

Reproductive Justice is a Top Priority for Black Women 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 Pacific Islander (AAPI) women registered voters, 850 Black women registered voters, and 850 Latina/x women registered voters on their experiences and priorities. The priorities of the three groups often overlapped but certain topics especially resonated with Black women voters.

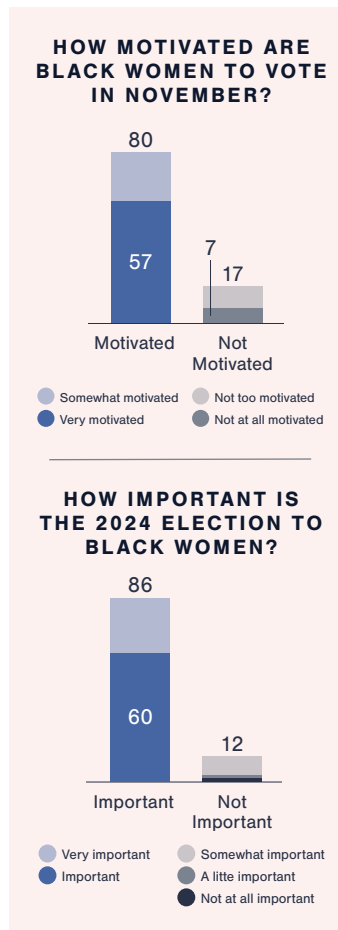
OVERVIEW

In surveying women of color voters across the country, our poll found 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: our policymakers must do better. Elevating these shared priorities is essential, but it is also crucial to acknowledge the nuances of each unique community. Below are findings that pertain to the experiences and attitudes of Black women voters.

THE INSIGHTS

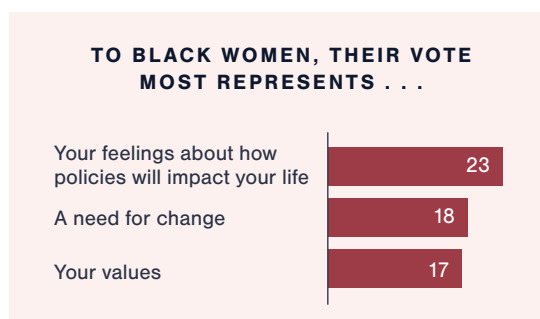
Black women are a crucial voting bloc in the 2024 elections and 80% are somewhat or very motivated to vote. About two-thirds (65%) of Black women view voting in elections as extremely important, with 52% seeing voting as extremely effective in creating the change they want to see. This finding speaks to the dissatisfaction Black women feel in not seeing their experiences and priorities addressed in politics or policy.

Black women's voting choices mainly represent their feelings about how policies impact their lives (23%).



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.



Among Black women who are less motivated to vote, their main reasons are that they dislike the candidates (36%) or believe the system is corrupt or rigged (33%).



Black women who are very motivated to vote are primarily driven by concerns about national and social issues (24%), voting as a civic duty/ making their voices heard (21%), and the need to change the direction of the country (20%). Almost half (49%) of Black women say that things have gotten worse in the country over the past year.

Rising costs and prices are the major issue that will determine Black women’s votes this year (29%). An even higher percentage of Black women who are immigrants^ (39%) say that rising costs is the most important issue. Women’s rights (22%) is the second-most important issue for Black women overall and is tied for the most important issue when combined with abortion.

In the eyes of Black women, the most important economic issues for Congress to make progress on in the next two years are creating good-paying jobs (92% extremely/very important), ensuring access to affordable health care for everyone (92%), and creating more affordable housing options (90%). Addressing the high rates of maternal mortality among women of color and access to birth control are the highest priorities when it comes to reproductive health, with 91% and 82% of Black women saying these are extremely or very important respectively. Around three-quarters (77%) of Black women said that abortion being legal, affordable, and accessible is extremely or very important. 73% of Black women overall strongly support abortion access.

