



A SPECIAL PROJECT OF **THE ASIAN AMERICAN LEGAL DEFENSE AND EDUCATION FUND**

# The Asian American Vote

A Report on the Multilingual Exit Poll  
from the 2012 Presidential Election

Georgia

A Special Presentation of  
The Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund

## **AALDEF Mission and Program**

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**AALDEF is a national organization that protects and promotes the legal rights of Asian Americans through litigation, legal advocacy, and community education.**

- Immigrants' Rights
- Workers' Rights - sweatshops, restaurants, construction, Katrina
- Language Rights - hospitals and courts
- Educational Equity / Youth Rights
- Human Trafficking
- Voting Rights
- New Jersey Legal Project
- Housing

# Asian American Election Protection

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## National Election Protection Project and 100 local partnerships

### *Poll Monitoring*

- Compliance - Voting Rights Act and Help America Vote Act
- Post Election - voter interviews and complaint letters
- 2012 - attorneys covered 46 poll sites in 6 cities

### *Multilingual Exit Poll*

- 2012 – 9,096 Asian American voters in 14 states and DC
- 2010 – 3,721 Asian American voters in 5 states
- 2008 – 16,665 Asian American voters in 11 states and DC
- 2006 – 4,726 Asian American voters in 9 states and DC
- 2004 – 10,789 Asian American voters in 8 states
- 2002 - 3,500 Asian American voters in 4 states

## Profile of Asian American Exit Poll Respondents - 2012

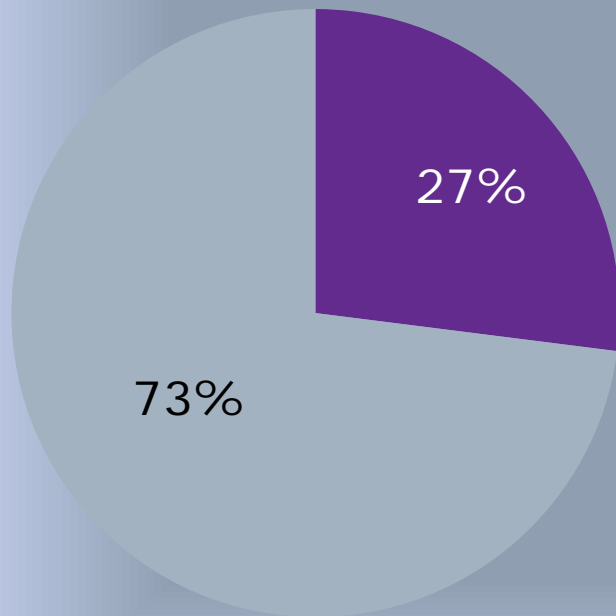
Percentage of Voters	Asian American respondents
<b>100%</b>	<b>361 Total Surveyed</b>
33	Asian Indian
24	Korean
14	Chinese
11	Vietnamese
5	Bangladeshi
14	Other Asian Ethnicities
<b>15</b>	<b>Born in the U.S.</b>
<b>85</b>	<b>Foreign born, naturalized citizen:</b>
10	...0-2 years ago
9	...3-5 years ago
17	...6-10 years ago
49	...more than 10 years ago
<b>16</b>	<b>No formal education in US</b>
84	Educated in the U.S., highest level:
1	...Elementary school
0	...Some high school
7	...High school trade school degree
45	...College or university degree
31	... Advanced degree

- New York
- New Jersey
- Massachusetts
- Pennsylvania
- Michigan
- Illinois
- Texas
- Nevada
- Louisiana
- Georgia
- Florida
- California
- Maryland
- Virginia
- District of Columbia

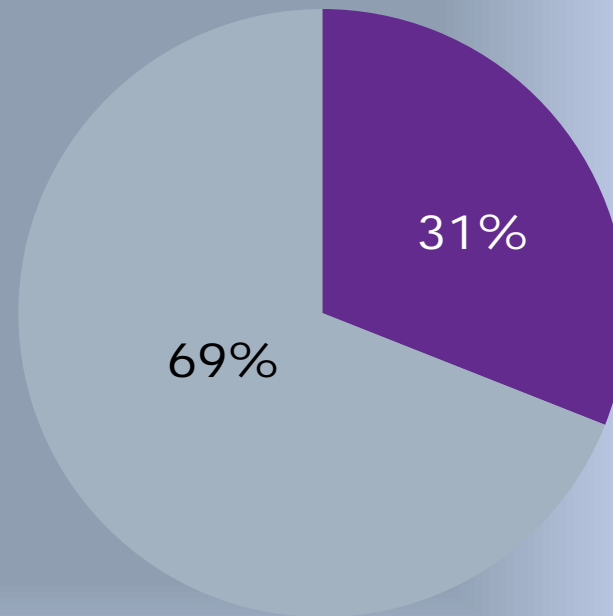
# Is this your First Time Voting?

