

# WOMEN OF COLOR TURNED OUT TO VOTE IN 2018 LIKE NEVER BEFORE: HERE'S WHY

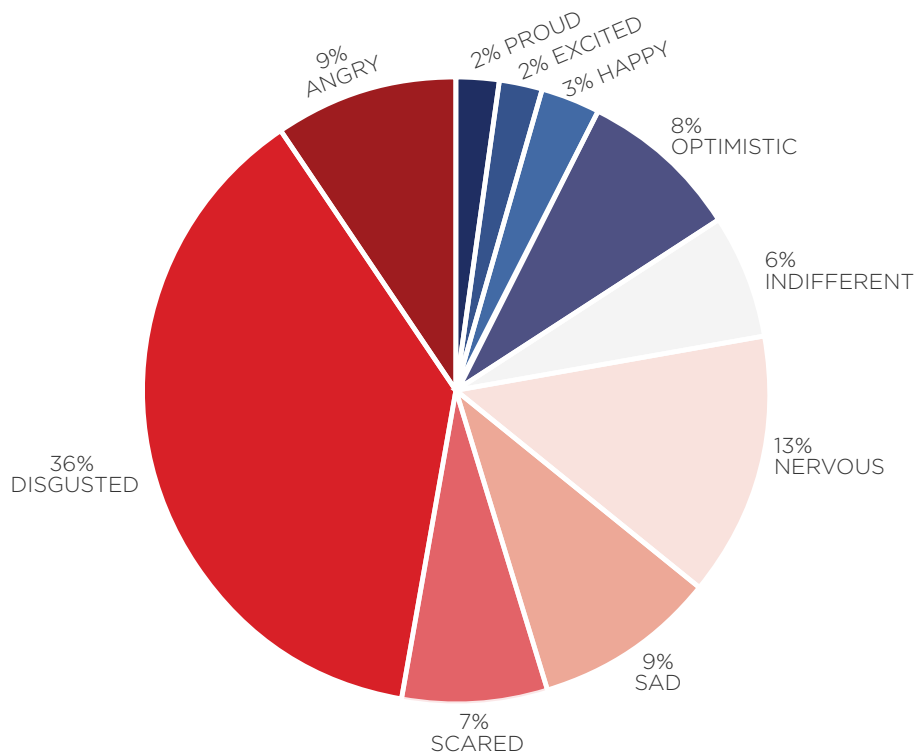
New Public Poll Shows the Power of Women of Color Voters and the Issues They Care About Most

Black women, Latinas and Asian American and Pacific Islander women voted at historic levels in the 2018 election. Intersections of Our Lives, a collaborative of Reproductive Justice organizations representing women of color, sponsored a nationwide poll to understand what motivated women of color to vote and the issues they care about most.

**88 PERCENT OF WOMEN OF COLOR VOTERS SAID THE STAKES IN THE 2018 MIDTERM ELECTION WERE TOO HIGH NOT TO VOTE. AND 9 IN 10 WERE PASSIONATE ABOUT CASTING A BALLOT AND HAVING THEIR VOICES HEARD.**

- **75%** of women of color expressed serious concerns about the way things are going in the country, noting they were angry, disgusted, scared, sad or nervous.

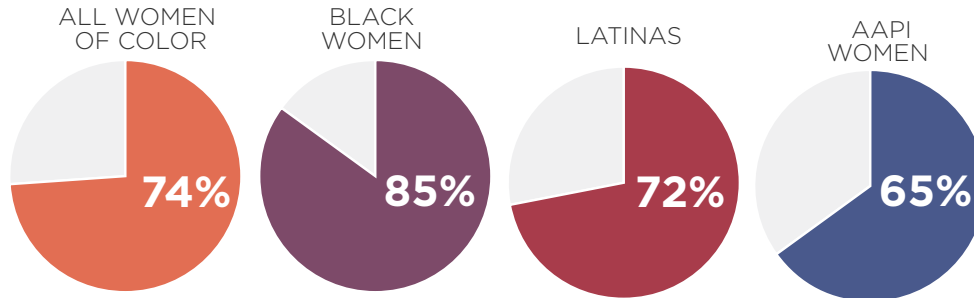
**Feeling About the Direction of the Country**



- Across racial and ethnic groups, women of color are frightened for the future generations, with Black women having the strongest concerns.