When asked about values on abortion, Black women resonated most with statements that focused on every pregnancy being different, individual decision-making, control, bodily autonomy, politicians not making decisions, freedom, reproductive justice, punishment-free and judgment-free access, and Black women not being forced to carry a pregnancy against their will.

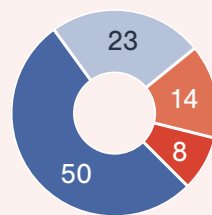
For Black women especially, there was a belief that racism has gone on for too long in America and it’s time we have leaders who will address it; 93% of Black women agreed when asked about this sentiment (compared to 84% of AAPI women and 79% of Latina/x women). 91% of Black women found it extremely or very important for Congress to end discrimination against people because of their race, ethnicity, or culture and 87% found it extremely or very important to stop making it harder for certain groups to vote.

MOST IMPORTANT ISSUES THAT WILL DETERMINE BLACK WOMEN’S VOTES



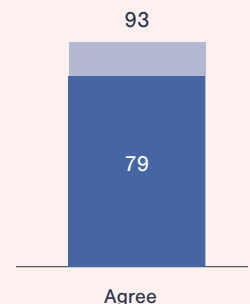
In comparison to the other women of color groups, Black women report higher rates of wanting their elected officials to understand how their experiences and needs are different from those of white women (90% of Black women agreed compared to 81% of AAPI women and 70% of Latina/x women).

BLACK WOMEN STRONGLY SUPPORT ABORTION RIGHTS



- Abortions should be legal and generally available and subject to only limited regulation
- Regulation of abortion is necessary, although it should remain legal in many circumstances
- Abortion should be legal only in the most extreme cases, such as to save the life of the person or in the cases of rape or incest
- All abortions should be made illegal

A MAJORITY OF BLACK WOMEN 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.”



^small n size

THE TAKEAWAYS

- Black women say that racism has impacted their lives at a higher rate than the other women of color (72% say greatly or somewhat impacted, compared to 67% of AAPI women and 52% of Latina/x women) and that discrimination based on gender has impacted them to a lesser degree (56% of Black women say greatly or somewhat).
- Rising costs and prices (29%) are the most important issue that will determine Black women's vote in this year's elections, followed by women's rights (22%). In the third tier are threats to democracy (18%), racism and discrimination (17%), affordable housing (17%), and gun violence prevention (16%).
- For economic issues, Black women found it most important for Congress to create good-paying jobs (92% extremely/very important), ensure everyone has access to affordable health care (92%), and create more affordable housing options (90%).
- For reproductive health and abortion issues, Black women found it most important for Congress to address the high rates of maternal death among women of color (91% extremely/very important), ensure access to birth control (82%), and ensure that abortion is legal, affordable, and accessible (77%).
- For racial justice issues, Black women found it most important for Congress to end discrimination against people because of their race, ethnicity, or culture (91%), and stop making it harder for certain groups to vote (87%).
- Black women plan to vote in person, either on Election Day (39%) or early (35%).
- The way Black women plan on voting mostly represents their feelings about how policies will impact their lives (23%), a need for change (18%), and their values (17%).
- Among Black women who are very motivated to vote, concerns about national and social issues (24%), making their voices heard (21%), keeping Trump/Republicans out of office (21%), and changing the direction of the country (20%) are the factors that motivate them most.
- Only around a quarter (24%) of Black women say that they are likely to vote for a third-party candidate (compared to 33% of AAPI women and 31% of Latina/x women)."
- Local TV news outlets (41%) and cable news channels like CNN or MSNBC (36%) are the top media sources for news or political information for Black women. About 1 in 10 of them (11%) frequently turn to African American or Black newspapers or websites for news.



Intersections of Our Lives (Intersections) and its member organizations are experts on what women of color believe and care about. They are acutely aware of the history of racism and discrimination that women of color have faced and continue to face. Their work is focused on elevating the unity and solidarity between all women of color and manifesting the change that their communities desire.