Reproductive Justice is a Top Priority for Women of Color Voters

Intersections of Our Lives, a collaborative of Reproductive Justice organizations representing women of color, sponsored a national mixed mode survey of 850 Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) women registered voters, 850 Black women registered voters, and 850 Latina/x women registered voters on their experiences and priorities.

OVERVIEW

By surveying women of color voters across the country, Intersections of Our Lives determined that the connections among Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI), Black, and Latina/x women are abundant. Specifically, when it comes to Reproductive Justice, including issues like economic security/opportunity and abortion rights, women of color are on the same page: policymakers must do better. Women of color are a powerful group, and their collective support can have a huge impact on 2024 elections.

THE INTERSECTIONS

Women of color share much of the same issue agenda and concerns about the direction of the country. They agree that things have gotten worse across the country in the past year, and they want to see change.

WHAT IS REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE?

At the core of Reproductive Justice is the belief that all women have the right to decide if, when, and how to become a parent and to nurture the children they have in a safe and healthy environment. This includes many intersecting issues, such as securing good-paying jobs, accessing affordable healthcare including abortion care and birth control, improving maternal health outcomes, and lowering the costs of living and housing.

Women of color’s voting choices are driven by their feelings about how policies impact their lives, their need for change, and their values. They want to hear and see their experiences and issues addressed by policymakers and politicians.
Majorities of women of color say they are very motivated to vote. Solid majorities of Black, Latina/x, and AAPI women say the 2024 election is extremely important overall and for women. This powerful voting bloc has a strong need to see their issues and values reflected by policymakers.

Rising costs are the major issue that will determine women of color’s votes this year, followed by women’s rights and abortion. AAPI, Black, and Latina/x women strongly support abortion rights.

For women of color, the issue of abortion is not just one of legality and rights — it is important that all communities can find and afford abortion care, no matter where they live or how much money they have.
A shared value for all women of color — especially Black women — is that racism has gone on for too long and we need leaders who will address it.

**THE TAKEAWAYS**

- Voting in elections is the most important and effective action that women of color utilize to create the change they want to see in the country. However, only half see voting as very effective in creating the change they want, and believe that voting alone is not enough.

- The expansive issue agenda for women of color illustrates why some skepticism about this year’s elections persists. Elected leaders have failed repeatedly to make progress on the issues that women of color most want to address.

- Women of color find every issue tested – from economic issues to safety and discrimination to reproductive health care – extremely or very important to be addressed by Congress.

- Every reproductive health and abortion issue tested is important to AAPI, Black, and Latina/x women voters. Access to abortion care is a priority for all women of color. Solid majorities agree that it isn’t enough to make abortion legal, they want to make sure that people can access abortion care (76% of AAPI women, 79% of Black women, 75% of Latina/x women).

- For women of color, abortion is a critical voting issue for the 2024 elections. Pluralities say abortion is an extremely important voting issue, and over seven in ten say it is extremely or very important. (71% of AAPI women, 74% of Black women, and 73% of Latina/x women say abortion will be extremely or very important in the general election).

A majority of women of color agree with the statement that “racism has gone on for too long in America, and it’s time we have a leader who will create the systems of racial justice that are long overdue.”

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Many of the issue priorities for women of color stem from systemic racism that continues to negatively impact their lives. These intersectional systems of discrimination and racism have caused disparities in health, economic security, and maternal mortality rates.