



# 2008 National Asian American Survey

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# Outline of Presentation

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- Background and Sample (National and New York Metro)
- The 2008 Elections
- Voter Turnout and Access
- Beyond Voting
- Policy Views and Salient Issues
- Identity, Discrimination, and Coalitions
- Parties and Mobilization
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## Background and Sample

# Study Background

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- Asian Americans are one of the fastest growing populations in the United States:
  - In 1960, < 1 million; in 2007, 14.9 million (5% of U.S. population).
- Asian Americans are a remarkably diverse population:
  - ethnicity, national origin, language, religion, culture, socioeconomic status, immigration history, geographic settlement patterns.
- Asian Americans are relatively absent from politics:
  - They are underrepresented in national and local political offices;
  - Only 1 out of 3 Asian Americans vote (per 2006 ACS).

# National Asian American Survey

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- 5,159 telephone interview of adult Asian Americans
- August 18 – October 29, 2008
- 6 primary ethnic subgroups:
  - 1,350 Chinese, 1150 Asian Indian, 719 Vietnamese, 614 Korean, 603 Filipino, 541 Japanese, and 182 “Other Asian.”
- 8 interview languages:
  - 40% in non-English language (Vietnamese, Korean, Mandarin, Cantonese, Tagalog, Japanese, Hindi)
- National sample and regional targets:
  - Regional targets: California, NJ/NY, “new destinations”
- Interviewing Service of America, Inc. / Catalist

# Sample Characteristics: Ethnicity

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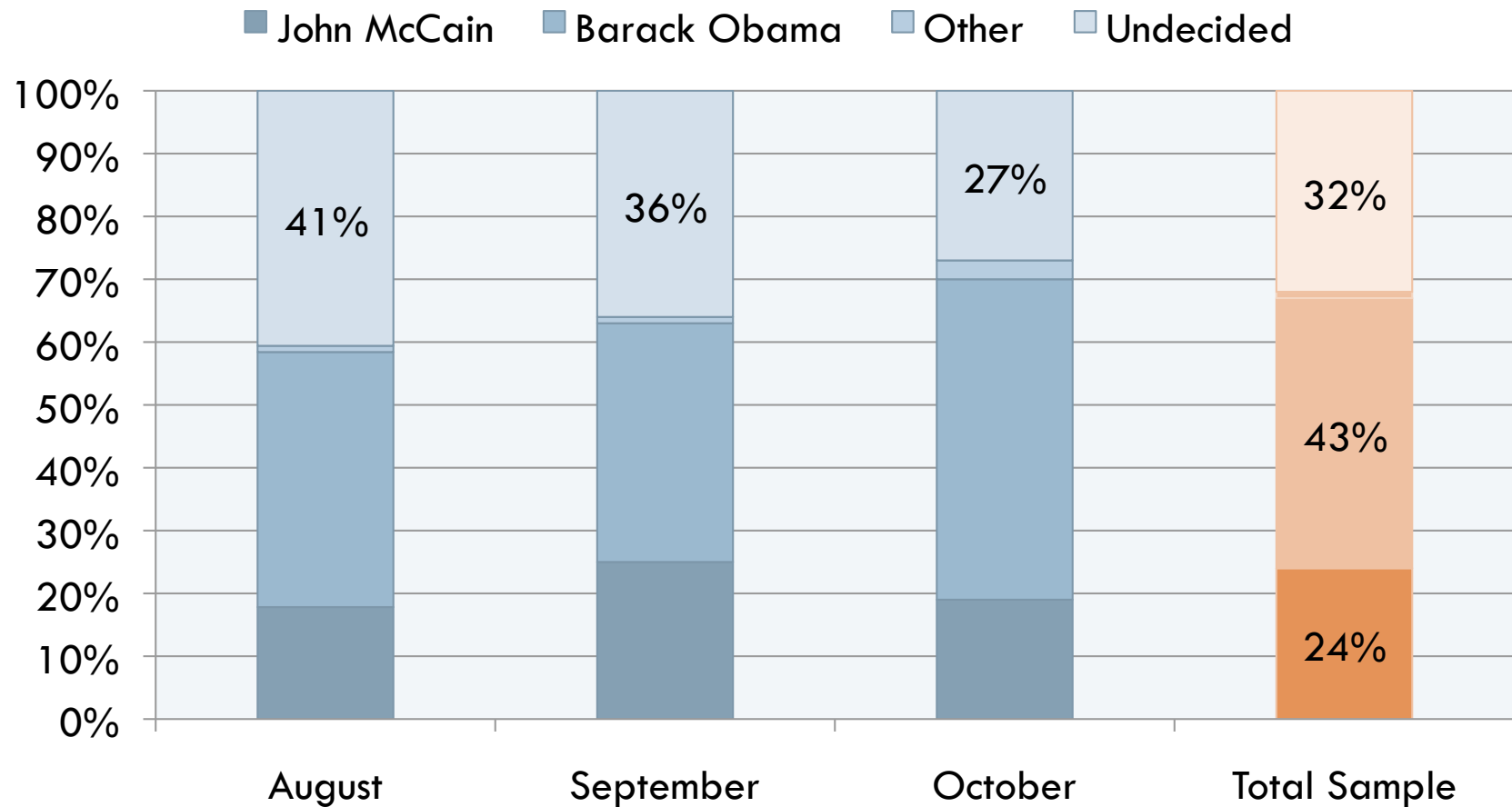
	National Sample	2005-7 ACS	New York Metro
Asian Indian	22.3%	18.9%	35%
Chinese	26.2%	23.3%	36%
Filipino	11.7%	18.1%	7%
Japanese	10.5%	6.4%	6%
Korean	11.9%	10.1%	13%
Vietnamese	14.0%	11.4%	2%
Other Asian	3.4%	11.8%	3%

