



PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION **Voter Guide**

A RESOURCE FOR THE
Asian American Electorate

- Get registered to vote
- Find your polling place
- Learn where Clinton and Trump stand on the issues



Election Day is **November 8, 2016**

The 2016 Presidential Election Voter Guide is a publication of
Asian Americans Advancing Justice | AAJC



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Asian Americans Advancing Justice | AAJC is a national nonprofit founded in 1991 to protect civil and human rights. As a national advocate for Asian Americans, we promote justice for all Americans, empowering our communities, bringing local and national constituencies together and ensuring Asian Americans are able to fully participate in our democracy.

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Photo by Andrew Seng

Dear Reader,

As we head into the final months before the presidential election, there will be roughly 9.3 million eligible Asian American voters this November. This voter guide is designed to help you understand the growing power of the Asian American electorate and to help you understand where the presidential candidates stand on issues important to our community.

The ability to vote is a fundamental right in our democracy. Currently, the registration rates for racial and ethnic minorities, naturalized citizens and young adults remain lower in comparison to other groups. It is essential for eligible Asian Americans to register and vote so that we are not left out of the electoral process. Asian Americans are growing in numbers and strength and our participation can make the difference in determining who wins this election.

By 2060 it is projected that one out of every ten Americans will be Asian American. Given this significant growth, it is important to note that Asian Americans continue to be overlooked largely by both political parties. In a recent survey of Asian American voters, 73% have not been contacted by the Republican Party and 62% have not been contacted by the Democratic Party.

These figures mean that political candidates at the national, state and local levels are missing untapped voter potential. It also means that Asian Americans are not getting our voices heard on the issues that matter to our community. As the first Hmong American elected to the Minnesota State Senate, I know firsthand the importance of having a seat at the political table to represent the issues important to all marginalized communities.

We exercise our political power when Asian Americans participate in our democracy by voting and holding our elected officials accountable.

Asian Americans Advancing Justice | AAJC trusts you will find this guide helpful. We encourage you to use this guide as you review candidates up and down the ticket. Our politicians need to know that the Asian American community is not only watching the political process but ready to cast our votes.

Sincerely,

Mee Moua
President and Executive Director
Asian Americans Advancing Justice | AAJC



Asian Americans are the fastest-growing racial group in the U.S. electorate. For many years, Asian Americans participated in our political system at lower rates than other groups. But that's quickly changing.

Asian Americans have become a significant and growing political force in local and state elections around the country. In the last three presidential cycles, the Asian American electorate has grown by an average of 620,000 voters per cycle. In November, those voters will have a big say in who becomes the next president of the United States.

The Asian American community is incredibly diverse — spanning many cultures and languages — yet it shares common values and experiences. Polling shows that Asian American voters broadly share the same concerns and are becoming increasingly involved in our political system.

This guide provides a snapshot of the Asian American electorate based on recent polling and important information on where Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump stand on the issues.

Voting is at the very core of our democracy. It is a right, and a duty, through which we determine our priorities and decide how we will be governed.

For a primer on voting, including how to register and successfully cast your ballot, skip ahead to page 16. We have everything you need to know about voting for all 50 states and the District of Columbia, including deadlines, how to vote early or absentee and whether you will need to show identification.

Voting is at the very core of our democracy. It is a right, and a duty, through which we determine our priorities and decide how we will be governed.



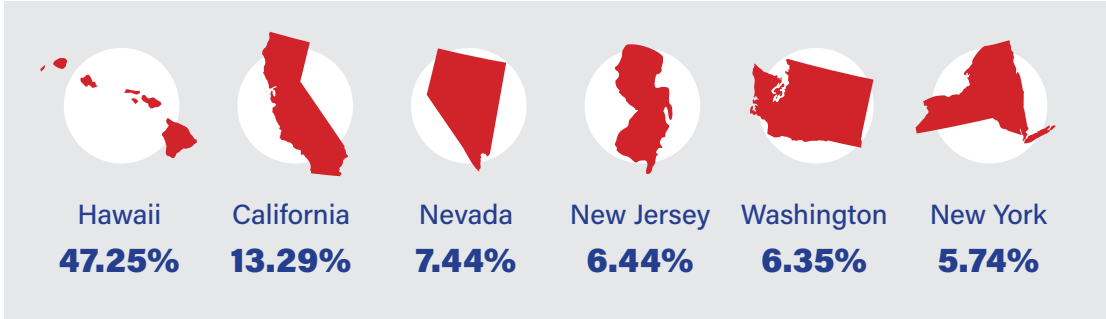
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Asian American Voters — A Snapshot

