PORTRAIT OF A KEY COMMUNITY:
Chinese American Voters in California

At a time when anti-Chinese and anti-Asian hate crimes are peaking across California and the country, understanding of the opinions, life experiences, and humanity of our Chinese neighbors is profoundly lacking. AAPI FORCE-EF has joined with Dr. Janelle Wong at the University of Maryland and interested funders to learn more about the feelings, opinions and ideas of Chinese communities in six varied neighborhoods across California.

First-ever survey of suburban Chinese Americans shows they are **PERSUADABLE**—a true **"MOVEABLE MIDDLE."**

Given their population growth across the country, these are **IMPORTANT VOTERS**.

California findings have **TRANSFERRABLE LESSONS** for other Chinese communities across the country.

Survey shows **IT'S TIME TO INVEST IN ASIAN AND CHINESE AMERICAN CIVIC ENGAGEMENT** and include this untapped community in outreach.

THE SURVEY METHODOLOGY: Survey of 2,832 registered voters in five California suburbs who identified as "Chinese" or "Chinese American." *Community members helped develop the questions. Because of this and because surveys were available in English and Chinese, the response rate for the telephone portion (10%) was higher than most telephone surveys (6-7%).* Survey was conducted by phone and online. All data were weighted to match the demographic profile of Chinese citizen voting age population in each county.

RESEARCH PARTNERS: AAPI FORCE-EF, Orange County Asian and Pacific Island Alliance, Asian Pacific Environmental Network, South Bay Youth Changemakers, Asian Youth Center, and Chinese Progressive Association-San Francisco

WHO CHINESE AMERICANS ARE

*(The following statistics refer to all Chinese in California)*

5% of all Californians

3% of registered voters in the state

**Largest Asian origin group** in the country

Chinese Americans in **California** have similarities to communities in other states like **New York, Pennsylvania, Illinois** and **Georgia**

10% of all residents in Alameda County

NY
GA
PA
IL
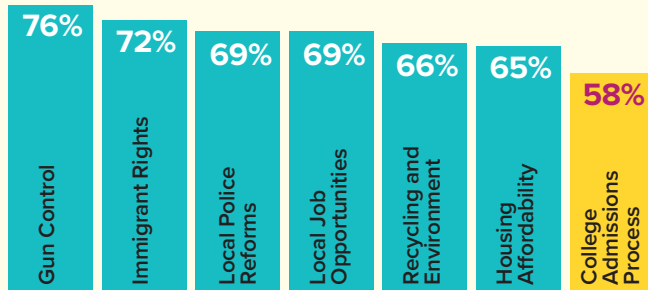San Francisco
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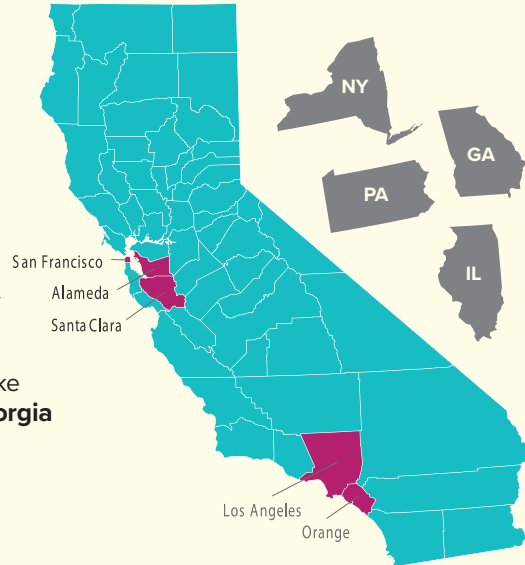
PARTY IDENTIFICATION

(This is the breakdown among survey respondents, not the breakdown from the voter file)

- **40%** Democrat
- **48%** Decline to state
- **12%** Republican
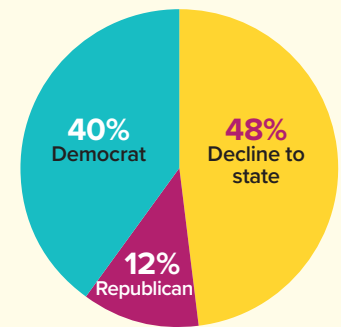
Large proportion are **Decline to state**

WHAT THEY CARE ABOUT

What issues are most important to you personally?