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## All Asian Americans

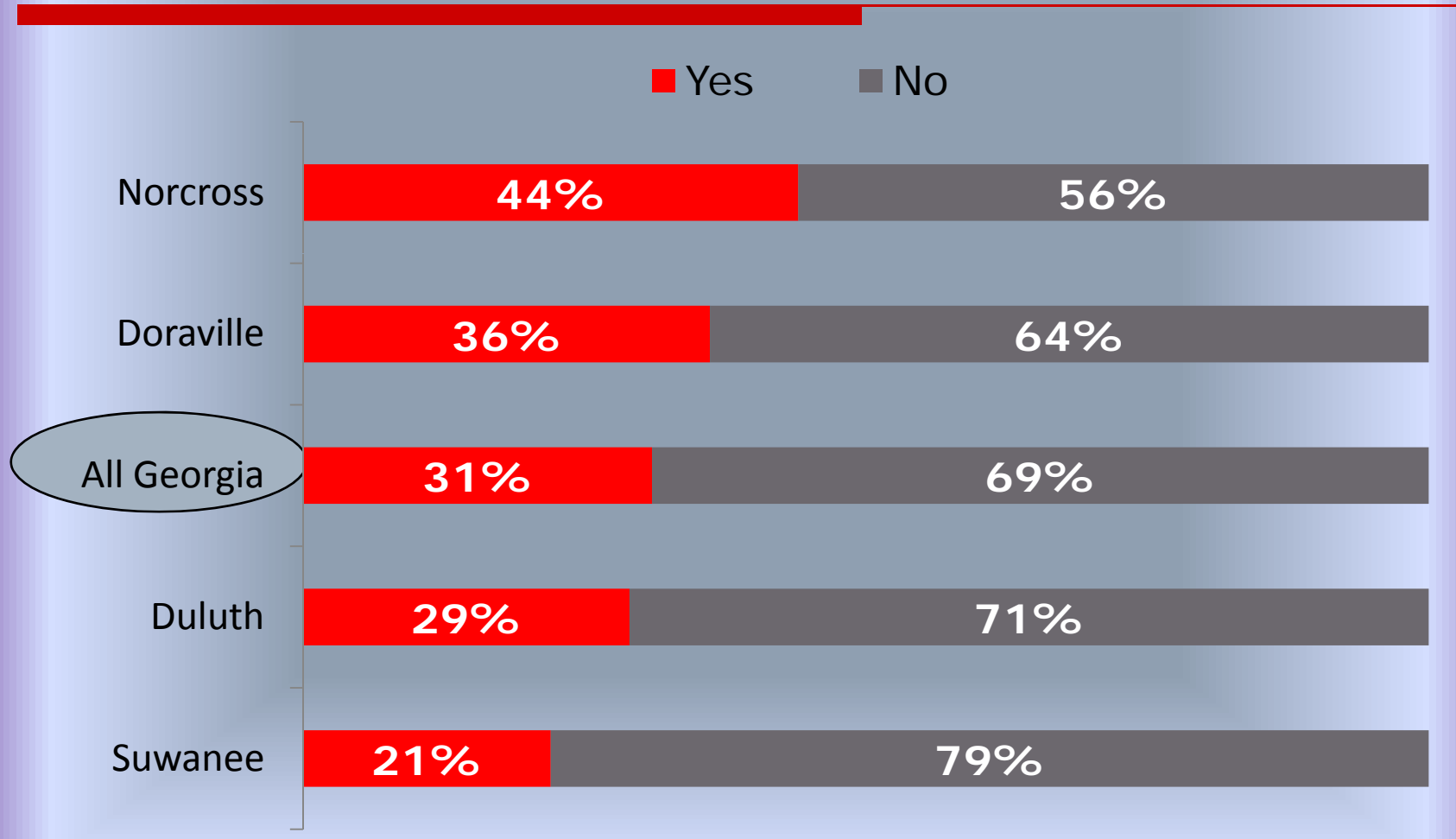


## Georgia



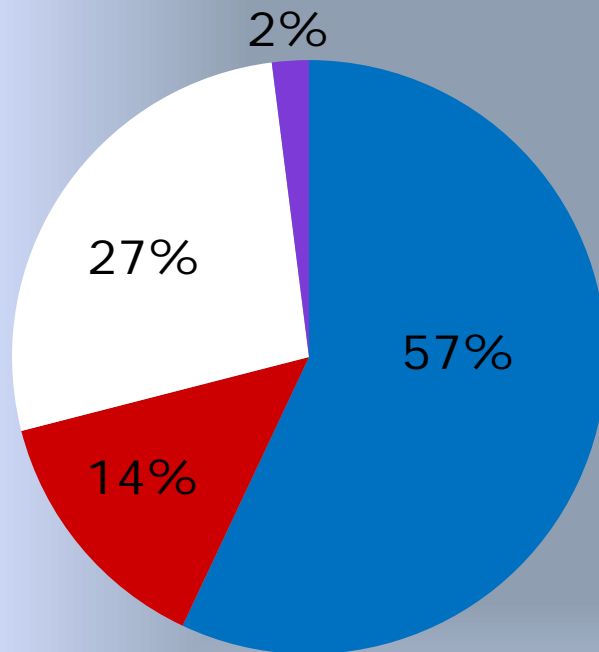
■ Yes  
■ No

## First Time Voting by City

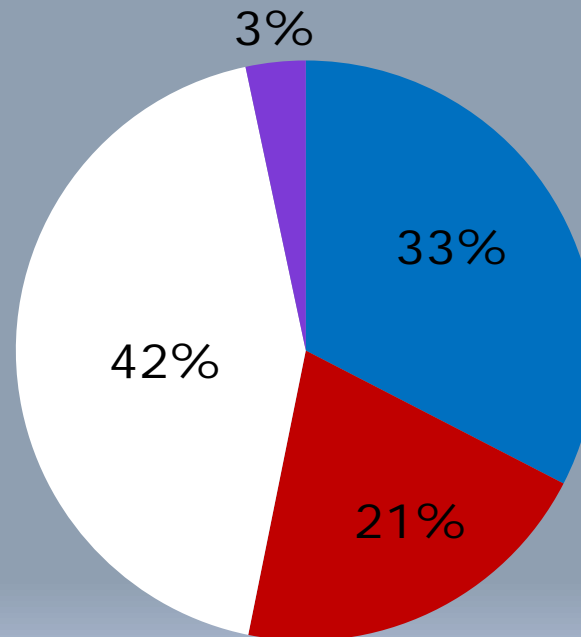


# Party Enrollment

## All Asian Americans

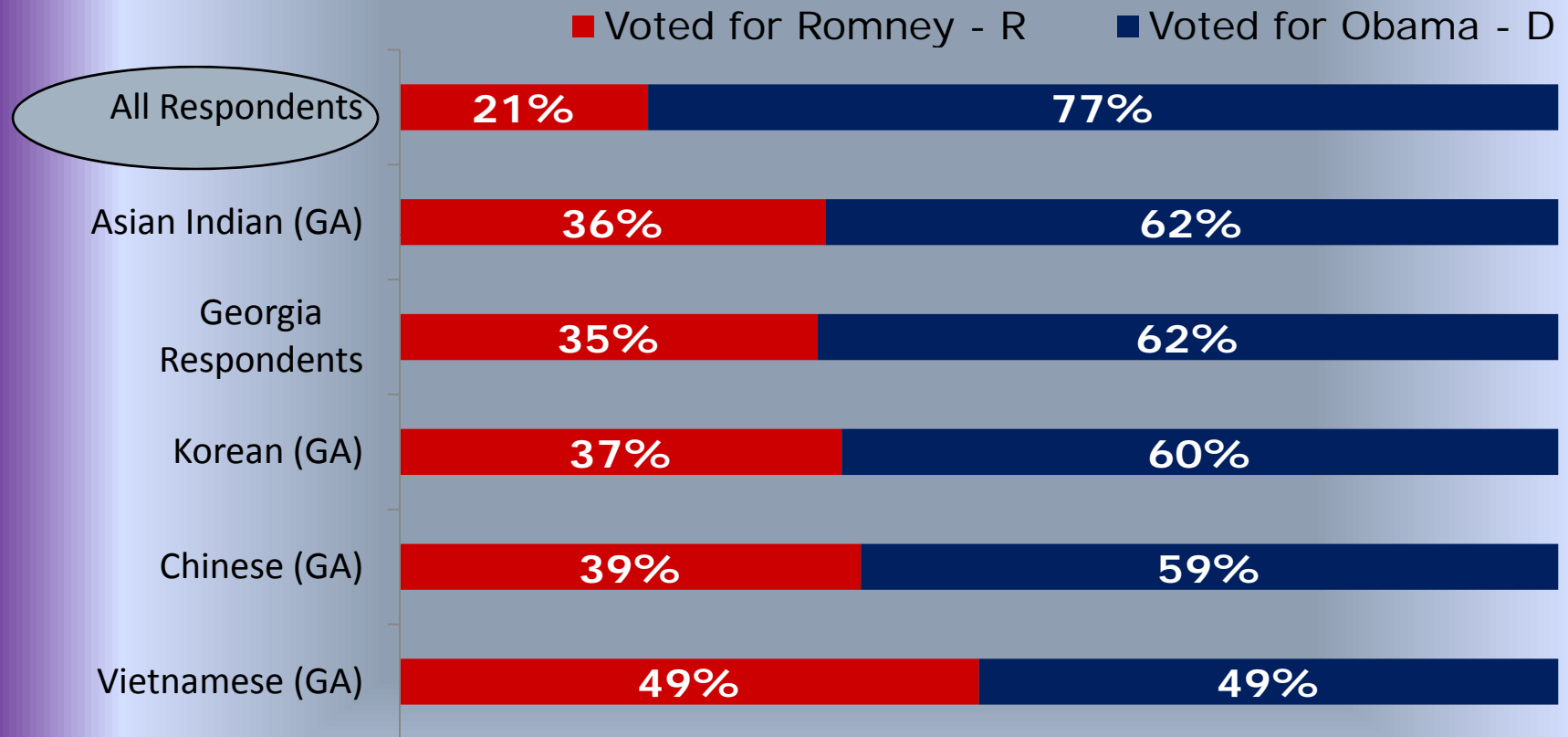


## Party Enrollment, Georgia





- Democratic
- Republican
- Not Enrolled
- Other

