

KOREAN AMERICANS FOR CIVIC PARTICIPATION (KACP)

2019 KOREAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY SURVEY REPORT

PREPARED BY
KACP AND NAKASEC

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ABOUT

Korean Americans for Civic Participation (KACP) is a coalition of Korean American organizations in the greater Philadelphia area that seeks to empower the Korean American community through education, leadership development and civic engagement. Together, the Korean Women's Center (KWC- founded 1985), Korean American Association of Greater Philadelphia (KAAGP- founded 1970) and Korean American Community Center (KACC- founded 1993) make up this coalition. KACP originally coalesced around the 2019 Pennsylvania elections with the goal of leveraging each organization's human, financial and in-kind resources towards a collective goal of Korean and Asian American community empowerment in greater Philadelphia.

KACP is the only Korean American organization in the country focused solely on civically engaging Korean Americans. As the vast majority of community members are recent immigrants and limited English proficient, they face significant barriers to participating in local, state and national elections and government surveys such as the U.S. Census. Leadership of all three organizations are bilingual in Korean and English languages and are Korean American immigrants themselves. Through both lived experience and work, they intimately understand the challenges their community members face, and have regularly sought to address these challenges— even before the official convening of KACP in 2019. For instance, after Trump's election, the three organizations began to receive concerned calls from community members, which led them to co-organize a Know Your Rights (KYR) workshop in early 2017. Overall, KACP hopes that through its work, Korean Americans in greater Philadelphia will become more active, informed and confident to help secure the resources greater Philadelphia needs to continue to prosper.



KOREAN AMERICANS IN GREATER PHILADELPHIA AND MONTGOMERY COUNTY

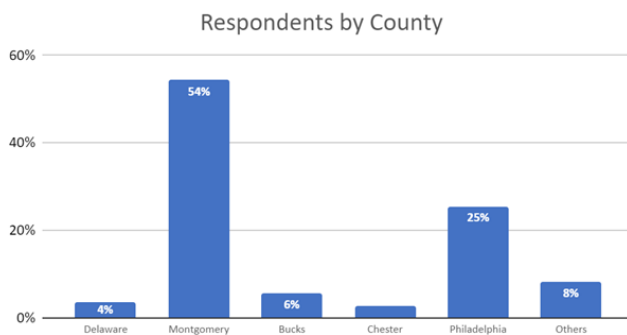
Roughly 41,000 Korean Americans live in Pennsylvania. The vast majority (30,879) live in the greater Philadelphia area, which includes Philadelphia, Montgomery, Delaware, Bucks and Chester Counties. Roughly two-thirds of Korean Americans in greater Philadelphia are foreign born and 69% of Korean Americans in Montgomery County speak Korean as their first language.

Although Korean Americans are a relatively newer immigrant community, there are already two Korean Americans in the city council: Helen Gym and David Oh. Korean American former Senior Deputy Attorney General of PA, Pearl Kim, recently ran to become PA's 5th District Member of Congress.

The interest of community members in pursuing public office is indicative of greater Philadelphia's Korean Americans' investment in civic participation. In addition, overall Asian American civic participation in Pennsylvania is steadily growing. Between 2004 and 2012, the number of Asian Americans who voted in Pennsylvania increased by 35%, more than all other racial groups except for the Latinx vote. During the same period, Asian American voter registration increased by 23%, whereas overall voter registration increased by just 5%.

Building on experience gained over the last four years, KACP plans to decrease barriers that Korean Americans will face in voting in the 2020 elections and participating in the U.S. Census. We plan to offer linguistically and culturally competent education and social services (i.e. educational brochures and guides, workshops, and direct language and digital assistance at polls and with Census surveys). Be on the look out for these materials from us!

We are pleased to present you with the results from a community survey that KACP conducted this summer.



