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Inside C2

Southern DAILY

Make Today Different

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Republican McCarthy loses first U.S. House speaker vote

WASHINGTON, Jan 3 (Reuters) - Republican Kevin McCarthy lost a dramatic first vote for speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives and appeared poised to fall short in a second ballot on Tuesday as hardline conservatives from his own party rebelled against him, leaving the new Republican majority in turmoil. In an embarrassing beginning to what could prove to be a brutal showdown between hardliners and most House Republicans, McCarthy fell short in the first ballot of the 218-vote majority needed to succeed Democrat Nancy Pelosi as speaker. It was the first time in a century that the House failed to elect a speaker on the first vote.

Lawmakers quickly moved on to a second ballot, with McCarthy again appearing unlikely to prevail. McCarthy had served as the House minority leader and sought to become speaker, a position second in the line of succession to the U.S. presidency, only to draw strong opposition from his party's right flank.

House Democratic leader Hakeem Jeffries outran McCarthy by 212 to 203 votes in the first vote, as 19 Republicans opted for a different candidate. McCarthy's conservative Republican rival, Representative Andy Biggs, garnered 10 votes. A majority of those voting, not a plurality, is needed to determine a speaker.

McCarthy was accused of Idaho college slayings to appear in court. The path for McCarthy remained complicated, as popular conservative Representative Jim Jordan sought to rally support for the California Republican only to find himself put forward as a rival by a McCarthy opponent.

"We need to rally around him," Jordan said in an impassioned speech on the House floor. "I think Kevin McCarthy's the right guy to lead us."

Hardline conservative Representative Matt Gaetz then nominated Jordan, who quickly attracted enough Republican votes to deny McCarthy victory on the second ballot.

Jordan, 58, is a staunch ally of Republican former President Donald Trump and a co-founder of the conservative House Freedom Caucus. A former amateur wrestler who represents a congressional district in Ohio, Jordan had been floated as a possible alternative candidate for speaker but instead supported McCarthy while preparing to oversee the House Judiciary Committee's investigation of the Justice Department and FBI under Democratic President Joe Biden.

It was a disconcerting start to the new majority for McCarthy and highlights the challenges Republicans could face over the next two years, heading into the 2024 presidential election. Their slim majority gives greater clout to a small group of hard-liners, who want to focus on dealing defeat to Democrats and pushing various investigations.

Republicans won a narrow 222-212 majority in November's midterm election, meaning that McCarthy - or any candidate for speaker - will need to unify a fractious caucus



to win the gavel. Democrats hold a slim majority in the Senate.

CULTURE WARS

U.S. representatives and senators gather on the first day of the new Congress at the U.S. Capitol in Washington

McCarthy's hardline opponents are concerned that he is less deeply vested in the culture wars and partisan rivalries that have dominated the House - and even more so since Trump's White House years.

Before the vote, McCarthy tried to persuade the holdouts during a closed-door party meeting, vowing to stay in the race until he gets the necessary votes, but many participants emerged from the gathering undaunted.

A protracted speaker election could undermine House Republican hopes of moving forward quickly on priorities including investigations of Biden's administration and family, as well as legislative priorities involving the economy, U.S. energy independence and border security.

In the first vote, a few Republicans opted to vote for party figures not on the ballot, including for Jordan and Lee Zeldin, a former House Republican who ran for governor of New York last year.

A standoff would leave the House largely paralyzed and could force lawmakers to consider another candidate. In addition to Jordan, incoming Majority Leader Steve Scalise was seen as a possible candidate.

It was not clear whether McCarthy, who has the support of a wide majority of his caucus, would have the support to overcome the hard-line opposition and win the speakership.

McCarthy has spent his adult life in politics - as a congressional staffer, then state legislator before being elected to the House in 2006. As speaker, McCarthy would be well placed to frustrate Biden's legislative ambitions.

But any Republican speaker will have the tough task of managing a House Republican caucus moving ever rightward, with uncompromising tendencies and - at least among some lawmakers - close allegiances to Trump.