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## The 2008 Election

# 2008 Voter Preferences

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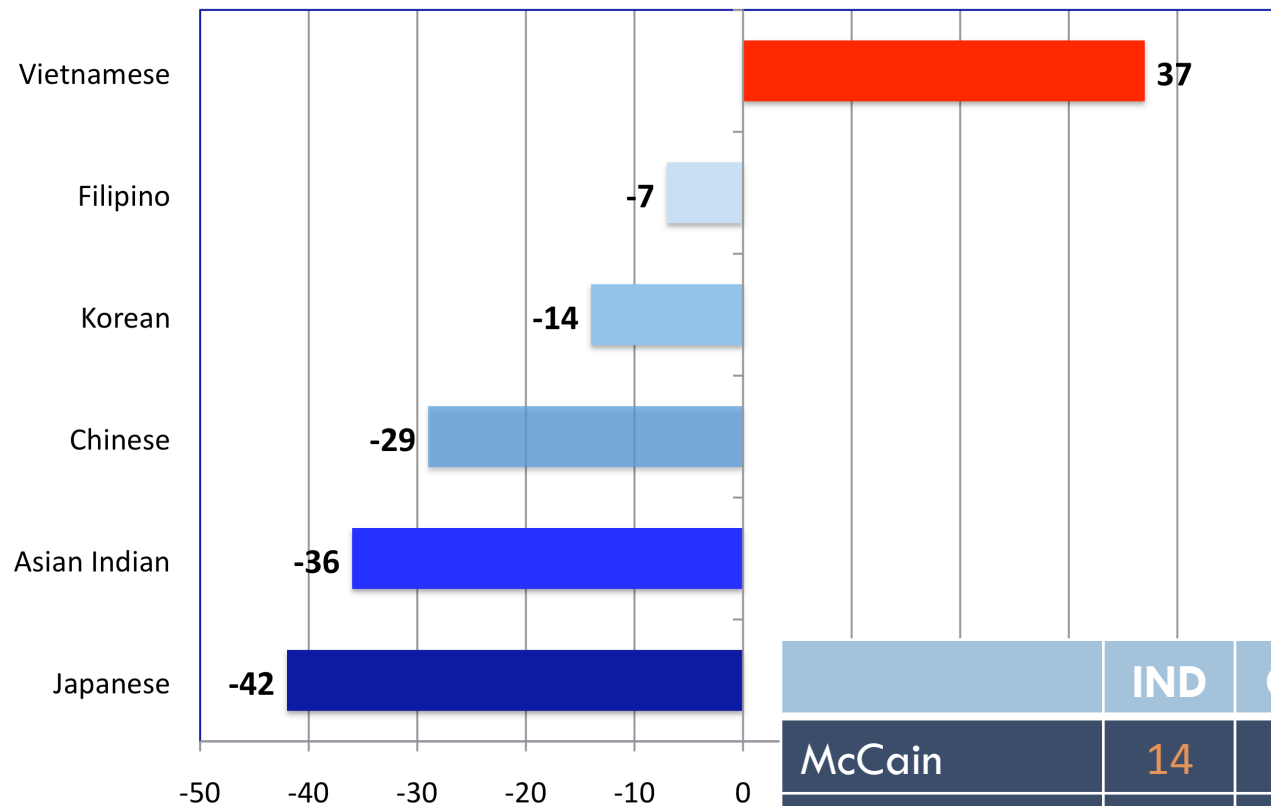




# Vote Preferences by Ethnicity

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McCain-Obama Differential



	IND	CH	FIL	JA	KO	VT
McCain	14	15	25	15	28	51
Obama	50	44	32	57	42	14
Uncertain	36	41	43	29	30	35

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# Voter Turnout and Access

# From Citizenship to Voting

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	ASN IND	CHIN	FILIP	JAPA	KOR	VIET	TOTAL
Citizen	50%	60%	72%	77%	62%	80%	63%
Registered voter*	86%	75%	83%	88%	84%	75%	81%
Voted in 2004**	68%	67%	79%	83%	58%	80%	72%
Primary voter**	43%	48%	52%	52%	39%	35%	46%
2008 Likely voter**†	76%	70%	73%	86%	84%	80%	76%

\* 70% in the 2008 Current Population Survey

\*\* Conditional on being registered to vote

† Actual turnout in 2008 even higher (86% of registered voters), but this is from English-only CPS sample. Voting ranges from 49% to 60%, depending on method.

# Co-Ethnic Voting

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	ASN IND	CHIN	FILIP	JAPA	KOR	VIET	TOTAL
Yes	49%	56%	69%	66%	75%	79%	61%
Don't Know	18%	15%	13%	11%	9%	15%	13%
No	33%	29%	18%	23%	24%	6%	26%

Suppose you have an opportunity to decide on two candidates for political office, one of whom is [R ETHGP] -American. Would you be more likely to vote for the [R ETHGP]-American candidate, if the two candidates are equally experienced and qualified?

# In-Language Election Materials

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	ASN IND	CHIN	FILIP	JAPA	KOR	VIET	TOTAL
Citizens who were interviewed in language (37%)	93%	83%	78%	55%	79%	80%	81%

If election materials were available to you in your language, would you make use of them?

# News on Politics

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	English Only	Both	Ethnic Media only	NY: Ethnic Media Only
Television	47%	23%	14%	24%
Newspapers	31%	16%	19%	35%
Internet	30%	13%	7%	10%
Radio	26%	8%	12%	21%

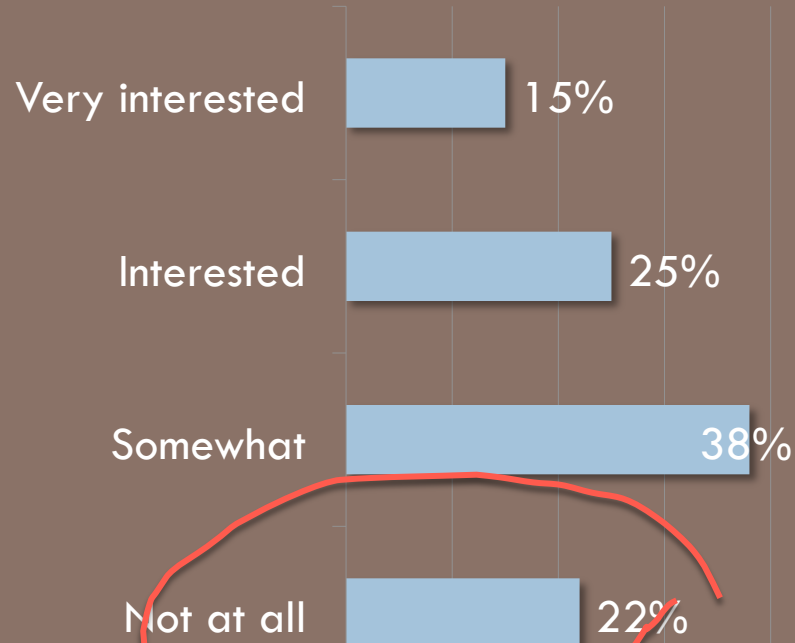
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# Beyond Voting

