

# ***Asian Americans at the Ballot Box***

*The 2004 General Election: Growing Voter Participation in Southern California*



# Acknowledgements

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## Asian Pacific American Legal Center

The Asian Pacific American Legal Center of Southern California was founded in 1983 and is the largest organization in the country focused on providing multilingual, culturally sensitive legal services, education, and civil rights support to Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (APIs). APALC's mission is to advocate for civil rights, provide legal services and education, and build coalitions to positively influence and impact APIs and to create a more equitable and harmonious society. APALC works on a range of issues affecting APIs and immigrants, including workers rights, consumer rights, immigration, citizenship, domestic violence, hate crimes, health care, language access, and voting rights.

APALC is affiliated with the Asian American Justice Center (formerly known as NAPALC) in Washington, D.C.

### *Demographic Research Project*

APALC's Demographic Research Project (DRP) was established to make research more accessible to the growing AAPI community and the organizations that serve it.

DRP seeks to (1) inform community programs and advocacy through data collection, analysis, and mapping using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and (2) empower community organizations to better utilize research in grant making, program planning, and advocacy through technical assistance and training.

# Welcome

Asian American communities are a vital part of life in the Southland.

From the San Gabriel Valley to Irvine, Asian American entrepreneurs stimulate economic growth by opening businesses and creating jobs. Asian American workers bring skills and expertise that help America compete in an increasingly global economy. Our communities' art, cuisine, and languages contribute to a cultural diversity that makes Southern California one of the best places in America to live.

Among the region's fastest growing groups, Asian Americans are also an emerging political force. More Asian Americans are becoming citizens, registering to vote, and voting than ever before. Asian Americans are running for office and being elected to Congress, the state legislature, and local city councils and school boards throughout the Southland.

Yet more work is needed to improve our communities' political participation. Increasing citizenship, voter registration, and turnout is critical to holding legislators accountable for addressing the needs of Asian American communities through positive legislation and policy change. From low-income immigrants to successful business owners, Asian American voices should be heard at all levels of government.

To inform efforts to increase political participation in Asian American communities, *Asian Americans at the Ballot Box* provides a comprehensive look at Asian American participation in the November 2004 General Election. Who votes? Who does not? What candidates and ballot measures do Asian Americans support? What assistance do Asian Americans need to become fully engaged in political life? The report presents a unique snapshot of this increasingly influential portion of Southern California's electorate at an important moment in our country's history.

We hope the information contained in this report will be used by community organizations, elected officials, and others in their efforts to better understand and serve this growing part of Southern California's population.

APALC would like to extend a special thanks to the Chung Ying Tang Foundation for its ongoing support of this important research.



*Stewart Kwoh*

Stewart Kwoh, Esq.  
President and Executive Director  
Asian Pacific American Legal Center

## ***The Asian American electorate is growing***

As Southern California's Asian American population grows, so too does its Asian American electorate. Nearly 272,000 Asian Americans in Los Angeles County and 138,000 Asian Americans in Orange County voted in the 2004 General Election. Between the 2000 and 2004 General Elections, Asian Americans grew from 8% to 9% of all voters in Los Angeles County and 8% to 13% of all voters in Orange County. Increasingly, elected officials must address the needs and concerns of their voting Asian American constituencies.

## ***Asian Americans have yet to realize their full political participation***

While Asian Americans are growing as a proportion of Southern California's electorate and their voter turnout is approaching that of all voters, the community has yet to fully realize its potential. While nearly 78% of all registered voters in Los Angeles County voted in the 2004 General Election, 71% of Asian American voters voted. In Orange County, 68% of Asian American voters voted, compared to 73% of all voters. Voter turnout is particularly low among Cambodians, Koreans, and Vietnamese. Get-out-the-vote (GOTV) efforts remain necessary to address these disparities.

## ***Asian American voters need and use language assistance***

Congress recently renewed Section 203 of the Voting Rights Act, the law that requires counties, states, and other jurisdictions to provide assistance to voters in Asian languages. These data demonstrate both the need for and use of assistance in Asian languages. During the 2004 General Election, approximately 40% of Asian American voters in Los Angeles County and 37% of Asian American voters in Orange County were limited English proficient (LEP). Consequently, 38% of Chinese, 48% of Korean, and 42% of Vietnamese American voters in Los Angeles County and 62% of Vietnamese American voters in Orange County used some form of language assistance. Los Angeles and Orange County Registrar of Voters offices should continue to work collaboratively with community organizations and others to ensure Asian American voters receive the help they need.

# Introduction

*Asian American voter registration nationwide grew from approximately 2.5 million in 2000 to 3.2 million in 2004.*

Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (APIs) are among this country's fastest growing groups. From 1990 to 2000, Asian American and Pacific Islander populations in the United States grew as much as 72% and 140%, respectively. In 2004, there were approximately 14 million Asian Americans and 1 million Pacific Islanders nationwide.

With this tremendous growth has come increasing political participation. According to Census 2000, half of Asian American immigrants nationwide have become citizens of the United States. Asian American voter registration nationwide grew from approximately 2.5 million in 2000 to 3.2 million in 2004. Asian American voter turnout grew from 2 million to 2.8 million over the same period. Yet 3.7 million Asian Americans remain ineligible to vote because they are not citizens of the United States. Furthermore, rates of Asian American voter registration and turnout still lag behind those of other groups.<sup>1</sup>

Promoting citizenship, voter registration, and turnout within diverse API communities is critical if elected officials, government agencies, and other policy makers are to be held accountable for understanding and responding to the problems API communities face. While there is a growing body of research on the political participation of APIs in the United States, little research is available at the local level to help inform citizenship, voter

registration, and get-out-the-vote efforts targeting API communities.

Home to more APIs than any other area of United States, Southern California remains the heart of this country's Asian American and Pacific Islander population. *Asian Americans at the Ballot Box* provides important information on Asian American participation in the 2004 General Election in Los Angeles and Orange Counties. The report documents trends in voter registration, party affiliation among Asian American voters, turnout by Asian American ethnic group, city, age, nativity (native versus foreign born), Asian American voting patterns, and use of language assistance mandated by Section 203 of the Voting Rights Act. A presidential election year, 2004 presented a unique opportunity to study political participation.

*Asian Americans at the Ballot Box* is a resource designed to help community organizations and elected officials better understand, articulate, and improve the political participation of Asian American communities in Southern California.

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<sup>1</sup> U.S. Census Bureau's Census 2000, 2000 and 2004 Current Population Surveys.

# Voter Turnout Overview

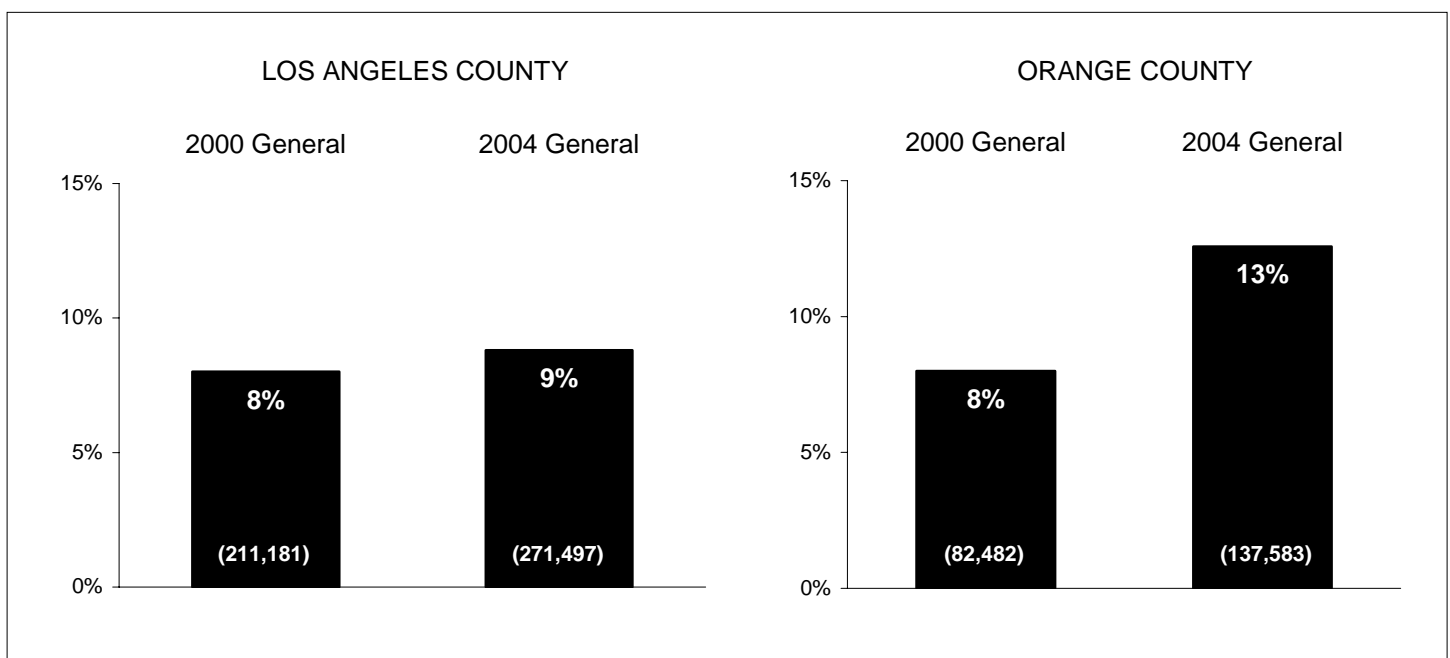
It is likely that more Asian Americans voted in the 2004 General Election than in any other election in Los Angeles and Orange County history.

In both counties, the number of Asian Americans voting in the 2004 General Election well surpassed the number voting in the 2000 General Election. In Los Angeles County, Asian American voter turnout increased 29% between 2000 and 2004 to nearly 272,000 in 2004. While roughly half the size of Los Angeles County's Asian American electorate, Asian American voter turnout in Orange County increased even more dramatically. Nearly 138,000 Asian Americans voted in Orange County's 2004 General Election, a 68% increase from 2000 to 2004. Cumulatively, over 115,000 more Asian Americans in Los Angeles and Orange Counties voted in the 2004 General Election than in the 2000 General Election.

Asian Americans also made up a larger proportion of voters in both counties. Los Angeles County saw a modest increase in the proportion of its electorate that was Asian American, which increased from 8% to nearly 9% between 2000 and 2004 General Elections. In contrast, the proportion of Orange County's electorate that was Asian American increased from 8% in 2000 to nearly 13% in 2004.

