

Massachusetts' AAPI Electorate in 2016

There are over 228,000 eligible AAPI voters, comprising 4.3% of the state's electorate.



Population Facts

- Largest AAPI ethnic groups in Massachusetts include: Chinese (168,000), Indian (106,000), Vietnamese (49,000), Cambodian (36,000), Korean (27,000), and Filipino (21,000).
- From 2000-2010, the number of eligible AAPI voters (citizen voting age population, or CVAP) in Massachusetts grew by 60%.
 - This AAPI growth rate was much faster than the statewide average of 3%.
- From 2008 to 2012, the number of eligible AAPI voters in Massachusetts grew 24%.
 - This compares to a 4.3% growth rate for the statewide eligible voting population between 2008 to 2012.
- Youth (ages 18-29) comprise 29% of the AAPI electorate in Massachusetts.
- AAPIs age 50 and up comprise 32% of the AAPI electorate.



Massachusetts is home to 475,000 AAPIs, a 74% increase from 2000.

Counties with Highest AAPI Populations (by pop size)

	% of AAPIs in county	Size of AAPI population	% of AAPI CVAP in county	Size of AAPI CVAP
Middlesex	10.3%	157,785	6.8%	72,670
Norfolk	9.5%	64,600	6.5%	31,850
Suffolk	8.5%	63,735	6.6%	33,555

Challenges to Voter Participation

- 80% of Asian Americans in Massachusetts speak a language other than English at home, and of those, more than 37% speak English less than “very well.”

Voter Engagement and Identification

- Voter contact is a large, unmet need among AAPIs. In the 2012 AAPI Post-Election Survey of registered voters, 74% of Pacific Islanders and 69% of Asian Americans received no contact about the election, compared to 64% of Latinos, 61% of African Americans, and 57% of whites who were not contacted.
- Among those contacted, Democrats had the most reach (50%), followed by Republicans (42%) and nonpartisan community organizations (25%).
- In the Northeast, the lack of contact among Asian Americans was even higher, at 80% of registered voters.
- There is also a large opportunity for voter education through contact. In the same survey of registered voters, 47% of Asian Americans and 37% of Pacific Islanders did not declare an identification with either political party, compared to 20% of African Americans, 31% of Latinos, and 36% of whites.

Importance of Language Access

Turnout is 9% lower for Limited-English Proficient (LEP) than non-LEP registered voters according to the 2012 AAPI Post-Election Survey, and 63% say that Asian language support at polling places would be useful.

Socioeconomic Challenges

- About 14,000 Asian Americans in Massachusetts (3.7%) lack health insurance.
- About 53,000 Asian Americans in Massachusetts (15%) live in poverty.
- About 180 NHPs in Massachusetts (12%) live in poverty.

Multilingual Voter Hotline

If you, or anyone you know, has difficulty with language access or needs any other type of voting assistance (including questions about polling locations or voting procedures), please call the National Asian American Voter Hotline at 1-888-API-VOTE (1-888-274-8683).

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For more information or questions, email info@apiavote.org

Data on growth of AAPI CVAP from report by New Organizing Institute Education Fund. Data on language access, voter engagement and identification from the 2012 AAPI Post-Election Survey. Finally, with respect to population and CVAP numbers: In order to capture Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders who are mono-racial as well as multi-racial, we have calculated statewide population and electorate numbers using the Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS). We do this to overcome two problems: CVAP numbers provided by the U.S. Census do not include multiracial AAPIs, and we cannot double-count when adding multi-racial population numbers from FactFinder tables (more than 10% of multi-racial AAPIs say they are Asian as well as Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander). Resident numbers regardless of age and citizenship are derived from the 2014 ACS 1YR PUMS file. We derive the number of CVAP by multiplying residents by the proportion CVAP, which is calculated using the latest 5YR PUMS file to improve precision. Any other characteristics of the population is based on the ACS 5YR PUMS file to provide the most precise estimates possible. Finally, the PUMS file does not contain large enough samples for county estimates, so we rely on the Census Bureau's Special Tabulations of the Citizen Voting Age Population, which provides county estimates but does not include multiracial AAPIs.