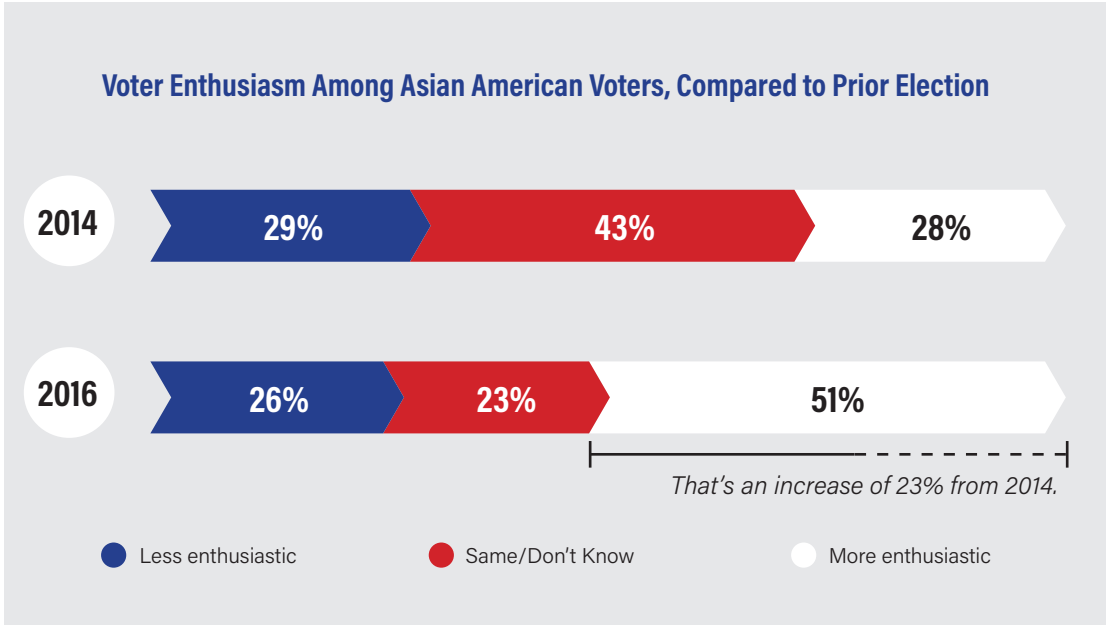
Asian Americans are the fastest-growing racial group in the U.S. electorate. There will be roughly 9.3 million eligible Asian American voters this November. That's up from just over 8 million in 2012.¹

Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders make up more than 10% of the electorate in California and Hawaii and over 5% in four other states:²