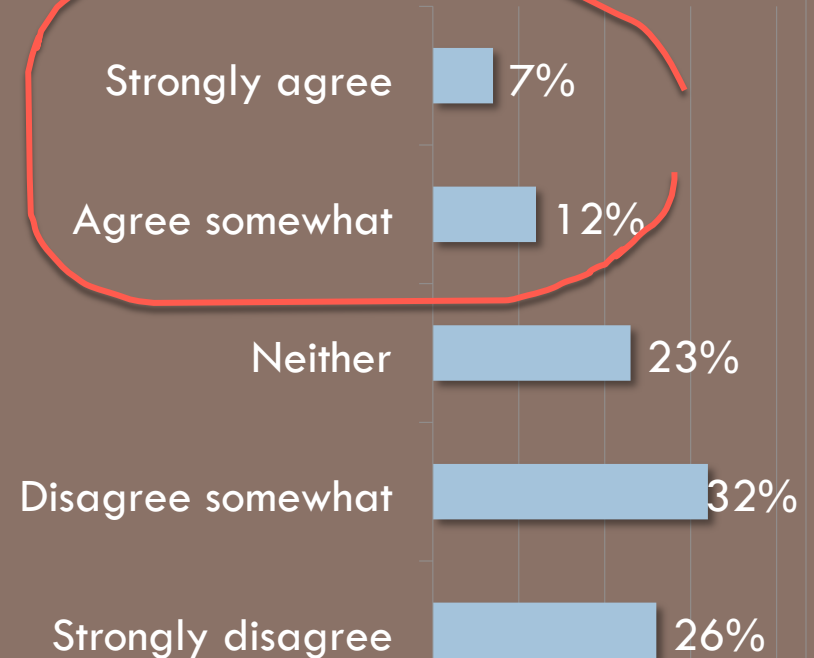
# Political Interest and Avoidance

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How interested are you in politics?



People are better off avoiding contact with government?





# Political Participation by National Origin

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	ASN IND	CHIN	FILI	JAPA	KOR	VIET	ALL
Discuss politics	72	68	62	67	72	55	67
Work community problem	27	18	23	16	18	20	21
Contribute money	12	10	17	17	14	5	12
Visit online site	13	14	11	5	16	5	12
Contact	11	9	11	9	5	3	9
Work candidate/campaign	4	3	4	3	5	4	4
Protest	5	4	4	3	3	7	4
March in 2006	0.8	0.5	0.6	0.6	1.6	1.2	0.7

# Transnational Participation by Natl Origin

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	ASN IND	CHIN	FILIP	JAPA	KOR	VIET	TOTAL
In contact with friends, family in home country	83%	74%	62%	55%	73%	71%	72%
Sent money back to home country	31%	27%	55%	12%	14%	51%	32%
Participated in politics of home country	5%	5%	3%	2%	1%	2%	4%

Questions: “In the past 12 months, have you ... sent money to people [in “the country where you or your ancestors are from”] ... participated in any activity dealing with the politics of that country ... been in contact with family or friends in that country?”

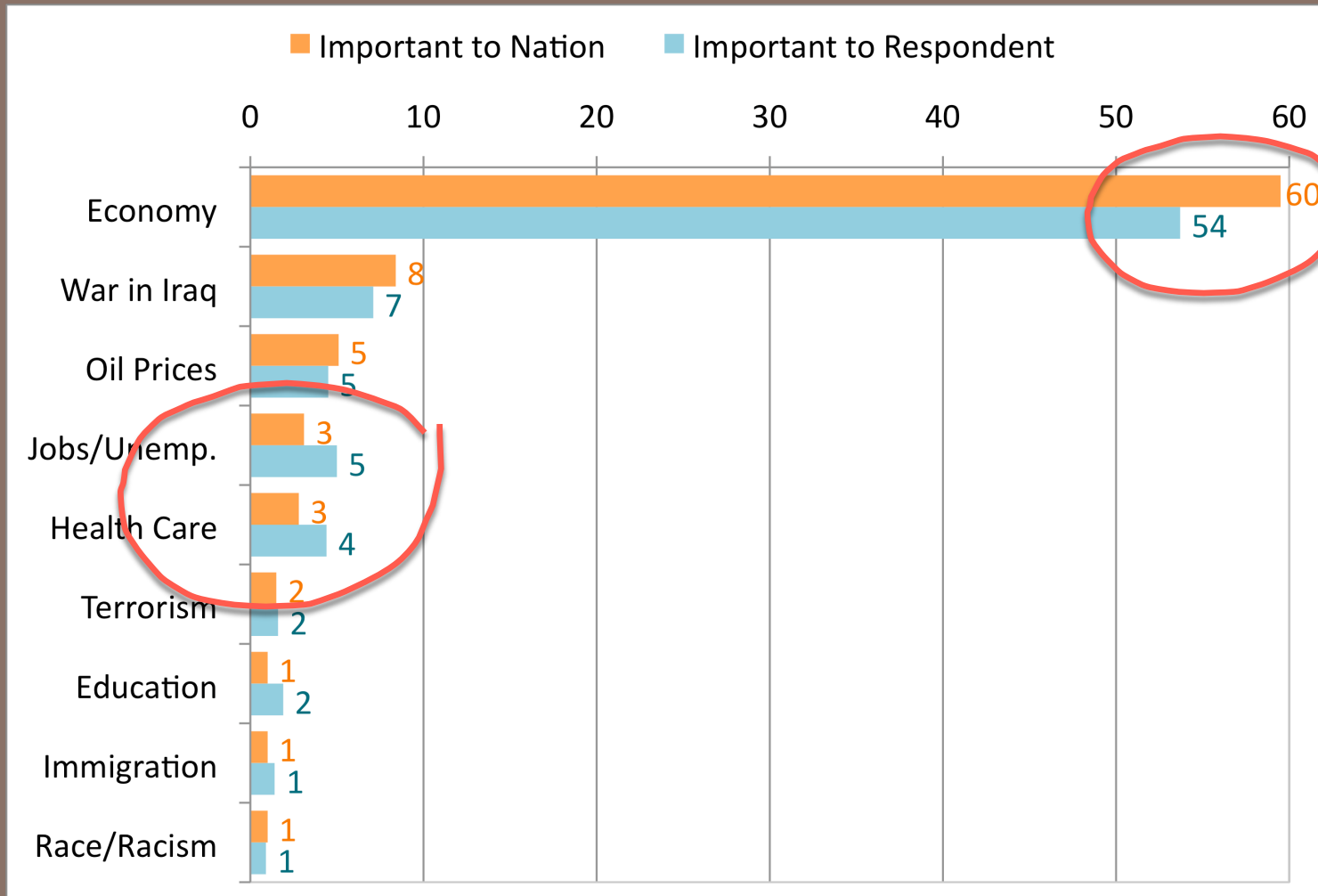
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## Policy Views and Salient Issues