### Frightened for the Next Generation

"If we continue down this path, I do not think the U.S. will be a safe place for the next generation"

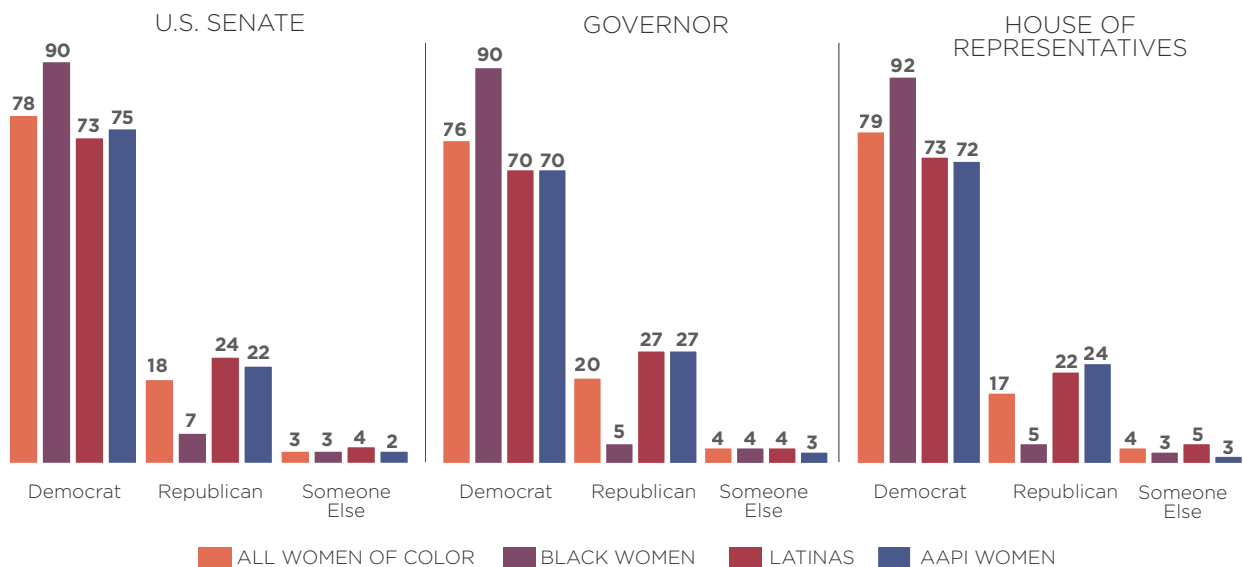


- While women of color voters wanted to have their voices heard, **23%** said they do not think their vote was counted accurately. And **33%** of women of color voters experienced an issue voting, such as being asked to show an ID to an election official.

### WOMEN OF COLOR ARE A POWERFUL VOTING BLOC THAT POLITICIANS CAN'T AFFORD TO IGNORE.

- In statewide and federal races, more than three-quarters of Black women, Latinas and AAPI women supported the Democratic candidates.
- One-in-five women of color voters supported Republican candidates in statewide and federal races.