# Vote for President by Ethnicity, Georgia



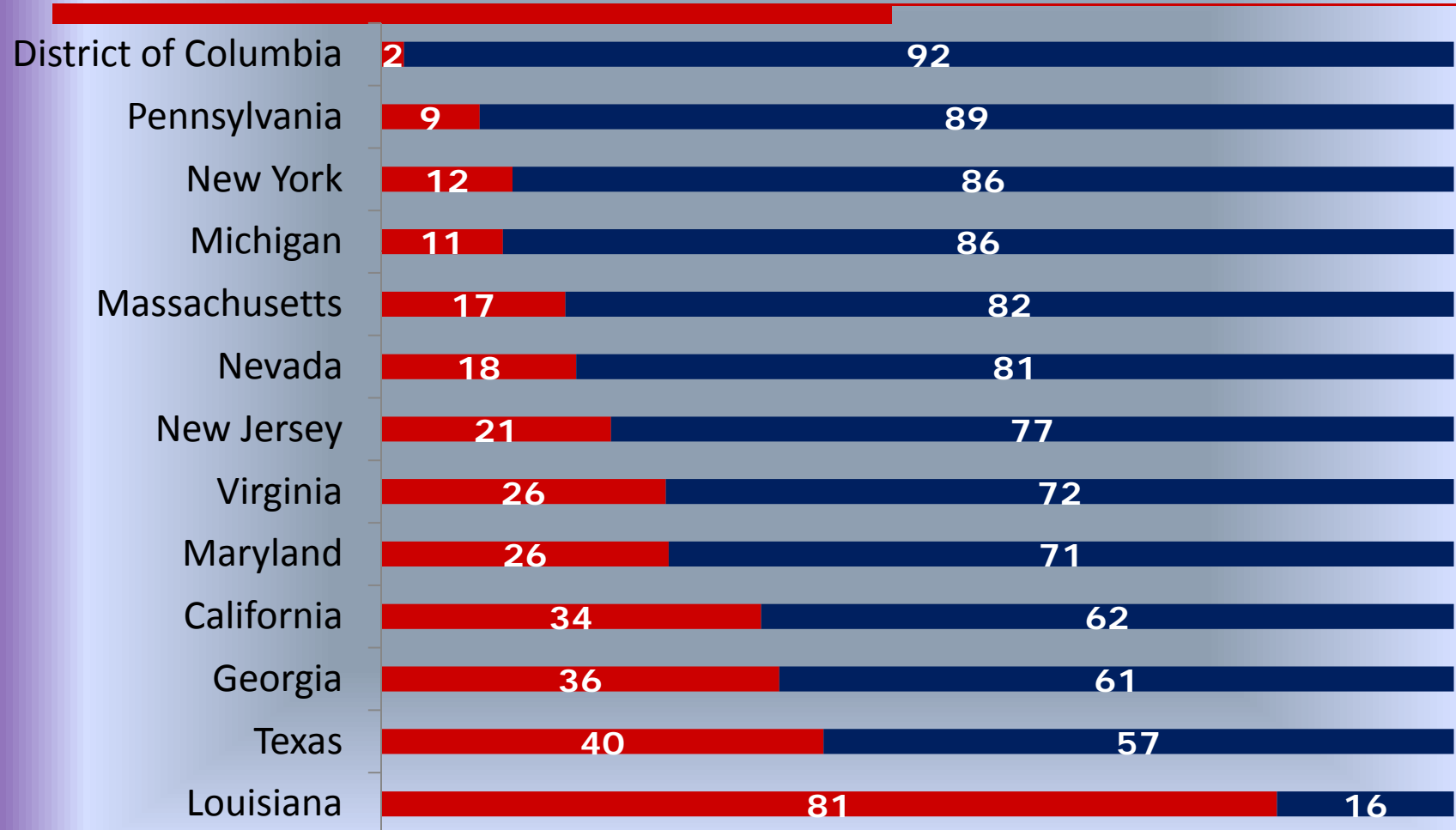
NOTE: Other Asian ethnic groups were surveyed in the exit poll but are excluded from these slides due to a small sample size.

# Crossover Voting, National

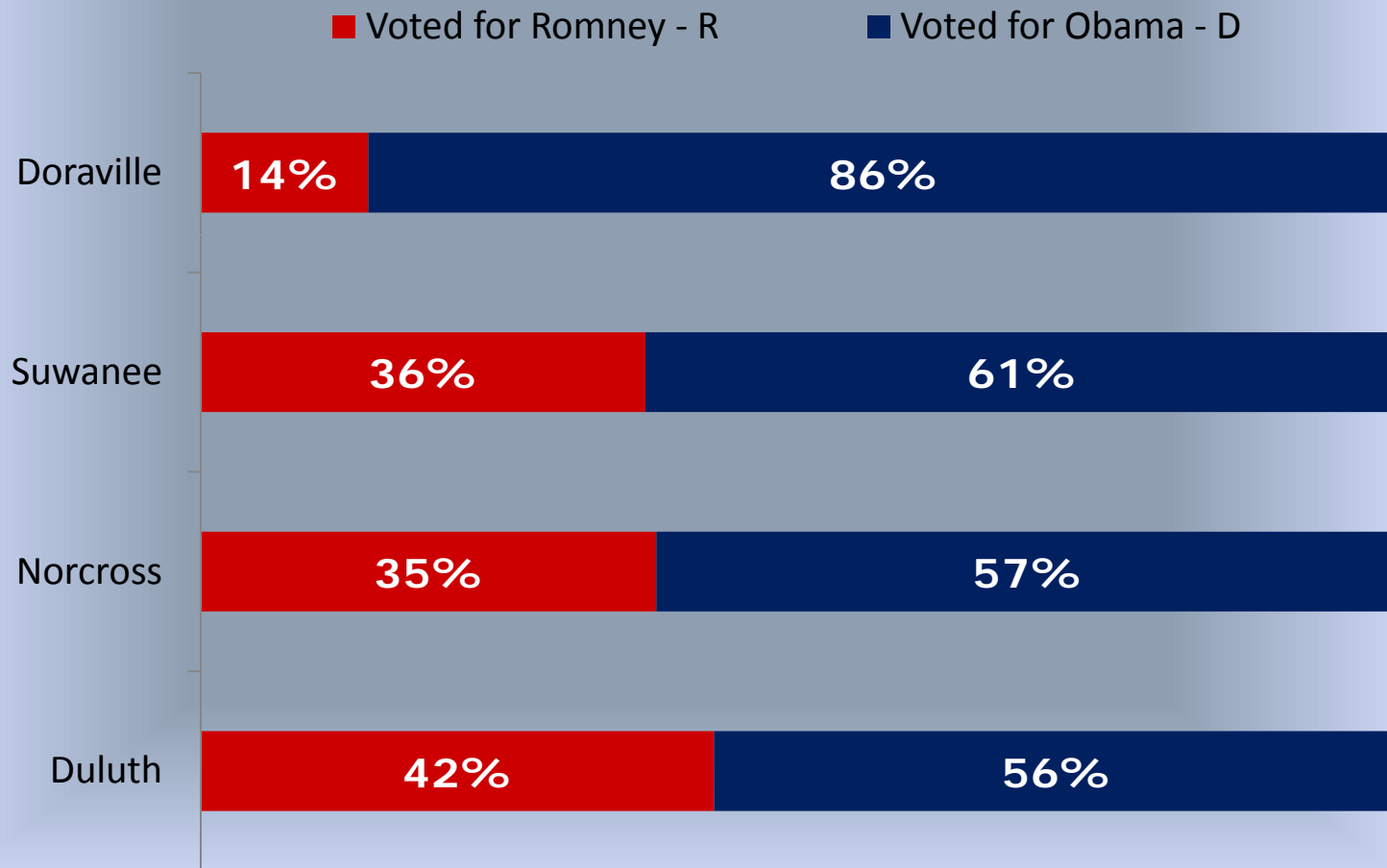
Voted for...	Asian American Democrats	Asian American Republicans	Not Enrolled in Any Party
 Barack Obama - D	96%	13%	73%
 Mitt Romney - R	3%	85%	24%

