



December 1, 2023

## AAPI voters support comprehensive action on crime that includes preventative measures

**Younger voters are particularly moved by comprehensive message<sup>1</sup>**

**To:** Interested Parties

**From:** GQR and Vera Action

A survey of voters nationally—with an oversample in battleground states—shows that crime and gun violence are top priorities for AAPI voters. The poll, conducted by GQR and Vera Action, shows that a majority of AAPI voters prefer a comprehensive message on crime that includes preventative measures and funding for mental health and drug addiction treatment services.

AAPI voters are a Democratic-leaning constituency, but they are divided by gender and age, with women and younger voters to the left of men and older voters. AAPI men trust Republicans more on crime, and women trust Democrats. Despite these differences, comprehensive safety messaging appeals to all groups of AAPI voters.

### **Crime and gun violence are among the top concerns for AAPI voters**

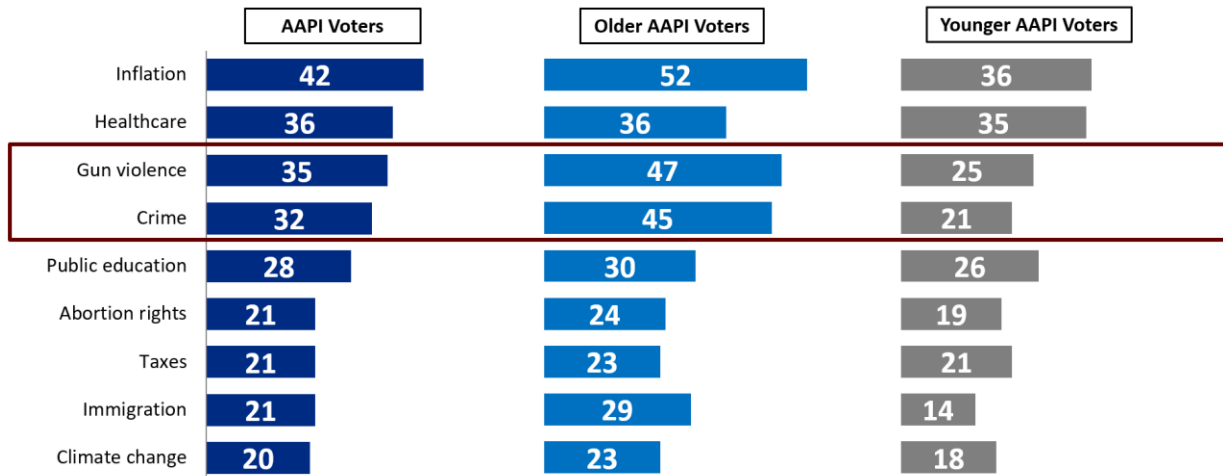
Crime and gun violence are among the top issues most important to AAPI voters, alongside cost of living and healthcare. Overall, crime and gun violence are seen as equally pressing issues: 35 percent say gun violence is a top priority, and 32 percent say crime is a top priority. Older AAPI voters are more likely than younger AAPI voters to see both gun violence and crime as top priorities. There are no substantial gender differences.

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<sup>1</sup> GQR conducted a survey among 1,500 registered voters (2,426 unweighted) across the country, with oversamples among Black, Hispanic/Latino, and AAPI voters, from August 10 to August 23, 2023. Interviews were conducted using live dialing, text-to-web interviews, and online panels. The battleground survey is among 1,332 registered voters (1,735 unweighted) in presidential battleground states (Arizona, Georgia, Michigan, Nevada, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, and Wisconsin). Interviews were conducted via online panels. The data in both surveys are weighted to ensure the sample's regional, age, education, and gender composition reflects that of the estimated registered voters. Unweighted sample sizes for the groups in this memo are: AAPI voters, 309; AAPI women, 123; AAPI men, 186 ; AAPI voters ages 18–49, 167; and AAPI voters ages 50 and over, 130.