*It is likely that more Asian Americans voted in the 2004 General Election than in any other election in Los Angeles or Orange County history.*

Figure 1: Asian American Voters as Proportion of Electorate in Los Angeles, Orange Counties 2000 and 2004 General Elections



# Voter Turnout Demographics

Figure 2: Demographics of Asian American Voters, Los Angeles County 2004 General Election

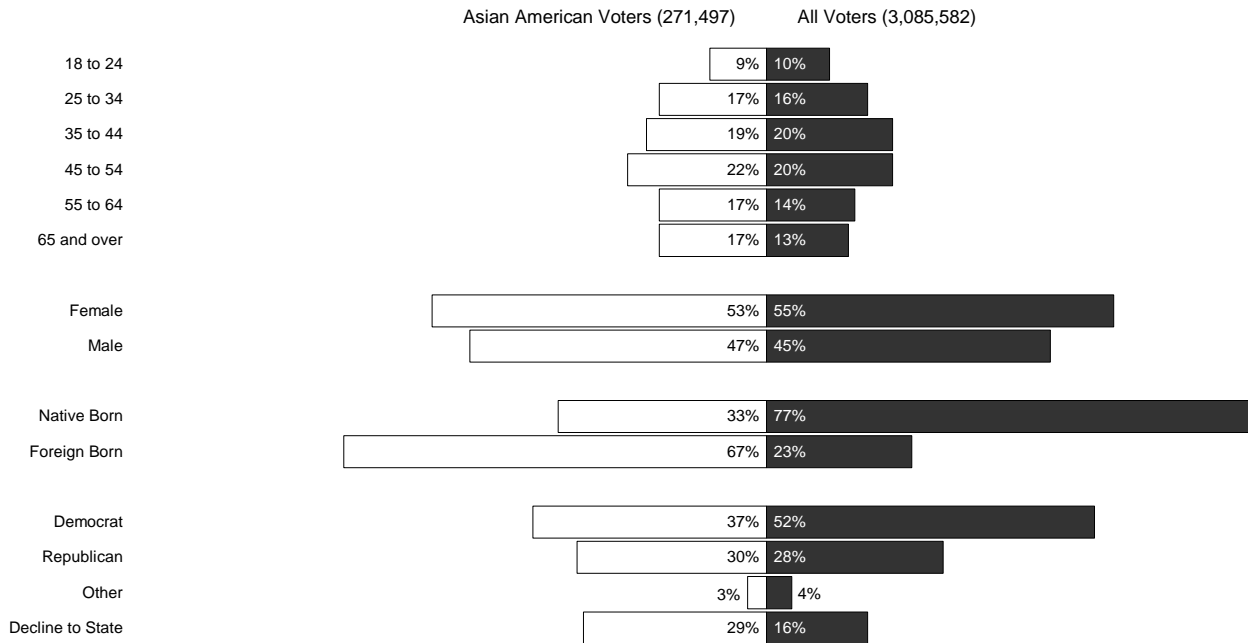
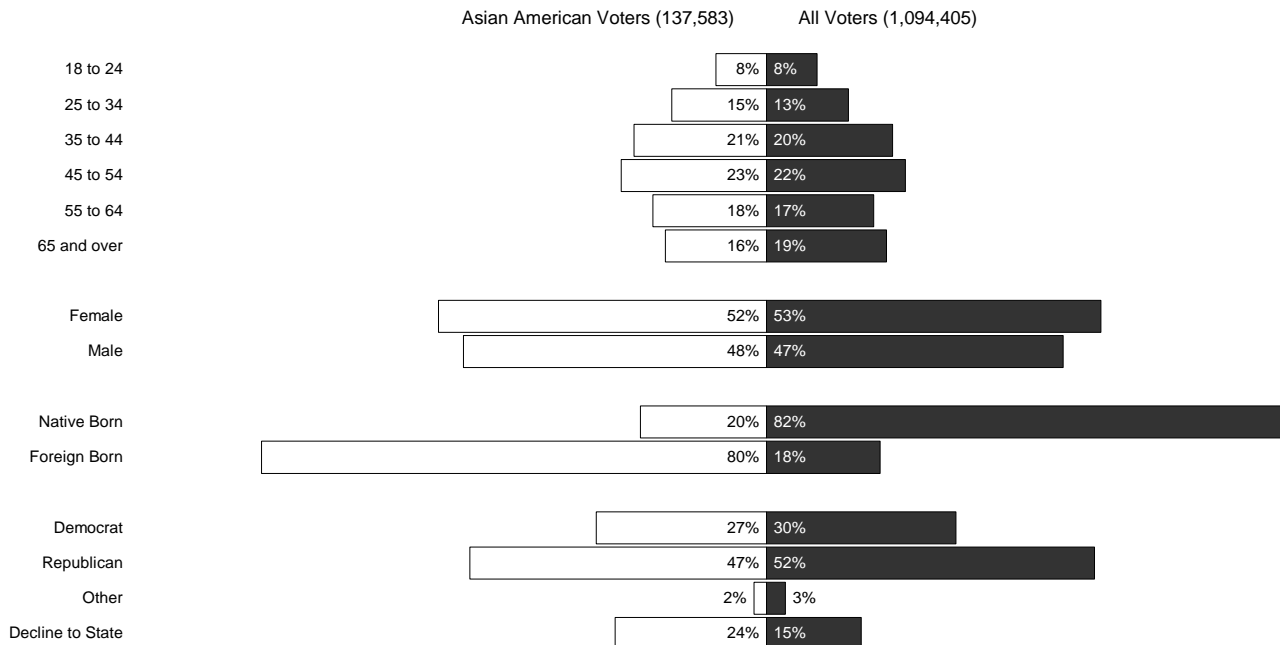


Figure 3: Demographics of Asian American Voters, Orange County 2004 General Election



# Voter Turnout Demographics

Who voted on Election Day? The demographics of the Asian American vote during the 2004 General Election were both similar to and different from the demographics of all voters.

While the age and gender profiles of Asian American voters were similar to those of all voters in both Los Angeles and Orange Counties, their nativity and party profiles differed dramatically (see Figures 2 and 3). In contrast to all voters, approximately 67% of Asian American voters in Los Angeles County and 80% of Asian American voters in Orange County were born abroad. Also different were the more than 29% of Asian American voters in Los Angeles County and 24% of Asian American voters in Orange County who did not affiliate with a political party.

Asian Americans are perhaps the most ethnically diverse racial group in Southern California. That diversity was apparent in Asian American electorates in Los Angeles and Orange Counties.

Among Asian American ethnic groups in Los Angeles County, Filipino Americans constituted the largest group of voters, numbering nearly 79,000 and making up 29% of all Asian American voters countywide. They were followed closely by Chinese Americans, who numbered over 74,000 and made up 27% of all Asian American voters countywide.

In Orange County, Vietnamese Americans made up 38% of all Asian American voters, numbering nearly 53,000. Filipinos (25,000) and Chinese (17,000) Americans also had large numbers of voters.

*Table 1: Asian American Voters by Ethnic Group in Los Angeles County 2004 General Election*

GROUP	Voters	Percent of Asian American Voters
Asian Indian	12,616	5%
Cambodian	3,706	1%
Chinese	74,496	27%
Filipino	78,770	29%
Japanese	31,130	11%
Korean	35,109	13%
Vietnamese	24,712	9%
<b>TOTAL ASIAN AMERICAN</b>	<b>271,497</b>	<b>100%</b>

NOTE: Figures do not include all Asian American ethnic groups, will not sum to total.

*Table 2: Asian American Voters by Ethnic Group in Orange County 2004 General Election*

GROUP	Voters	Percent of Asian American Voters
Asian Indian	7,097	5%
Cambodian	1,811	1%
Chinese	16,999	12%
Filipino	25,358	18%
Japanese	9,860	7%
Korean	12,612	9%
Vietnamese	52,508	38%
<b>TOTAL ASIAN AMERICAN</b>	<b>137,583</b>	<b>100%</b>

NOTE: Figures do not include all Asian American ethnic groups, will not sum to total.

# Voter Turnout By Ethnic Group

*While strong, Asian American voter turnout still lagged behind that of the total electorate.*

Throughout this report, voter turnout is represented as the percent of registered voters who cast ballots. While strong, Asian American voter turnout still lagged behind that of all registered voters. In Los Angeles County, 71% of Asian Americans registered to vote turned out to vote on Election Day, compared to 78% of all registered voters. Turnout among Asian Americans in Orange County (68%) was also lower than that of all registered voters countywide (73%).

Turnout among Asian American voters varied by ethnic group. In both counties, Japanese American voters were the only Asian American ethnic group whose rate of voter turnout exceeded that of the total electorate. Cambodian American voters had the lowest voter turnout among Asian American ethnic groups in both counties.

Figure 4: Asian American Voter Turnout by Ethnic Group in Los Angeles County 2004 General Election

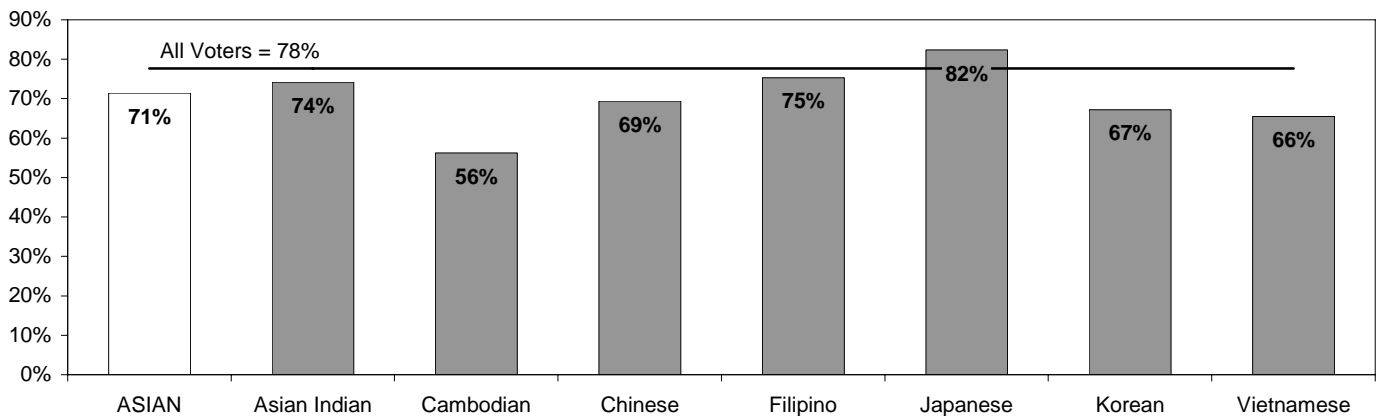
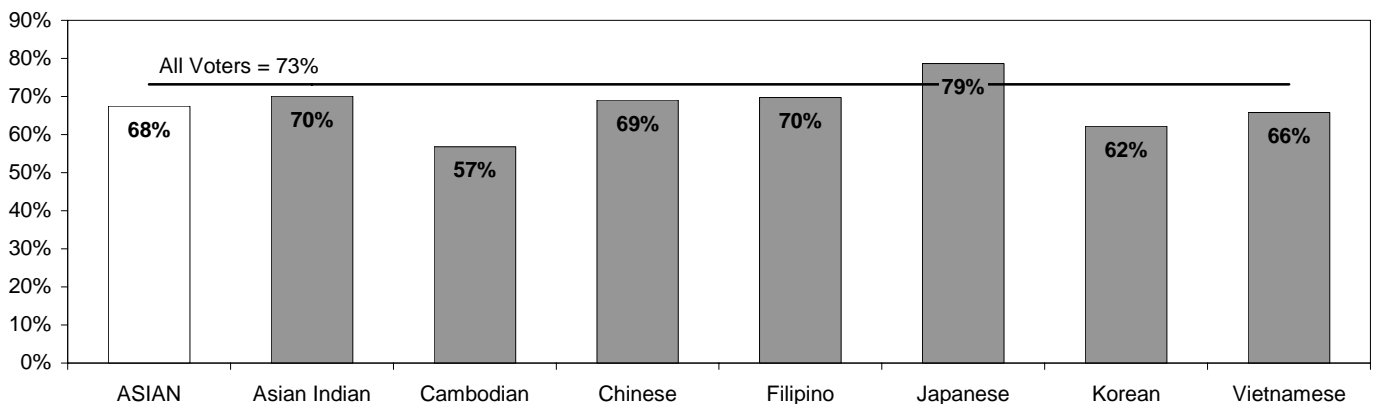


Figure 5: Asian American Voter Turnout by Ethnic Group in Orange County 2004 General Election



# Voter Turnout By Geography

Table 3 captures cities in Los Angeles and Orange Counties with the largest number of Asian American voters, the percent of all voters that are Asian American, and the percent of Asian American registered voters who voted (Asian American voter turnout).

Outside the city of Los Angeles, the cities with the largest Asian American electorates in Southern California reside in Orange County. During the 2004 General Election, Garden Grove, Irvine, Westminster, and Anaheim had the largest number of Asian American voters. In Los Angeles County, large numbers of Asian American voters also reside in Torrance, Long Beach, Monterey Park, and Cerritos.

Monterey Park was the first city in the continental United States whose population was majority Asian American. During the 2004 General Election, it was the only city in Southern California with a majority Asian American electorate. Among other cities with large numbers of Asian American voters, Cerritos, Alhambra, and Rosemead in Los Angeles County and Garden Grove and Westminster in Orange County had electorates that were a third or more Asian American.