# Vote for President by State

■ Voted for Romney - R  
■ Voted for Obama - D

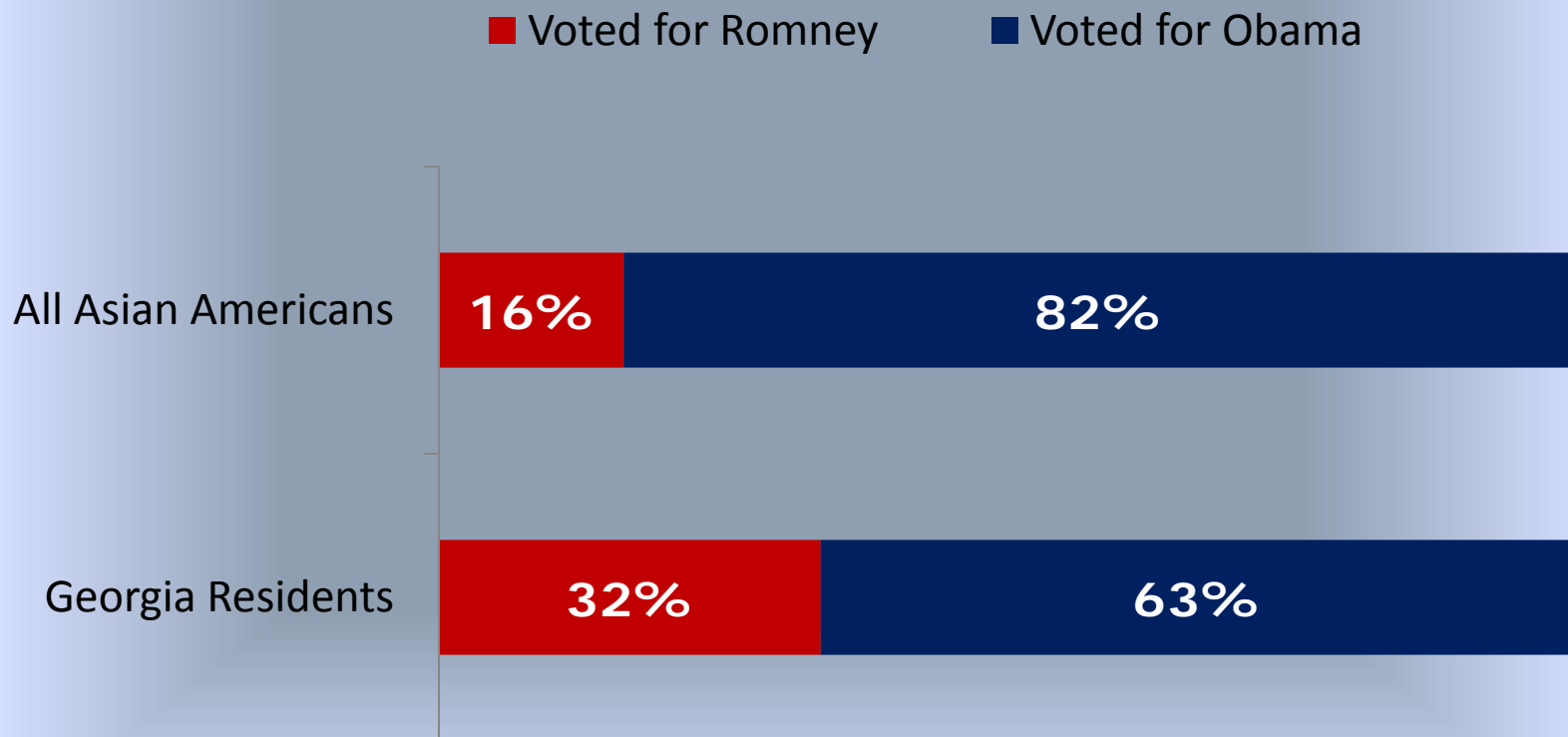


## Vote for President by City

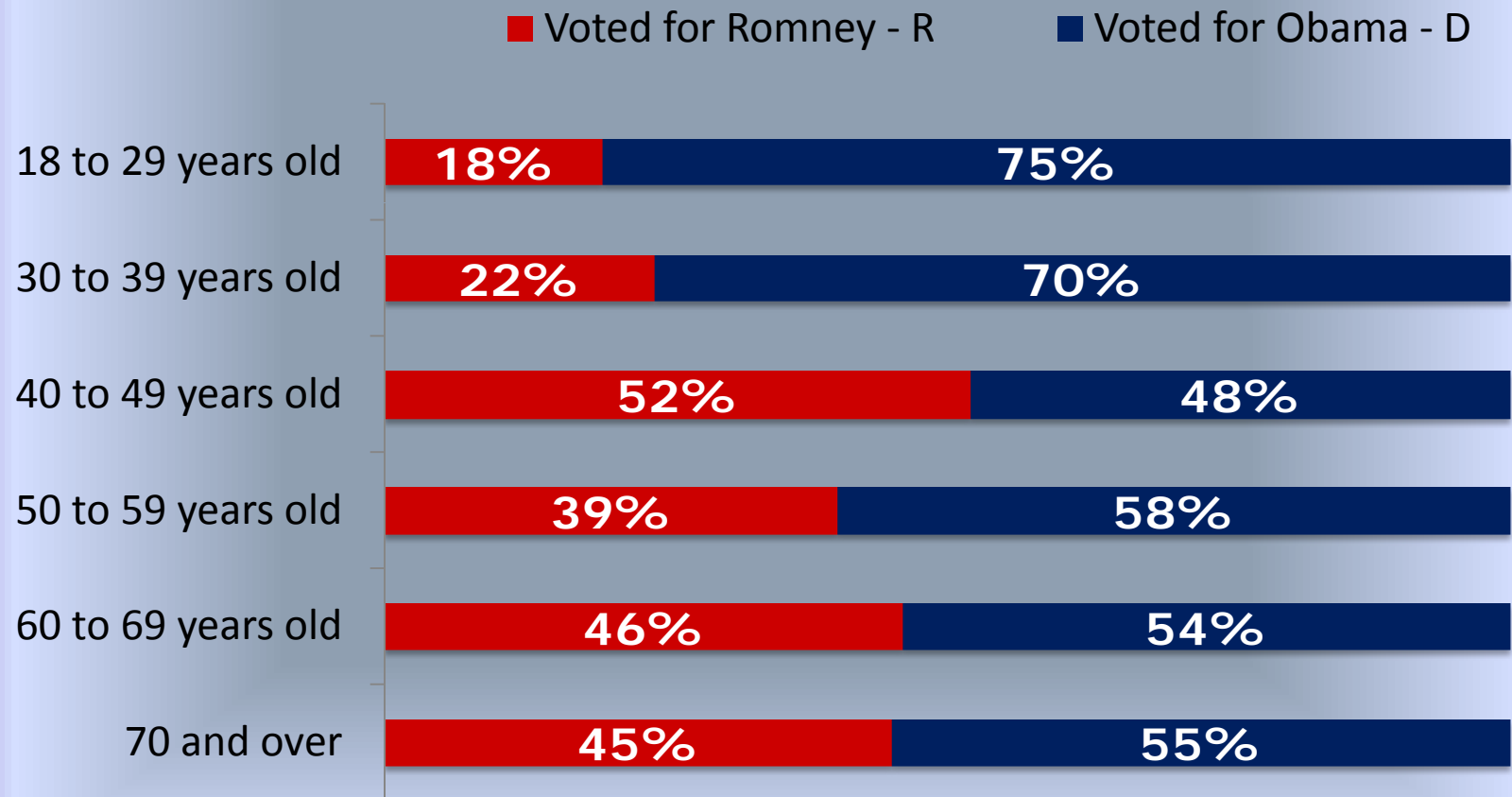


## Vote for President by First-Time Voter

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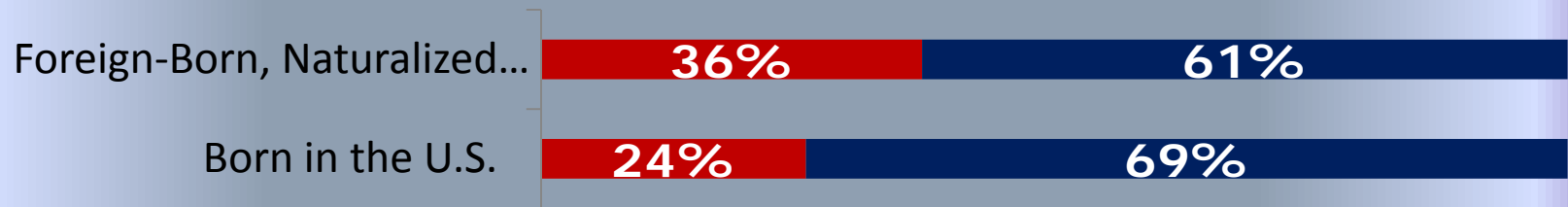
## Vote for President by Age (Georgia)



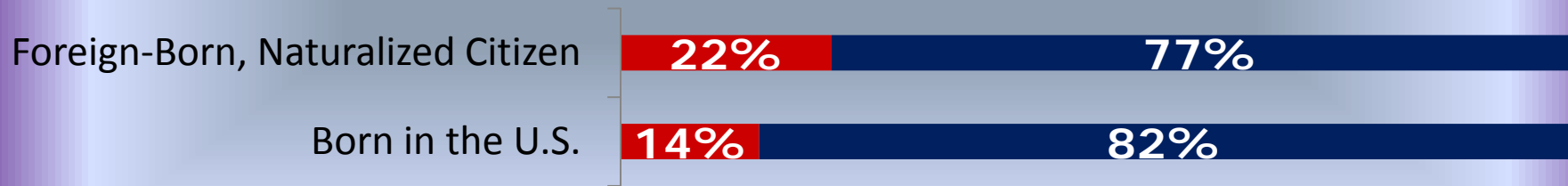
