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AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE
2006 Annual Survey of American Jewish Opinion
September 25 – October 16, 2006

Introduction

The data reported here are from the 2006 Annual Survey of American Jewish Opinion, sponsored by the American Jewish Committee, detailing the views of American Jews about a broad range of subjects. Among the topics covered in the present survey are the campaign against terrorism and the war in Iraq, the Israel-Arab conflict, the attachment of American Jews to Israel, political and social issues in the United States, Jewish perceptions of anti-Semitism, Jewish opinion about various countries, and Jewish identity concerns. Some of the questions appearing in the survey are new; others are drawn from previous American Jewish Committee surveys, including the Annual Survey of American Jewish Opinion carried out in 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, and 2005.

The 2006 survey was conducted for the American Jewish Committee by Synovate (formerly Market Facts), a leading survey-research organization. Respondents were interviewed by telephone between September 25 - October 16, 2006; no interviewing took place on the Sabbath and Jewish holidays. The sample consisted of 958 self-identifying Jewish respondents selected from the Synovate consumer mail panel. The respondents are demographically representative of the United States adult Jewish population on a variety of measures. The margin of error for the sample as a whole is plus or minus 3 percentage points.

A. INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

1. Do you approve or disapprove of the way the United States government is handling the war against terrorism?

Approve	31
Disapprove	62
Not sure	8

2. Compared to one year ago, do you feel more safe from the threat of terrorism, less safe, or about as safe as you felt one year ago?

More	8
Less	31
Same	61
Not sure	0

3. Looking back, do you think the United States did the right thing in taking military action against Iraq, or should the U.S. have stayed out?

Right thing	29
Stayed out	65
Not sure	6

4. Which of these do you think is most likely? Iraq will become a stable democracy in the next year or two, OR Iraq will become a stable democracy, but it will take longer than a year or two, OR Iraq will probably never become a stable democracy.

Will in the next year or two	3
Will take longer than a year or two	27
Will never become a stable democracy	66
Not sure	4

5. Do you approve or disapprove of the way the United States government is handling the situation with Iran's nuclear weapons program?

Approve	33
Disapprove	54
Not sure	13

6. Would you support or oppose the United States taking military action against Iran to prevent it from developing nuclear weapons?

Support	38
Oppose	54
Not sure	8

7. Do you agree or disagree with those who claim that the West and the Muslim world are engaged in a clash of civilizations?

Agree	64
Disagree	29
Not sure	7

B. ISRAEL

8. Do you think there will or will not come a time when Israel and the Arabs will be able to settle their differences and live in peace?

Will	38
Will not	56
Not sure	6

9. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? “The goal of the Arabs is not the return of occupied territories but rather the destruction of Israel.”

Agree	81
Disagree	13
Not sure	6

10. In the fighting between Hezbollah and Israel in Lebanon, who emerged the winner?

Hezbollah	15
Israel	24
Neither (vol.)	49
Both (vol.)	2
Not sure	10

11. Do you approve or disapprove of the way the Israeli government has handled the conflict between Israel and Hezbollah in Lebanon?

Approve	55
Disapprove	35
Not sure	10

12. Do you approve or disapprove of the way the United States government has handled the conflict between Israel and Hezbollah in Lebanon?

Approve	53
Disapprove	39
Not sure	8

13. Do you think that the conflict between Israel and Hezbollah in Lebanon is likely to lead to a larger war involving other countries in the Middle East or not?

Yes, likely	46
No, not likely	44
Not sure	10

14. Would you support or oppose Israel taking military action against Iran to prevent it from developing nuclear weapons?

Support	57
Oppose	35
Not sure	8

15. In the current situation, do you favor or oppose the establishment of a Palestinian state?

Favor	54
Oppose	38
Not sure	9

16. In the framework of a permanent peace with the Palestinians, should Israel be willing to compromise on the status of Jerusalem as a united city under Israeli jurisdiction?

Yes	40
No	52
Not sure	7

17. In light of recent events in the Middle East, how would you rate various foreign governments in terms of their feelings toward Israel, with one hundred meaning a very warm, favorable feeling, zero meaning a very cold, unfavorable feeling, and fifty meaning not particularly warm or cold. You can use any number from zero to one hundred. How would you rate the government of [] in terms of feelings toward Israel?

