

Introduction

Across the United States, women and gender expansive people of color are suffering the deadly consequences of restrictive abortion laws, aggressive anti-immigrant policies, rising discrimination and increased barriers to accessing life-saving health care. At the same time, efforts to diminish the power of their voices in the democratic process continue to escalate, including through voter suppression tactics ranging from legislation aimed at making it harder to vote to challenges to the Voting Rights Act in the courts. These harms are compounded by systemic inequities that have long kept health, safety and prosperity out of reach for many women of color in this country.

Amid these ongoing attacks on our communities and attempts to hinder their participation in our democracy, Intersections of Our Lives — a collaborative of three national reproductive justice organizations — set out to understand and lift up the priorities, concerns and most salient voting issues for women of color through research conducted in partnership with Ipsos, a leading market research and polling company, during the fourth quarter of 2025. The study explores participants' views on a wide range of issues — from health care and immigration to the economy and the health of our democracy. The findings, summarized below, paint a clear picture of the perspectives, priorities and concerns of women of color in the U.S. today.

Key Findings

Nearly 250 years ago, America was founded on the idea of the American dream — a dream where anything was possible if you worked hard enough. For many women of color, that version of the American dream is no longer attainable.

- More than half (55%) of women of color across segments — Black, Hispanic and AANHPI (Asian American and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander) — believe the traditional American dream is no longer accessible to them.
- More than a third (36%) say their family finances have worsened over the past year, with one in four (24%) saying their financial situation is tight and requires them to carefully watch their spending. One in five (21%) say they are covering their expenses with little left over, and around one in eight (13%) say they are struggling to make ends meet.
- The majority (89%) are concerned about affordability and the cost of living, and nearly two in three (64%) have delayed major life decisions, including nearly a quarter (23%) who have put off buying a home and around one in five (21%) who have delayed getting health care.

Women of color see the ability to choose if and when to have children as critical to their economic security, family stability and self-determination.

- Seventy percent believe that being able to plan when to have children helps women succeed in their careers.
- Sixty-four percent say that women are more likely to finish their education when they can choose if and when to have children.
- Sixty-two percent believe that women's financial stability improves when they can make their own reproductive choices.

Meanwhile, few women of color think the government is doing a good job of supporting their ability to choose if and when to have children.

- Just 15% rate the government as doing a good job of providing access to reproductive health care, and less than one in five (18%) say the government is doing a good job at ensuring people can choose whether to have children.
- Around one in 10 (12%) rate the government as doing a good job of making it possible to afford to raise children.
- Only 17% believe the government is doing a good job of creating safe communities to raise children.

Women of color see a nation moving in the wrong direction and describe living in a constant state of pressure and anxiety over the state of the country.

- Two in three women of color (65%) say the nation is on the wrong track, with only 9% believing the country is headed in the right direction.
- Sixty-eight percent say their trust in the federal government has gotten worse in the past year.
- The top emotions women of color use to describe how they feel about the state of the country are uncertain (50%), frustrated (49%), exhausted (38%) and angry (28%).

Although the majority of women of color believe in the power of voting to create change, they don't feel that the system hears them.

- Sixty-five percent believe voting is crucial for change, but only 40% think their voice is heard in the political process.
- More than half (64%) say traditional parties and politicians don't care about them, and just one in five (20%) believe the political system works for people like them.
- Lower-income women are less likely to believe voting leads to change (54% of those earning less than \$50,000 annually compared to 75% of those earning more than \$100,000) or that their voice matters (32% of those earning less than \$50,000 compared to 46% of those earning more than \$100,000).

Conclusion

The findings of this study — which is the fourth of its kind to be sponsored by Intersections of Our Lives — underscore the urgent reality that for many women of color, economic security, self-determination, bodily autonomy and political empowerment remain out of reach. Their concerns about rising economic pressure, limited access to reproductive health care and a weakening democracy are not separate challenges — they are interconnected and compounding barriers that shape their ability to support their families, to make decisions about their bodies and to participate fully in civic life. The experiences and views of these women point to the critical need for policies grounded in reproductive justice, including those outlined in Intersections of Our Lives' Reproductive Justice Policy Agenda 2025, which centers around three key pillars — healthy body, healthy families and communities and healthy democracy. By advancing policies that support these three pillars, lawmakers can address the structural inequities highlighted in this research and help to build a society where every person can make decisions about their body, family and future without fear or restriction.

Research Methodology

For the study, the Ipsos research team surveyed a nationally representative sample of 1,017 women of color across three segments — Black, Hispanic, and AANHPI — with an opt-in oversample of 1,475 women in six key states (Arizona, California, Georgia, New Jersey, Nevada and Texas) that were selected for their demographic significance and relevance to policy priorities. The survey was conducted December 5 to December 16, 2025, using Ipsos' KnowledgePanel®, a probability-based online panel designed to be representative of the U.S. population. Findings above reflect the nationally representative, KnowledgePanel portion of the study only. The margin of sampling error is plus or minus 3.49 percentage points at the 95% confidence level for results based on the KnowledgePanel®.

About Intersections of Our Lives

Since 2016, In Our Own Voice: National Black Women's Reproductive Justice Agenda, National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum and National Latina Institute for Reproductive Justice have come together as Intersections of Our Lives to build power, lift up the voices and leadership of women and gender expansive people of color and advocate for a policy agenda that articulates real solutions to the problems and threats affecting our communities. Together, we are working to advance reproductive justice, a movement rooted in the principle that we all have the right to control our bodies, our sexuality, our gender and our reproduction. We believe this will only be achieved when all of us have the agency, resources, and economic, social and political power to make healthy decisions about our bodies, families and communities. To learn more, visit [intersectionsofourlives.org](https://www.intersectionsofourlives.org).

About Ipsos

Ipsos is one of the largest market research and polling companies globally, operating in 90 markets and employing nearly 20,000 people. Its passionately curious research professionals, analysts and scientists have built unique multi-specialist capabilities that provide true understanding and powerful insights into the actions, opinions and motivations of citizens, consumers, patients, customers or employees. Its 75 business solutions are based on primary data from its surveys, social media monitoring and qualitative or observational techniques. "Game Changers" — its tagline — summarizes the company's ambition to help its 5,000 clients navigate with confidence our rapidly changing world.