



# The Asian American Electorate in 2012: Estimates of Voter Registration in Eleven Massachusetts Cities and Towns

## Supplementary Data

The information included here supplements the Institute for Asian American Studies' report, *The Asian American Electorate in 2012: Estimates of Voter Registration in Eleven Massachusetts Cities and Towns*. It contains some further analysis of voter registration and party affiliation by ethnicity and gender.<sup>1</sup>

### Voter Registration Rates and Party Affiliation by Ethnicity

The data contained here focuses on the four largest Asian American ethnic groups in Massachusetts: Chinese, Indians, Vietnamese, and Koreans. The analysis is based on an examination of over 110,000 Asian American resident listings and 35,000 Asian American registered voters.

For this supplement, voter registration rates represent the percentage of resident adults who are registered to vote. Using this measure for the combined cities and towns Vietnamese Americans exhibit the highest registration rates—over 50%—of the four groups. Their registration rates exceed those of the next highest ethnic group, the Chinese, by a significant margin. Chinese American registered voters comprised about one in three residents. Another significant drop-off exists between Chinese Americans and Korean Americans and Indian Americans. Within towns, this pattern was repeated, and, consistent with the combined population, higher socioeconomic locales generally had higher registration rates. In absolute numbers for the combined cities and towns, Chinese Americans represented the largest number of registered voters, over twice that of Vietnamese Americans.

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December 2012

**Table 1. Asian American Voter Registration Rates by Ethnic Group**

City/Town	Chinese	Indian	Korean	Vietnamese
Boston	29.2%	11.4%	12.8%	44.2%
Brookline	43.6%	25.6%	22.9%	75.6%
Cambridge	27.2%	19.4%	18.7%	47.0%
Lowell	82.7%	20.6%	63.5%	58.6%
Lynn	61.0%	9.8%	55.7%	59.6%
Malden	25.2%	8.8%	28.0%	56.7%
Newton	49.7%	30.9%	23.5%	78.2%
Quincy	37.3%	5.9%	57.9%	69.7%
Somerville	31.2%	23.7%	28.5%	57.4%
Waltham	32.8%	16.8%	20.3%	58.8%
Worcester	30.7%	14.8%	21.2%	52.8%
TOTAL	33.9%	15.8%	21.0%	52.3%

n=110,794

All four ethnic groups had a plurality of registered voters who were unenrolled. Chinese Americans had the highest percentage unenrolled: 66%, while Indian Americans had the lowest percentage in that category: 48%. All four groups registered as Democrats in significantly higher percentages than as Republicans. For example, Indian Americans were twelve times more likely to be Democratic than Republican, whereas Vietnamese Americans were about twice as likely.

**Table 2. Party Affiliation of Asian American Registered Voters by Ethnic Group**

Ethnic Group	Democrat	Republican	Unenrolled	Other	n
Chinese	28.1%	5.2%	66.3%	0.3%	21,614
Indian	47.5%	4.2%	48.0%	0.4%	4,135
Korean	34.4%	9.1%	56.0%	0.4%	2,320
Vietnamese	24.5%	15.8%	59.1%	0.6%	9,821

### Voter Registration Rates and Party Affiliation by Gender

Males slightly dominated Asian American registration. Despite females outnumbering males in the Asian American citizen population, males comprised just over 50% of the registered Asian American voters.

**Table 3. Asian American Voter Registration Rate by Gender**

Female	49.0%
Male	51.0%

n=38,446

Female Asian American registered voters tended to identify more as Democrats and less as Republicans and unenrolled than their male counterparts.

**Table 4. Party Affiliation of Asian American Registered Voters by Gender**

	Democrat	Republican	Unenrolled	Other
Female	33.6%	6.4%	59.7%	0.4%
Male	27.6%	9.1%	62.8%	0.7%

n=38,446

1. The gender analysis was based on the same data sources as the main report: resident listings and the U.S. census. The ethnicity analysis, however, required a methodology slightly different than that used in the main report. U.S. census data was not used because ethnic group-specific data at the city and town level was not available. Instead, the ethnic group analysis uses solely Asian American names extracted from the resident listings. Since the ethnic group registration rates are derived in a different fashion, they cannot be directly compared to the aggregate Asian American rates in the main report. The party affiliation analysis by ethnicity, however, was derived in a comparable manner to the main report.