Mean Score

a. United States	77
b. China	36
c. Germany	44
d. Egypt	37
e. France	30
f. Turkey	38
g. Russia	38
h. Jordan	36
i. Great Britain	65
j. Syria	15

18. In your opinion, does the United Nations treat Israel fairly or unfairly in its deliberations?

Fairly	27
Unfairly	66
Not sure	7

C. NATIONAL AFFAIRS

19. I'm going to read you a list of political views that people might hold. They are arranged from extremely liberal to extremely conservative. Where would you place yourself on this scale?

Extremely liberal	4
Liberal	26
Slightly liberal	12
Moderate, middle of the road	32
Slightly conservative	10
Conservative	12
Extremely conservative	3
Not sure	2

20. In politics, as of today, do you consider yourself a Republican, a Democrat, or an Independent?

Republican	15
Democrat	54
Independent	29
Not sure	3

21. Regardless of how you usually vote, do you think the Republican party or the Democratic party is more likely to make the right decision about the war in Iraq?

Republican	22
Democratic	59
Both (vol.)	2
Neither (vol.)	11
Not sure	7

22. Regardless of how you usually vote, do you think the Republican party or the Democratic party is more likely to ensure a strong economy?

Republican	27
Democratic	60
Both (vol.)	1
Neither (vol.)	6
Not sure	6

23. Regardless of how you usually vote, do you think the Republican party or the Democratic party is more likely to make the right decision when it comes to dealing with terrorism?

Republican	28
Democratic	51
Both (vol.)	5
Neither (vol.)	10
Not sure	6

24. How serious a problem do you think the issue of illegal immigration is for the United States right now -- very serious, somewhat serious, not too serious, or not a problem at all?

Very serious problem	40
Somewhat serious problem	38
Not too serious problem	17
Not a problem at all	4
Not sure	1

25. Which comes closest to your view about what government policy should be towards illegal immigrants currently residing in the United States? Should the government deport all illegal immigrants back to their home country, OR allow illegal immigrants to remain in the United States in order to work but only for a limited amount of time, OR allow illegal immigrants to remain in the United States and become U.S. citizens but only if they meet certain requirements over a period of time?

Deport all	14
Remain to work for limited amount of time	17
Remain to work if meet certain criteria	66
Not sure	3

26. In your opinion, how important is it that the United States achieve energy independence? Is it very important, somewhat important, or not important at all?

Very important	81
Somewhat important	18
Not important	1
Not sure	1

27. What is the best way for the United States to handle its energy needs -- by encouraging greater energy production, by encouraging greater energy conservation, or by developing alternative energy sources?

Greater energy production	5
Greater energy conservation	9
Developing alternative energy sources	74
All three (vol.)	11
Not sure	2

D. ANTI-SEMITISM

28. Do you think that anti-Semitism in the United States is currently a very serious problem, somewhat of a problem, or not a problem at all?

Very serious problem	26
Somewhat of a problem	65
Not a problem at all	9
Not sure	1

29. In your opinion, what proportion of each of the following groups in the United States is anti-Semitic—most, many, some, very few, or none?

	Most	Many	Some	Very few	None	Not sure
a. Asians	2	4	37	38	10	8
b. Muslims	32	27	29	6	1	5
c. Hispanics	2	6	46	31	6	8
d. Blacks	5	16	55	17	3	5
e. Evangelical Protestants	9	15	41	20	5	11
f. Catholics	5	10	53	24	4	5

30. Do you think that anti-Semitism in the Muslim world is currently a very serious problem, somewhat of a problem, or not a problem at all?

Very serious problem	73
Somewhat of a problem	23
Not a problem at all	2
Not sure	3

31. Looking ahead over the next several years, do you think that anti-Semitism around the world will increase greatly, increase somewhat, remain the same, decrease somewhat, or decrease greatly?

Increase greatly	17
Increase somewhat	36
Remain the same	36
Decrease somewhat	7
Decrease greatly	1
Not sure	3

E. JEWISH IDENTITY

32. How important would you say being Jewish is in your own life?

Very important	61
Fairly important	28
Not very important	10

33. Do you think of yourself as . . .

Orthodox	8
Conservative	33
Reconstructionist	2
Reform	31
Just Jewish	24
Not sure	2

34.	Do you belong to a synagogue or temple?	
	Yes	53
	No	46
35.	How close do you feel to Israel?	
	Very close	37
	Fairly close	39
	Fairly distant	16
	Very distant	6
	Not sure	2
36.	Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? “Caring about Israel is a very important part of my being a Jew.”	
	Agree	74
	Disagree	25
	Not sure	2