### How Women of Colors Voted

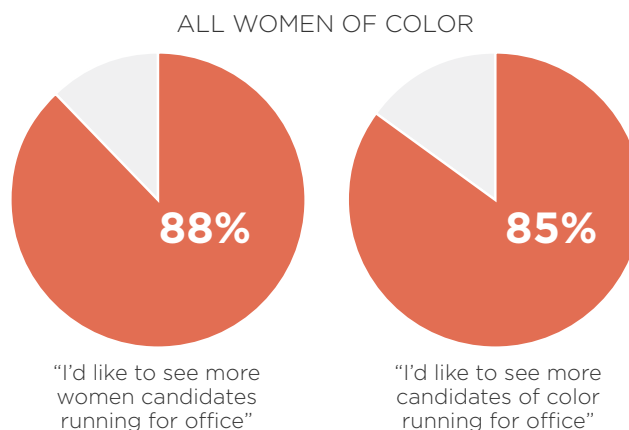


- Women of color said that they voted for candidates because they felt a need for change and because the candidates reflected their values.
  - **37%** of women of color who voted for a Democratic member of Congress said their vote represented a need for change.
  - **28%** of women of color who voted for a Republican member of Congress did so to reflect their values.
- **74%** of women of color who voted for Democrats said their vote was earned by the candidates they supported. They didn't vote for the Democrat as a reaction or rejection of the Republican.

**71 PERCENT OF WOMEN OF COLOR WERE SATISFIED WITH THEIR OPTIONS IN THE 2018 ELECTION, BUT THEY WOULD PREFER TO SEE MORE **WOMEN OF COLOR CANDIDATES** AND CANDIDATES WHO ACKNOWLEDGE THE ISSUES THAT MATTER MOST TO THEM AND THE INTERSECTIONALITY OF THEIR EXPERIENCES.**

- **88%** of women of color voters would like to see more women candidates running for office and **85%** would like to see more candidates of color running for office.

**More Visible Representation Wanted  
Among Candidates Running for Office**

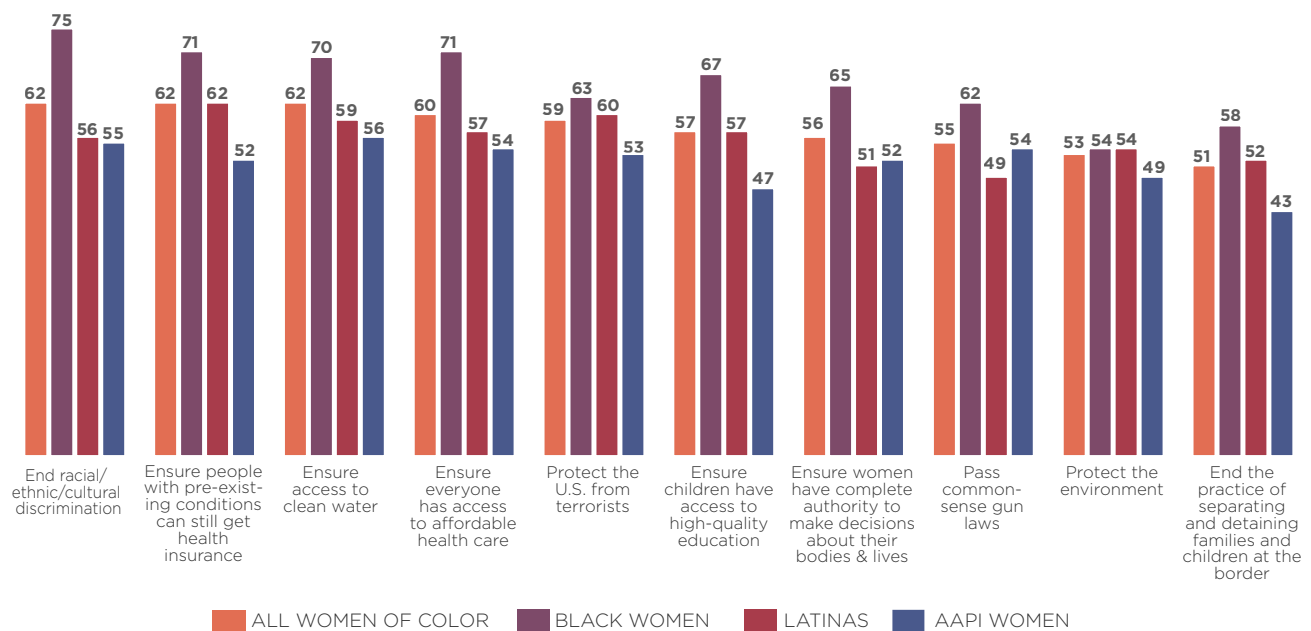


- **78%** of women of color believe candidates running for office fail to acknowledge what matters most to them.
- **76%** of women of color voters want their elected officials to understand how their experience and needs differ from white women.