Tuesday's vote marked the first time in 100 years that a nominee has not succeeded to the House speakership on the first ballot. The record number of voting rounds to elect a House speaker is 133 over a two-month period in the 1850s.

The Democrats picked Jeffries to serve as minority leader after Pelosi, the first woman to serve as speaker, announced that she would step down from her leadership role. She will remain in office as a representative.

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WEA LEE'S GLOBAL NOTES

01/02/2023

Musk Is Trying To Exit The Twitter Deal

With the arrival of the new year, elected officials, including governors, city councils and judges are about to take their oaths of office in January to start their public service for the people.

Due to the awakening of Chinese and Asian citizens

into political participation, the number of Asian voters has increased significantly which numbers now clearly reflect that our political influence is increasing.



Former Secretary of Transportation Elaine Chao has always reminded us that we

are very proud of our heritage.

With the arrival of the new year, first of all, we wish everyone good health. We also want to remind everyone to support our Asian American political candidates with financial support and to go out and vote for them.

Looking forward to the future, we are still facing major challenges. Today we need to be united to help our community and to overcome their problems.



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Chairman of International Trade & Culture Center
Republic of Guiana Honorary consul at Houston Texas



Southern DAILY Make Today Different

Editor's Choice



Team Audi Sport's Mattias Ekstrom and Co-Driver Emil Bergkvist in action during Stage 2 of Dakar Rally, Sea Camp to Alula, Saudi Arabia. REUTERS/Hamad I Mohammed



Junior Lambrechts has his face painted in preparation for the Cape Minstrel Carnival in Cape Town, South Africa. REUTERS/Shelley Christians



A mourner reacts as Brazilian soccer legend Pele is transported by the fire department, from his former club Santos' Vila Belmiro stadium, in Santos, Brazil. REUTERS/Ueslei Marcelino



Pillars of light, which are optical atmospheric phenomena, beam up from the ground into the sky behind residential buildings in Omsk, Russia. REUTERS/Alexey Malgavko



A goat wearing a jacket is seen on a farm on a cold winter morning in New Delhi, India, January 3, 2023. REUTERS/Anushree Fadnavis



Newly elected freshman Rep. George Santos (R-NY), embroiled in a scandal over his resume and claims made on the campaign trail, yawns behind his hand as he sits alone in the House Chamber, on the first day of the 118th Congress at the U.S. Capitol in Washington. REUTERS/Jonathan Ernst

Celebrating Asian American And Pacific Islander Heritage Month

Six Charts That Shed Light On Images Of Asian Americans Held By Many



By Connie Hanzhang Jin - NPR Writer

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

“Smart.” “Hard-working.” “Nice.” Those were among the adjectives that respondents offered up in a recent poll when asked to describe Asian Americans.

The poll, conducted by the nonprofit Leading Asian Americans to Unite for Change (LAAUNCH), was another all-too-familiar reminder that Asian Americans are still perceived as the “model minority.” Since the end of World War II, this myth about Asian Americans and their perceived collective success has been used as a racial wedge — to minimize the role racism plays in the struggles of other minority groups, such as Black Americans.

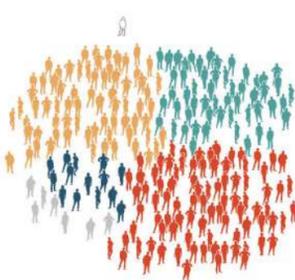
Characterizing Asian Americans as a model minority flattens the diverse experiences of Asian Americans into a singular, narrow narrative. And it paints a misleading picture about the community that doesn’t align with current statistics.

Here’s a look at some common misconceptions driven by the model minority myth.

Myth: Asian Americans are a single monolithic group

Currently, more than 22 million people of Asian descent live in the U.S., making up approximately 7% of the nation’s population. They trace their heritage to different regions around the world, with people of East Asian and Southeast Asian descent making up the largest shares, though no group makes up a majority. More than 1.5 million Pacific Islanders, who descend from Micronesia, Melanesia or Polynesia, live in the U.S. as well.