# Vote for President by Nativity

■ Romney ■ Obama

## Georgia Respondents



## All Asian Americans



# Vote for President by English Proficiency

■ Romney ■ Obama

## Georgia Respondents

Limited English Proficiency

41%

59%

Read English Very Well

34%

61%

## All Asian Americans

Limited English Proficient

23%

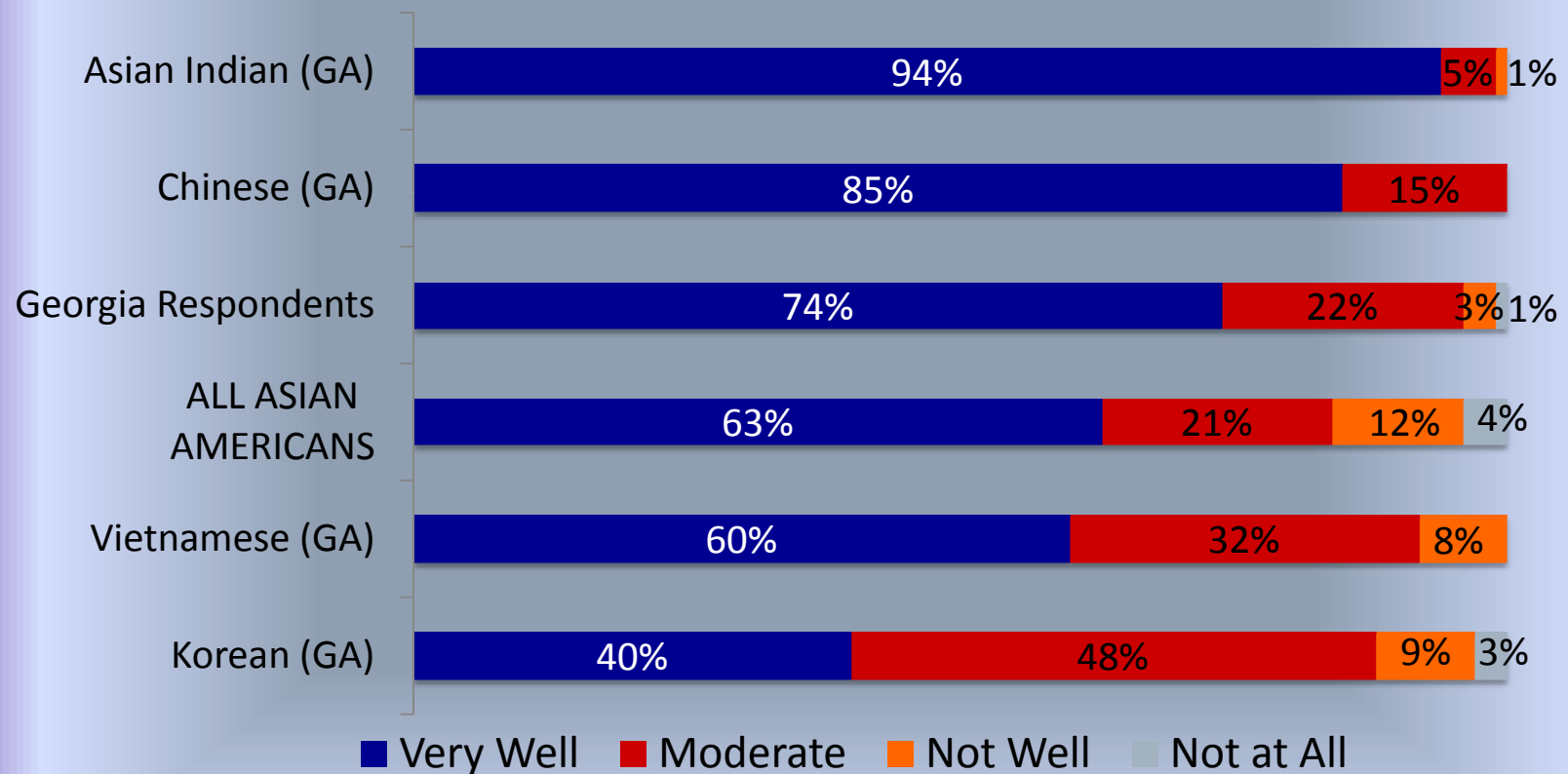
76%

Read English "Very Well"