**WHILE WOMEN OF COLOR VOTERS' PRIORITIES ARE NOT MONOLITHIC, THERE IS AN INTERSECTIONALITY TO THEIR VIEWS ON POLICIES AND COMMON GROUND EXISTS.** The top issues women of color want to see members of Congress make progress on over the next two years include:

- Ending racial/ethnic/cultural discrimination **(62%)**
- Ensuring people with pre-existing conditions can still access health insurance **(62%)**
- Ensuring access to clean water **(62%)**
- Ensuring everyone has access to affordable health care **(60%)**

**Top 10 Issues Women of Color Say Are Extremely Important for the 116th Congress to Address**

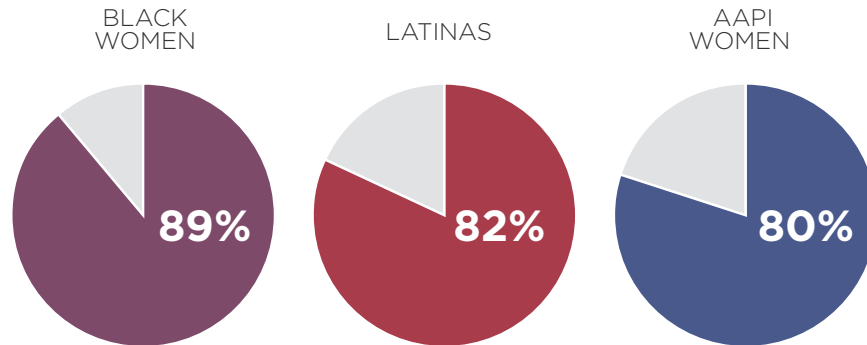


**ACROSS RACIAL AND ETHNIC GROUPS, WOMEN OF COLOR VOTERS SUPPORTED CANDIDATES WHO RESPECT THEIR AUTONOMY OVER THEIR REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH.**

- **84%** of women of color voters said it was important to vote for a candidate who supports women making their own decisions about their reproductive health.