Among cities with large numbers of Asian American voters, voter turnout was highest in Torrance, Los Angeles, Cerritos, Glendale, Irvine, Huntington Beach, and Orange. Many cities with the largest number of Asian American voters also had the lowest voter turnout. During the 2004 General Election, turnout was low in Rosemead, Santa Ana, Garden Grove, and Anaheim.

Table 3: Largest Number of Asian American Voters by City, 2004 General Election

CITY NAME	County	# Asian American Voters	% Asian American Voters	Asian American Voter Turnout
LOS ANGELES	LA	82,191	7%	73%
GARDEN GROVE	OR	17,144	34%	65%
IRVINE	OR	14,730	21%	70%
WESTMINSTER	OR	13,325	43%	66%
ANAHEIM	OR	12,497	14%	65%
TORRANCE	LA	10,706	17%	77%
SANTA ANA	OR	10,280	15%	63%
LONG BEACH	LA	9,749	7%	66%
MONTEREY PARK	LA	9,532	52%	68%
CERRITOS	LA	8,530	39%	72%
ALHAMBRA	LA	8,099	33%	67%
HUNTINGTON BEACH	OR	7,693	8%	70%
ARCADIA	LA	6,472	31%	68%
GLENDALE	LA	6,300	10%	71%
FULLERTON	OR	6,236	13%	66%
DIAMOND BAR	LA	5,924	28%	67%
FOUNTAIN VALLEY	OR	5,917	22%	69%
WEST COVINA	LA	4,867	14%	69%
ORANGE	OR	4,756	9%	70%
ROSEMEAD	LA	4,534	39%	60%
LOS ANGELES CO	LA	271,497	9%	71%
ORANGE CO	OR	137,583	13%	68%

# Voter Turnout By Age

Figure 6: Voter Turnout by Age in Los Angeles County  
2004 General Election

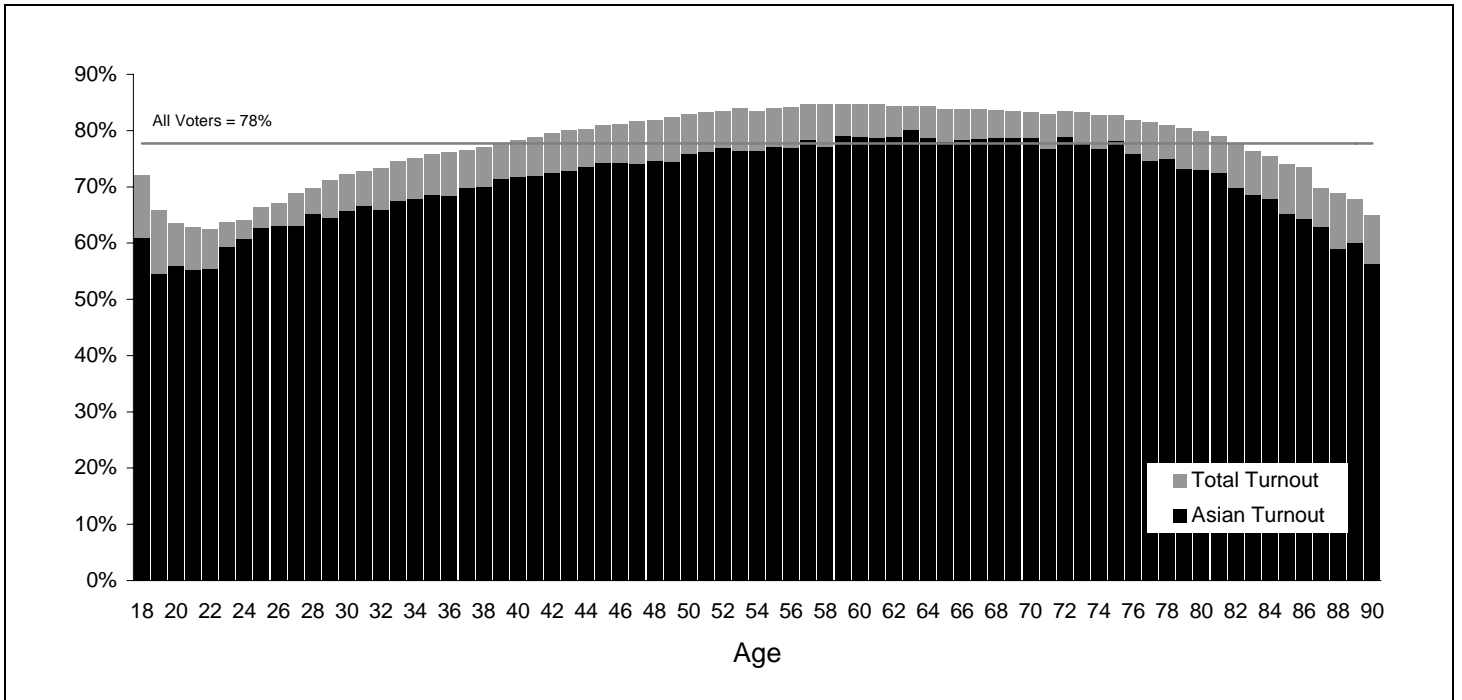
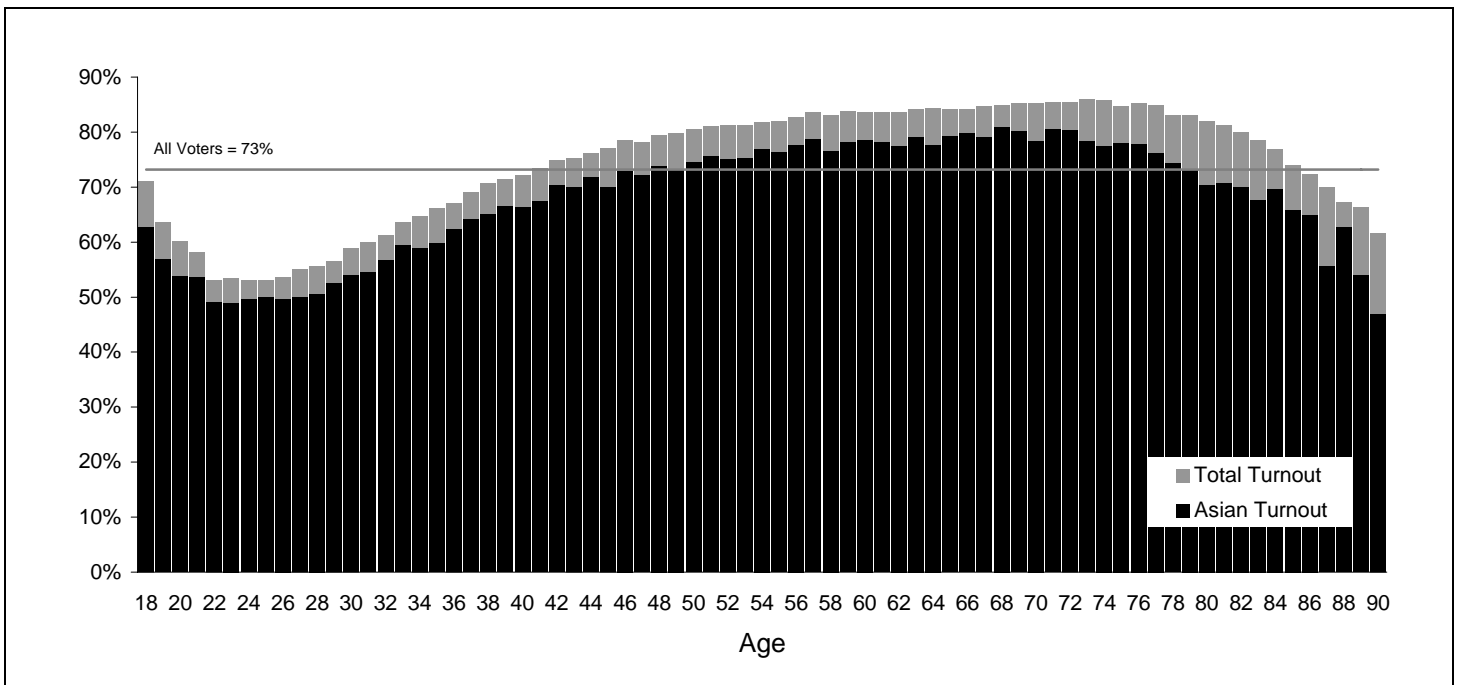


Figure 7: Voter Turnout by Age in Orange County  
2004 General Election



# Voter Turnout By Nativity (Native vs. Foreign-Born)

Asian American immigrants came to the polls in large numbers on Election Day, with over 181,000 voting in Los Angeles County and over 110,000 voting in Orange County. Over 67% of Asian American voters in Los Angeles County and 80% of Asian American voters in Orange County were born outside the United States.

*Asian American immigrants came to the polls on Election Day, with over 181,000 voting in Los Angeles County and over 110,000 voting in Orange County.*

Yet the power of the immigrant electorate has yet to be fully realized. Immigrant voter turnout lagged behind native-born voter turnout in both counties (with a lone exception among Vietnamese American voters in Orange County). Examining voter turnout by nativity and age shows that the turnout of native-born Asian American voters approached, matched, or exceeded that of all native-born voters, with greater challenges facing Asian American youth. Similarly, the turnout of Asian American immigrant voters approached, matched, or exceeded that of all immigrant voters. These findings suggest that lower Asian American voter turnout is largely a product of challenges endemic to the immigrant experience.

Figure 8: Voter Turnout by Age, Nativity in Los Angeles County, 2004 General Election

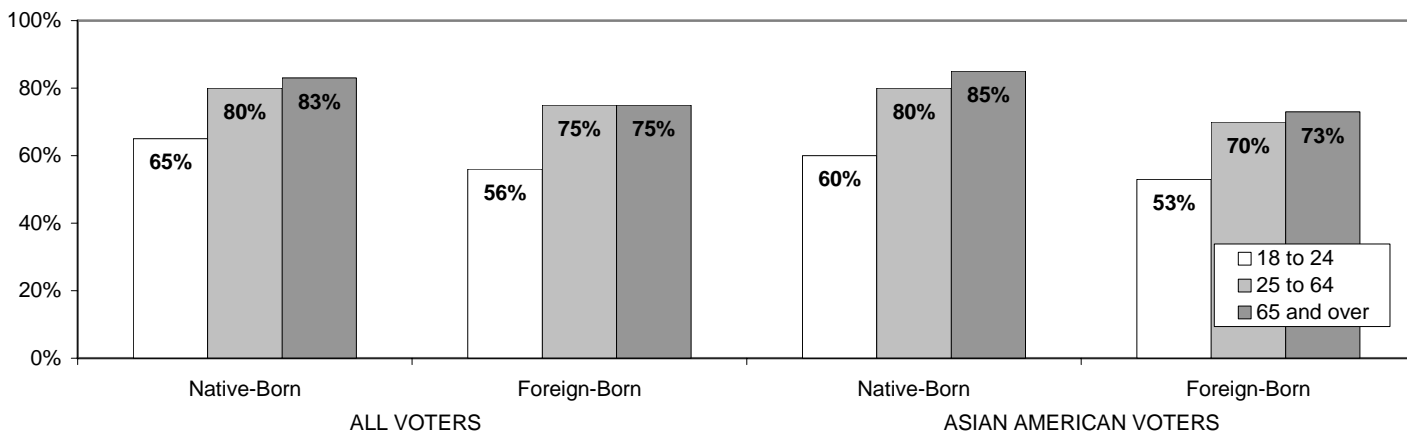
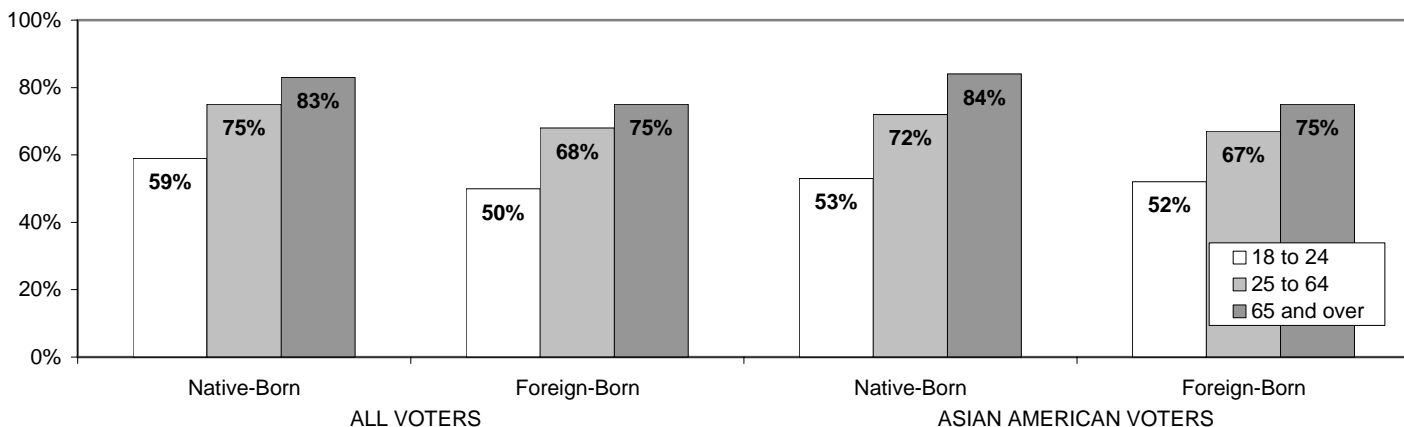