ASIAN AMERICANS TRACE THEIR HERITAGE TO DIFFERENT REGIONS OF THE WORLD



NOTES

The U.S. Census Bureau classifies a person of Asian descent as anyone who traces their heritage to a subset of countries in the continent of Asia. But there may be people outside of this classification who self-identify as Asian.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019 American Community Survey

Credit: Connie Hanzhang Jin/NPR

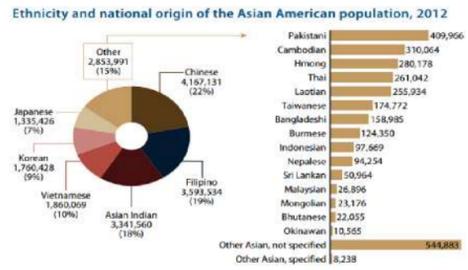
Academics and activists trace the term “Asian American” to 1968, when students at the University of California, Berkeley, founded the Asian American Political Alliance. At the time, the group sought to unite students of Japanese, Chinese and Filipino descent to fight for political and social recognition.

“Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders” (AAPI) is a term that has its roots in the 1980s and ‘90s, when the U.S. Census Bureau used the “Asian Pacific American” classification to group Asians, Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders together. In 1997, the bureau disaggregated the categories into “Asian” and “Pacific Islander.”

Scholars and activists have critiqued both terms for masking differences in histories and needs among communities, as well as supporting the myth that Asian Americans are a monolithic group.

Within these regional groups, a huge variety of ethnicities exist within the Asian American community. People who identify their heritage as Chinese, Indian or Filipino make up the largest share.

MANY ETHNICITIES FALL UNDER THE ASIAN AMERICAN UMBRELLA



Source: Bureau of the Census, “National origin by ancestry group, 2012,” available at https://factfinder.census.gov/briefs/factsheets/32_119802010.html (last accessed March 2015).

NOTES

Ethnicities with fewer than 100,000 people not shown. The U.S. Census Bureau classifies a person of Asian descent as anyone who traces their heritage to a subset of countries in the continent of Asia. But there may be people outside of this classification who self-identify as Asian.

These numbers have risen rapidly in recent years. The Asian American population is the fastest-growing racial or ethnic group in the U.S., growing by 81% from 2000 to 2019. The Hispanic population saw the second-fastest growth, at 70%, followed by Native Hawaiians and Pacific

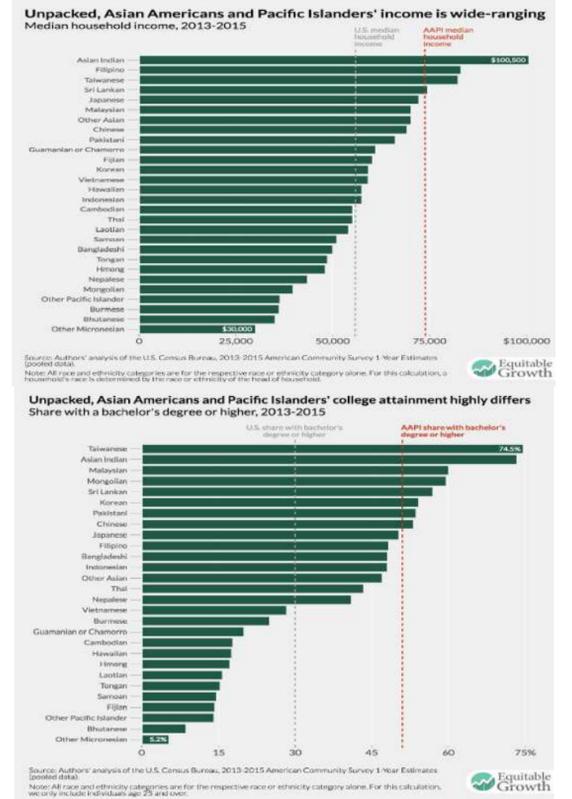
Islanders, at 60%. The white population grew by only 1% in that time.

Myth: Asian Americans are high earning and well educated

Asian Americans have a median household income of around \$78,000 a year, which is higher than the national median of about \$66,000. However, that overall statistic obscures large differences among different Asian-origin groups.