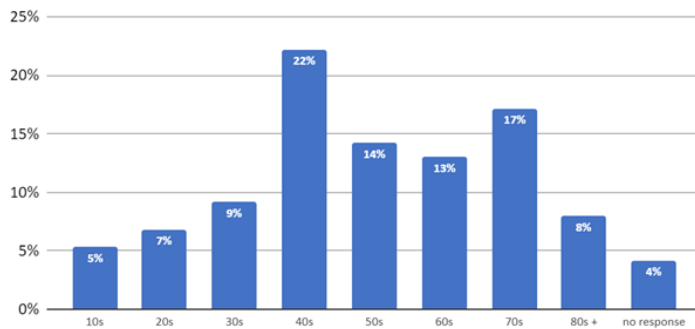
SURVEY RESULTS

From mid-August to mid-September of 2019, KACP conducted a community survey in Korean markets, Korean social service agencies and other Korean American community events, targeting Korean Americans in Montgomery County. The survey was conducted in both Korean and English languages, to increase accessibility of the survey to all community members. This survey uncovers the types of social services the community needs and the issues that community members view as most pressing. In total, 338 Korean Americans participated in the survey.

DEMOGRAPHICS



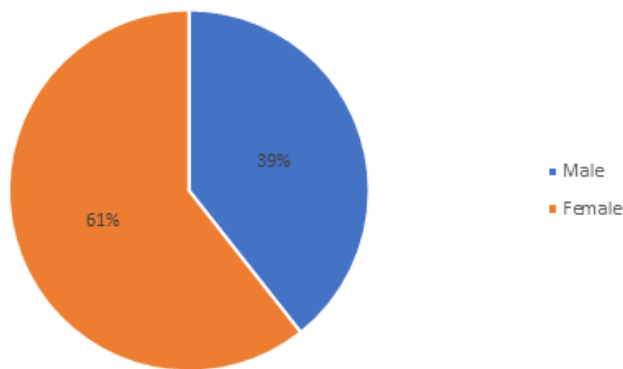
Respondents by Age (%)



Most of the respondents outside the five counties are mostly from neighboring counties in PA including Lehigh and Northampton, as well as counties in New Jersey including Camden, Mercer, and Monroe. 3 respondents were from Delaware State, Maryland State, and New York State, each.

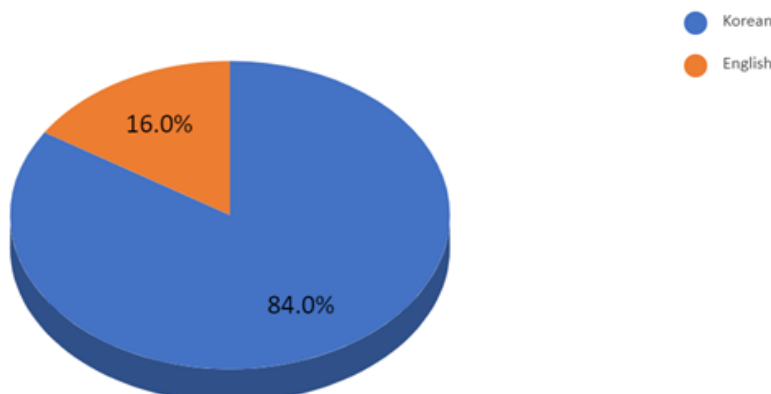
See previous page for county demographic breakdown.