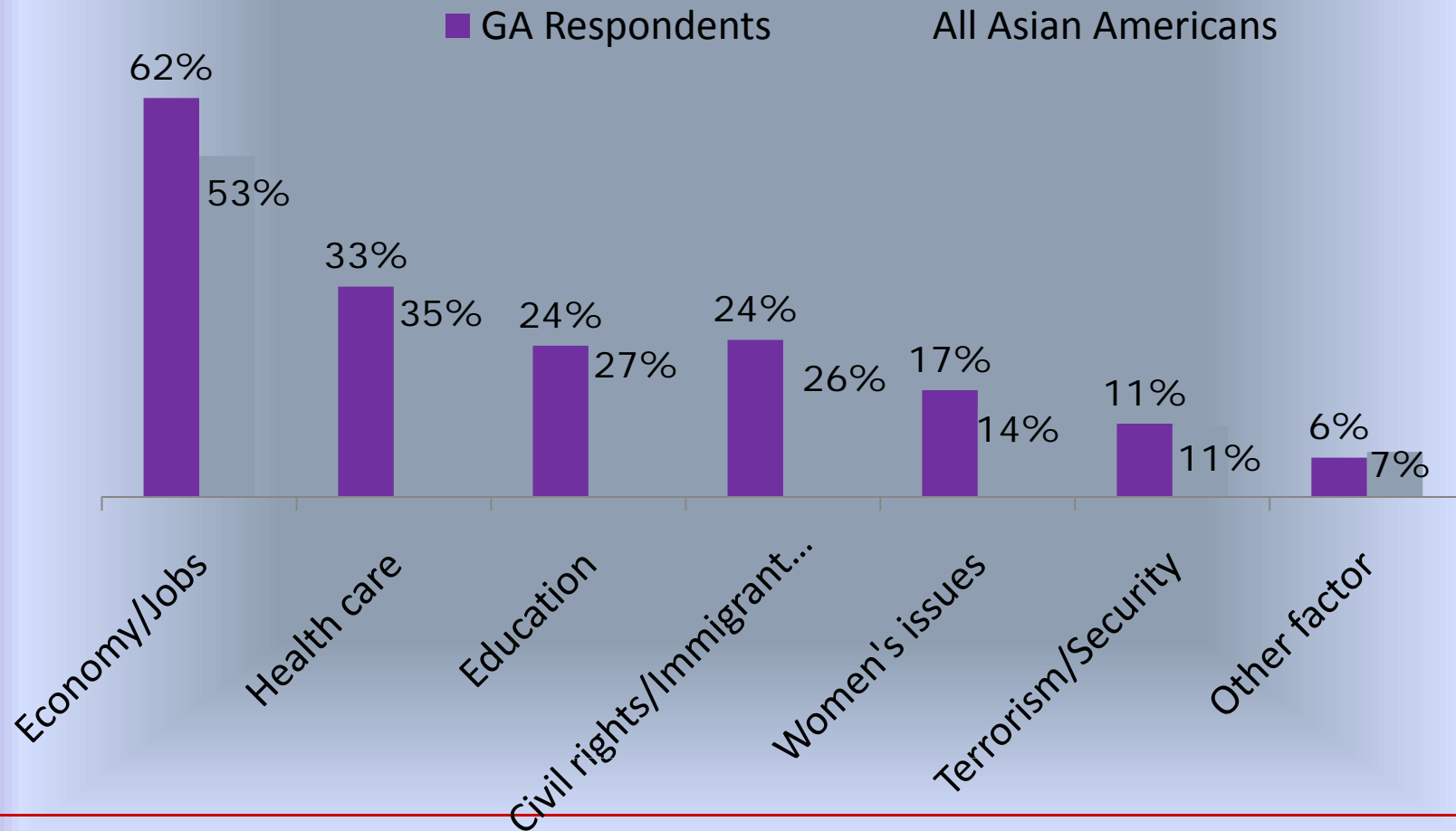
19%

78%

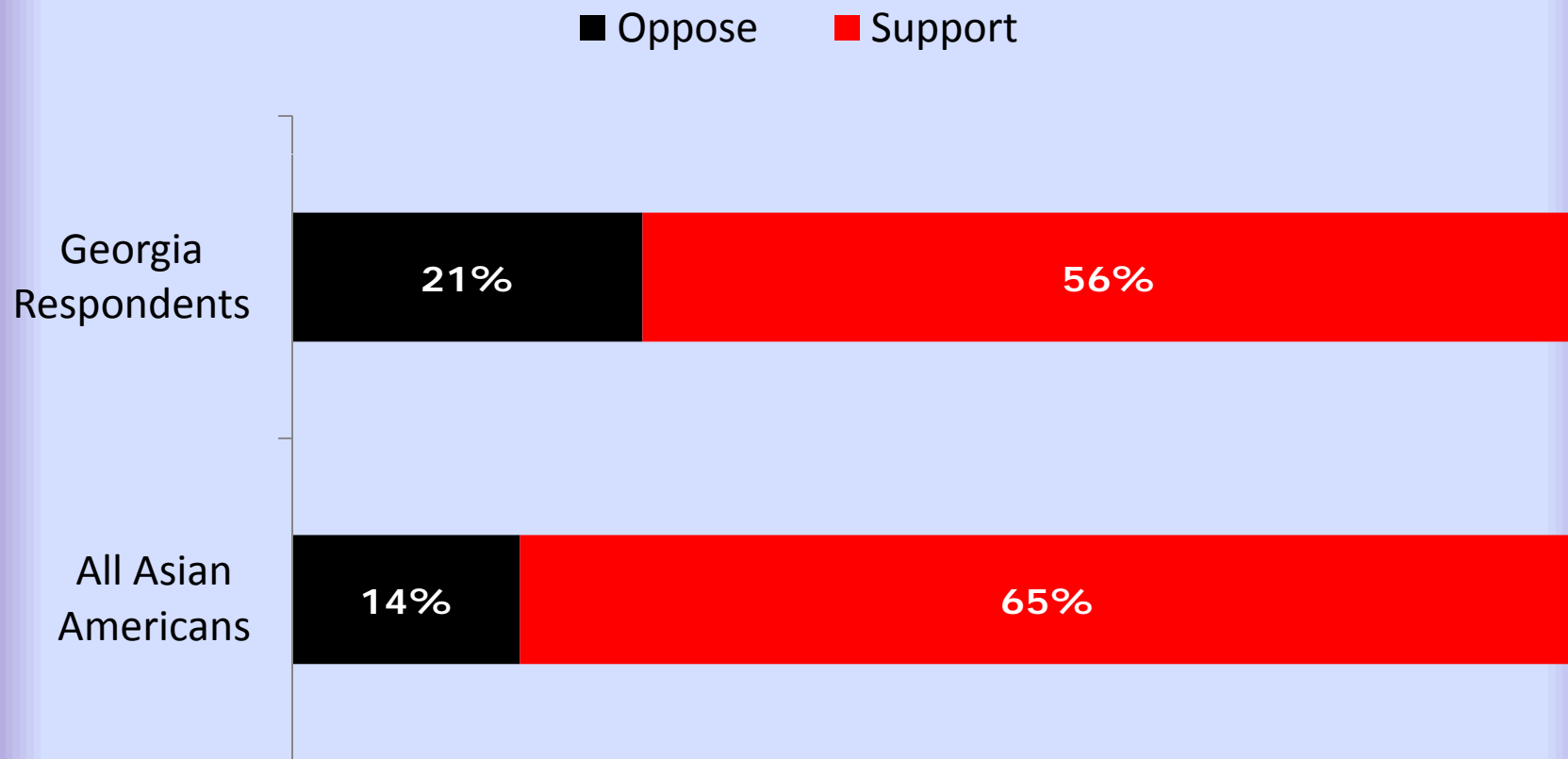
## Limited English Proficiency by Ethnicity