These economic disparities are partially driven by similar disparities in education levels among Asian Americans. The highest-earning groups — Indian American and Taiwanese American households — also have the highest levels of education, while the lowest-earning groups have comparatively lower levels of education.

Key Disparities In Income And Education Among Different Asian American Groups



NOTES

The U.S. Census Bureau classifies a person of Asian descent as anyone who traces their heritage to a subset of countries in the continent of Asia. But there may be people outside of this classification who self-identify as Asian.

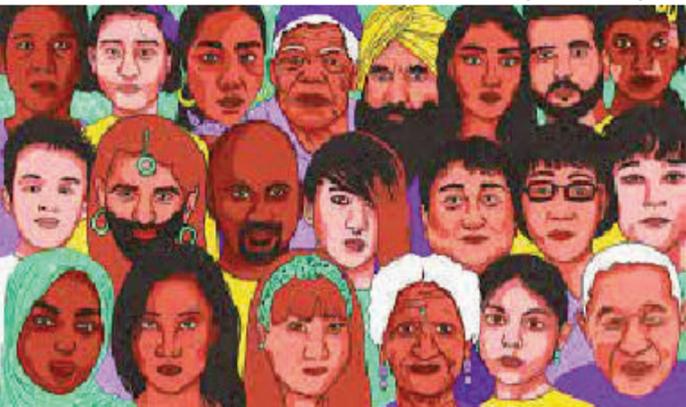
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019 American Community Survey

Credit: Connie Hanzhang Jin/NPR

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Six Charts That Shed Light On Images Of Asian Americans Held By Many



INDIAN AMERICAN HOUSEHOLDS ARE THE HIGHEST-EARNING GROUP, WITH A MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME OF \$127,000 A YEAR. ON THE OTHER END OF THE SCALE, BURMESE AMERICAN HOUSEHOLDS ARE THE LOWEST-EARNING GROUP, WITH A MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME OF \$46,000 A YEAR.

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor

In fact, a 2018 Pew Research Center study found that Asian Americans were the most economically divided racial or ethnic group in the U.S., with Asian Americans in the top 10th of the income distribution making 10.7 times more than those in the bottom 10th.

Myth: Asian Americans immigrate to the U.S. in the “right” way

More than half of those who identify as Asian American and at least 17% of Pacific Islanders were born outside the U.S., according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

The Asian American community has the highest proportion of immigrants of any ethnic or racial group in the United States. Yet, Asian Americans are often overlooked in debates about immigration reform.

Asians have a wide range of reasons for immigrating to the U.S., including those coming as refugees or asylum-seekers. Out of the almost 11 million estimated undocumented immigrants in the U.S., around 1.5 million (14%) are from Asia, according to the Migration Policy Institute.

AMERICANS ARE UNAUTHORIZED IMMIGRANTS
Out of the top 10 most common origin countries for unauthorized immigrants in the U.S., an estimated one million people come from India, China or the Philippines.

ORIGIN COUNTRY	EST. NUMBER OF UNAUTHORIZED IMMIGRANTS	SHARE OF TOTAL
Mexico	5,572,000+	51%
El Salvador	750,000	7%
Guatemala	580,000	5%
India	469,000	4%
Honduras	402,000	4%
China	394,000	4%
Philippines	233,000	2%
Dominican Republic	181,000	2%
Colombia	182,000	2%
Brazil	145,000	1%

NOTES: Data as of 2018. Source: Migration Policy Institute. Credit: Connie Hanzhang Jin/NPR.

Heightened immigration enforcement has also impacted Asian Americans. From 2015 to 2018, Immigration and Customs Enforcement arrested about 15,000 immigrants from Asia, according

to a report by the nonprofit Asian Americans Advancing Justice.

The report also found that Southeast Asian immigrants were three to four times more likely to be deported for old criminal convictions compared with other immigrant groups. Out of the approximately 16,000 Southeast Asians with final removal orders in that period, more than 13,000 had removal orders that were based on old criminal convictions.

