

POWER AT THE POLLS: A POLICY BLUEPRINT FOR AAPI CIVIC STRENGTH



Introduction: From Engagement to Empowerment

The **NAPA Voter Engagement Survey** reveals both progress and persistent barriers in AAPI civic participation. While voter **registration rates are high**, systemic obstacles—including language inaccessibility, voter suppression, and lack of political representation—continue to suppress turnout and limit long-term civic engagement. AAPI voters are **one of the fastest-growing electorates in the country, yet they continue to face disproportionate challenges that prevent their voices from being fully heard and represented in policymaking.**

To **move from data to action**, we must implement **bold and transformative policy solutions that strengthen AAPI political power at every level of government.** This requires **breaking down barriers to voting, enacting stronger protections against voter suppression, and ensuring that AAPI voices are reflected** in elected office and policy leadership. Without these structural reforms, AAPI communities will continue to be underrepresented, overlooked, and underserved in decisions that directly impact their futures.

The following **policy recommendations** focus on **accessibility, protection, and representation**—ensuring that AAPI voters are not just participating in elections but shaping the future of our democracy. This is not just about voter turnout; it is about **turning votes into power, representation, and lasting political influence.** The fight for **AAPI civic strength is not just about Election Day**—it's about creating a system where **AAPI voices drive policy, shape leadership, and define the future of this nation.**

Key Issue Areas

Language Access & Voter Assistance

- Ensure translated ballots, voter guides, and multilingual election materials are widely available.
- Expand bilingual poll worker programs to support Limited English Proficient (LEP) voters.

Voter Protection & Suppression Prevention

- Strengthen federal and state protections against voter intimidation and misinformation.
- Implement automatic and same-day voter registration to remove bureaucratic barriers.

AAPI Political Representation & Leadership

- Invest in AAPI candidate recruitment, training, and pipeline programs.
- Increase public funding for AAPI civic engagement initiatives to support long-term political mobilization.

Civic Education & Community Engagement

- Develop year-round voter education programs tailored to AAPI communities.
- Partner with AAPI-led organizations to promote civic literacy and political awareness.

Equitable Redistricting & Fair Representation

- Advocate for fair redistricting policies to prevent the dilution of AAPI voting power.
- Challenge gerrymandering and voter suppression tactics that disproportionately impact communities of color.

These policy priorities are not just necessary—they are urgent. If we want AAPI communities to transition from political invisibility to full-scale influence, we must demand systemic change, legislative action, and institutional support. The future of our democracy depends on ensuring that every AAPI voice is heard, valued, and counted.

POLICY RECOMMENDATION 1: EXPAND LANGUAGE ACCESS FOR VOTERS

THE PROBLEM

Limited English Proficiency (LEP) voters are being systematically disenfranchised. AAPI communities are among the most linguistically diverse in the U.S., yet many polling places fail to provide essential election materials and in-language support.

THE DATA

- 30% of AAPI adults have limited English proficiency, making voting difficult due to untranslated ballots, voter guides, and election information.
- Many jurisdictions fail to meet federal language access requirements, leaving thousands of AAPI voters without election resources.

SOLUTIONS & POLICY ACTIONS

- Mandate translated ballots & voter materials in multiple AAPI languages
- Expand Voting Rights Act language assistance requirements to cover more AAPI languages and dialects.
- Require federal, state, and local election materials to be available in languages spoken by at least 5% of the voting population in a district.
- Increase in-language election outreach & polling site resources
- Require bilingual poll workers in communities with large AAPI populations.
- Expand community-based voter education programs that provide translated voter guides before Election Day.
- Partner with AAPI-led organizations & ethnic media to create culturally relevant election content.

THE IMPACT

Language barriers should never be a reason for voter suppression. Expanding language access will remove obstacles preventing thousands of AAPI voters from fully participating in our democracy.

The Intersection of Asian Greek–Letter Organizations

Many **Asian Greek members are first-generation college students or children of immigrants**, and language barriers within their families can limit **civic awareness, political engagement, and access to the voting process**. If parents, guardians, and community members cannot access translated voter materials, they may **face challenges in casting their ballots or fully understanding key policy issues**. This, in turn, impacts younger generations who must navigate the system on behalf of their families.

In addition, many **Asian Greek organizations have philanthropic and service-based missions** that include supporting immigrant communities, making language access an issue that **directly aligns with their values**. By advocating for expanded translation services and multilingual voter outreach, Asian Greek organizations can help **increase voter engagement within their own families, chapters, and broader communities**.

- **Host voter education workshops**—Chapters can organize **civic engagement events** that help members educate their families and communities on **how to access translated ballots and voter materials**.
- **Advocate for language access policies**—Asian Greek members can push for local and state governments to **expand ballot translation requirements and bilingual poll worker programs**.
- **Volunteer for voter assistance initiatives**—Greek members fluent in multiple languages can **serve as interpreters, translators, or poll workers in their communities**.

Without language accessibility, many AAPI families—including those of Asian Greek members—face disenfranchisement. Expanding translation services directly strengthens the civic engagement of AAPI Greek families and communities.

How This Affects Asian Greek Life

How Asian Greek Life Can Influence This Issue

Bottom Line

POLICY RECOMMENDATION 2: STRENGTHEN VOTER PROTECTION & COMBAT SUPPRESSION

THE PROBLEM

AAPV voters—especially first-time and immigrant voters—are frequent targets of voter suppression, intimidation, and misinformation. Restrictive voting laws disproportionately limit AAPV turnout and discourage civic participation.

THE DATA

- 1 in 3 AAPV voters has reported experiencing problems at the polls, including misinformation about ID requirements, lack of assistance, and voter intimidation.
- States with large AAPV populations (e.g., Georgia, Texas, Arizona) have enacted laws restricting mail-in ballots, limiting early voting, and purging voter rolls, disproportionately affecting AAPV communities.

