

2004 Annual Survey of American Jewish Opinion

Introduction

The data reported here are from the 2004 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 war against terrorism and Iraq, the Israel-Arab conflict, the attachment of American Jews to Israel, transatlantic relations, 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 and 2003.

The 2004 survey was conducted for the American Jewish Committee by Market Facts, Inc., a leading survey-research organization. Respondents were interviewed by telephone between August 18-September 1, 2004; no interviewing took place on the Sabbath. The sample consisted of 1,000 self-identifying Jewish respondents selected from the Market Facts 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.

2004 survey results:

War on Terrorism and Iraq

Israel

World Affairs and Transatlantic Relations

Presidential Election and National Affairs

Jewish Identity

Anti-Semitism

A. War on Terrorism and Iraq

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

Approve	42
Disapprove	52
Not sure	6

2. Do you approve or disapprove of the war with Iraq?

Approve	30
Disapprove	66
Not sure	4

3. Do you think the threat of terrorism against the United States has increased, decreased, or stayed about the same as a result of the war with Iraq?

Increased	57
Decreased	7
Stayed about the same	35
Not sure	1

B. Israel

4. How close do you feel to Israel?

Very close	31
Fairly close	44
Fairly distant	19
Very distant	6
Not sure	0

5. 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	1

6. Looking ahead 3 to 5 years, do you see Jews in Israel and in the United States becoming closer, drifting apart, or neither?

Becoming closer	29
Drifting apart	10
Neither	59
Not sure	2

7. How would you characterize relations between Israel and the United States today? Are they very positive, somewhat positive, somewhat negative, or very negative?

Very positive	13
Somewhat positive	71
Somewhat negative	14
Very negative	1
Not sure	1

8. As compared with one year ago, are you now more optimistic about the chance for a lasting peace between Israel and the Arabs, less optimistic, or do you think the chance for a lasting peace is about the same as it was one year ago?

More optimistic now	5
Less optimistic now	34
Same as one year ago	61
Not sure	0

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	84
Disagree	13
Not sure	3

10. Do you support or oppose the Israeli government's current handling of relations with the Palestinian Authority?

Support	63
Oppose	28
Not sure	9

11. Do you support or oppose the Israeli government's decision to unilaterally withdraw from the Gaza Strip?

Support	65
Oppose	28
Not sure	7

12. Do you support or oppose the Israeli government's decision to build a security fence separating Israelis and Palestinians?

Support	69
Oppose	28
Not sure	3

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

Favor	57
Oppose	37
Not sure	6

14. 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	42
No	53
Not sure	5

15. As part of a permanent settlement with the Palestinians, should Israel be willing to dismantle all, some, or none of the Jewish settlements in the West Bank?

All	12
Some	57
None	29
Not sure	2

16. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? "Regardless of their individual views on the peace negotiations with the Arabs, American Jews should support the policies of the duly elected government of Israel."

Agree	63
Disagree	33
Not sure	3

C. World Affairs and Transatlantic Relations

17. How desirable is it that the United States exerts strong leadership in world affairs? Is it very desirable, somewhat desirable, somewhat undesirable, or very undesirable?

Very desirable	45
Somewhat desirable	43
Somewhat undesirable	9
Very undesirable	2
Not sure	1

18. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? "When dealing with common problems, the United States and Europe should be more willing to make decisions jointly, even if this means that the United States, as well as Europe, will sometimes have to go along with a policy that is not its first choice."

Agree	77
Disagree	21
Not sure	3

19. In general, in responding to international crises, do you think the United States should or should not act alone, if it does not have the support of its allies?

Should act alone	33
Should not act alone	64
Not sure	3

20. I would like you to rate your feelings toward some countries and entities, 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 your feelings toward []

	Mean Score
a. Germany	47
b. Great Britain	77
c. Poland	56
d. France	35
e. The Vatican	45
f. Italy	59
g. Spain	57
h. Russia	52
i. United States	84
j. The European Union	57

21. I would like you to rate how various foreign governments feel 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	76
b. Germany	46
c. Great Britain	64
d. Poland	49
e. France	30
f. The Vatican	43
g. Italy	50
h. Spain	49
i. Russian	43

22. Please tell me if you agree strongly, agree somewhat, disagree somewhat, or disagree strongly with the following statement: "Germany today is making a sincere effort to deal with the legacy of the Holocaust."