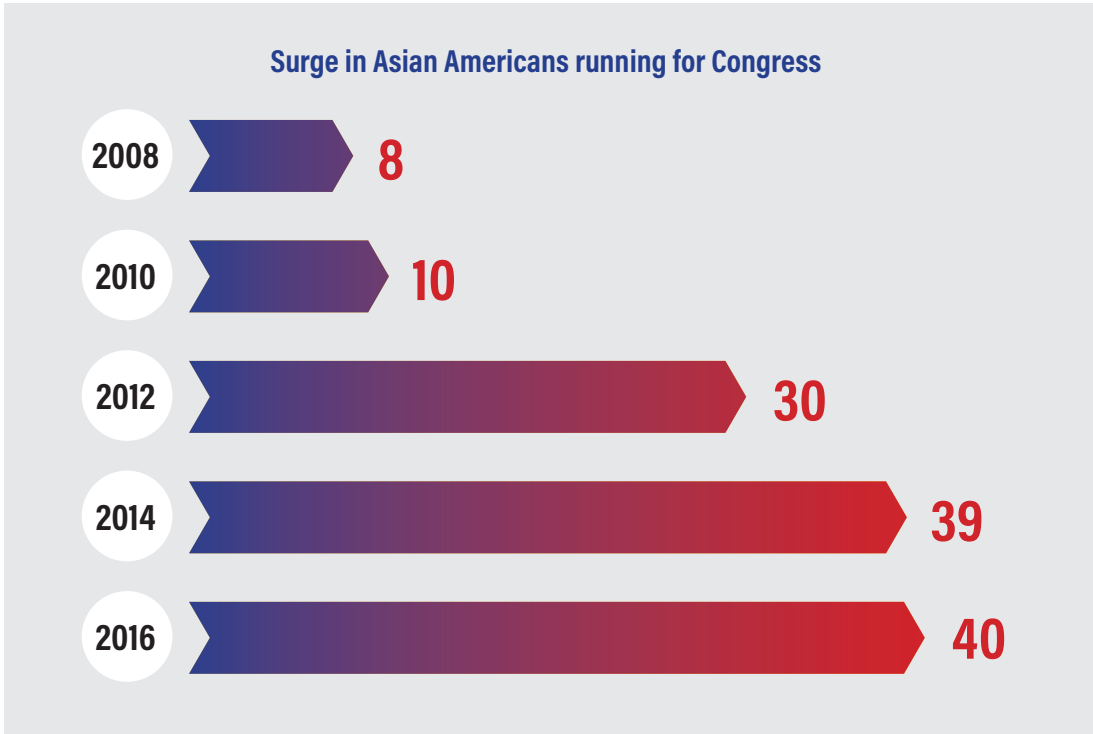


Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders represent 5% or more of the electorate in 97 Congressional districts. In ten districts, Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders represent 25% or more.

Asian Americans are much more enthusiastic about voting in 2016 than just two years ago.³



Asian Americans aren't just voting in greater numbers, they're increasingly running for office, donating to campaigns and serving in government.



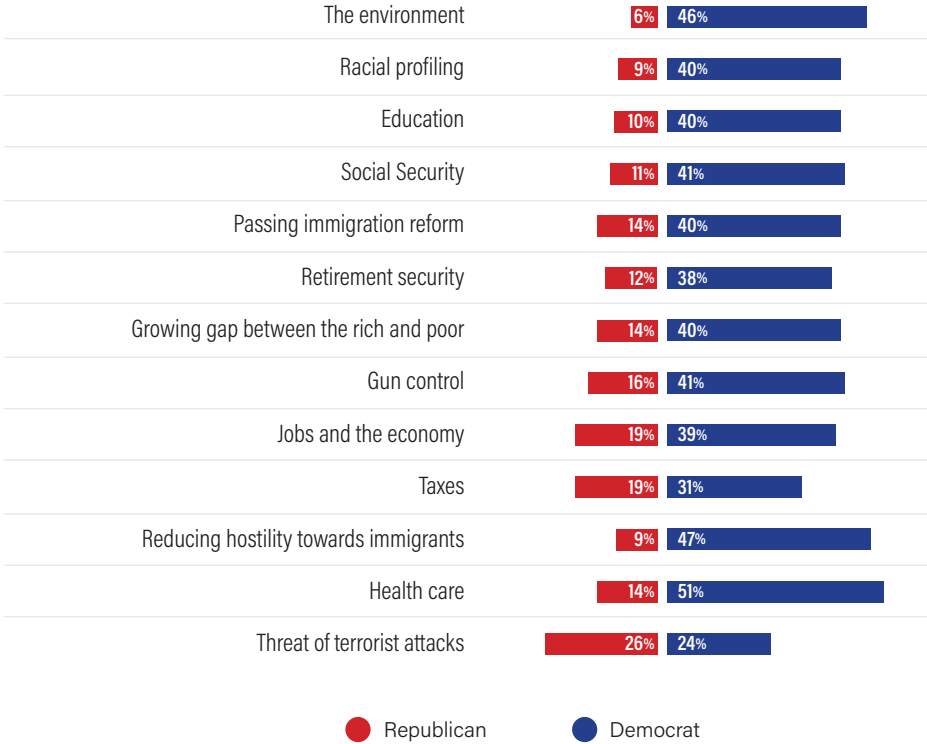
Nearly half of Asian American voters identify as Democrats, but more than one in three do not identify with a political party. Asian Americans have been shifting in party identification towards the Democratic Party — there was a 12% increase from 2012 to 2016 — and favor the party on many key issues.