Figure 9: Voter Turnout by Age, Nativity in Orange County, 2004 General Election



# Voter Turnout By Gender

While the turnout of native-born Asian American women exceeded that of native-born Asian American men in both Los Angeles and Orange Counties, there was little difference in turnout between foreign-born Asian American women and men.

Analysis by ethnic group revealed a few exceptions. The turnout of foreign-born women exceeded that of foreign-born men among Filipino and Japanese Americans in both counties and among Korean Americans in Orange County. In contrast, the turnout of men exceeded that of women only among foreign-born Indian American voters in both counties and among native-born Cambodian American voters in Los Angeles County.

Figure 10: Voter Turnout by Gender, Racial and Ethnic Group in Los Angeles County, 2004 General Election

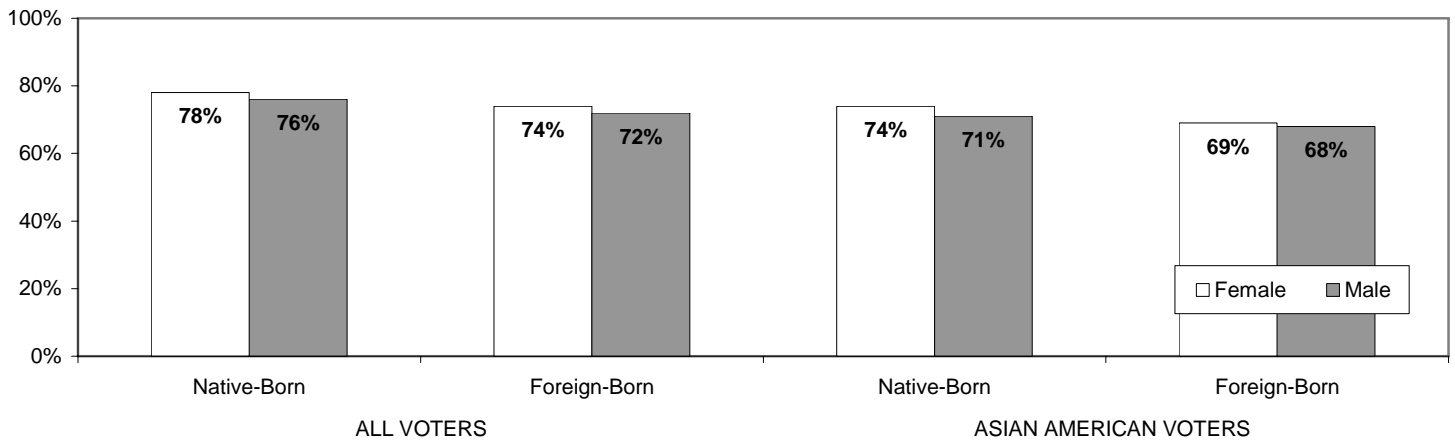
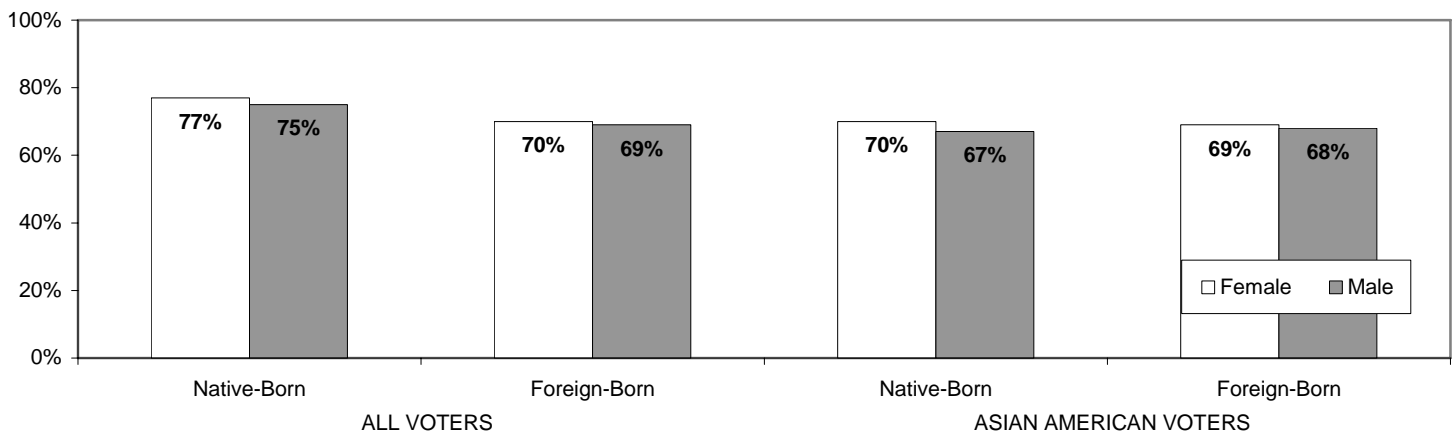


Figure 11: Voter Turnout by Gender, Racial and Ethnic Group in Orange County, 2004 General Election



# Use of Absentee Ballot

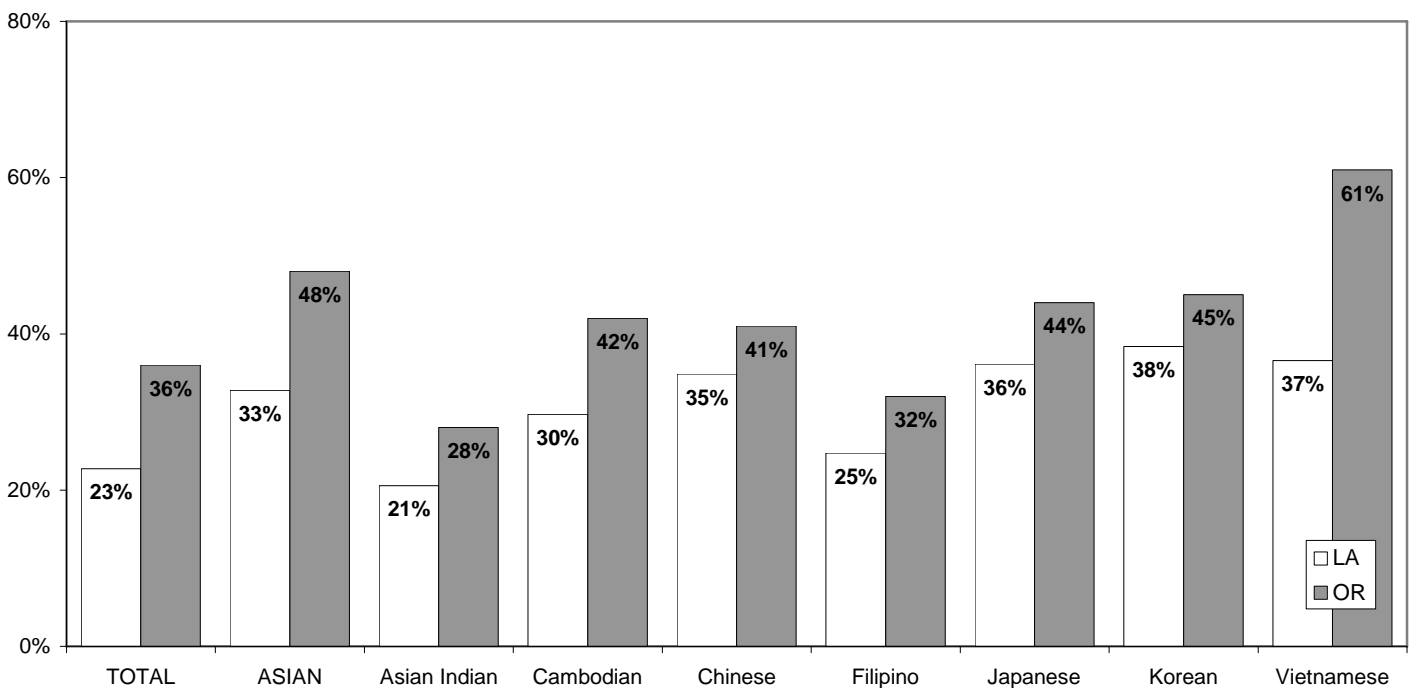
During the 2004 General Election, roughly 23% of all voters in Los Angeles County and 36% of all voters in Orange County voted by absentee ballot. In both counties, Asian American voters were more likely than others to vote by mail. While one-third of Asian American voters in Los Angeles County voted by absentee ballot, nearly half of Asian American voters in Orange County voted by mail.

In Los Angeles County, Korean American voters were most likely among Asian American ethnic groups to vote by absentee ballot. In Orange County, an astonishing 61% of Vietnamese American voters voted by mail, by far the highest rate among Asian American ethnic groups. In both counties, Indian Americans were the least likely of Asian American ethnic groups to vote by absentee ballot.

Are those who vote absentee more likely to vote than those who vote at the polls? Turnout among all Permanent Absentee Voters (PAV) during the 2004 General Election was 87%, compared to 77% among all non-PAV voters. Among Asian Americans registered as PAV, 83% voted on Election Day, compared to 70% of Asian Americans not registered as PAV.