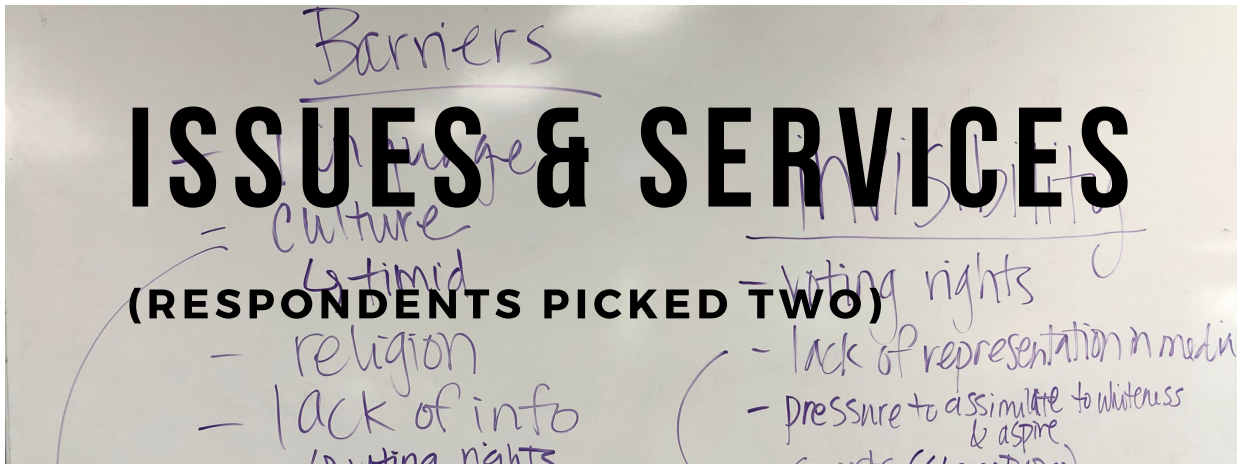
RESPONDENTS BY GENDER



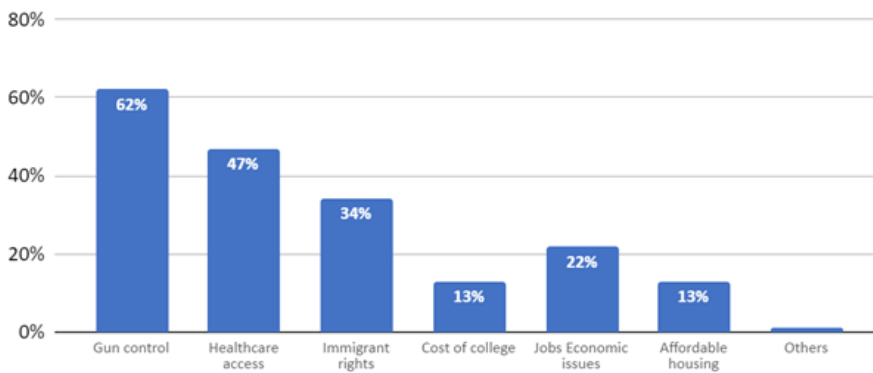
Note: Only two "male" and "female" were provided to the question of "sex."