# What is the Most Important Problem

“... facing the United States today?” and “... to you personally?”

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# Universal Access to Health Care

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	ASN IND	CHIN	FILI	JAPA	KOR	VIET	TOTAL
Strongly agree	59%	61%	59%	43%	65%	66%	59%
Agree somewhat	24%	24%	19%	27%	17%	25%	23%
Neither	8%	7%	7%	14%	8%	6%	8%
Disagree somewhat	5%	5%	6%	10%	7%	3%	6%
Strongly disagree	4%	2%	9%	6%	3%	1%	4%

“Please tell me if you agree strongly, agree somewhat, neither agree nor disagree, disagree somewhat, or disagree strongly ... The federal government should guarantee health care for everyone.”

*New York metro results nearly identical to rest of nation*

# U.S. Withdrawal from Iraq

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	ASN IND	CHIN	FILI	JAPA	KOR	VIET	TOTAL
Strongly agree	55%	58%	51%	45%	50%	15%	50%
Agree somewhat	17%	19%	14%	23%	18%	18%	18%
Neither	16%	16%	14%	16%	16%	42%	18%
Disagree somewhat	5%	4%	10%	9%	8%	11%	7%
Strongly disagree	7%	2%	12%	6%	8%	14%	7%

“Please tell me if you agree strongly, agree somewhat, neither agree nor disagree, disagree somewhat, or disagree strongly ... The U.S. should get our military troops out of Iraq as soon as possible .”

*New York metro results nearly identical to rest of nation*

# Immigration: Paths to Citizenship

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	ASN IND	CHIN	FILI	JAPA	KOR	VIET	TOTAL
Strongly agree	14%	9%	21%	9%	25%	6%	13%
Agree somewhat	20%	15%	19%	21%	23%	16%	18%
Neither	18%	28%	16%	18%	23%	42%	24%
Disagree somewhat	17%	22%	13%	22%	14%	13%	18%
Strongly disagree	30%	26%	32%	30%	15%	23%	27%

“Please tell me if you agree strongly, agree somewhat, neither agree nor disagree, disagree somewhat, or disagree strongly ... The U.S. should provide a path to citizenship for people in this country illegally.”

\*There were no significant differences between foreign-born and US-born, or between citizens and non-citizens, New Yorkers versus rest of Asian America.

# Immigration: Professionals vs Families

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	ASN IND	CHIN	FILI	JAPA	KOR	VIET	TOTAL
Strongly agree	25%	26%	29%	6%	20%	16%	21%
Agree somewhat	28%	26%	22%	25%	29%	13%	25%
Neither	32%	33%	27%	42%	24%	43%	34%
Disagree somewhat	10%	10%	10%	16%	14%	17%	12%
Strongly disagree	5%	4%	12%	11%	13%	11%	8%

“Please tell me if you agree strongly, agree somewhat, neither agree nor disagree, disagree somewhat, or disagree strongly ... U.S immigration policy should favor people with professional qualifications over those who already have family in the United States.”

**\*Foreign-born and New Yorkers more likely to strongly agree with this statement.**



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# Partisanship and Mobilization

# Partisanship and Non-Partisanship

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	ASN IND	CHI N	FILIP	JAPA	KOR	VIET	TOTAL	NY Metro
Republican	8%	6%	15%	14%	20%	28%	12%	9%
Democrat	39%	24%	33%	42%	37%	19%	31%	34
Indep./Other	21%	27%	17%	15%	12%	17%	21%	22
Do not think in these terms	32%	43%	35%	29%	32%	35%	36%	36

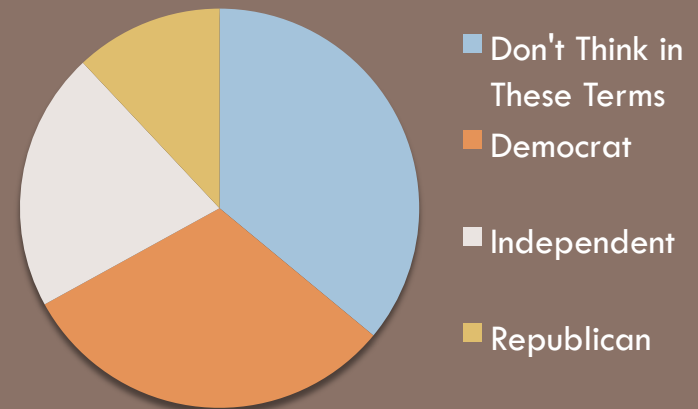
“Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as a Republican, Democrat, Independent, some other party, or do you not think in these terms?”

