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Effectively Educating Asian Americans on Rank Choice Voting

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Effectively Educating Asian Americans on Rank Choice Voting



Background Information

Ranked choice voting (RCV) describes a new electoral system which would allow voters to rank multiple candidates by preference rather than voting for one candidate specifically. The candidate with the majority (more than 50%) of votes wins the election, but in the case that there is not a clear majority, the candidate with the least number of votes is eliminated, and the voters who voted for the eliminated candidate as their first choice, will have their votes counted for their second choice. This process continues until there is a candidate with more than 50% of the votes. With this new system of voting in place, we wanted to see how we could help the Asian American immigrant population understand the process better.

Hypothesis

The most effective way to educate New York's Asian American immigrant population on RCV is through video explanations.

Our Plan

In order to collect data on RCV from New York's Asian immigrant population, we sent out a Google Form to survey Asian correspondents on their demographics and their knowledge of RCV. Using the data, we wanted to pull out the method that many of the respondents felt would help them best understand the topic.

Conclusion

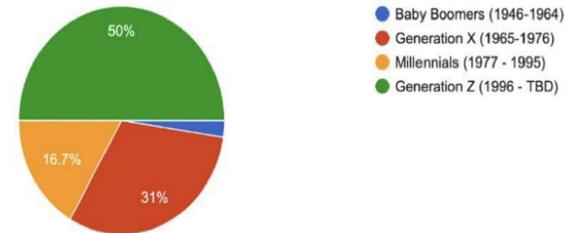
After conducting our survey on the Asian American communities across New York City, our results showed that a majority of respondents were not aware of RCV. In addition, a majority of respondents preferred to have personal pamphlets detailing the entire process. This contradicted our original hypothesis; we initially believed that most of our respondents would prefer to have video explanations because we assumed that everyone had access to some form of technology. Furthermore, it's interesting to see how a majority of respondents were from Generation Z, giving insight on future electoral voting tendencies.

References

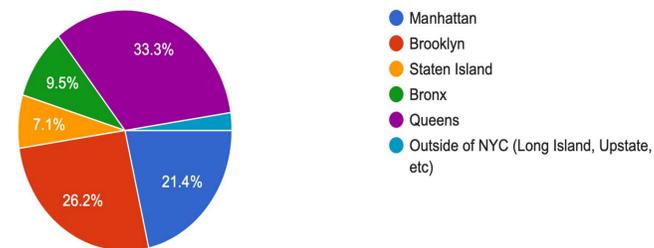
Gray, Gordon, et al. "The Politically Active Generations: Millennials, Gen Z Care About the Debt - and More." AAF, 7 Feb. 2020, www.americanactionforum.org/insight/the-politically-active-generations-millennials-gen-z-care-about-the-debt-and-more/.

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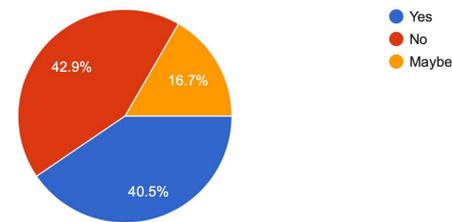
Which generation are you a part of?
42 responses



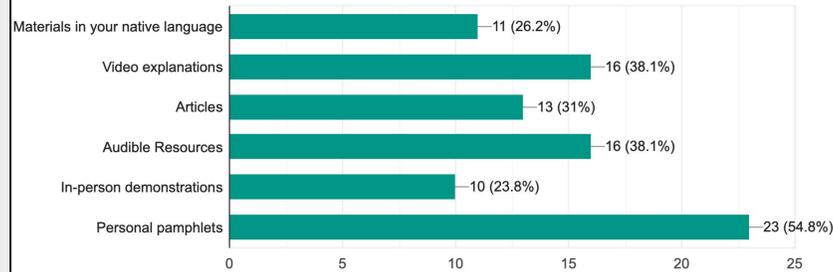
Which NYC borough are you from?
42 responses



Are you aware of RCV?
42 responses



What would better help you understand RCV?
42 responses



Gen Z and millennial individuals make up a large proportion of our sample size. As such, it is important to recognize that these two generations have actually been the most politically active in recent years. Contrary to popular belief, these two generations are the most informed and concerned of modern day political issues, most notably, the country's rising debt.

The chart's distribution of boroughs that our Asian survey respondents were from are indicative of New York's Asian population. According to Google, the boroughs with the highest Asian populations were Queens, Brooklyn, and Manhattan respectively, which also each have their own Chinatown. Once we find the method that is most appropriate, we plan to distribute it in these sites accordingly.

It was surprising to see that about half of the Asian respondents have never even heard of RCV. We expected a higher percentage to be aware considering we assumed the Asian population had access to technology and were up to date on current events. This only emphasizes the idea that there is a lack of RCV education for the Asian community.

The results for this chart definitely surprised us as we felt more people would prefer video explanations as their method of RCV education, given our modern day reliance on technology, especially for Gen Z and millennials. However, from the data, it appears that a majority of the surveyor respondents prefer to learn from personal pamphlets, This may be because pamphlets are more accessible and it is easier for individuals to learn at their own pace.