Party Identification Among Asian American Registered Voters, 2016 ³

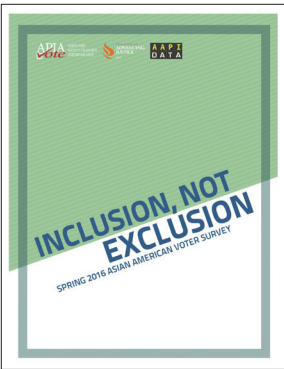
	DEMOCRAT	REPUBLICAN	INDEPENDENT OR UNSURE
TOTAL	47%	15%	37%
Asian Indian	55%	8%	36%
Chinese	40%	8%	52%
Filipino	54%	16%	27%
Japanese	62%	15%	22%
Korean	54%	24%	23%
Vietnamese	28%	27%	45%

These figures are based on a survey that targeted the six largest national origin groups that together account for more than 75% of the Asian American adult citizen population.

Party Preference on Key Issues Among Asian American Registered Voters ³



These are the top five issues that Asian Americans said are extremely important to them.³



For a more in-depth look at these issues and the Asian American electorate, check out the Spring 2016 Asian American Voter Survey. The survey provides information about Asian Americans' candidate preferences, political ideology and views on issues like gun control, minimum wage, environmental protection and anti-immigrant rhetoric. Additionally, the survey looks at how Asian Americans get their news and how often they are contacted by political parties and candidates.

Candidate Guide: Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump on the Issues



	Clinton	Trump
<p>Immigration Reform</p> <p>Support or oppose comprehensive immigration reform?</p>	✓	X
<p>Racial Profiling Ban</p> <p>Support or oppose a ban on the use of racial profiling by the government?</p>	✓	X
<p>Banning Muslims from Entering U.S.</p> <p>Support or oppose banning Muslims from entering the United States?</p>	X	✓
<p>Strengthen Hate Crime Laws</p> <p>Support or oppose strengthening laws on hate crimes against religious minorities and other protected groups?</p>	✓	?
<p>Voter ID Laws</p> <p>Support or oppose requiring registered voters to show photo identification in order to exercise their right to vote?</p>	X	✓
<p>Federal Education Reform</p> <p>Support or oppose national policies and executive branch action to provide educational equity in the nation's public schools and public institutions of higher education?</p>	✓	X
<p>Family Unification</p> <p>Support or oppose strengthening and expanding federal immigration policies that promote family unification?</p>	✓	X
<p>Accept Syrian Refugees</p> <p>Support or oppose accepting Syrian refugees into the United States?</p>	✓	X
<p>Reduce Cost of Becoming a U.S. Citizen</p> <p>Support or oppose reducing the fees that individuals must pay to become a U.S. citizen?</p>	✓	?
<p>Ethnicity as Factor for Federal Judge</p> <p>Support or oppose belief that a federal judge's ethnic background can prevent him or her from hearing a case objectively?</p>	X	✓

✓ Support

X Oppose

? Unknown



Key Issues and Where the Candidates Stand

To help you understand where presidential candidates Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump stand on the issues, Asian Americans Advancing Justice | AAJC conducted independent research into their policy positions and public statements.