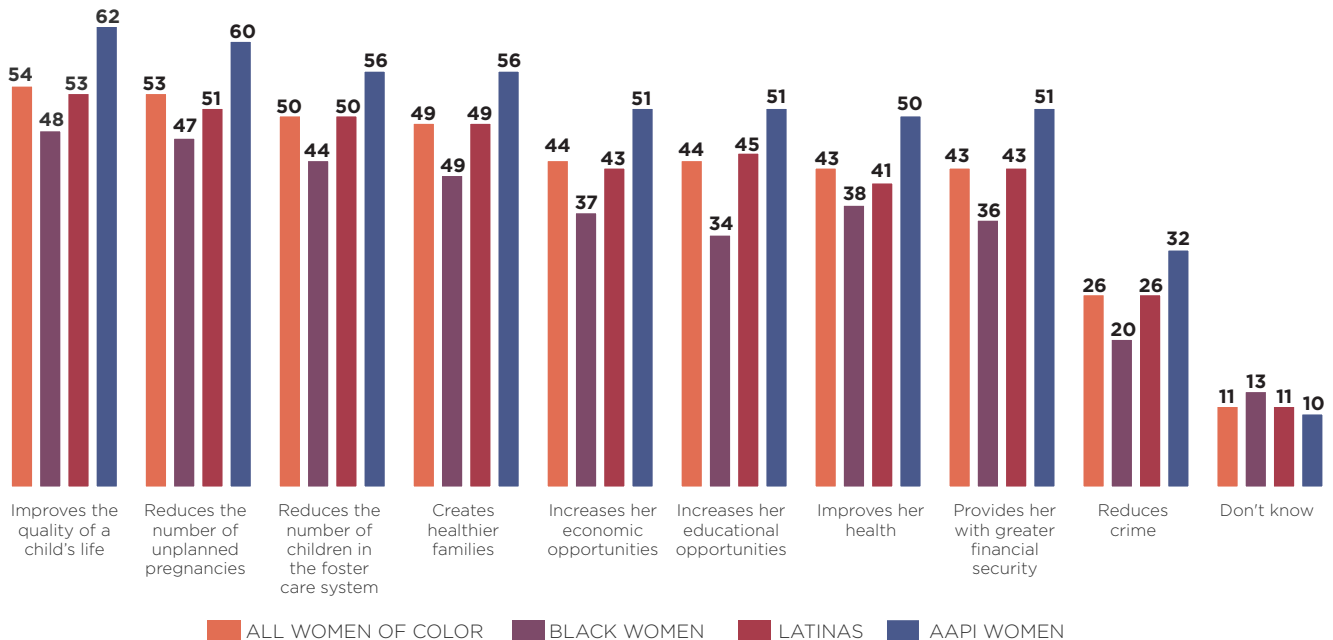
## Want Candidates to Respect Their Autonomy Over Their Reproductive Health

“It’s extremely important to me to vote for candidates who support women making their own decisions about their reproductive health”



- **90%** of women of color voters believe that when a woman can control if, when and how she has children there are both individual and societal benefits.

### Issues Women of Color Find Extremely Important



## FAILURE TO DELIVER ON THE ISSUES THAT WOMEN OF COLOR VOTERS CARE ABOUT COMES WITH **ELECTORAL CONSEQUENCES.**

- Importantly, **62%** of women of color say they will be watching their congressional representatives more closely as compared to previous elections.
- **72%** of women of color voters want members of Congress to work together across the aisle to get results.

## ABOUT THE INTERSECTIONS OF OUR LIVES

Since 2016, National Latina Institute for Reproductive Health (NLIRH), National Asian Pacific American Women’s Forum (NAPAWF), and In Our Own Voice: National Black Women’s Reproductive Justice Agenda (In Our Own Voice), three women-of-color led national Reproductive Justice (RJ) organizations with both federal and statewide presence, have intentionally collaborated with one another on a number of policy and issue actions.

As Reproductive Justice (RJ) organizations, we use a human rights frame that all people have the right to control our bodies, our sexuality, our gender, our work and our reproduction. Reproductive Justice will only be achieved when all people, of all immigration statuses, have the agency, economic, social, and political power and resources to define and make decisions about our bodies, health, sexuality, families, and communities in all areas of our lives with dignity and self-determination. We center the needs, perspectives and solutions of people of color.

As organizations that work using the Reproductive Justice lens, we recognize the cumulative impact of multiple forms of oppression in people’s lives. Our broad approach is driven by the intersectional lived experiences of women of color. Without an intersectional approach and a broad vision for justice and equity, policies silo and invisibilize critical aspects of our lives that must be addressed in policy change.

For more information about Intersections of Our Lives visit: [IntersectionsofOurLives.com](https://IntersectionsofOurLives.com)

## METHODOLOGY

SKDKnickerbocker conducted a national poll of 2,663 adult women in the United States who reported voting in 2018 and who self-identify as Black or African American; of Hispanic, Latino, or Spanish-speaking background; or Asian American/Pacific Islander (AAPI) or of any ethnicity/national origin recognized in the Asian race category by the U.S. Census Bureau. As part of this effort, oversamples were conducted in Florida and Texas. The interviews were conducted between January 23 and February 14, 2019.

