

NY, NJ Asian-Americans support Obama, poll reveals

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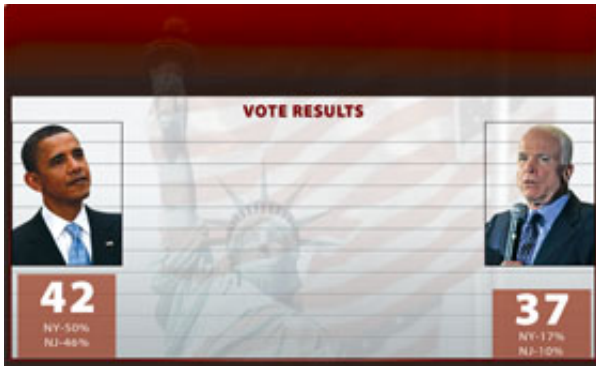


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NEW YORK - Sen. Barack Obama leads Sen. John McCain 42 to 20 percent in New York and 37 to 18 percent in New Jersey, according to a recent poll of Asian Americans.

Rutgers University Prof. Jane Junn said that the results of New York and New Jersey showed trends that are mirrored nationally.

The results of the multi-ethnic, multi-lingual survey of more than 4,000 Asian Americans were released Oct. 6 but state specific results weren't announced until last week. It is the first

large-scale survey taken of Asian Americans and considered as the most comprehensive survey of the political views of Asian-Americans to date.

While Asian-Americans in New Jersey and New York lean toward the Democratic Party, nearly half do not consider themselves to be either a Democrat or a Republican

“The large number of undecided voters and their low levels of party identification signal a big opportunity for parties and candidates looking for electoral support,” Prof. Junn said.

According to the national study, a very large proportion, or 34 percent of those surveyed, remains undecided.

The number of undecided in New York and New Jersey is higher than the national figure.

More than one-third (37 percent) of Asian-American likely voters in New York remain undecided, while nearly half (45 percent) of New Jersey Asian American likely voters were undecided.

For the researchers, this is a key finding and a development that could set the stage for Asian- Americans to play a pivotal role in the outcome of the November election.

Asian-American Democratic primary voters in 2008 in both states supported Hillary Clinton over Barack Obama by a 3 to 1 margin. Roughly half of former Clinton supporters (46 percent in New Jersey and 50 percent in New York) plan to vote for Obama in November.

Ten percent of former Clinton supporters from New Jersey plan to vote for McCain, while 17 percent in New York say they will back the Republican nominee. Nearly half (44 percent) of Clinton primary voters in New Jersey remain undecided, while a third (33 percent) are undecided in New York.

Asian-Americans in NY & NJ

Asian-Americans are the fastest-growing racial and ethnic group in the state of New Jersey, based on the 2007 American Community Survey report that the Asian-American population grew to 687,204.

The Asian-American population in New Jersey is approximately eight percent of the state's population, making New Jersey the state with the third largest proportion of Asian Americans, after Hawaii (56 percent) and California (13 percent).

The Asian-American community in New Jersey is diverse in terms of ethnicity and national origin.

Approximately 18 percent identify as Filipino, making them the third largest in the state, following the 37 percent who identify as Indian or South Asian, and the nearly 20 percent Chinese.

In New York, and according to the 2007 American Community Survey, the Asian

American population is 1,410,103; approximately 7 percent of the entire state's population.

Seventy-two percent of the state's Asian Americans call New York City home and at 1,016,495, comprise approximately 12 percent of the city's population.

Approximately 49 percent of New York City's Asian American population resides in Queens; followed by Kings County (Brooklyn) at 24 percent; New York County (Manhattan) at 18 percent, Bronx County at 5 percent, and Richmond County (Staten Island) at 4 percent.

Prof. Junn also said that they were able to conduct the extensive surveys in eight languages: English, Cantonese, Mandarin, Hindi, Japanese, Korean, Tagalog and Vietnamese.


Researchers from Rutgers University Eagleton Institute of Politics and three other universities: University of California, Berkeley (UC Berkeley); University of California, Riverside (UC Riverside); and University of Southern California (USC) collaborated for this groundbreaking study. (www.asianjournal.com)

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