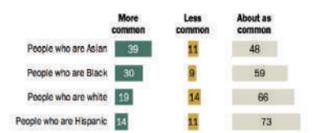
Myth: Asian Americans Face Less Systemic Racism And Discrimination

Since the coronavirus pandemic started, hate crimes and violence against Asian Americans have increased. In an April survey conducted by the Pew Research Center, 32% of Asian American adults — a greater percentage than any other racial or ethnic group — said that they feared someone might threaten or physically attack them.

ASIAN AMERICANS AND OTHER GROUPS REPORT NEGATIVE EXPERIENCES SINCE THE START OF THE PANDEMIC

About four-in-ten Americans say it is more common for people to express racist views about people who are Asian than before COVID-19

“It saying it is... for people to express racist or racially insensitive views about each of the following groups in our society compared to before the coronavirus outbreak.”



PEW RESEARCH CENTER
*Asian adults were interviewed in English only.
*Note: Share of respondents who don’t offer an answer not shown. White, Black and Asian adults includes those who report being only one race and are not Hispanic. Hispanics are of any race.
*Source: Survey of U.S. adults conducted June 4-10, 2020.
*“More Black and Asian Americans Say They Have Experienced Discrimination Amid the COVID-19 Outbreak.”

Share of respondents who say each of the following has happened to them since the coronavirus outbreak because of their race or ethnicity.

NOTES

Asian American adults were interviewed in English only. Sample does not include Pacific Islanders.

Source: Pew Research Center survey of U.S. adults conducted April 5-11.

Credit: Connie Hanzhang Jin/NPR



In response, the House of Representatives passed the COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act on May 18. The bill would have the Justice Department appoint a point person to expedite the review of hate crimes related to COVID-19. It would also direct resources toward making the reporting of hate crimes more accessible.

Despite increased news coverage of various attacks against Asian Americans and the upcoming legislation, the LAAUNCH survey, which was conducted between March 29 to April 14, found that 37% of white Americans were not aware of increased incidents of hate crimes.

But anti-Asian bias and discrimination are not new to the pandemic. To understand the current climate, it’s important to look at historical context. In past periods of national tension, especially during times when the U.S. has been at war with Asian countries, anti-Asian racism has similarly risen.

Myth: Asian Americans are fairly represented in leadership positions

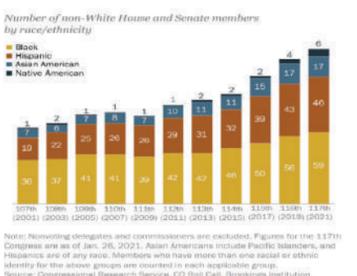
The recent LAAUNCH survey also found that almost half of Americans incorrectly believe that Asian Americans are over-represented or fairly represented in senior positions within American companies, politics, media or other realms.

In reality, Asian Americans are underrepresented in these positions of power, holding about 3% of these positions in comparison with composing 7% of the U.S. population, a report from The New York Times found last year.

More specifically, Asian Americans have the lowest degree of representation in political office compared with any other racial or ethnic group.

Asian Americans Are The Most Politically Underrepresented Group

When it comes to holding elected office, as of last year Asian Americans were underrepresented relative to their population by a differential of -85%. White people were overrepresented by 46%.



Asian Americans are even underrepresented in states with a high concentration of Asian American residents, like New York and California, according to a report by the Reflective Democracy Campaign. Especially since the start of collective activism among Asian Americans in the 1960s, Asian Americans have had a rich history of political activism and involvement. But that history has not always translated to greater representation in political leadership.



One finding in the LAAUNCH survey may point to answers: 92% of Americans polled said they were comfortable with Asian Americans as doctors or friends, but only 85% said they were comfortable with an Asian American as a boss and 73% as a president of the United States. Despite these perceptions, Asian Americans are pushing forward. Asian Americans increased their voter turnout rate by more than any other racial or ethnic group in the 2020 election and in part helped Joe Biden win Georgia. In that same year, 158 Asian Americans ran for state legislatures, the highest number since the 2018 midterms. (Courtesy <https://www.npr.org/>)