*While one-third of Asian American voters in Los Angeles County voted by absentee ballot, nearly half of Asian American voters in Orange County voted by mail.*

Figure 12: Percent Voting by Absentee Ballot by Racial and Ethnic Group in Los Angeles, Orange Counties, 2004 General Election



# How Did Asian Americans Vote? Presidential Race

*In Los Angeles County, Asian American voters supported Kerry, with 59% voting for the challenger against the incumbent President.*

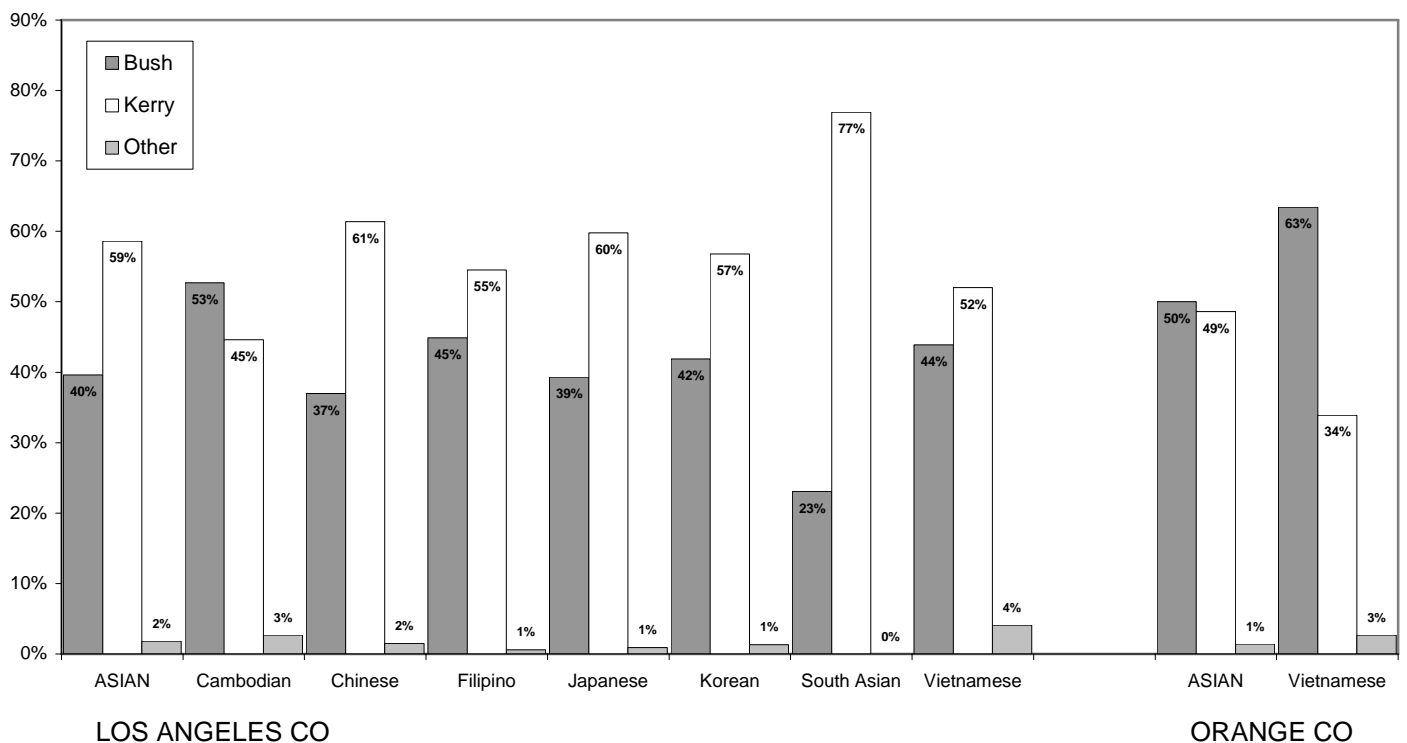
How did Asian Americans vote during the 2004 General Election?

The focal point of the election was the presidential race between incumbent Republican George Bush and Democrat John Kerry.

In Los Angeles County, Asian American voters supported Kerry, with 59% voting for the challenger against the incumbent President. That support was strong across most Asian American ethnic groups, including Chinese, Filipino, Japanese, Korean, and South Asian American voters. A slim majority of Vietnamese American voters supported Kerry, while a slim majority of Cambodian American voters supported Bush.

In contrast, the Asian American vote for President in Orange County was tightly contested, with neither candidate securing a clear majority of votes. While 63% of Vietnamese American voters supported Bush, 58% of the remaining Asian American electorate supported Kerry.

Figure 13: Presidential Vote by Race, Ethnicity in Los Angeles, Orange Counties 2004 General Election



# How Did Asian Americans Vote? Presidential Race

Given the diversity in the Asian American community, it is important to assess how Asian Americans voted by characteristics such as age, nativity (native versus foreign-born), and party.

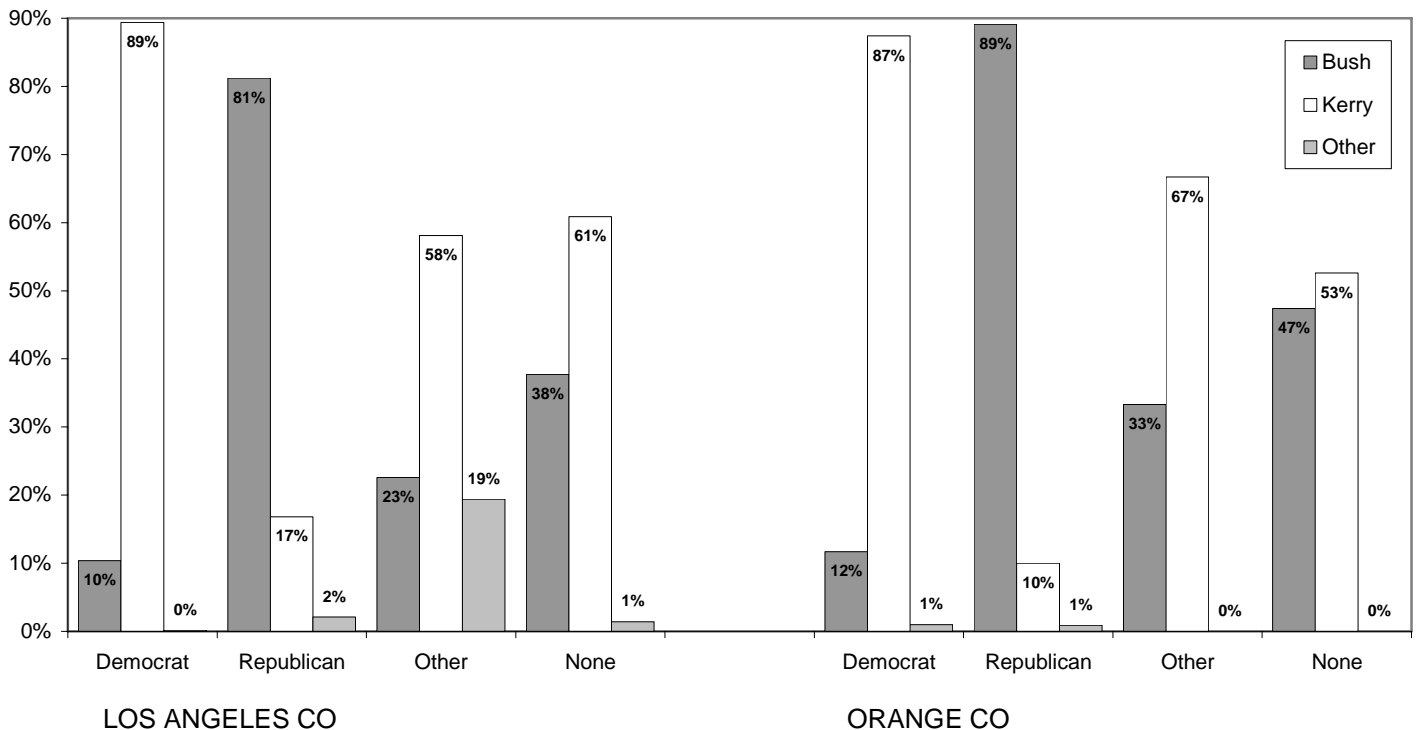
In Los Angeles County, Asian American voters of all age groups supported Kerry, although that support waned among older voters. Those 55 to 64 were nearly split in their support for the two candidates. In Orange County, Asian American voters 18 to 34 tended to support Kerry, while those 35 and older tended to support Bush.

Like all voters, Asian American immigrant voters in Los Angeles and Orange Counties were divided in their choice of candidates. While 55% of Asian American immigrant voters in Los Angeles County supported Kerry, 53% of Asian American immigrant voters in Orange County supported Bush.

Because of the large number of Asian American voters who decline to state affiliation with a political party, it is important to examine how these unaffiliated voters vote. While Asian American voters holding party affiliation tended to vote along party lines, a majority of unaffiliated Asian American voters in both Los Angeles and Orange Counties voted for Kerry.

*In both Los Angeles and Orange Counties, the majority of Asian American voters unaffiliated with a political party voted for Kerry.*

Figure 14: Asian American Presidential Vote by Party Affiliation in Los Angeles, Orange Counties 2004 General Election



# How Did Asian Americans Vote? Local Races

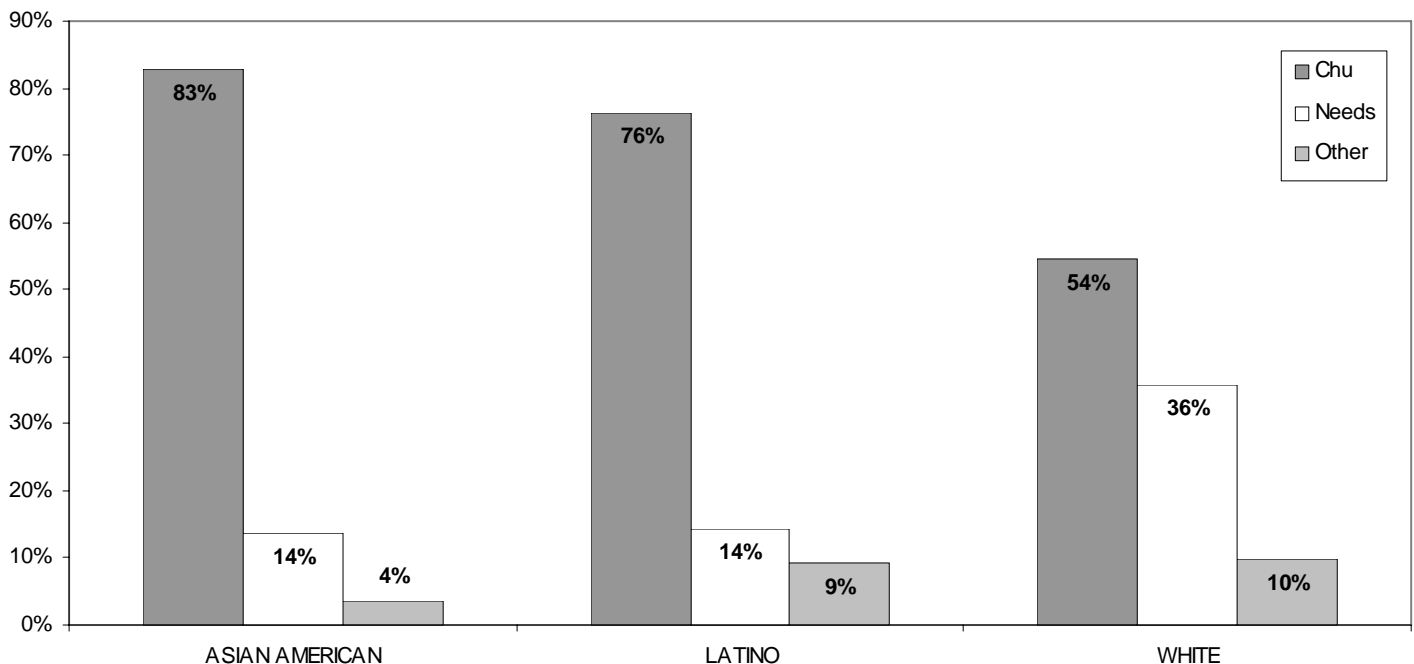
*Cultivated through years of service, support for Assemblymember Judy Chu came from throughout her district.*

While the Presidential race was the focal point of the 2004 General Election, other local races in Los Angeles and Orange Counties garnered attention from Asian American voters.

In the San Gabriel Valley, incumbent Democratic Assemblymember Judy Chu successfully defended her seat representing California State Assembly District 49 against Republican challenger Sandra Needs. Cultivated through years of service on the Monterey Park City Council and in the California State Assembly, support for Chu came from throughout her district, with a majority of Asian Americans, Latinos, and Whites voting for the incumbent. Nearly 83% of Asian Americans, 76% of Latinos, and 54% of Whites voted for Chu.

In Orange County, eight candidates vied for three open seats on the Garden Grove Unified School District Governing Board. While incumbent Linda Paulsen-Reed and newcomers KimOanh Nguyen-Lam and Trung Nguyen were elected, support for candidates varied by racial group. As challengers, Asian American candidates Nguyen and Nguyen-Lam relied heavily on the Asian American vote. Asian American voters strongly supported Nguyen (63%) and Nguyen-Lam (56%), while White voters supported White candidates Paulsen-Reed (46%) and Kerri Weisenberger (42%).

