



# Chinese Americans Hurt By Strained Washington-Beijing Ties: Survey

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Some 89% of Chinese American respondents in a new survey viewed the state of current relations between the U.S. and China as negative, with 65% saying bilateral ties negatively affect how other Americans treat them.

Four in five Chinese Americans (81%) were concerned about the language used by presidential candidates when they talk about China and U.S.-China relations, and more than 60% said that the language used by U.S. news media when reporting on China and U.S.-China relations also negatively affects how strangers view them.

Those opinions were described in a [“State of Chinese Americans” survey](#) of 504 Chinese Americans released in late September by the Committee of 100, a prominent Chinese American non-profit group, and NORC, an affiliate of the University of Chicago. Committee of 100 members include East West Bank Chairman Dominic Ng, cellist Yo-Yo Ma, Hang Lung Properties Honorary Chair Ronnie Chan, and Golden Eagle International’s billionaire CEO Roger Wang.

“The study seeks to further understanding and illuminate the effects that poor relations between the U.S. and China have on how politicians and U.S. news media talk about China and U.S.-China relations, and in turn how the rhetoric and language used in these discussions negatively impacts the treatment of Chinese Americans by the general public,” according to a Committee of 100 press release.

The United States has approximately 4.7 million Chinese Americans, according to a report [in August by the Pew Research Center](#), citing U.S. Census data from 2022.

Among the findings described in the Committee of 100 report:

\*About two thirds of Chinese Americans face at least one form of discrimination in an average month.

\*More than half of Chinese Americans regularly experience “microaggressions,” such as people assuming they aren’t from the U.S.

\*Many also are verbally insulted (27%) or physically threatened or harassed (21%) in an average month.

\*Three quarters of Chinese American citizens (76%) are certain they’ll vote in November’s presidential election.

\*A little less than half of Chinese American respondents (46%) identified as Democrats, 31% as Republicans, and 24% as independents or not leaning toward either party.

\*The economy ranks as one of the most important election issues to Chinese Americans this year, and 43% said the economy is getting worse.

\*Most Chinese Americans feel connected to others of Chinese descent in the U.S.: 70% stated that the well-being of other Chinese Americans affects their individual lives.

\*Roughly three in four Chinese Americans are born outside of the United States.

\*Although many Chinese Americans are born abroad, 83% are citizens.

\*About two thirds (67%) think that legislative efforts by many states to limit the ability of individuals with Chinese citizenship to own various types of land has a negative effect on how others treat them.

\*About four in five Chinese Americans (81%) still think that the two countries – U.S. and China – can cooperate on student exchange programs.

\*About three quarters of Chinese Americans (76%) think the country is going in the wrong direction, including about two thirds of Democrats.

\*Chinese Americans are dissatisfied with the handling of violence against their communities, with more than half saying federal elected officials are doing a poor job of handling this situation.

\*A majority of respondents said being Chinese (57%) and American (56%) are very important to their identity.

Following a high-profile hate crime in New York involving a woman of Filipino decent, Brandon Elliot earlier this year in February was sentenced to 15 years in prison for assault and criminal possession of a weapon. Elliot approached the woman on a sidewalk in 2021 and yelled, “F\*\*k you, you don’t belong here, you Asian,” before knocking her to the ground and kicking her several times, [CNN reported](#), citing a [criminal complaint](#). “He then threatened an approaching man with a knife and fled the scene,” the report said.



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Russell Flannery was [a country editor for the Forbes Billionaires List](#) in 2003-2024 and editor at large at Forbes in 2021-2024. He is currently an advisor at Forbes China, the Chinese-language edition of Forbes, and was its editor-in-chief in 2016-2021. Flannery opened Forbes first-ever bureau in mainland China -- in Shanghai – in 2003. He compiled the Forbes China Rich List from 2003 through 2022 and, for shorter periods, the Taiwan Rich List and Hong Kong Rich List. Flannery was previously a correspondent for Bloomberg News in Taipei and Shanghai and for the Asian Wall Street Journal in Taipei. He’s a Massachusetts native, fluent Mandarin speaker, and holds degrees from the University of Vermont and the University of Wisconsin at Madison. Forbes contributors follow [company ethical guidelines](#) that ensure the highest quality journalism.

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