republicans that did not vote for Republican candidates and the rate of non-Asian Republicans that did not vote for Republican candidates is statistically significant at $p < .5$ for Senate, House, and gubernatorial races in 2024.
6. The patterns described here are descriptively apparent among all Asian American national origin groups represented in the study sample and are aggregated here for brevity and to report statistical significance.
7. Based on non-Hispanic Asian alone or in combination with another race.
U.S. Census Bureau. (2021). 2020 CPS Voting and Registration [Data set]. U.S. Department of Commerce.
U.S. Census Bureau. (2025). 2024 CPS Voting and Registration [Data set]. U.S. Department of Commerce.
8. Barria Urenda, P., Esomonu, E., Lodhi, H., Sanders, L., & Yoo, H. (n.d.). *Tracking approval and key issues: The latest AP-NORC polls*. The Associated Press. <https://apnews.com/projects/polling-tracker/>
APIAVote. (2025, November). *National AAPI Amplify Survey* [Presentation slides]. <https://apiavote.org/wp-content/uploads/AAPV-voter-survey-presentation.pdf>