Figure 15: California State Assembly District 49 Vote by Race  
2004 General Election



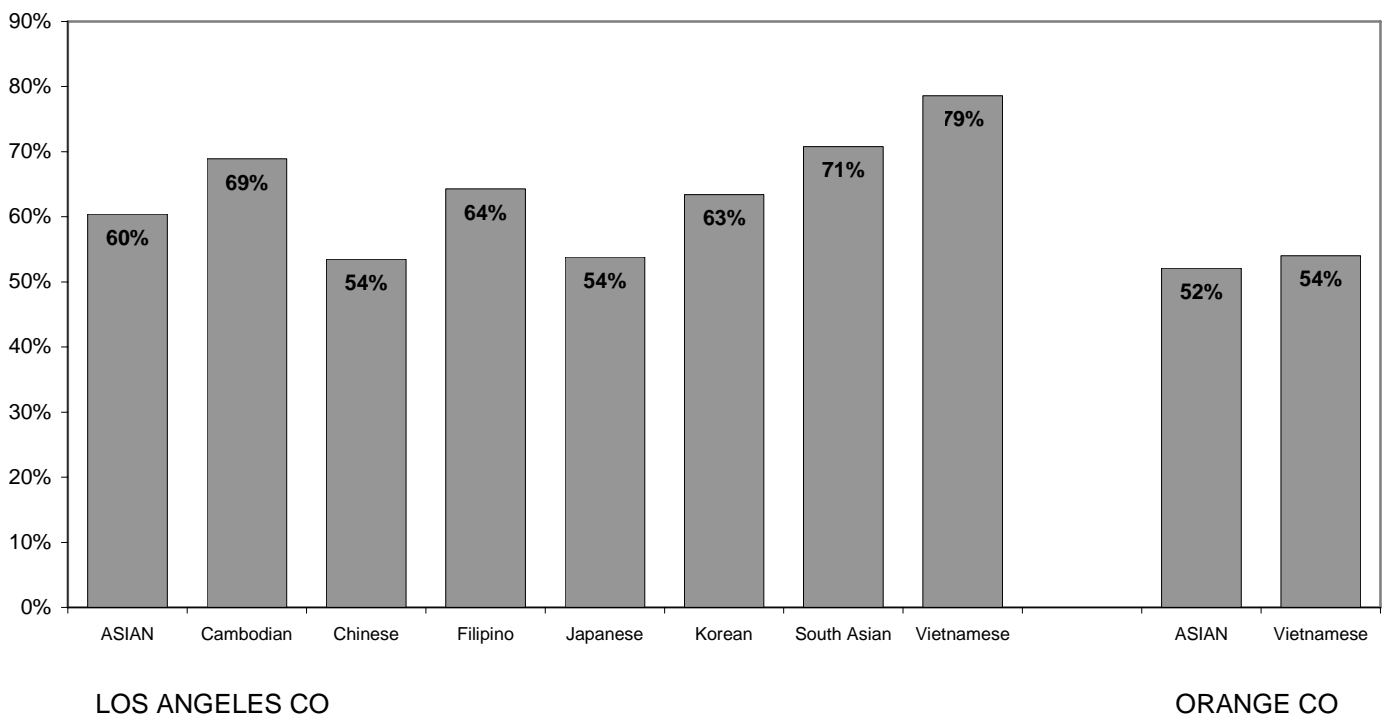
# How Did Asian Americans Vote? Proposition 72 (Health Insurance)

Proposition 72 was among the more visible measures on the 2004 General Election ballot. The measure would have required larger businesses to provide health care insurance coverage to employees. Given the large number of uninsured Asian Americans, access to health insurance is a critical issue for Asian American communities.

Although the initiative was defeated, a majority of Asian American voters in both Los Angeles and Orange Counties supported the measure. Often considered among the most conservative Asian American communities, Vietnamese and Cambodian American voters were among those most strongly in support of Proposition 72: 79% of Vietnamese American and 69% of Cambodian American voters in Los Angeles County and 54% of Vietnamese American in Orange County voted in favor of the initiative. Asian American voters were likely to cross party lines to support an issue of importance to their communities.

*Asian American voters were likely to cross party lines to support an issue of importance to their communities.*

Figure 16: Percent of Voters Supporting Proposition 72 by Race, Ethnicity in Los Angeles, Orange Counties 2004 General Election



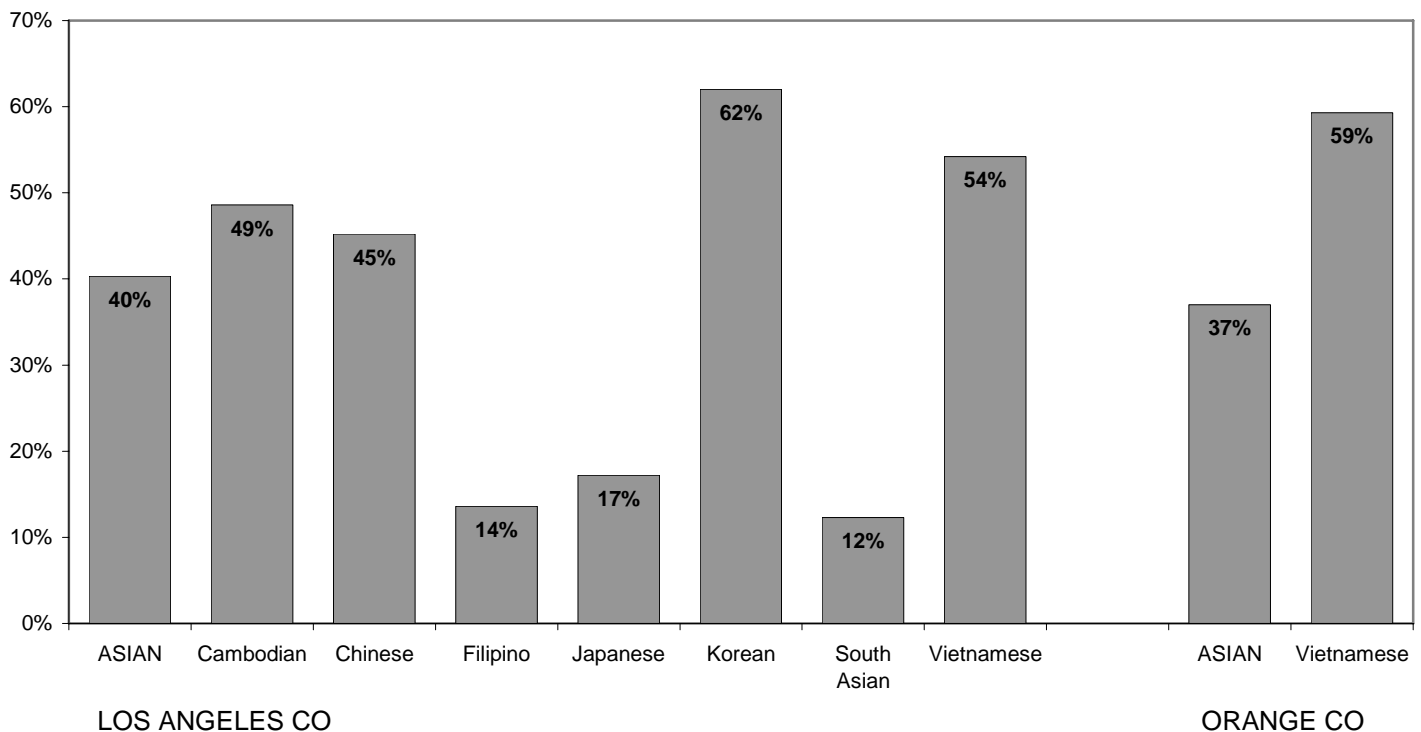
# How Did Asian Americans Vote? Language Assistance

*Exit poll data demonstrate the ongoing need for Section 203 and the provision of language assistance to Asian American voters.*

Thousands of Asian Americans in Los Angeles and Orange Counties experience some difficulty communicating in English that limits their ability to effectively exercise their right to vote. To address these language barriers, Section 203 of the Voting Rights Act requires certain jurisdictions to provide written and oral assistance to voters in languages other than English. In Los Angeles County, assistance is provided in Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Tagalog, and Vietnamese. In Orange County, assistance is provided in Chinese, Korean, and Vietnamese.

Exit poll data demonstrate the ongoing need for Section 203 and the provision of language assistance to Asian American voters. During the 2004 General Election, rates of limited English proficiency were only slightly lower among Asian American voters than among all Asian Americans. Over 40% of Asian American voters in Los Angeles County and 37% of Asian American voters in Orange County have some difficulty reading English. Some electorates, including Korean and Vietnamese Americans in Los Angeles County and Vietnamese Americans in Orange County, are majority limited English proficient.

Figure 17: Limited English Proficiency Among Asian American Voters by Ethnic Group in Los Angeles, Orange Counties 2004 General Election



# How Did Asian Americans Vote? Language Assistance

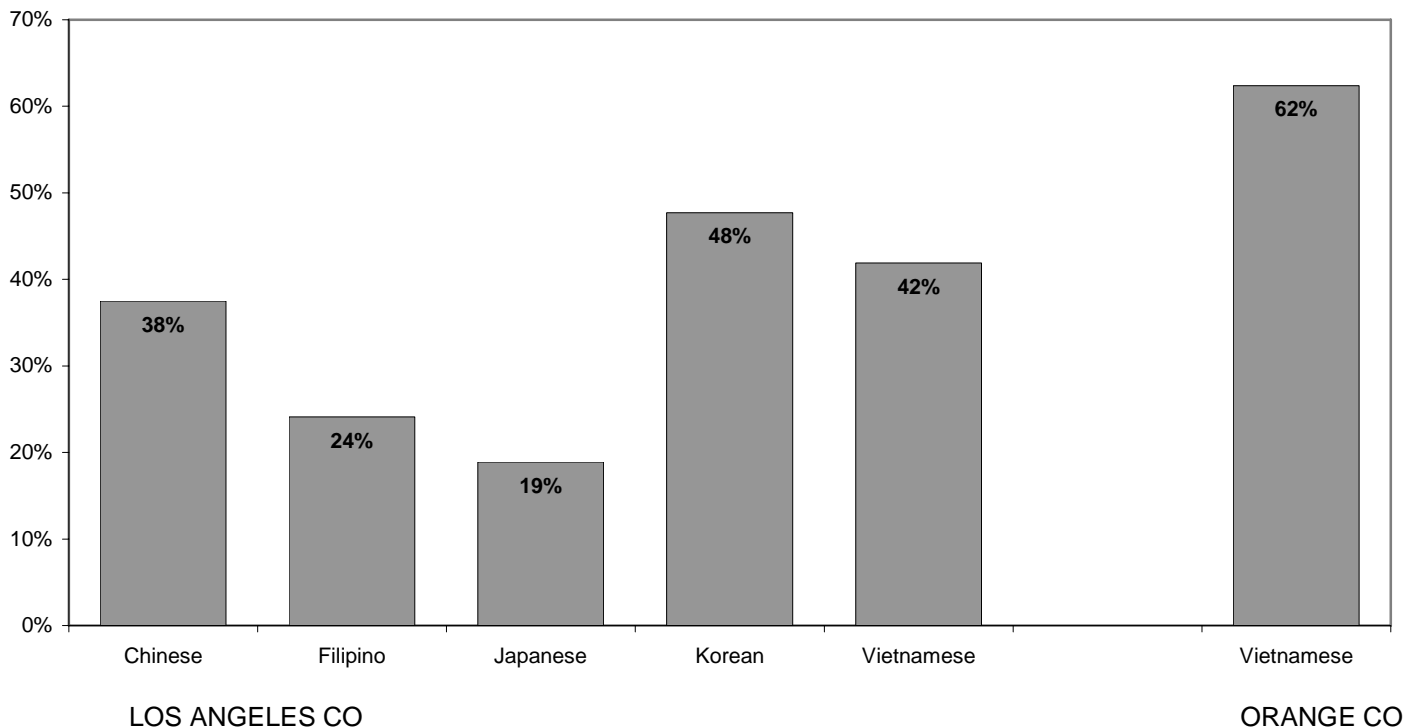
Asian American voters in both Los Angeles and Orange Counties also use the language assistance mandated under Section 203.