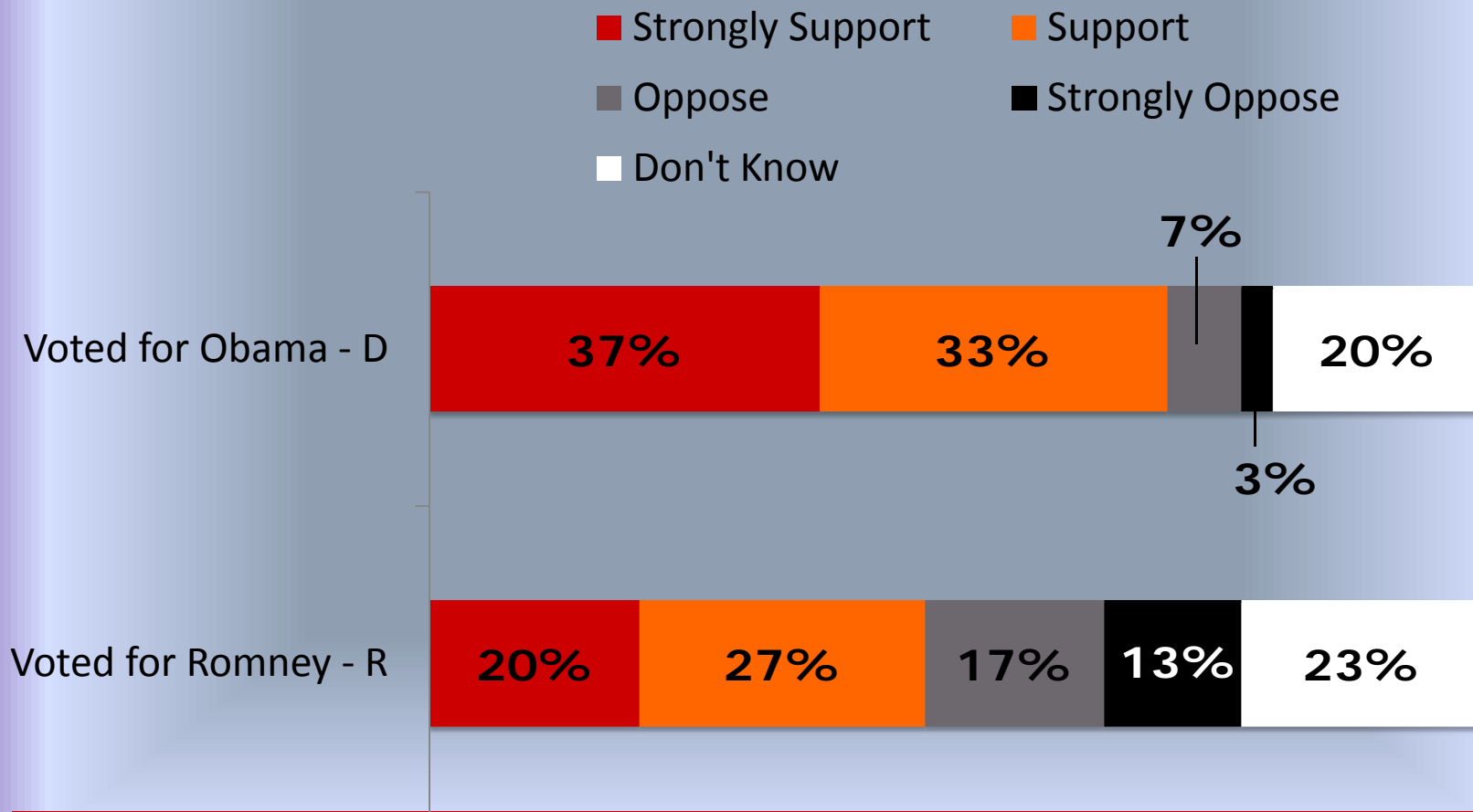
# Important Factors Influencing the Vote for President



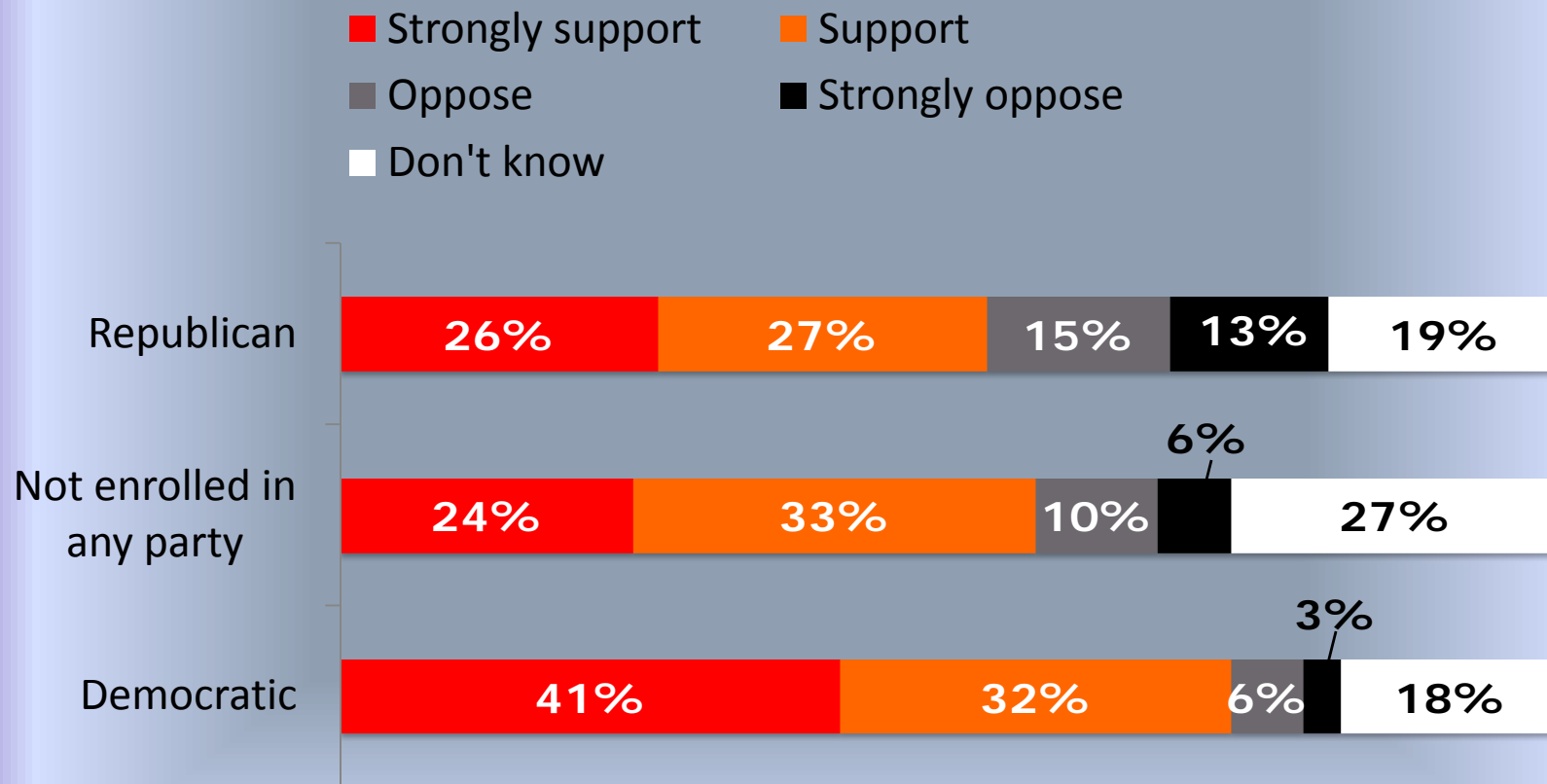
# Comprehensive immigration reform, including a path to citizenship for undocumented people