Agree strongly	18
Agree somewhat	53
Disagree somewhat	19
Disagree strongly	8
Not sure	3

D. Presidential Election and National Affairs

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

Republican	16
Democrat	54
Independent	29
Not sure	2

24. 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	5
Liberal	23
Slightly liberal	17
Moderate, middle of the road	30
Slightly conservative	12
Conservative	9
Extremely conservative	2
Not sure	1

25. Suppose the next general election for president were being held today and you had to choose between George W. Bush, the Republican, John Kerry, the Democrat or Ralph Nader, the independent - - for whom would you vote?

George W. Bush	24
John Kerry	69
Ralph Nader	3
Not sure	5

26. Do you favor or oppose government aid to parochial or other religious schools?

Favor	25
Oppose	72
Not sure	3

27. Which comes closest to your view? Gay couples should be allowed to legally marry. OR, Gay couples should be allowed to form civil unions but not legally marry. OR, There should be no legal recognition of a gay couple's relationship.

Legal marriage	49
Civil union	36
No legal recognition	13
Not sure	2

28. Would you favor or oppose an amendment to the United States Constitution that defines marriage as a union only between a man and a woman and makes same-sex marriages unconstitutional?

Favor	24
Oppose	74
Not sure	2

E. Jewish Identity

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

Very important	50
Fairly important	38
Not very important	11

30. Which one of the following qualities do you consider most important to your Jewish identity?

Being part of the Jewish people	43
Religious observance	14
Support for Israel	6
A commitment to social justice	20
Something else	16
Not sure	1

31. Do you belong to a synagogue or temple?

Yes	51
No	49

32. Do you think of yourself as ...

Orthodox	7
Conservative	31
Reconstructionist	2
Reform	29
Just Jewish	30
Not sure	0

33. Please tell me if you agree strongly, agree somewhat, disagree somewhat, or disagree strongly with the following statement: "Nearly 60 years after the end of World War II, it is time to put the memory of the Nazi extermination of the Jews behind us."

Agree strongly	4
Agree somewhat	8
Disagree somewhat	16
Disagree strongly	71
Not sure	0

34. In your opinion, which is a greater threat to Jewish life in the United States today-- intermarriage or anti-Semitism?

Intermarriage	32
Anti-Semitism	66
Both equally (vol.)	2
Not sure	1

F. Anti-Semitism

35. 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	27
Somewhat of a problem	67
Not a problem at all	6
Not sure	0

36. Do you think that anti-Semitism on American college campuses is currently a very serious problem, somewhat of a problem, or not a problem at all?

Very serious problem	24
Somewhat of a problem	56
Not a problem at all	12
Not sure	8

37. Looking ahead over the next several years, do you think that anti-Semitism in the United States will increase greatly, increase somewhat, remain the same, decrease somewhat, or decrease greatly?

Increase greatly	9
Increase somewhat	33
Remain the same	45
Decrease somewhat	9
Decrease greatly	2
Not sure	3

38. 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	38	41	9	6
b. Muslims	36	29	26	5	1	3
c. Hispanics	4	7	52	28	4	5
d. Blacks	7	16	55	17	2	3
e. Evangelical Protestants	10	14	46	18	5	8
f. Catholics	4	11	60	18	3	4
g. Mormons	5	8	40	31	8	9

39. I am going to name some countries in Europe. In each case tell me whether anti-Semitism in the country is currently a very serious problem, somewhat of a problem, or not a problem at all.

	Very serious problem	Somewhat of a problem	Not a problem at all	Not sure
a. Germany	25	65	6	4
b. Great Britain	4	60	31	4
c. France	64	29	5	3
d. Italy	4	64	24	8
e. Spain	8	63	21	8
f. Russia	25	64	6	4
g. Belgium	6	49	33	13
h. Holland	4	42	45	10

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

	Most	Many	Some	Very few	None	Not sure
a. Catholics	7	13	59	13	2	7
b. Muslims	43	29	21	3	1	4
c. The far Left	13	13	43	15	3	14
d. Protestants	4	10	60	16	2	8
e. The far Right	21	20	37	8	1	12

41. 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	72
Somewhat of a problem	22
Not a problem at all	2
Not sure	2

42. 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	19
Increase somewhat	42
Remain the same	31
Decrease somewhat	6
Decrease greatly	1
Not sure	2