2018. 4

<https://asamnews.com/2018/04/22/a-record-number-of-aapis-enter-the-political-arena-this-year/>

Nationwide, there are over 220 progressive AAPI candidates running for elected office on the federal, state, and local level in 32 states—including nine gubernatorial candidates.

Some criticize Asian Americans for not being as politically active as other ethnic groups. That could be attributed to the fact that a large segment of the AAPI community is first-generation immigrants, still trying to establish themselves economically and socially.

Compared to Latino and African American voters, AAPIs just don’t turn out to vote, according to [AAPI Data](http://aapidata.com/blog/voting-gains-gaps/). In the 2016 elections, voting rates among Asian American adult citizens remained low (49%) relative to Whites and Blacks (65.3% and 59.4%, respectively) and was slightly higher than voting among Latinos (47.6%).

Nevertheless, as a result of the voter registration drives by various entities in the AAPI community, the 2016 Presidential election saw a record increase in voting for Asian Americans. Between 2012 and 2016, about 1.14 million new Asian American voters entered the electorate, nearly double the average increase of 620,000 new voters in the prior three presidential cycles.

Beyond voting, getting AAPIs to run for office has traditionally been difficult. Politics is not the career choice most AAPI parents would prefer for their children. And AAPI candidates need to overcome the stereotype of being quiet and not being aggressive.

AAPI women pushed the number of AAPIs in Congress in 2016 to 18: including the first Thai American, Tammy Duckworth, elected to the Senate; the first Vietnamese American woman to Congress, Florida’s Stephanie Murphy; and the first Indian American women elected to both the House, Pramila Jayapal of Washington, and Senate, Kamala Harris of California.

For the 2018 Midterms, when more than 2,100 people have filed paperwork to run for Congress—almost twice as many candidates as in 2015, according to a study of Federal Election Commission data by *The Washington Post*—Asian Americans have been especially optimistic about being able to win races, and especially motivated by concerns over immigration rhetoric, anti-Muslim violence that reached new levels nationwide following Trump’s election, and the increased boldness of white supremacists.

Chairs in house of representatives

Population ratio

Scatterplots: ratio of house of representative; ratio of population

Are Asian Americans underrepresented in politics?

1. ~~Map: elected officials in different states~~
2. Scatterplots in house (coloration between population ratio by race and house seats ratio by race)
3. ~~Senate in history (dot line chart)~~
4. Line chart about Asian American ran for office

Another fact behind that is the high success rate of Asian American candidates in general.