# Partisanship and Voter Turnout

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	Registered to Vote
Republican	75.3%
Democrat	65.1%
Independent	53.9%
Don't think	40.3%

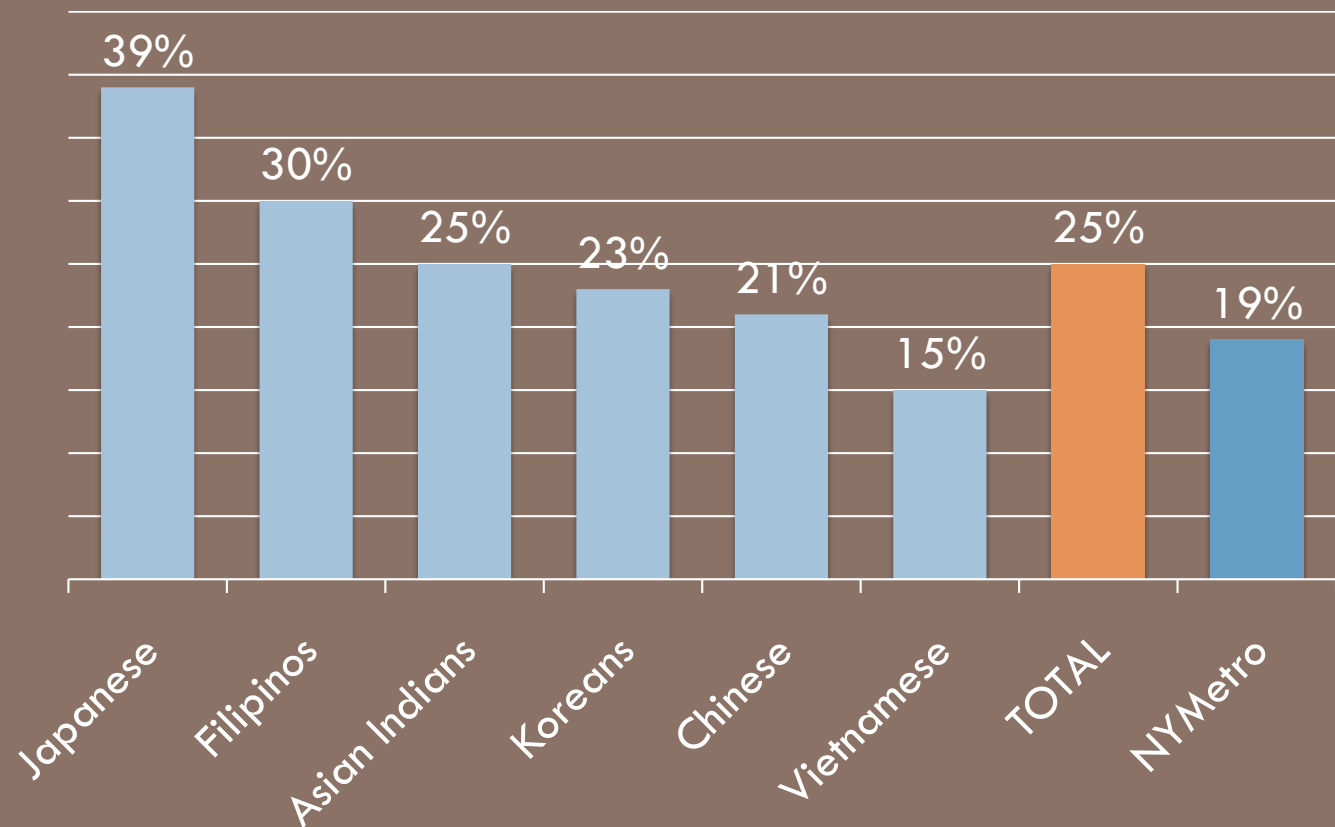
Party ID



# Party Mobilization

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“In the past 12 months, has a political party or candidate contacted you about a campaign?”



# Party Mobilization and the 2008 Vote

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	Not Contacted	Contacted
2008 primary voter	41%	55%
Likely voter in Nov.	33%	73%
McCain	22%	21%
Obama	35%	52%
Undecided	43%	26%

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# Identity and Race Relations

# Racial/Ethnic Identity Choice

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	ASN IND	CHIN	FILIP	JAPA	KOR	VIET	TOTAL
Asian American	18%	14%	8%	11%	9%	7%	13%
R Ethnic Group	24%	34%	33%	27%	26%	20%	29%
R EthGroup-American	38%	35%	41%	43%	54%	67%	41%
Asian	9%	10%	10%	6%	3%	2%	8%
American	6%	3%	3%	5%	8%	3%	5%
Other/none of these	6%	4%	6%	8%	0%	2%	5%

“People of Asian descent in the U.S. use different terms to describe themselves. In general, do you think of yourself as ...?”