SOLUTIONS & POLICY ACTIONS

- Ensure same-day voter registration & automatic registration
- Implement nationwide automatic voter registration (AVR) through government agencies (e.g., DMV, social services).
- Expand same-day voter registration to remove bureaucratic barriers for first-time and newly relocated voters.
- Enforce protections against voter intimidation & suppression
- Strengthen federal and state-level penalties for voter intimidation, particularly targeting communities with a history of suppression.
- Increase funding for election monitoring & legal protections in states with restrictive voting laws.
- Require accessible reporting systems for voter suppression incidents, allowing real-time intervention.

THE IMPACT

Voter suppression is a direct attack on democracy. Protecting AAPV voters from intimidation, misinformation, and restrictive laws ensures that every voice is heard and every vote counts.

The Intersection of Asian Greek–Letter Organizations

Young voters, especially college students, **are frequent targets of voter suppression**—a reality that disproportionately affects **members of Asian Greek organizations**. Many chapters are located on college campuses **in states where restrictive voting laws make it harder for students to register, vote early, or cast mail–in ballots**. In states like Georgia, Texas, and Arizona, policies have been enacted that **purge voter rolls, limit polling sites near universities, and increase ID requirements**—all of which disproportionately impact young AAPI voters.

Additionally, **many first–generation AAPI students may be voting for the first time**, making them particularly vulnerable to **misinformation about ID requirements, voting deadlines, and polling locations**. Without proactive education and legal protections, Asian Greek members and their communities risk being **silenced in elections that shape their futures**.

- **Mobilize chapters to advocate for same–day registration**—Greek organizations can push universities and policymakers to **expand voter registration access** on college campuses.
- **Serve as election monitors & poll workers**—By actively monitoring polling places for voter intimidation and suppression, Asian Greek members can help **protect their communities from disenfranchisement**.
- **Combat voter misinformation**—Greek organizations can work with student governments and advocacy groups to **ensure members have accurate election information** before Election Day.

Restrictive voting laws disproportionately impact students, first–time voters, and AAPI communities—all demographics that include many Asian Greek members. Protecting voting rights ensures that AAPI Greek voices are heard in the electoral process.

How This Affects Asian Greek Life

How Asian Greek Life Can Influence This Issue

Bottom Line

POLICY RECOMMENDATION 3: INVEST IN AAPI POLITICAL REPRESENTATION

THE PROBLEM

Despite being one of the fastest-growing racial groups in the U.S., AAPI communities remain severely underrepresented in elected office and policymaking. Without strong AAPI political leadership, laws impacting our communities are made without us at the table.

THE DATA

- AAPIs make up over 6% of the U.S. population but hold less than 1% of elected offices nationwide. ¹
- Only 3.9% of the United States Congress (*House of Representatives and the United States Senate*) is AAPI, despite the community's growing political influence. ²

SOLUTIONS & POLICY ACTIONS

- Increase funding for AAPI civic engagement programs.
- Establish federal & state funding programs to support AAPI voter education, outreach, and leadership development.
- Provide grants for AAPI-led organizations to create community-based political education initiatives.
- Invest in AAPI youth civic engagement programs, including fellowships, internships, and leadership training.
- Expand candidate recruitment & training for AAPI leaders.
- Launch statewide & national training programs to prepare AAPI individuals for elected office & government service.
- Strengthen pipeline programs for AAPI political staffers, campaign managers, and policy advisors.
- Partner with universities & advocacy organizations to develop AAPI-focused public service programs.

THE IMPACT

Representation isn't just about numbers—it's about power, policy, and ensuring AAPI voices shape the decisions that impact our communities. Investing in AAPI political leadership ensures our communities don't just vote in elections, but lead them.

1. Why AAPI voters are important. APIAVote (2022). Available at: <https://apiavote.org/how-to-vote/why-aapi-voters/>.

2. Schaeffer, K. 119th Congress brings new growth in racial, ethnic diversity to Capitol Hill. Pew Research Center (2025). Available at: <https://www.pewresearch.org/short-reads/2025/01/21/119th-congress-brings-new-growth-in-racial-ethnic-diversity-to-capitol-hill/>.

The Intersection of Asian Greek Letter Organizations

Despite **AAPIs making up over 7% of the U.S. population, they hold less than 1% of elected offices**—a stark underrepresentation that **limits the influence of AAPI communities in policymaking**. This lack of representation has direct consequences for Asian Greek life, as policies that **affect higher education, cultural representation, racial justice, and economic opportunities** are often decided **without AAPI voices at the table**.

Furthermore, many Asian Greek members **aspire to leadership roles in law, politics, business, and nonprofit advocacy**—but without strong AAPI political representation, they face barriers to entering these spaces. Without **mentorship programs, civic engagement funding, and leadership pipelines**, AAPI Greek members may struggle to **gain access to political and policymaking opportunities that could create change for their communities**.

- **Encourage Greek alumni to enter public service**—Asian Greek organizations can **create mentorship programs** connecting alumni with careers in government, policy, and advocacy.
- **Support AAPI candidates & policymakers**—Greek members can **volunteer, intern, and work for AAPI candidates** running for office to help increase representation.
- **Push for civic leadership programs on campus**—Chapters can work with universities to **establish fellowships, internships, and funding for AAPI students** pursuing careers in public service.

Asian Greek members are future leaders in business, law, and politics. Investing in AAPI political representation creates opportunities for them to enter government and policymaking spaces, ensuring that their communities and interests are no longer overlooked.

How This Affects Asian Greek Life

How Asian Greek Life Can Influence This Issue

Bottom Line