Responses by Language

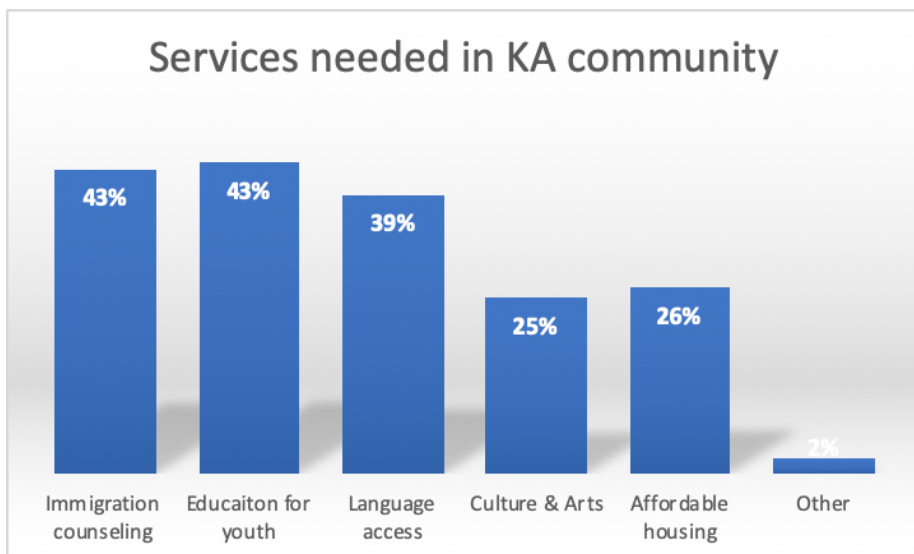




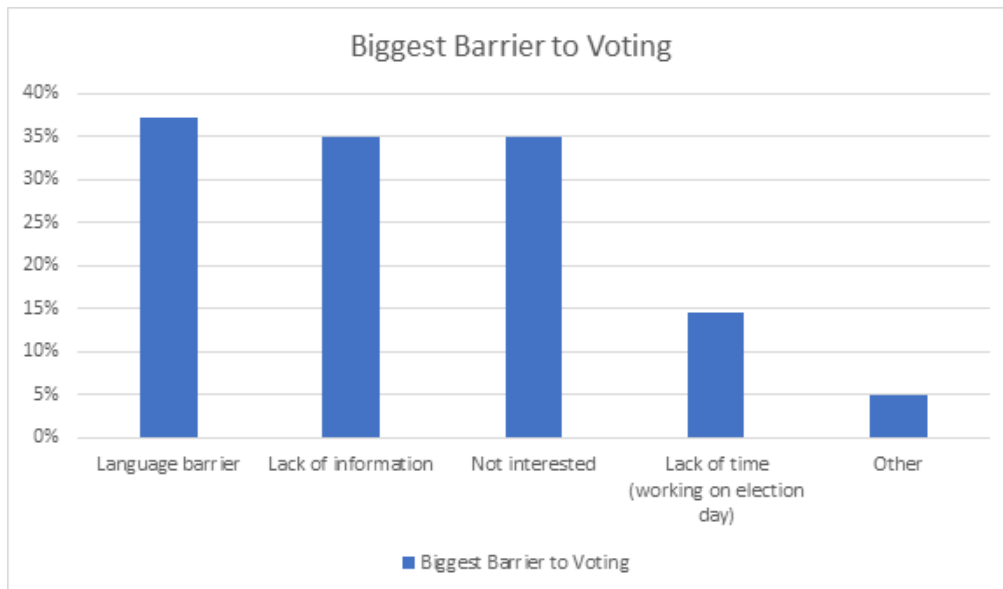
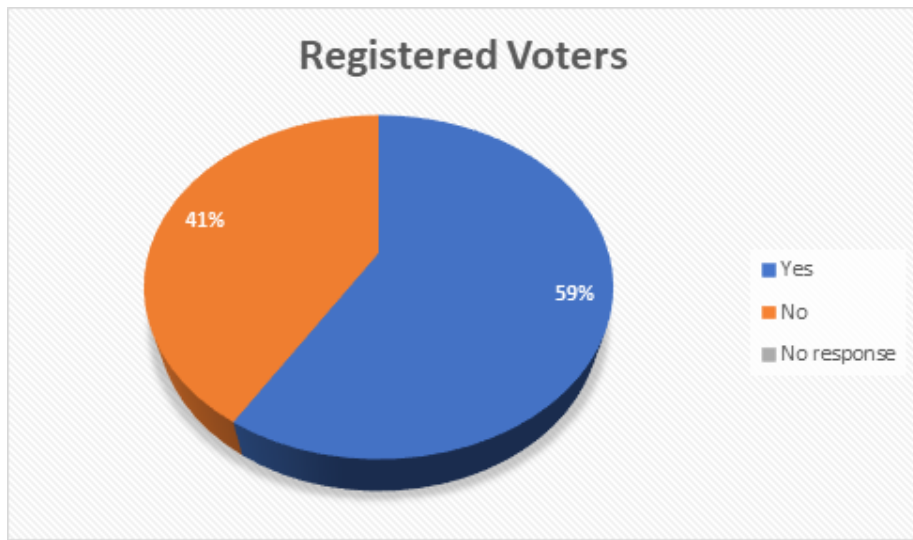
Important issues



Services needed in KA community



VOTING



“Other” responses include, most prominently, ineligibility to vote, as well as difficulty in obtaining U.S. citizenship and lack of trust in politicians.

CONCLUSION

ISSUES AND SERVICES

The top issue for Korean Americans is gun control (62%) followed by healthcare access (47%) and immigrant rights (34%). By comparison, the types of services the community demand split more even among the different choices: Roughly equal percentages (39-43%) desire more immigration counseling, youth education, and language access, followed by affordable housing (26%) and culture and arts program (25%).

VOTER PARTICIPATION

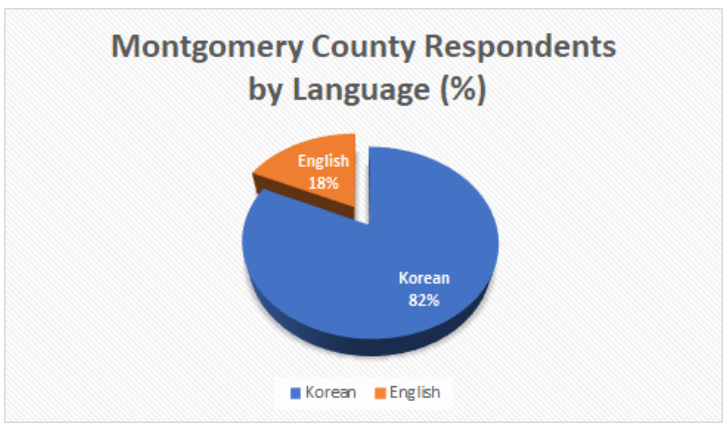
59% of survey respondents are registered voters and 41% are not registered. Language barrier, lack of information, and lack of interest roughly tie as the main barriers to voting. Very few respondents (5%) selected "Other," but of the "Other" responses, ineligibility to vote (which includes difficulty in obtaining U.S. citizenship) constitutes the main written response.