# Immigration Reform and Vote for President



# Immigration Reform and Party



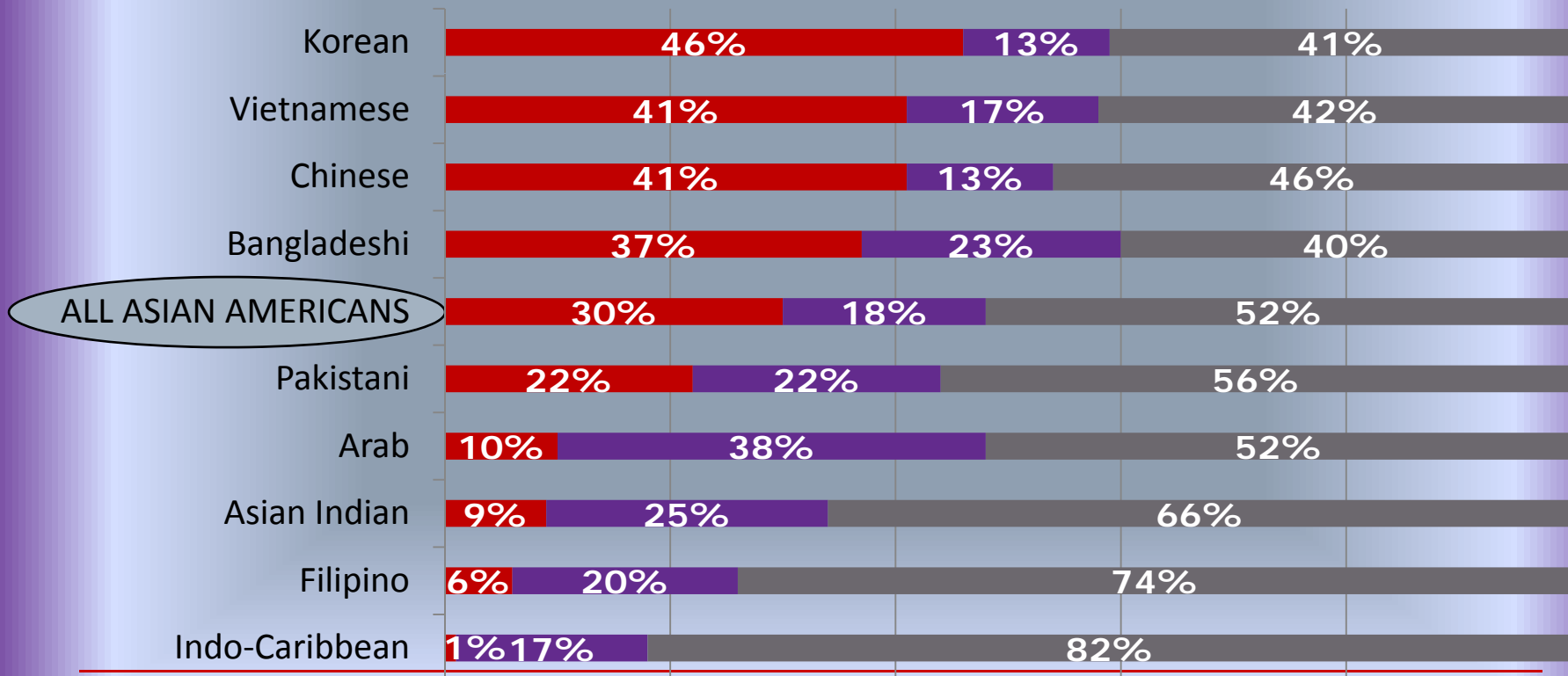
# Vote for U.S. House of Representatives

State	Congressional District	Democratic Candidate	Asian American Vote	Overall Vote	Republican Candidate	Asian American Vote	Overall Vote
GA	4	Hank Johnson*	57%	74%	J. Chris Vaughn	37%	26%
	6	Jeff Kazanow	61%	36%	Tom Price*	22%	65%
	7	Steve Reilly	49%	38%	Robert Woodall*	51%	62%

\* Winning Candidate

# Main source of news about politics and community issues ...

- Ethnic media in Asian language
- Ethnic media in English
- Mainstream English language media



# Voting Problems in Georgia

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- 10 were required to required to prove their U.S. citizenship
- 8 complained that their names were missing or had errors in the list of voters at poll sites
- 9 had to vote by provisional ballot
- 4 voters complained that poll workers did not know what to do
- 8 voters complained that poll workers were rude or hostile
- 12 voters complained that no interpreters or translations were available when they needed the help
- 2 were directed to the wrong poll site or voting machine/table within a site



## Next Steps

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- **U.S. Supreme Court - Challenge to Enforcement Provisions (Section 5) of Voting Rights Act** (*Shelby v. Holder*)
- **U.S. Supreme Court - Challenge to Proof of Citizenship Requirements** (*Gonzalez v. Arizona*)
- **Enforcement of Language Assistance Provisions (Section 203/208) of Voting Rights Act for:**
  - New York assistance in Bengali
  - Michigan assistance in Bengali
  - New Jersey assistance in Korean
  - Louisiana assistance in Vietnamese
- **Enforcement of State Election Law and Voting Rights Act for:**
  - Pennsylvania voter photo Identification (*Applewhite v. Pennsylvania*)
  - Virginia voter discrimination against Korean American voters

## Thanks to our co-sponsors!

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### National Co-Sponsors

Alliance of South Asian American Labor  
Asian Pacific American Labor Alliance  
APIAVote  
Common Cause  
Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law  
National Asian Pacific American Bar Association  
National Coalition of Asian Pacific American Community Development  
National Korean American Service & Education Consortium  
National Queer Asian Pacific Islander Alliance  
North American South Asian Bar Association  
OCA (formerly the Organization of Chinese Americans)  
South Asian Americans Leading Together

### Legal Co-Sponsors

Asian American Bar Association of Houston  
Asian American Bar Association of New York  
Asian American Lawyers Association of Massachusetts  
Asian American Legal Advocacy Center, Inc. of Georgia  
Asian Bar Association of Las Vegas – NV  
Asian Pacific American Bar Association of the Greater Washington, DC Area  
Asian Pacific American Bar Association of Pennsylvania  
Asian Pacific American Bar Association of South Florida  
Asian Pacific American Lawyers Association of NJ  
Asian Pacific American Legal Resource Center – DC  
Filipino American Legal Defense & Education Fund, Inc. – NY  
Georgia Asian Pacific American Bar Association  
Greater Boston Legal Services: Asian Outreach Unit  
Korean American Bar Association of the Greater Washington DC Area  
Korean American Lawyers Association of Greater NY  
Louisiana Asian Pacific American Bar Association  
Muslim American Bar Association of New York  
Pace Law School, Public Interest Law Center – NY  
South Asian Bar Association of New York  
South Asian Bar Association of Washington, DC  
Suffolk University Law School, Rappaport Center for Law and Public Service  
University of Pennsylvania School of Law, Public Interest Office

### Local Co-Sponsors

ACCESS – MI  
APALA – Nevada  
APIA Vote - Michigan  
Asian American Society of Central Virginia  
Boat People SOS Delaware Valley – PA  
CAAAP – NY  
Cambodian Association of Greater Philadelphia – PA  
Center for Pan Asian Community Services – GA  
Chhaya CDC - NY  
Chinese-American Planning Council – NY  
Chinese Community Federation of Atlanta – GA  
Chinese Progressive Association – MA  
Coalition of Asian Pacific Americans of Virginia  
East Coast Asian American Student Union  
Gay Asian and Pacific Islander Men of New York  
Hunter College/CUNY, Asian American Studies Program – NY  
Korean American Civic Empowerment of NY/NJ  
Korean American Resource and Cultural Center - IL  
MinKwon Center for Community Action – NY  
NAAAP – New York  
NAAAP - Philadelphia  
NANAY – FL  
NAPAWF-DC  
NAPAWF-NYC  
OCA: Georgia  
OCA: Greater Houston  
Pace University, ACE House – NY  
Pennsylvania Immigration and Citizenship Coalition  
Philadelphia Chinatown Development Corporation – PA  
Princeton University, Asian American Students Association – NJ  
Q-WAVE – NY  
South Asian Lesbian & Gay Association of New York City  
University of California San Diego, Lambda Phi Epsilon  
University of Maryland, College Park, Asian American Studies Program  
University of Massachusetts Boston, Asian American Studies Program  
Vietnamese American Young Leaders Association of New Orleans



and Asian Pacific American Law Student Association chapters across the country.



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