Figure 1: Gun violence and crime are top priorities for older AAPI voters

*Now I am going to read you a list of issues. For each one I read, please rate how high of a priority you believe this issue should be for Congress over the next two years, where zero is not at all a priority, ten is the highest priority for Congress to address, and five is in the middle. If you have no opinion or have never heard of this issue, please say so. [Percents of respondents who say 10 – highest priority]*



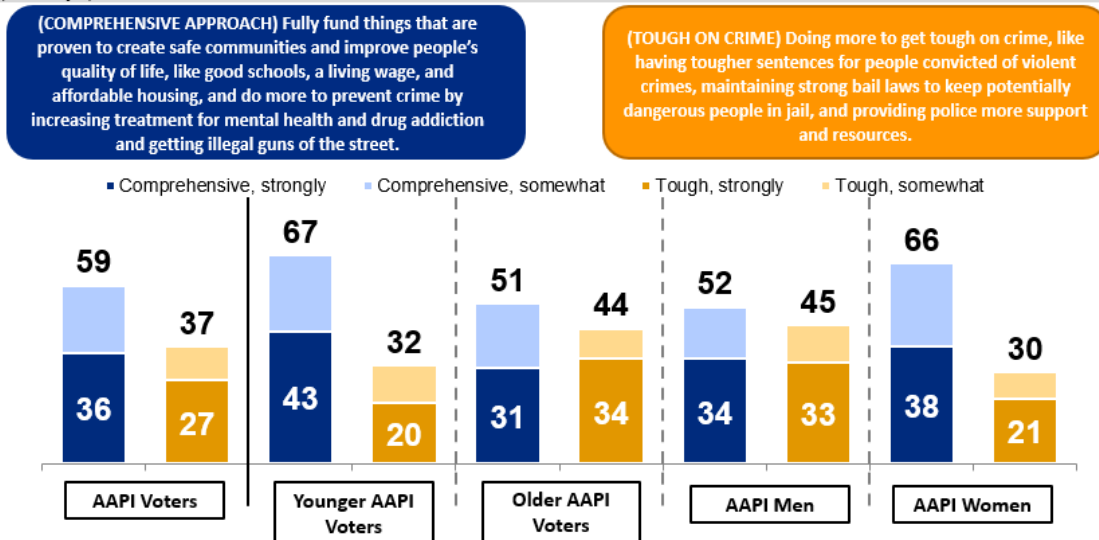
Nevertheless, AAPI voters are less likely than all voters to see crime as a national problem and are more likely to feel very safe in their communities. Nearly half (49 percent) of AAPI voters see crime as a very serious problem, compared to 57 percent of voters nationally. AAPI voters also tend to feel a bit safer in their local communities than other groups, with 37 percent saying they feel very safe in their communities, compared to 29 percent among Black voters and 30 percent among Hispanic voters. There are no differences among AAPI voters based on age or gender.

### AAPI voters prefer comprehensive measures to approach crime

AAPI voters prefer a comprehensive approach to crime: 59 percent say they prefer a message about preventing crime that proposes to “fully fund things that are proven to create safe communities and improve quality of life,” including good schools, affordable housing, and treatment for mental health and drug addiction. Two-thirds of women and younger AAPI voters prefer this comprehensive approach to a “tough-on-crime” message.

Figure 2: AAPI voters strongly favor a comprehensive approach to public safety

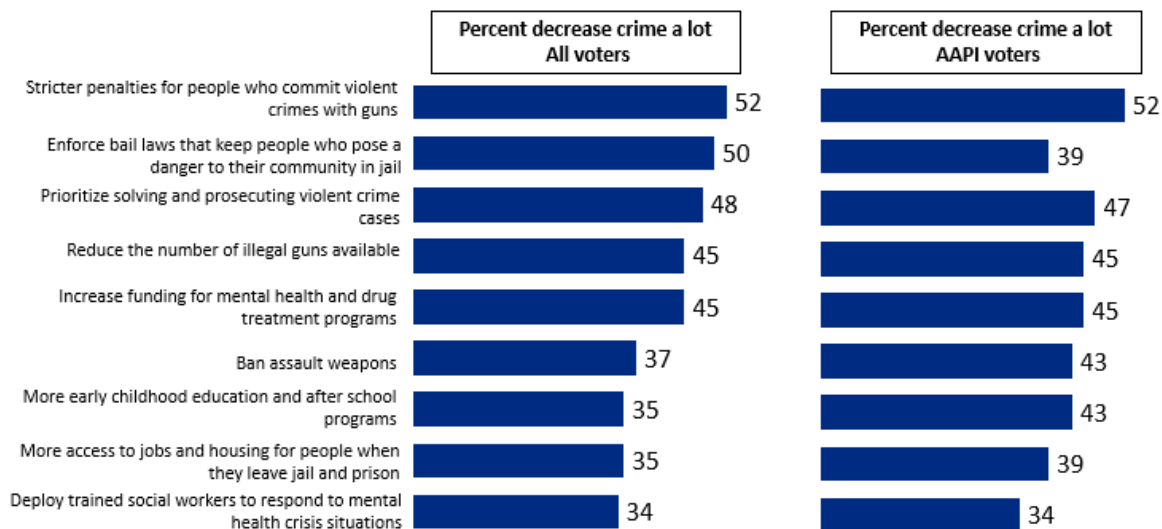
Now, I am going to read you some statements on the issue of public safety. After I read these statements, please tell me which one comes closer to your point of view on how public safety should be handled.