# Commonality with Asian Americans

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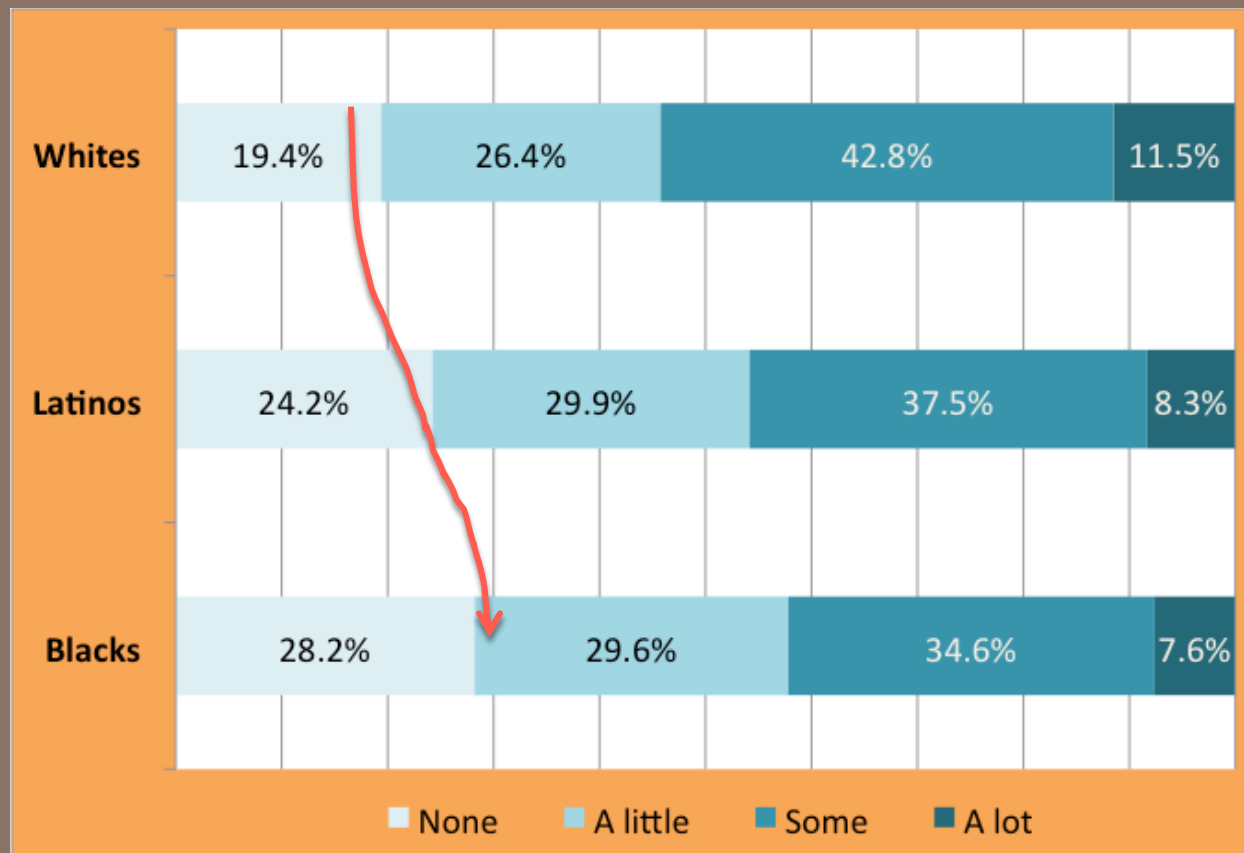
	ASN IND	CHIN	FILIP	JAPA	KOR	VIET	TOTAL
Race	52%	58%	51%	45%	60%	50%	54%
Culture	69%	65%	58%	57%	64%	63%	64%
Economic interests	62%	54%	56%	40%	46%	51%	54%
Political interests	35%	40%	38%	24%	35%	39%	36%

What, if anything do Asians in the United States share with one another?  
Would you say they share ... a common race? ... a common culture ...  
common economic interests? ... common political interests?



# Commonality with Other Groups

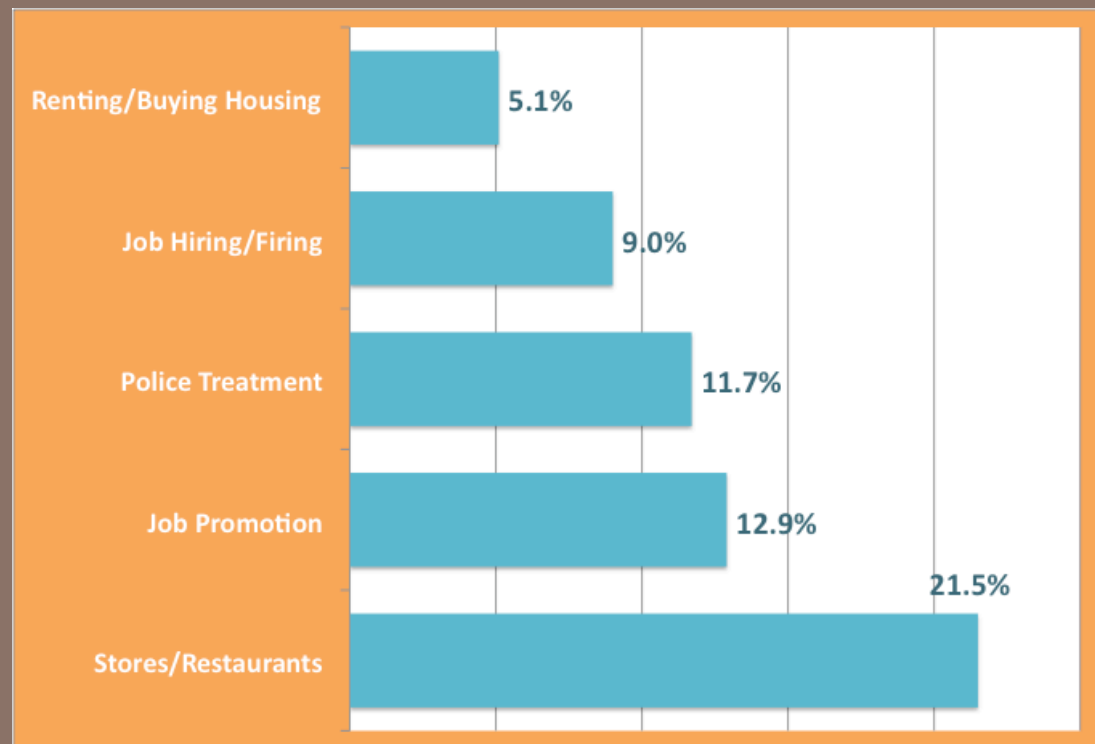
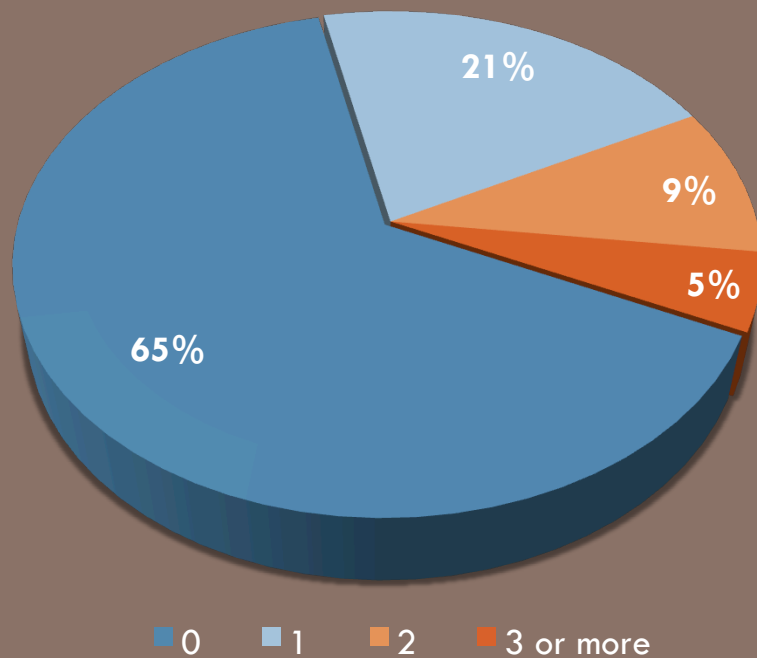
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Thinking about government services, political power and representation, would you say Asian Americans have a lot in common, some, little in common, or nothing at all in common with ... African Americans? ... Latinos? ... Whites?