DEMOGRAPHICS

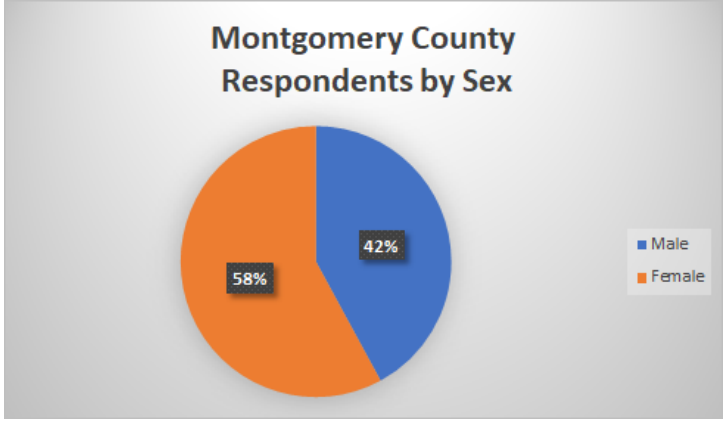
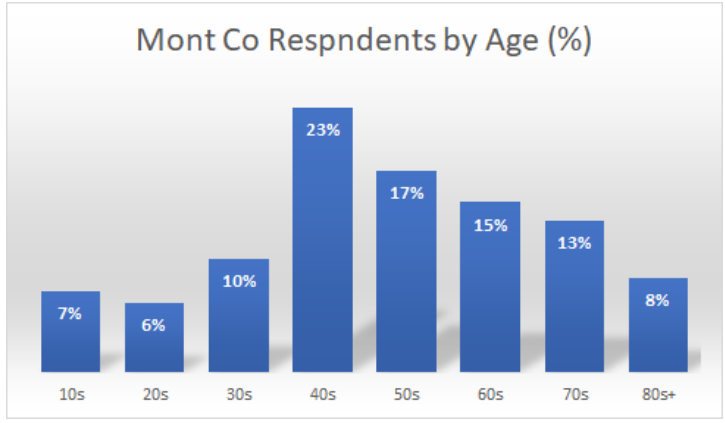
The majority of survey respondents (54%) reside in Montgomery County, followed by Philadelphia County (25%). Most respondents are between 40 to 70 years old and the majority (61%) are female. The vast majority (84%) filled out the Korean version of the bilingual (Korean/English) survey.