- **76%** Gun Control
- **72%** Immigrant Rights
- **69%** Local Police Reforms
- **69%** Local Job Opportunities
- **66%** Recycling and Environment
- **65%** Housing Affordability
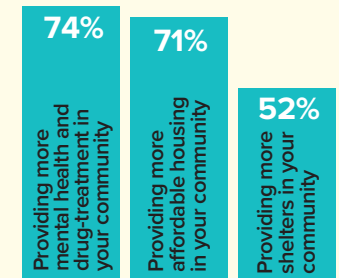- **58%** College Admissions Process

Their top concerns extend beyond **media coverage suggesting Chinese Americans are fixated on affirmative action and college admissions ...**

Race should be considered along with other factors in college admissions ...

- **31%** Agree
- **29%** Disagree
- **41%** *Neither agree/disagree*
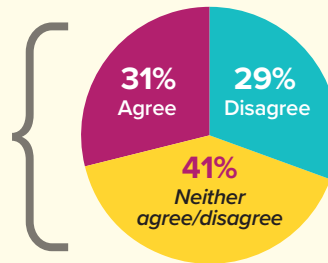
They are **split on considering race in college admissions ...**

HOUSING POLICY

- **74%** Providing more mental health and drug-treatment in your community
- **71%** Providing more affordable housing in your community
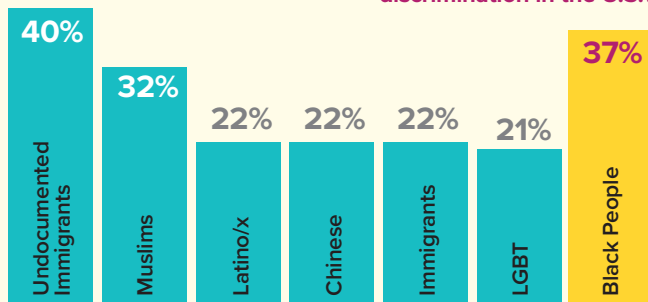- **52%** Providing more shelters in your community

They support actions to **address homelessness, including more shelters in their communities ...**

HOW THEY THINK ABOUT RACISM

Who faces a lot of discrimination in the U.S.?

- **40%** Undocumented Immigrants
- **32%** Muslims
- **22%** Latino/x
- **22%** Chinese
- **22%** Immigrants
- **21%** LGBT
- **37%** Black People

They say discrimination has **broad effects on immigrants, people of color ...**

Do you think deaths of Black Americans during encounters with police are ...

- **16%** Not sure
- **36%** Isolated incidents
- **52%** *Sign of a broader problem*
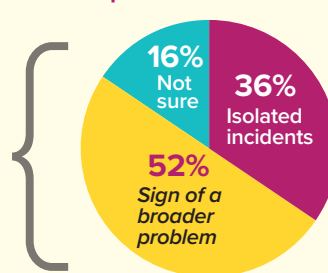
Most see **killings of Black Americans by police as signs of broader problem ...**

*With a shared experience of discrimination and racism, and a recognition that Black deaths at the hands of police are part of broader problem, **there are possibilities to join together across race lines.***

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

- Don't make assumptions ... Learn more about Chinese communities.
- Disaggregate data to understand different AAPI ethnicities.
- Make Asian and Chinese Americans part of your plans for organizing and outreach.
- Engage community leaders to help shape your strategies.
- **Bottom line:** opportunities exist if you invest in Chinese civic engagement and mobilization.

For more information or questions, please contact: Timmy Lu, AAPIs for Civic Empowerment: timmy@aapiforce.com.