We explore four key issue areas which impact the Asian American community and are at the core of our work: civil liberties, immigration reform, voting rights and educational equity. For each, we drill down and show where the candidates stand on pressing policy questions of the day.



Civil Liberties

The core freedoms enshrined in the Constitution, including freedom of expression, assembly, religion, and conscience

Racial Profiling Ban

Racial profiling is the use of religion, race, ethnicity or national origin by law enforcement to target a person or group for suspicion of crime or terrorism.



Support or oppose a ban on the use of racial profiling by the government?

CLINTON SUPPORT

Clinton supports ending racial profiling: "Racial profiling is demeaning and ineffective, and it erodes trust between law enforcement officers and the AAPI residents they serve." Clinton indicates she "will work to end racial profiling that targets individuals, based solely on race, religion, ethnicity, and national origin, which is un-American and counterproductive."⁴



TRUMP OPPOSE

Trump has spoken in favor of profiling: "Well I think profiling is something that we're going to have to start thinking about as a country."⁵ "You have people that have to be tracked. If they're Muslims, they're Muslims. But you have people that have to be tracked."⁶



Banning Muslims from Entering U.S.

Support or oppose banning Muslims from entering the United States?



CLINTON OPPOSE

Clinton has argued that “threatening to ban the families and friends of Muslim Americans as well as millions of Muslim business people and tourists from entering our country hurts the vast majority of Muslims who love freedom and hate terror.”⁷



TRUMP SUPPORT

In December, Trump called for a “total and complete shutdown of Muslims entering the United States until our country’s representatives can figure out what is going on.” More recently, he has called for “extreme vetting.”⁸

Strengthen Hate Crime Laws

Support or oppose strengthening laws on hate crimes against religious minorities and other protected groups?



CLINTON SUPPORT

In the Senate, Clinton “championed legislation to address hate crimes.”⁹ As a presidential candidate, she said the country should “strengthen and expand the collection of data around gender identity, sexual orientation, and hate crimes in order to address this issue in a smart, effective way.”¹⁰



TRUMP UNKNOWN

Trump does not have a public record on the issue.

Ethnicity as Factor for Federal Judge

Support or oppose belief that a federal judge’s ethnic background can prevent him or her from hearing a case objectively?



CLINTON OPPOSE

Clinton has spoken in opposition to Trump’s call for a United States federal judge to recuse himself from hearing a case because he is Mexican-American: “It makes no sense to me. The judge was born in Indiana; yes, he’s of Mexican heritage! Donald Trump is apparently of German heritage. What does that mean? We’re all Americans.”¹¹



TRUMP SUPPORT

Trump has argued that a federal judge should not hear a case involving one of his businesses because Trump supports building a wall on the U.S.-Mexico border and the judge is Mexican-American: “I’ve been treated very unfairly. Beforehand, we had another judge. If that judge was still there, this case would have been over two years ago. Let me just tell you, I have had horrible rules. I’ve been treated very unfairly by this judge. Now, this judge is of Mexican heritage. I’m building a wall, OK? [...] I think he should recuse himself.”¹²



Immigration Policy

Keeping America's doors open to people seeking to become new citizens, whether to begin a new life or reunite with family, and people seeking asylum to escape persecution and violence

Immigration Reform

Comprehensive immigration reform refers to a broad set of policies that would provide legal status to millions of undocumented immigrants living in the United States and create a pathway to citizenship.

Support or oppose comprehensive immigration reform?



CLINTON SUPPORT

Clinton has argued that "Congress must pass comprehensive immigration reform that provides a path to citizenship, treats every person with dignity, upholds the rule of law, protects our borders and national security, and brings millions of hardworking people into the formal economy."¹³



TRUMP OPPOSE

Trump has argued against comprehensive immigration reform and advocated for building a wall along the U.S.-Mexico border. He has said that when politicians use the term "immigration reform," what they really mean is "amnesty, cheap labor and open borders."¹⁴

Family Unification

Support or oppose strengthening and expanding federal immigration policies that promote family unification?