While AAPI voters believe measures such as stricter penalties and solving violent crimes would decrease crime a lot, there is also some consensus that measures such as mental health programs and reducing the number of illegal guns would also reduce rates of crime. AAPI voters are less likely than all voters to say that enforcing bail laws would reduce crime a lot. There are few differences among AAPI voters by age and gender, but women (52 percent) are more likely than men (31 percent) to say reducing guns would decrease crime a lot. Younger AAPI voters (53 percent) are more likely than older AAPI voters (37 percent) to say reducing illegal guns would decrease crime a lot.

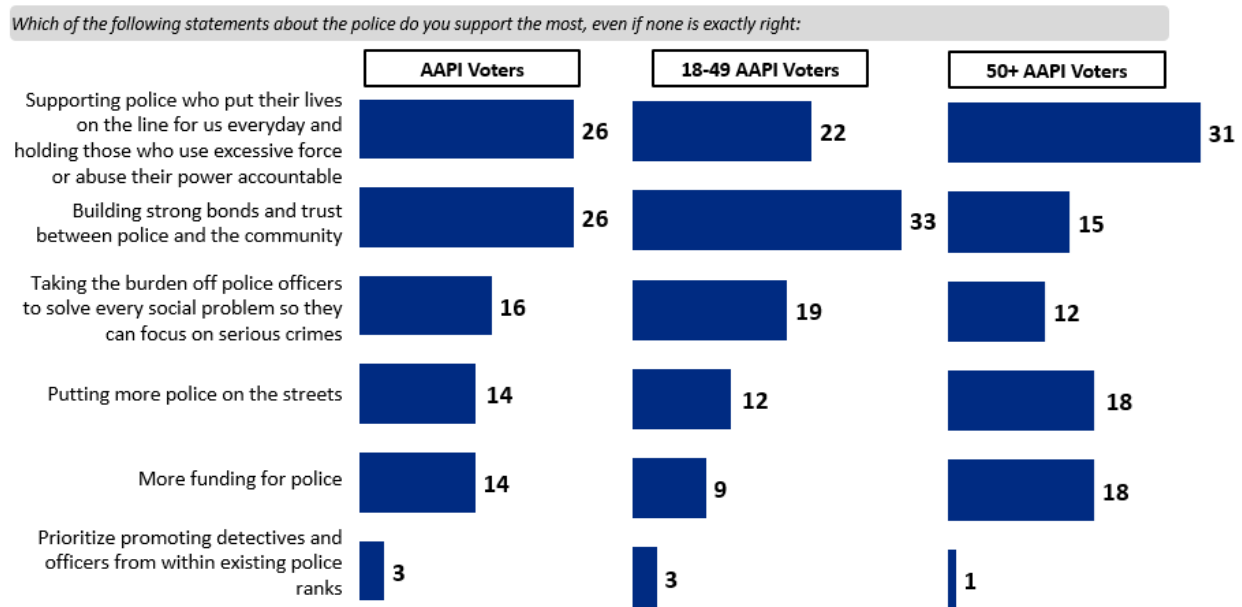
Figure 3: AAPI voters think comprehensive policies are most likely to reduce crime

Now I will read you some statements. For each statement, to what extent, if at all, do you believe the following proposals would decrease crime in the United States? Do you believe this policy would decrease crime a lot, decrease crime somewhat, or would it not decrease crime in the United States at all?