In Los Angeles County, use of language assistance was greatest among Korean American voters, 48% of whom used written and/or oral language assistance. Among other groups for whom language assistance is mandated by law, 42% of Vietnamese American, 38% of Chinese American, 24% of Filipino American, and 19% of Japanese American voters used some form of language assistance.

In Orange County, a *majority* of Vietnamese American voters used written or oral language assistance.

*In Orange County, a majority of Vietnamese voters used written or oral language assistance.*

Figure 18: Use of Language Assistance by Asian American Voters by Ethnic Group in Los Angeles, Orange Counties 2004 General Election



# Policy Recommendations

## ***Increase Get-Out-the-Vote Efforts***

Asian Americans constitute an increasingly large proportion of Southern California's electorate, making up a majority or near majority of voters in several cities, including Monterey Park, Cerritos, Rowland Heights, and Rosemead in Los Angeles County and Westminster in Orange County.

Yet Asian American voter turnout remains below average. While get-out-the-vote (GOTV) and other voter turnout efforts targeting all Asian Americans are needed, special attention should be directed toward Cambodian, Vietnamese, and Korean American voters in Los Angeles County and Cambodian and Korean American voters in Orange County. GOTV efforts should also target cities that have low Asian American voter turnout, including Rosemead and Rowland Heights in Los Angeles County, and Santa Ana, Garden Grove, and Anaheim in Orange County.

## ***Engage Voters on the Issues***

Asian American voters are less likely than other voters to be affiliated with a political party and rely heavily on issues to make decisions about which candidates and ballot measures to support. In the 2004 General Election, Asian American ethnic groups with significant Republican registration supported Proposition 72, which would have increased health insurance coverage in California, but was opposed by California's Republican Party.

As Asian American and Pacific Islander electorates grow, elected officials and candidates vying for political office must reach out to AAPI communities and the community organizations that represent their interests to better understand the issues important to them. Community organizations must also engage in greater advocacy to ensure local, state, and federal decision makers are aware of and respond to community concerns.

## ***Work Collaboratively to Ensure Language Assistance to Voters***

Congress recently reauthorized Section 203 of the Voting Rights Act. This important piece of legislation requires certain jurisdictions to provide written and oral assistance to voters in languages other than English.

These data clearly demonstrate both a need for language assistance and its use among Asian American voters. Because rates of limited English proficiency remain high among Asian American voters, there is significant need for assistance in Asian languages. This need is also reflected in the use of language assistance, with large numbers of Korean, Vietnamese, and Chinese American voters using written and/or oral language assistance. Counties should work collaboratively with community organizations and others to ensure Asian American voters in Los Angeles and Orange Counties receive the help they need.

*Asian Americans at the Ballot Box* draws from two sources of data: (1) voter registration and history data from Los Angeles and Orange County Registrar of Voters Offices and (2) the November 2004 Southern California Voter Survey.

## ***Voter Registration and History Data***

Information on Asian American voter turnout was drawn from voter registration and history data purchased from Los Angeles and Orange County Registrar of Voters Offices under strict disclosure limitations. These data include information on every voter in Los Angeles and Orange Counties, including their location, age, place of birth, and party affiliation. APALC estimated the racial and ethnic background of Asian American voters by matching voter names to ethnic name lists developed through an analysis of over 15 million birth and death records obtained from the California Department of Health Services.

## ***November 2004 Southern California Voter Survey***

Information on how Asian Americans voted was drawn from the November 2004 Southern California Voter Survey. The Voter Survey is an exit poll, or survey of voters as they emerge from a polling place after having cast their vote on Election Day. APALC surveyed 4,333 voters with regard to (1) their positions on candidates and ballot measures, (2) their language ability and use of bilingual voter assistance mandated under Section 203 of the Voting Rights Act, and (3) general demographic characteristics. On candidates and ballot measures, voters were asked how they voted in the Presidential race, race for California State Assembly District 49, and race for Garden Grove Unified School District Governing Board.

The questionnaire instrument was translated from English into eight languages: Chinese, Hindi, Khmer, Korean, Japanese, Spanish, Tagalog, and Vietnamese. Languages were chosen based on an analysis of language need in Los Angeles and Orange Counties. When possible, the instrument was administered by a bilingual volunteer.

To draw a representative sample of AAPIs, APALC employed a research design that augmented a random sample of precincts throughout Los Angeles and Orange Counties with an oversample of precincts with high AAPI registration. Precincts were randomly selected for inclusion within each area of interest: the 49<sup>th</sup> State Assembly District, remainder of Los Angeles County, and Orange County. Because a simple random sample of precincts was likely to yield an inadequate number of AAPI voters, an oversample of precincts with high AAPI registration was conducted. Precincts with high AAPI voter registration were those that had higher AAPI registration than 80% of precincts countywide.

# Fact Sheet

## Cambodian American Voters in Southern California, 2004

### Demographics of Cambodian American Voters 2004 General Election

#### LOS ANGELES COUNTY

68% Foreign-Born  
23% 18 to 24  
49% Female, 51% Male  
32% Democrat, 38% Republican  
25% Decline to State

#### ORANGE COUNTY

84% Foreign-Born  
8% 18 to 24  
50% Female, 50% Male  
27% Democrat, 49% Republican  
20% Decline to State

### BY COUNTY, CITY

Table CA1: Largest Number of Cambodian American Voters by City, Los Angeles and Orange Counties, 2004 General Election

City Name	County	# Cambodian Am Voters	% of All Voters Citywide	Cambodian Am Voter Turnout*
Long Beach	LA	1,567	1%	51%
Los Angeles	LA	672	0%	66%
Santa Ana	OR	273	0%	40%
Anaheim	OR	193	0%	56%
Garden Grove	OR	184	0%	56%
Westminster	OR	138	0%	60%
Irvine	OR	93	0%	60%
Orange	OR	91	0%	65%
Lakewood	LA	90	0%	56%
Huntington Beach	OR	88	0%	63%
Los Angeles Co	LA	3,706	0%	56%
Orange Co	OR	1,811	0%	57%

### BY NATIVITY, AGE

Table CA2: Turnout\* of Cambodian American Voters by Nativity and Age, Los Angeles County, 2004 General Election

Nativity	Age			All Cambodian Am Voters
	18 to 24	25 to 64	65 and Over	
Native-Born	51%	76%	86%	61%
Foreign-Born	48%	55%	53%	54%
All Cambodian Am Voters	50%	58%	59%	56%

Table CA3: Turnout\* of Cambodian American Voters by Nativity and Age, Orange County, 2004 General Election

Nativity	Age			All Cambodian Am Voters
	18 to 24	25 to 64	65 and Over	
Native-Born	45%	60%	91%	56%
Foreign-Born	46%	57%	66%	57%
All Cambodian Am Voters	45%	57%	71%	57%

### OTHER VOTER CHARACTERISTICS

Tables CA4-7: Cambodian American Voter Characteristics in Los Angeles County, 2004 General Election

#### Vote in Presidential Race

Candidate	% Supporting Candidate
Bush	53%
Kerry	45%
Other	3%

#### Vote on Prop 72 (Health Care)

Vote on Prop 72	% Supporting Position
Yes	69%
No	31%

#### Limited English Proficiency (LEP)

LEP	% of Cambodian Am Voters
Yes	49%
No	51%

#### Use of Language Assistance

Used Assistance	% of Cambodian Am Voters
Yes	N/A
No	N/A

\* Turnout represents the percent of registered voters eligible to vote in the 2004 General Election who cast ballots in that election.

# Fact Sheet

## Chinese American Voters in Southern California, 2004

### Demographics of Chinese American Voters 2004 General Election

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY**  
71% Foreign-Born  
9% 18 to 24

52% Female, 48% Male  
29% Democrat, 29% Republican  
40% Decline to State

**ORANGE COUNTY**  
67% Foreign-Born  
10% 18 to 24

52% Female, 48% Male  
21% Democrat, 40% Republican  
37% Decline to State

### BY COUNTY, CITY

Table CH1: Largest Number of Chinese American Voters by City, Los Angeles and Orange Counties, 2004 General Election

City Name	County	# Chinese Am Voters	% of All Voters Citywide	Chinese Am Voter Turnout*
Los Angeles	LA	15,482	1%	74%
Monterey Park	LA	4,925	27%	66%
Irvine	OR	4,351	6%	68%
Alhambra	LA	4,297	17%	66%
Arcadia	LA	4,102	19%	67%
Diamond Bar	LA	2,410	11%	64%
Cerritos	LA	2,266	10%	70%
Torrance	LA	2,076	3%	74%
Temple City	LA	1,998	16%	68%
Walnut	LA	1,948	17%	63%
Los Angeles Co	LA	74,496	2%	69%
Orange Co	OR	16,999	2%	69%

### BY NATIVITY, AGE

Table CH2: Turnout\* of Chinese American Voters by Nativity and Age, Los Angeles County, 2004 General Election

Nativity	Age			All Chinese Am Voters
	18 to 24	25 to 64	65 and Over	
Native-Born	60%	81%	83%	75%
Foreign-Born	51%	68%	69%	67%
All Chinese Am Voters	57%	71%	71%	69%

Table CH3: Turnout\* of Chinese American Voters by Nativity and Age, Orange County, 2004 General Election

Nativity	Age			All Chinese Am Voters
	18 to 24	25 to 64	65 and Over	
Native-Born	55%	73%	82%	68%
Foreign-Born	50%	70%	73%	70%
All Chinese Am Voters	54%	71%	74%	69%

### OTHER VOTER CHARACTERISTICS

Tables CH4-7: Chinese American Voter Characteristics in Los Angeles County, 2004 General Election

#### Vote in Presidential Race

Candidate	% Supporting Candidate
Bush	37%
Kerry	61%
Other	2%

#### Vote on Prop 72 (Health Care)

Vote on Prop 72	% Supporting Position
Yes	54%
No	47%

#### Limited English Proficiency (LEP)

LEP	% of Chinese Am Voters
Yes	45%
No	55%

#### Use of Language Assistance

Used Assistance	% of Chinese Am Voters
Yes	38%
No	62%

\* Turnout represents the percent of registered voters eligible to vote in the 2004 General Election who cast ballots in that election.

# Fact Sheet

## Filipino American Voters in Southern California, 2004

### Demographics of Filipino American Voters 2004 General Election

#### LOS ANGELES COUNTY

78% Foreign-Born  
8% 18 to 24  
57% Female, 43% Male  
41% Democrat, 33% Republican  
23% Decline to State

#### ORANGE COUNTY

84% Foreign-Born  
6% 18 to 24  
59% Female, 41% Male  
30% Democrat, 46% Republican  
23% Decline to State

### BY COUNTY, CITY

Table FI1: Largest Number of Filipino American Voters by City, Los Angeles and Orange Counties, 2004 General Election

City Name	County	# Filipino Am Voters	% of All Voters Citywide	Filipino Am Voter Turnout*
Los Angeles	LA	28,476	3%	75%
Carson	LA	4,678	14%	69%
Long Beach	LA	4,623	3%	71%
Anaheim	OR	3,508	4%	66%
Glendale	LA	2,794	4%	76%
West Covina	LA	2,370	7%	74%
Cerritos	LA	2,148	10%	79%
Buena Park	OR	1,964	9%	67%
Irvine	OR	1,893	3%	76%
Walnut	LA	1,306	11%	79%
Los Angeles Co	LA	78,770	3%	75%
Orange Co	OR	25,358	2%	70%

### BY NATIVITY, AGE

Table FI2: Turnout\* of Filipino American Voters by Nativity and Age, Los Angeles County, 2004 General Election

Nativity	Age			All Filipino Am Voters
	18 to 24	25 to 64	65 and Over	
Native-Born	66%	76%	79%	74%
Foreign-Born	58%	77%	75%	76%
All Filipino Am Voters	63%	77%	76%	75%

Table FI3: Turnout\* of Filipino American Voters by Nativity and Age, Orange County, 2004 General Election

Nativity	Age			All Filipino Am Voters
	18 to 24	25 to 64	65 and Over	
Native-Born	56%	71%	83%	68%
Foreign-Born	50%	71%	70%	70%
All Filipino Am Voters	53%	71%	71%	70%

### OTHER VOTER CHARACTERISTICS

Tables FI4-7: Filipino American Voter Characteristics in Los Angeles County, 2004 General Election

#### Vote in Presidential Race

Candidate	% Supporting Candidate
Bush	45%
Kerry	55%
Other	1%

#### Vote on Prop 72 (Health Care)

Vote on Prop 72	% Supporting Position
Yes	64%
No	36%

#### Limited English Proficiency (LEP)

LEP	% of Filipino Am Voters
Yes	14%
No	86%

#### Use of Language Assistance

Used Assistance	% of Filipino Am Voters
Yes	24%
No	76%

\* Turnout represents the percent of registered voters eligible to vote in the 2004 General Election who cast ballots in that election.