# Contexts of Discrimination

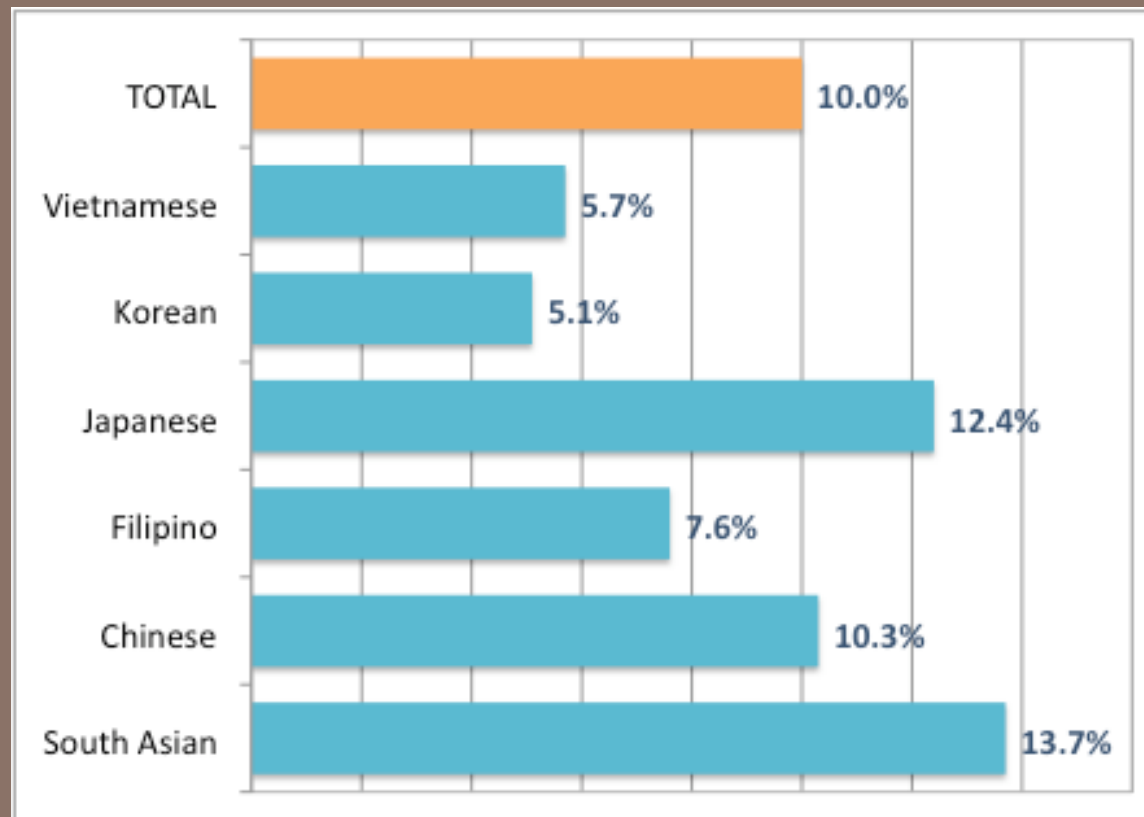
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“Have you ever been ... unfairly denied a job or fired? ... unfairly denied a promotion at work? ... unfairly treated by the police? ... unfairly prevented from renting or buying a house or apartment? ... treated unfairly or badly at restaurants or stores?”

# Hate Crimes Incidence

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“Have you ever been a victim of a hate crime? That is, have you ever had someone verbally or physically abuse you, or damage your property specifically because of your race or ethnicity?”