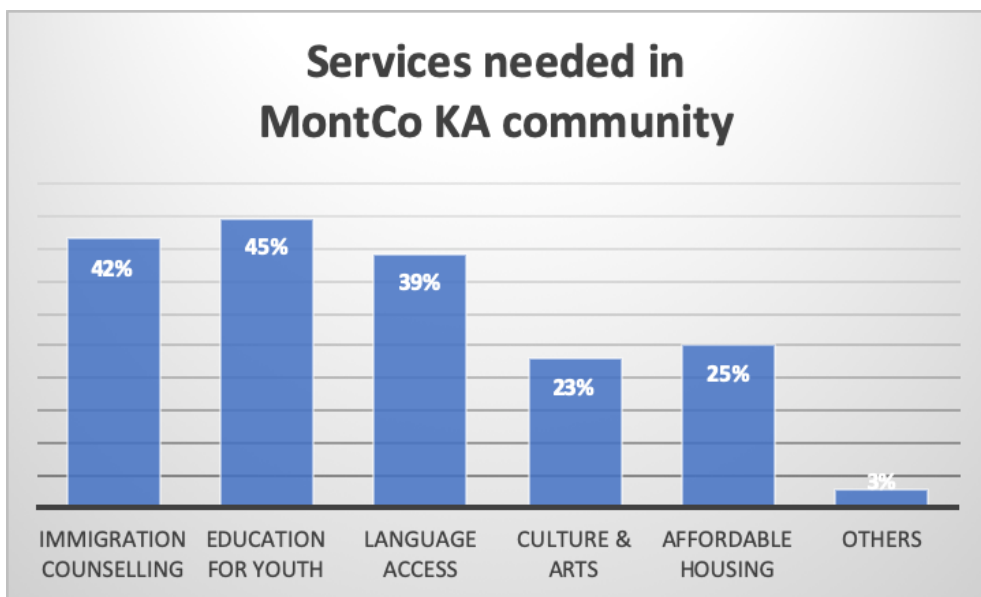
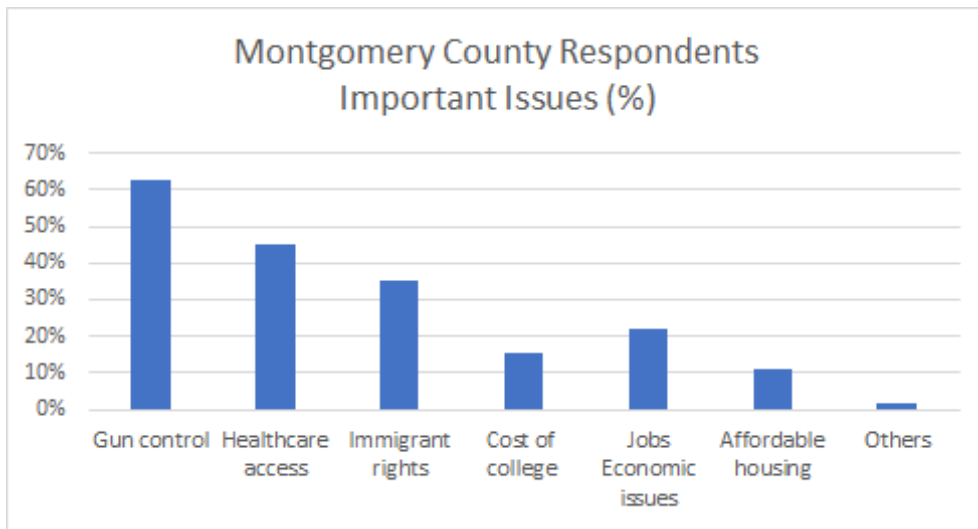


DEMOGRAPHICS (MONTCO)

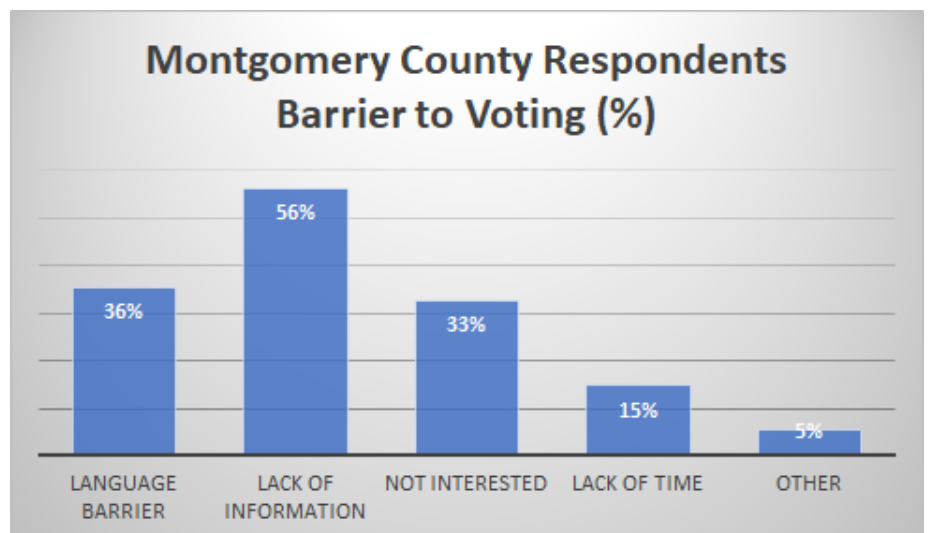
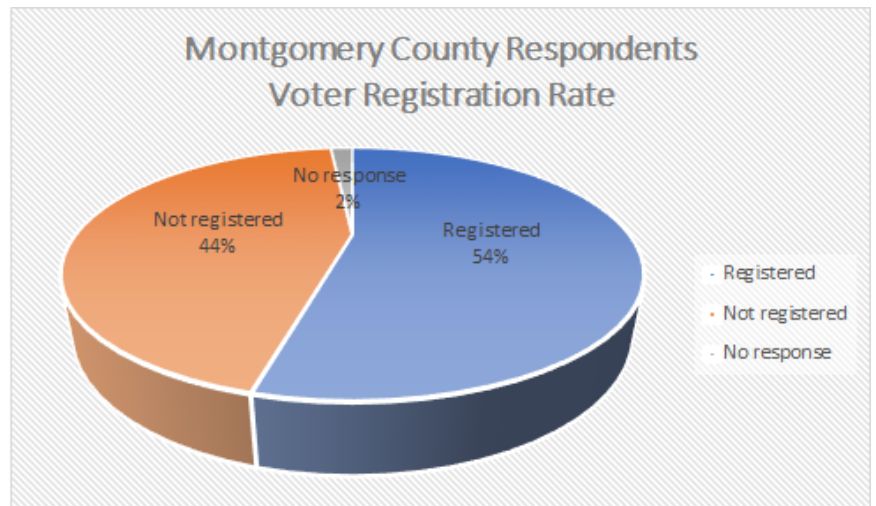


