



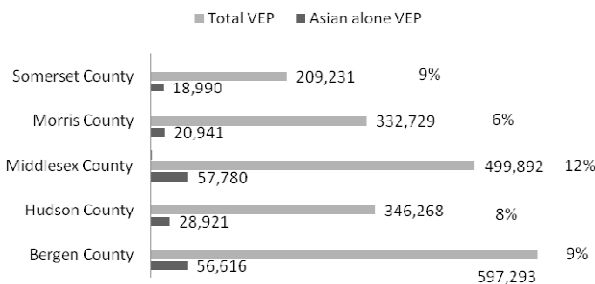
At a Glance: AAPIs in New Jersey

- ✓ **New Jersey is home to 689,132 AAPIs, and they make up 8% of the state’s population.**
- ✓ **New Jersey’s Asian American voting eligible population has doubled from 2004 to 2008.**
- ✓ **AAPI voters can make a significant impact in local and national elections.**
- ✓ **Asian Americans still face socioeconomic and language barriers to voter participation.**

A Growing AAPI Voting Eligible Population

- ✓ The Asian American voting eligible population of New Jersey has nearly doubled, from 197,000 in 2004 to 381,000 in 2008.
- ✓ There are over half a million (689,132) AAPIs in New Jersey, constituting 8% of the population.
- ✓ The AAPI population in New Jersey has more than doubled since 1990. While the total AAPI population in New Jersey has grown only 8% from 2004 to 2008, the large jump in VEP population may be due to naturalization and a large youth population. (In 2004, a quarter of the Asian population was 17 and under)
- ✓ New Jersey’s AAPI population is highest in Bergen County and Middlesex County, as well as Jersey City, Edison, Fort Lee, E. Brunswick, and Palisades Park.
- ✓ In New Jersey, Indians make up almost a third of the Asian population, followed by Chinese and Filipinos (each 20%) and smaller Korean and Japanese populations.

Asian only VEP population in NJ Counties



Asian American Turnout in 2008

- ✓ In 2008, there were 381,000 AAPIs who were eligible to vote in New Jersey, making up 7% of the state’s voting eligible population.
- ✓ Only 65% of New Jersey’s voting eligible AAPI population was registered to vote in 2008, compared to 71% statewide.

- ✓ Approximately 89% of registered AAPI voters turned out at the polls, which is comparable to the 90% turnout rate statewide.

Key Elections in New Jersey

- ✓ AAPI voters had the potential to influence two Congressional District races in 2006, and the Senatorial race.

District	Cities and Regions	AAPI Eligible Voters	Margin of Victory in 2006
5	Bergen, Passaic, Sussex and Warren Counties	28,387	22,707
7	Cranford, Roselle, South Plainfield	30,830	3,239
Senatorial	New Jersey	284,403	188,692

Limited English Proficiency

- ✓ Approximately one in four households speaking Asian and Pacific Islander languages are linguistically isolated, meaning limited access to services and civic participation.⁴
- ✓ Almost one in three Asian Americans in New Jersey speaks English “less and well.”

Challenges to Voter Participation

- ✓ In AALDEF’s 2008 exit poll in New York City of 16,665 AAPI voters, 84% of those surveyed in New Jersey were foreign born.
- ✓ Only 14% were native English speakers, and 28% had limited English skills. Some AAPIs who are LEP prefer to vote with language assistance.
- ✓ In 2008, about one out of every three AAPI voters in New Jersey was a first-time voter.
- ✓ In 2008, New Jersey became the first state to translate voter registration forms in a South Asian language.
- ✓ While New Jersey officials are translating signs and voting instructions, and hiring some bilingual poll workers, more effort is needed.

¹American Community Survey, US Census, 2006-2008, and Community Population Survey, 2004, 2008.

²A Community of Contrasts, Asian American Justice Center and Asian Pacific American Legal Center, 2006.

³AALDEF Access to Democracy 2008.

⁴NJ’s Asian American Population is the Nation’s Fifth-Largest After Nearing Doubling in a Decade, Asian American Federation Reports, Asian American Federation, 2004.