# Fact Sheet

## Indian American Voters in Southern California, 2004

### Demographics of Indian American Voters 2004 General Election

#### LOS ANGELES COUNTY

66% Foreign-Born  
13% 18 to 24  
47% Female, 53% Male  
51% Democrat, 20% Republican  
26% Decline to State

#### ORANGE COUNTY

78% Foreign-Born  
10% 18 to 24  
46% Female, 54% Male  
44% Democrat, 25% Republican  
28% Decline to State

### BY COUNTY, CITY

Table IN1: Largest Number of Indian American Voters by City, Los Angeles and Orange Counties, 2004 General Election

City Name	County	# Indian Am Voters	% of All Voters Citywide	Indian Am Voter Turnout*
Los Angeles	LA	4,748	0%	74%
Irvine	OR	1,249	2%	77%
Anaheim	OR	880	1%	64%
Cerritos	LA	754	3%	77%
Diamond Bar	LA	509	2%	73%
Fullerton	OR	456	1%	66%
Huntington Beach	OR	352	0%	72%
Orange	OR	342	1%	74%
Buena Park	OR	340	1%	56%
Yorba Linda	OR	336	1%	75%
Los Angeles Co	LA	12,616	0%	74%
Orange Co	OR	7,097	1%	70%

### BY NATIVITY, AGE

Table IN2: Turnout\* of Indian American Voters by Nativity and Age, Los Angeles County, 2004 General Election

Nativity	Age			All Indian Am Voters
	18 to 24	25 to 64	65 and Over	
Native-Born	62%	78%	81%	73%
Foreign-Born	61%	76%	75%	75%
All Indian Am Voters	62%	76%	77%	74%

Table IN3: Turnout\* of Indian American Voters by Nativity and Age, Orange County, 2004 General Election

Nativity	Age			All Indian Am Voters
	18 to 24	25 to 64	65 and Over	
Native-Born	61%	69%	84%	67%
Foreign-Born	60%	72%	71%	71%
All Indian Am Voters	61%	71%	72%	70%

### OTHER VOTER CHARACTERISTICS

Tables IN4-7: South Asian Voter Characteristics in Los Angeles County, 2004 General Election

#### Vote in Presidential Race

Candidate	% Supporting Candidate
Bush	23%
Kerry	77%
Other	0%

#### Vote on Prop 72 (Health Care)

Vote on Prop 72	% Supporting Position
Yes	71%
No	29%

#### Limited English Proficiency (LEP)

LEP	% of Indian Am Voters
Yes	12%
No	88%

#### Use of Language Assistance

Used Assistance	% of Indian Am Voters
Yes	N/A
No	N/A

\* Turnout represents the percent of registered voters eligible to vote in the 2004 General Election who cast ballots in that election.

# Fact Sheet

## Japanese American Voters in Southern California, 2004

### Demographics of Japanese American Voters 2004 General Election

#### LOS ANGELES COUNTY

15% Foreign-Born  
7% 18 to 24  
56% Female, 44% Male  
47% Democrat, 32% Republican  
18% Decline to State

#### ORANGE COUNTY

26% Foreign-Born  
6% 18 to 24  
54% Female, 46% Male  
33% Democrat, 48% Republican  
17% Decline to State

### BY COUNTY, CITY

Table JA1: Largest Number of Japanese American Voters by City, Los Angeles and Orange Counties, 2004 General Election

City Name	County	# Japanese Am Voters	% of All Voters Citywide	Japanese Am Voter Turnout*
Los Angeles	LA	9,687	1%	82%
Torrance	LA	3,497	6%	84%
Gardena	LA	1,681	9%	80%
Monterey Park	LA	1,385	7%	81%
Huntington Beach	OR	1,098	1%	80%
Long Beach	LA	967	1%	81%
Irvine	OR	870	1%	78%
Pasadena	LA	734	1%	85%
Anaheim	OR	691	1%	76%
Cerritos	LA	672	3%	86%
Los Angeles Co	LA	31,130	1%	82%
Orange Co	OR	9,860	1%	79%

### BY NATIVITY, AGE

Table JA2: Turnout\* of Japanese American Voters by Nativity and Age, Los Angeles County, 2004 General Election

Nativity	Age			All Japanese Am Voters
	18 to 24	25 to 64	65 and Over	
Native-Born	65%	85%	86%	84%
Foreign-Born	57%	77%	77%	77%
All Japanese Am Voters	64%	83%	84%	82%

Table JA3: Turnout\* of Japanese American Voters by Nativity and Age, Orange County, 2004 General Election

Nativity	Age			All Japanese Am Voters
	18 to 24	25 to 64	65 and Over	
Native-Born	58%	82%	87%	81%
Foreign-Born	51%	74%	78%	74%
All Japanese Am Voters	57%	79%	85%	79%

### OTHER VOTER CHARACTERISTICS

Tables JA4-7: Japanese American Voter Characteristics in Los Angeles County, 2004 General Election

#### Vote in Presidential Race

Candidate	% Supporting Candidate
Bush	39%
Kerry	60%
Other	1%

#### Vote on Prop 72 (Health Care)

Vote on Prop 72	% Supporting Position
Yes	54%
No	46%

#### Limited English Proficiency (LEP)

LEP	% of Japanese Am Voters
Yes	17%
No	83%

#### Use of Language Assistance

Used Assistance	% of Japanese Am Voters
Yes	19%
No	81%

\* Turnout represents the percent of registered voters eligible to vote in the 2004 General Election who cast ballots in that election.

# Fact Sheet

## Korean American Voters in Southern California, 2004

### Demographics of Korean American Voters 2004 General Election

**LOS ANGELES COUNTY**

81% Foreign-Born

8% 18 to 24

54% Female, 46% Male

39% Democrat, 32% Republican  
26% Decline to State

**ORANGE COUNTY**

84% Foreign-Born

8% 18 to 24

55% Female, 45% Male

31% Democrat, 45% Republican  
23% Decline to State

### BY COUNTY, CITY

Table KO1: Largest Number of Korean American Voters by City, Los Angeles and Orange Counties, 2004 General Election

City Name	County	# Korean Am Voters	% of All Voters Citywide	Korean Am Voter Turnout*
Los Angeles	LA	15,472	1%	68%
Irvine	OR	1,950	3%	65%
Fullerton	OR	1,813	4%	60%
Glendale	LA	1,698	3%	63%
Cerritos	LA	1,666	8%	66%
Torrance	LA	1,656	3%	69%
Anaheim	OR	1,101	1%	58%
Garden Grove	OR	944	2%	55%
Diamond Bar	LA	810	4%	59%
Buena Park	OR	719	3%	54%
Los Angeles Co	LA	35,109	1%	67%
Orange Co	OR	12,612	1%	62%

### BY NATIVITY, AGE

Table KO2: Turnout\* of Korean American Voters by Nativity and Age, Los Angeles County, 2004 General Election

Nativity	Age			All Korean Am Voters
	18 to 24	25 to 64	65 and Over	
Native-Born	51%	73%	84%	66%
Foreign-Born	50%	65%	76%	67%
All Korean Am Voters	51%	67%	76%	67%

Table KO3: Turnout\* of Korean American Voters by Nativity and Age, Orange County, 2004 General Election

Nativity	Age			All Korean Am Voters
	18 to 24	25 to 64	65 and Over	
Native-Born	45%	62%	79%	56%
Foreign-Born	44%	62%	75%	64%
All Korean Am Voters	45%	62%	75%	62%

### OTHER VOTER CHARACTERISTICS

Tables KO4-7: Korean American Voter Characteristics in Los Angeles County, 2004 General Election

#### Vote in Presidential Race

Candidate	% Supporting Candidate
Bush	42%
Kerry	57%
Other	1%

#### Vote on Prop 72 (Health Care)

Vote on Prop 72	% Supporting Position
Yes	63%
No	37%

#### Limited English Proficiency (LEP)

LEP	% of Korean Am Voters
Yes	62%
No	38%

#### Use of Language Assistance

Used Assistance	% of Korean Am Voters
Yes	48%
No	52%

\* Turnout represents the percent of registered voters eligible to vote in the 2004 General Election who cast ballots in that election.

# Fact Sheet

## Vietnamese American Voters in Southern California, 2004

### Demographics of Vietnamese American Voters 2004 General Election

#### LOS ANGELES COUNTY

85% Foreign-Born  
10% 18 to 24  
50% Female, 50% Male  
33% Democrat, 35% Republican  
28% Decline to State

#### ORANGE COUNTY

93% Foreign-Born  
8% 18 to 24  
49% Female, 51% Male  
23% Democrat, 53% Republican  
21% Decline to State

### BY COUNTY, CITY

Table VI1: Largest Number of Vietnamese American Voters by City, Los Angeles and Orange Counties, 2004 General Election

City Name	County	# Vietnamese Am Voters	% of All Voters Citywide	Vietnamese Am Voter Turnout*
Garden Grove	OR	12,677	25%	66%
Westminster	OR	10,735	34%	66%
Santa Ana	OR	6,776	10%	63%
Los Angeles	LA	5,944	1%	68%
Anaheim	OR	4,467	5%	66%
Fountain Valley	OR	3,212	12%	68%
Huntington Beach	OR	2,294	2%	65%
Irvine	OR	2,282	3%	69%
Rosemead	LA	1,613	14%	57%
El Monte	LA	1,582	9%	59%
Los Angeles Co	LA	24,712	1%	66%
Orange Co	OR	52,508	5%	66%

### BY NATIVITY, AGE

Table VI2: Turnout\* of Vietnamese American Voters by Nativity and Age, Los Angeles County, 2004 General Election

Nativity	Age			All Vietnamese Am Voters
	18 to 24	25 to 64	65 and Over	
Native-Born	56%	72%	75%	64%
Foreign-Born	50%	66%	70%	66%
All Vietnamese Am Voters	54%	67%	71%	66%

Table VI3: Turnout\* of Vietnamese American Voters by Nativity and Age, Orange County, 2004 General Election

Nativity	Age			All Vietnamese Am Voters
	18 to 24	25 to 64	65 and Over	
Native-Born	52%	55%	65%	54%
Foreign-Born	54%	66%	78%	67%
All Vietnamese Am Voters	53%	65%	78%	66%

### OTHER VOTER CHARACTERISTICS

Tables VI4-7: Vietnamese American Voter Characteristics in Orange County, 2004 General Election

#### Vote in Presidential Race

Candidate	% Supporting Candidate
Bush	63%
Kerry	34%
Other	3%

#### Vote on Prop 72 (Health Care)

Vote on Prop 72	% Supporting Position
Yes	54%
No	46%

#### Limited English Proficiency (LEP)

LEP	% of Vietnamese Am Voters
Yes	59%
No	41%

#### Use of Language Assistance

Used Assistance	% of Vietnamese Am Voters
Yes	62%
No	38%

\* Turnout represents the percent of registered voters eligible to vote in the 2004 General Election who cast ballots in that election.



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