CLINTON SUPPORT

Clinton has argued that "instead of breaking up hard-working, law-abiding immigrant families who have enriched America for years, she will work to keep families together and ensure a more humane immigration enforcement system."¹⁵



TRUMP OPPOSE

Trump has spoken against the promotion of family unification. In response to whether he would shift away from a "family-based system" and instead evaluate immigrants on the basis of their education, he said "I'm all for that."¹⁶



Reduce Cost of Becoming a U.S. Citizen

Support or oppose reducing the fees that individuals must pay to become a U.S. citizen?



CLINTON SUPPORT

Clinton has said she “will work to expand fee waivers, so more people seeking naturalization can get a break on the costs.”¹⁷



TRUMP UNKNOWN

Trump does not have a public record on the issue.

Accept Syrian Refugees

Support or oppose accepting Syrian refugees into the United States?



CLINTON SUPPORT

Clinton has spoken in favor of accepting more Syrian refugees and says the country “cannot allow terrorists to intimidate us into abandoning our values and humanitarian obligations. Turning away orphans, applying a religious test, discriminating against Muslims, slamming the door on every single Syrian refugee—that’s just not who we are. We are better than that.”¹⁸



TRUMP OPPOSE

Trump has said he would deport Syrian refugees who settle in the U.S. and prevent new refugees from arriving: “Anybody that’s brought into this country from the migration is going to be out.” “We’re not gonna do it. We’re gonna have a country again, we’re gonna have borders, we’re gonna have a country again, right now we don’t have a country.”¹⁹





Voting Rights

Ensuring that all eligible voters can freely exercise their core democratic right to vote

Voter ID Laws

Support or oppose requiring registered voters to show photo identification in order to exercise their right to vote?



CLINTON OPPOSE

Clinton has criticized voter ID laws as part of a “sweeping effort to disempower and disenfranchise people of color, poor people, and young people from one end of our country to the other.” She argues for doing “everything we can to make it easier for every citizen to vote.”²⁰



TRUMP SUPPORT

Trump favors voter ID requirements. “I want to make the voting laws so that people that — it doesn’t make any difference how they do it. But I don’t think people should sneak in through the cracks. You have to have — And whether that’s an ID or any way you want to do it.”²¹



Educational Equity

Creating an inclusive and fair educational system that provides opportunity for all ages to learn

Federal Education Reform

Support or oppose national policies and executive branch action to provide educational equity in the nation’s public schools and public institutions of higher education?



CLINTON SUPPORT

Clinton favors federal legislation and action to provide equity in education. She “believes that every child, in every neighborhood, should be guaranteed a high-quality education.” Furthermore, Clinton says she “will ensure all four-year-olds have access to preschool, launch a national campaign to modernize and elevate the teaching profession, and provide every student in America an opportunity to learn computer science.”²²



TRUMP OPPOSE

Trump has spoken against reforming education at the federal level: “I’m a tremendous believer in education. But education has to be at a local level. We cannot have the bureaucrats in Washington telling you how to manage your child’s education.”²³



Sources

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- 3 [Inclusion, Not Exclusion: Spring 2016 Asian American Voter Survey](#)
- 4 [HillaryClinton.com: "Stronger Together: Hillary Clinton's Plan to Break Down Barriers for AAPIs"](#)
- 5 [Face the Nation, June 19, 2016](#)
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- 11 [ABC News with David Muir, June 3, 2016](#)
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- 19 [ABC News: "Donald Trump Promises to Deport Syrian Migrants Who Settle in the US"](#)
- 20 [Hillary Clinton speech, June 4, 2015](#)
- 21 [Meet the Press, May 8, 2016](#)
- 22 [HillaryClinton.com: "Stronger Together: Hillary Clinton's Plan to Break Down Barriers for AAPIs"](#)
- 23 [Washington Post: "When it comes to K-12 education, goals of GOP contenders are moot"](#)



How to Register to Vote and Cast Your Ballot

Election Day is November 8, 2016. This section includes everything you need to know to register to vote and cast your ballot in all 50 states and the District of Columbia — or from overseas.

