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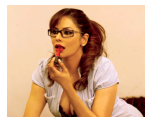
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# Indian Americans Hugely Favor Obama over Romney: Poll

[Richard Springer, Staff Reporter](#)  
Oct 05, 2012

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President Barack Obama (l) campaigning in Las Vegas, Nevada, Sept. 30. Indian Americans overwhelmingly favor Obama for president over Gov. Mitt Romney, according to the newly released National American Survey, directed by UC-Riverside Prof. Karthik Ramakrishnan (right).

United States

Indian Americans overwhelmingly back [President Barack Obama](#) for president over [Governor Mitt Romney](#), and they identify much more with the Democratic Party than the Republican Party, according to a new poll supported by a coalition of Asian American groups.

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In a survey of 3,381 Asian American and Pacific Islander respondents conducted through Sept. 19, the survey found that a whopping 68% of Indian Americans said they would vote for Obama, just 5% support Romney and 25% are undecided. A total of 386 Indian Americans were polled.

Among Asian American and Pacific Islanders groups, only the Hmong community had such a similar lopsided vote for Obama, with 56% for the

president, 4% for the former Massachusetts governor and 40% undecided, according to the National Asian American Survey.

Filipinos support Romney over Obama by a 38%-32% margin, with 28% undecided. Asian Americans overall had 43% for Obama, 24% for Romney and 32% undecided. Chinese Americans are near the national Asian American average — with 43% ready to vote for Obama, 21% for Romney and 33% undecided.

In a press conference in Washington, D.C., last week to announce the results of the poll, the director of the survey, [Karthick Ramakrishnan, associate professor of political science at the University of California-Riverside](#), said support for Obama from the Indian American community is steady across all age groups, with 73% of likely voters ages 18 to 34 for Obama.

In an interview with India-West later in the week, Ramakrishnan pointed out that Indian Americans have a higher proportion of their population than any other of the major Asian American groups living in the battleground states — 26%.

The survey identified the battleground states as Ohio, Virginia, Florida, New Hampshire, Iowa, Colorado, Wisconsin, Michigan, Pennsylvania, Missouri, Nevada and North Carolina.

“Asian American voters are getting a considerable amount of attention from the presidential campaigns this year, particularly in the battleground states of Nevada, North Carolina and Virginia,” Ramakrishnan added.

“When compared to the general electorate, and even the Latino electorate, the Asian American vote is very much up for grabs at this late stage in the presidential campaign.”

Putting this together with the fact that many in the Indian American community are still undecided, both presidential candidates may need to address issues that the poll shows are of more importance in both the Indian American and the greater community, such as the economy, jobs, education and health care, Ramakrishnan said.

The cost of college education is another issue that the Asian American community has elevated in importance in the polling results.

In answer to a question from the audience at the Washington press conference as to why there is a belief that the older generation of Indian Americans supports Republicans such as [South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley](#) and [Louisiana Governor](#)

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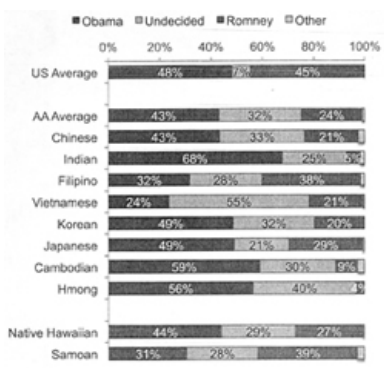
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[Bobby Jindal](#), the U.C.-Riverside professor pointed out that some of more senior leaders in the community may have more contacts with the media and be more active as major fundraisers, while the small donors supporting Democrats are more numerous, but less in the public eye. “We stand by our research,” he asserted.



Ramakrishnan said that after the Clinton administration, the Republican Party “over time has been captured by the...conservative wing on immigration.” The GOP conveys “images that seem to be exclusionary,” the Indian American professor said.

In a press conference in Southern California Oct. 2, to release California results from the poll, Ramakrishnan said there wasn’t enough Indian Americans respondents in the state to report their results separately, but trends in California for Asians are largely similar to nationwide results

Asian Americans in California support Obama, his health care policies and two-thirds approve of affirmative action. The question was asked two times — one simply and directly and the other emphasizing the arguments in favor of diversity. Results differed very slightly.

In the national poll regarding approval rating, 81% of Indian Americans polled gave Obama a favorable view, far ahead of the second most pro-Obama community, the Koreans, with 61% viewing him favorably.

Even more surprisingly, Indians gave a good rating to Democrats in Congress at 66%. Only the Native Hawaiians and Samoans, at 54% and 53%, respectively had a favorability rating of Democratic members of Congress over 50% among Asian American groups.

Asked about party identification, 44% of Indians said they identified with the Democratic Party and 58% identified with and/or leaned toward the party. Just 3% of Indian Americans identified with the GOP and 7% identified and/or leaned to the Republicans.

In a significant finding, 53% of Indians, 60% of Chinese and 60% of Vietnamese identified themselves as independent or non-partisan, suggesting they are open to good candidates of either party.

When asked what candidate they voted for in the 2008 presidential election, an astounding 93% of Indian Americans said they voted for Obama, 4% were for Senator John McCain and 3% indicated “Other.” The 89% victory margin for Obama was the largest for any Asian American group in the poll.

Vietnamese favored Obama by a 50%-48% margin over McCain and Filipinos by a 50%-46% margin.



The NAAS report was co-authored by [Taeku Lee, a professor of political science and law at U.C.-Berkeley](#). To find the two national and California reports visit:

<http://www.naasurvey.com/>



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