AAPI voters are also generally supportive of police while wanting to hold them accountable, and a quarter would like to see police build stronger bonds with communities. There are not large gender differences on policing, but age is a factor: young AAPI voters are more likely to say they want to see police build stronger bonds with the community (33 percent) than older AAPI voters (15 percent).

Figure 4: AAPI voters balance support and accountability for police with community relationships

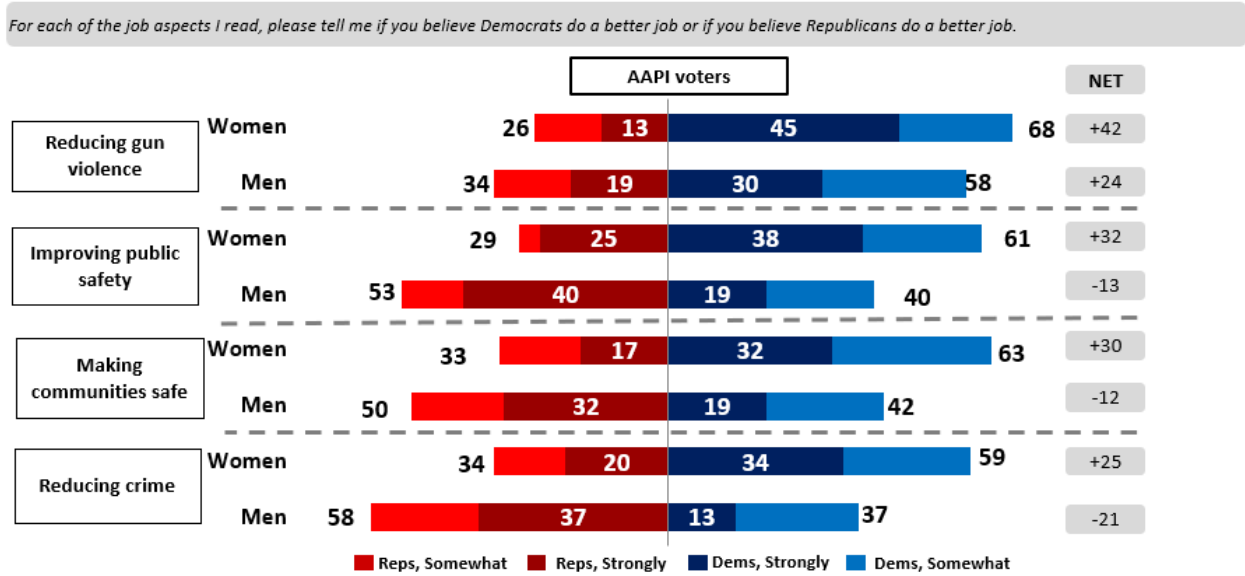


### AAPI women trust Democrats to handle gun violence and safety issues

AAPI voters are a Democratic-leaning group, with about 52 percent indicating they plan to vote for Democratic candidates regardless of messaging on crime. There is a considerable age and gender gap, however, with around 60 percent of both women and younger AAPI voters choosing Democrats compared to just over four in ten among both men and older AAPI voters.

AAPI voters are divided on which party is best at reducing crime: 48 percent say Democrats are better, compared to 46 percent who say Republicans are better. However, AAPI voters give Democrats the edge on improving public safety (51 percent, compared to 40 percent for Republicans), making communities safer (52 percent, compared to 42 percent), and reducing gun violence (63 percent, compared to 30 percent). The age gap is smaller on these issues than on vote choice, but the gender gap remains very large—AAPI women are much more likely than AAPI men to see Democrats as the party that is best at handling crime.

Figure 5: Women AAPI voters see Democrats as stronger on crime



### Conclusion

Crime and gun violence are among the top concerns for AAPI voters, especially women and older voters. AAPI Voters want a comprehensive approach that addresses gun violence while also prioritizing measures such as mental health and drug use treatment programs. There are considerable partisan gaps, with younger and women AAPI voters favoring Democrats in general and on crime, while men and older AAPI voters lean toward Republicans. Overall, AAPI voters want the police to build better relationships with their communities and to have the resources they need while being held accountable. Crime prevention, stopping violence, addressing gun violence, and better policing and police accountability are the pillars of this powerful comprehensive safety message.