AS THE LARGEST KOREAN AMERICAN POPULATION LIVES IN MONTGOMERY COUNTY, THE FOLLOWING PAGES PRESENT DATA ISOLATED FOR THIS COUNTY.





VOTING - MONTCO



“Other” responses include, most prominently, ineligibility to vote, as well as difficulty in obtaining U.S. citizenship and lack of trust in politicians.

CONCLUSION

We isolated data from Montgomery County because respondents from the county represented a significant portion (54%) of total respondents.

ISSUES AND SERVICES

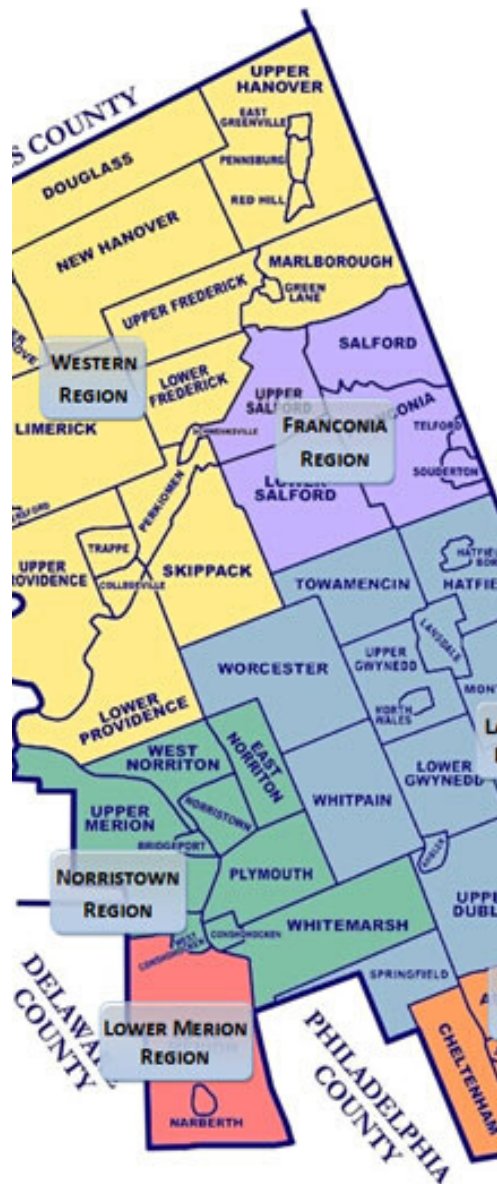
The top issue for Korean Americans is gun control (63%) followed by healthcare access (45%) and immigrant rights (35%). By comparison, the types of services the community demand split more even among the different choices: Roughly equal percentages (39-45%) desire more immigration counseling, youth education, and language access, followed by affordable housing (25%) and culture and arts program (29%).

VOTER PARTICIPATION

54% of survey respondents are registered voters and 44% are not registered. For 56% of respondents, lack of information was the main barrier to voting, followed by language barrier (36%) and lack of interest (33%). Very few respondents (5%) selected "Other," but of the "Other" responses, ineligibility to vote (which includes difficulty in obtaining U.S. citizenship) constitutes the main written response.

DEMOGRAPHICS

Survey respondents from Montgomery County primarily differed from overall responses in terms of age and barriers to voting. A possible explanation is that the second largest group of respondents to this survey were senior citizens from Philadelphia County.



KOREAN AMERICANS FOR CIVIC PARTICIPATION



QUESTIONS?

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