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# Civic Engagement

# Civic Engagement by Groups

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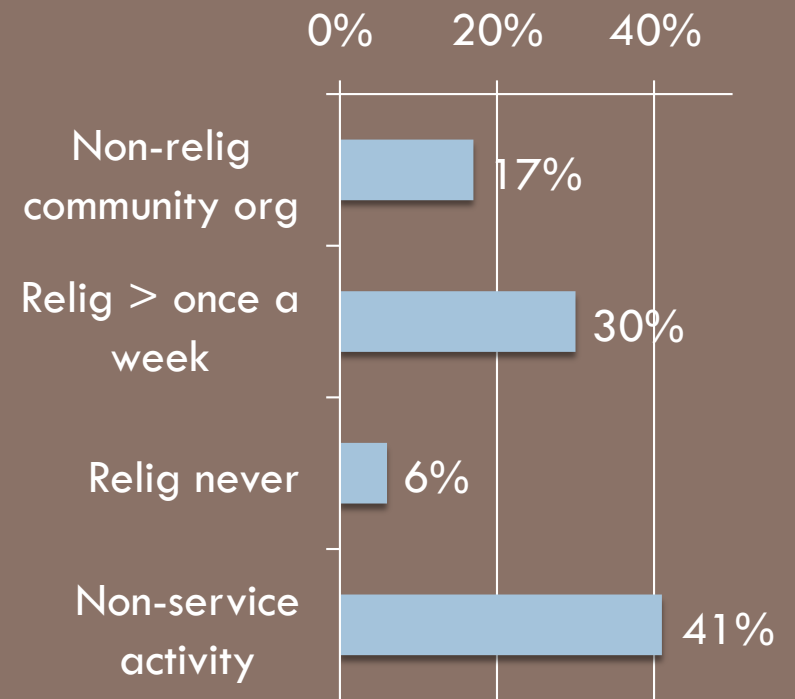
	ASN IND	CHIN	FILIP	JAPA	KOR	VIET	TOTAL
Belong to community organization*	20%	12%	26%	21%	13%	9%	17%
Attends religious place of worship at least once a week	21%	33%	37%	17%	59%	25%	30%
Takes part in activity other than service or prayer	37%	44%	48%	37%	53%	26%	41%

\* “Other than a religious group or place of worship, is there any other group or organization in your community that you are involved with?”

# Civic Engagement and Voter Turnout

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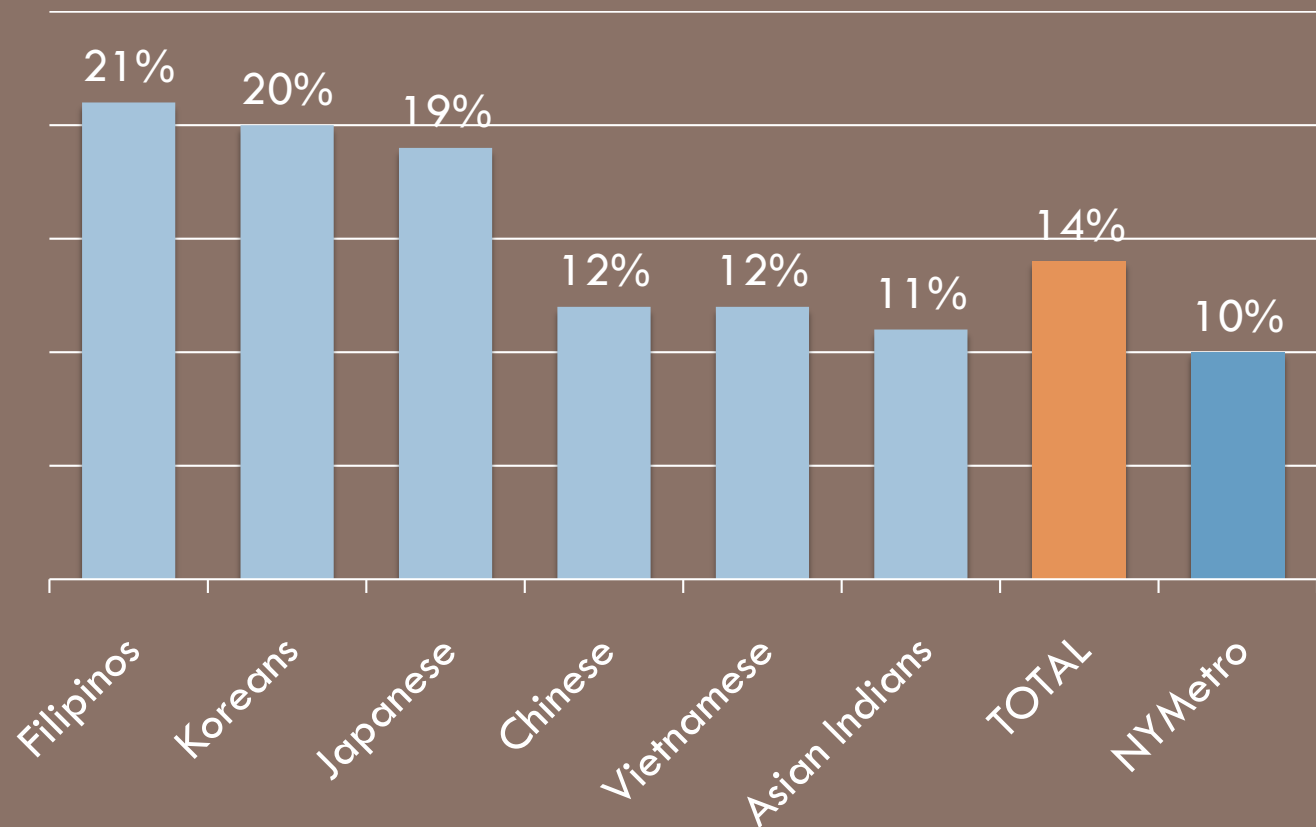
	Registered to Vote
Belongs to community org	70%
Does not belong to community org	52%
Attends religious worship > once a week	62%
Never attends religious place of worship	50%
Non-service activity at place of worship	66%
No non-service activity	52%



# Civic Mobilization

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“Did any other organization contact you about a campaign in the past 12 months? We are talking here about groups like unions, community groups, and other organizations outside of political parties and campaigns.”



# Civic Mobilization and the 2008 Vote

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	Not Contacted	Contacted
2008 primary voter	43%	57%
Likely voter in Nov.	31%	69%
McCain	21%	26%
Obama	39%	48%
Undecided	40%	26%



# Participating Institutions and Funders

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# Supporting Organizations

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- Asian American Federation of NY
- APIAVote
- Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund
- Chhaya CDC
- National Asian Pacific American Bar Association
- OCA New York Chapter
- YKASEC - Empowering the Korean American Community

# Special Thanks!

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- Andrew Hahn
- Seyfarth Shaw LLP
- Christine Chen
- Anna Murphy

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# Questions? Comments?



[www.naasurvey.com](http://www.naasurvey.com)