We can help you...

- Register to vote
- Update the name or address on your voter registration
- Find when, where and how to vote
- Get support in another language
- Vote early or absentee, and much more!

For an overview of registering to vote and casting your ballot, keep reading. The online version of this guide offers links for many of the topics and resources mentioned in this section. You can view it at <http://www.advancingjustice-aaajc.org/AsianAmericanVoterGuide>.



2016 Voting Checklist

- Register to vote** before the deadline

- Make sure** you're registered at your current address

- Find your polling place** and if you can vote early or by mail

- Check to see** if you'll need a form of identification to vote

- Make a plan** for voting and getting any help you may need

- Bring the Candidate Guide** on page 9 with you when you vote



Electing a President

Voting is at the very core of American democracy. Every two years, voters elect the members of the House of Representatives and one third of the Senate. Every four years, they elect the president of the United States.

Presidential elections begin with each party holding primary elections and caucuses to select each party's nominee. The candidates are formally nominated at their party's convention, where they announce a vice presidential running mate.

Donald Trump was formally nominated as the Republican nominee in July and selected Indiana Governor Mike Pence as his running mate. Hillary Clinton was formally nominated as the Democratic nominee in July as well and selected Virginia Senator Tim Kaine to be her running mate.

Following the conventions, the candidates travel around the country to speak with voters, hold events and meet to debate one another. Election Day is November 8, 2016, but many states allow voters to vote early or with an absentee ballot.

Presidential elections are determined by the Electoral College. Each state and the District of Columbia sends electors to the Electoral College equal to the number of Senators and members of the House of Representatives for that state (each state has two Senators, but House seats are allocated by population). That's why California has 55 electoral votes, but Alaska only has 3. There are a total of 538 electors, and a presidential candidate needs to receive more than half (270) to win.

When you vote for president in your state, you are actually voting for electors. The presidential candidate who wins the most votes in each state wins electoral votes accordingly. Most states are winner-take-all, which means that the candidate who receives the most votes in the state receives all the electoral votes. However, some states divide their votes proportionally.

Registering to Vote

Only U.S. citizens who are at least 18 years of age are eligible to vote. Some states allow 17-year-olds to register if they will be 18 by the election — if that applies to you, check your state's age requirement. You must meet your state's residency requirements and be legally registered in your local jurisdiction to vote. State voter registration requirements and deadlines vary. Check the online version of this guide for your state's info.

Online voter registration is available for 31 states and the District of Columbia.

You can also use the National Mail Voter Registration Form, which is available in a variety of languages, to register in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Just fill it out online and print the completed form or fill it out by hand. You must then sign and mail the form.

Or you can register in your state in-person or through the mail. You can find registration information for your state in the online version of this guide.

If you move or change your name, you must update your registration. Follow the same steps as registering to vote.

If you are a citizen living abroad or stationed in the military overseas, the U.S. government provides a guide for registering to vote and casting your ballot.

Individuals who have been convicted of a felony often have restrictions placed on their voting rights. Restrictions vary by state. More information is available from each state's election office, which can be found in the online version of this guide.



Multilingual Assistance

The U.S. Election Assistance Commission has developed voter guides, including information on registering to vote, in a number of languages, including Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Spanish, Tagalog and Vietnamese.

The National Mail Voter Registration Form is also available in Bengali, Chinese, Hindi, Japanese, Khmer, Korean, Spanish, Tagalog and Vietnamese.

Section 203 of the Voting Rights Act requires certain counties and jurisdictions to provide bilingual voting materials in communities with sizable language minorities and limited-English proficient residents. Congress reauthorized and strengthened Section 203 in 1992 to make bilingual assistance at the polls a reality for thousands of additional “language minority” voters. You can find information on language support in your state and learn more about Section 203 in the online version of this guide.

In addition, some citizens are unable to effectively participate in the voting process. Section 208 of the Voting Rights Act provides another valuable resource for voters who face these challenges, by allowing such voters to receive assistance in the voting booth from a person of the voter’s choice. Voters who experience difficulty with the English language and who do not have access to translated election materials can receive assistance in their primary language under Section 208.

Voter Registration Deadlines and Requirements

In every state but North Dakota, you must register before you can vote. Registration deadlines vary from state to state, with some allowing registration up to and on Election Day and others cutting off registration 30 days before the election. You can find your state’s deadline in the online version of this guide.

In 49 states and the District of Columbia, you must verify your identity when you register to vote. You can provide your current driver’s license number, if available, or the last four digits of your Social Security Number. If you do not have either, you must bring proof of identity when you go to vote for the first time. Most states require one or more of these types of documents: driver’s license or state ID card, student or military ID, utility bill, paycheck, etc. You can check the requirements for your state in the online version of this guide.

The Election Assistance Commission provides a checklist to help ensure you meet your state’s requirements.

Early voting

The majority of states have early voting, which allows voters to cast their ballots prior to Election Day. This is offered as a convenience and is open to all registered voters. You do not need an excuse or reason to vote early.

Colorado, Washington and Oregon conduct their elections entirely by mail, and you can vote as soon as you receive your ballot.

Early voting is strongly encouraged, where available. The online version of this guide includes early voting availability and periods for all 50 states and the District of Columbia.

Absentee Voting

If you will be temporarily away from your home on Election Day, you can vote by submitting an absentee ballot. This includes, but is not limited to, people on vacation or business trips, students attending school out of state and military members stationed overseas. To vote by absentee ballot, you must request a ballot and return it before your state’s deadline. Absentee voting varies by state — some states have strict requirements while others have no restrictions on which voters can cast an absentee ballot. You can find more information on absentee voting in your state in the online version of this guide.



Voter Identification Requirements

Many states require voters to show some form of identification before they can vote. Some states require photo identification while others accept non-photo identification. The remaining states use other means to verify the identity of voters at the polls. Typically information, such as the voter's signature, is checked against information on file.

It is important to check your state's voter identification requirements and plan accordingly. You can find your state's requirements and acceptable forms of identification in the online version of this guide. Remember: The address and name on your identification must match the information on your voter registration.

Provisional Ballots

If there is an issue with establishing your eligibility when you go to vote, you can still vote with a provisional ballot. In most states, provisional ballots are set aside from regular ballots and are not counted until eligibility has been determined. You may need to vote provisionally if you lack adequate identification for your state, your name or address do not match your voter registration, your name does not appear on the list of eligible voters or there is some other administrative error or issue. A provisional ballot typically requires a signed affirmation that you are a registered voter and eligible to vote in the election. Regulations concerning provisional ballots vary from state to state.

Voting Hotline

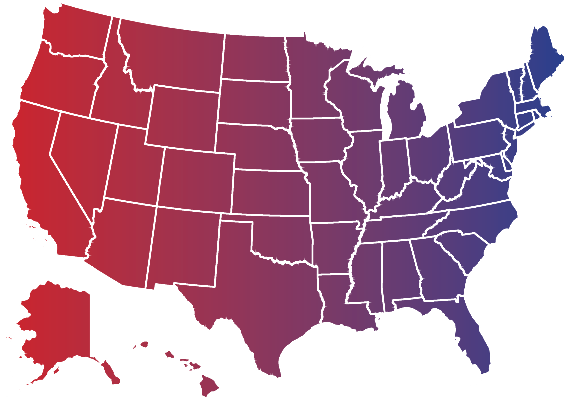
If you have additional questions about voting or experience problems when voting, call **1-888-API-VOTE**.



Voting Information for All 50 States and Washington, DC

This section includes state-specific information on registering to vote and casting your ballot, including:

- Voter registration materials
- Early voting availability
- Polling place locator
- Voter identification requirements
- Absentee ballot information
- Asian language support (where available)
- Contact information for your state's election office
- The number of Electoral College votes for your state



Find your state below:

**Visit the online version of this voter guide
to find your state's voting information:**

www.advancingjustice-aajc.org/AsianAmericanVoterGuide