



Breaking News

AJC 2007 Annual Survey of American Jewish Opinion

December 11, 2007 – New York – In the upcoming presidential race, Hillary Clinton has the highest favorability rating among Jewish Democrats, and Rudolph Giuliani the highest favorability rating among Jewish Republicans, according to the American Jewish Committee's [2007 Annual Survey of American Jewish Opinion](#).

Seventy percent of Jewish Democrats have a favorable opinion of Clinton, 48 percent of John Edwards, and 45 percent of Barack Obama. As against this, 75 percent of Jewish Republicans have a favorable opinion of Giuliani, followed by John McCain (49 percent), Mitt Romney (32 percent), and Fred Thompson (32 percent).

Asked about the “most important problem facing the United States today,” 22 percent of American Jews cite “economy and jobs”; 19 percent “health care”; 16 percent “war in Iraq”; 15 percent “terrorism and national security”; 8 percent “education”, 8 percent “immigration”; and 7 percent “energy crisis”.

AJC's Annual Survey of American Jewish Opinion, conducted on a yearly basis since 1997, gauges the views of American Jews on a broad range of issues, including the Arab-Israeli conflict and other Middle East concerns, international terrorism, perceptions of anti-Semitism, social and political issues in the U.S. and Jewish identity matters.

The Arab-Israeli peace process comes in for focused attention in a number of questions.

Fifty-five percent of American Jews are skeptical that “there will come a time when “Israel and its Arab neighbors will be able to settle their differences and live in peace,” while 37 percent think such a development will come about.

In near identical fashion, 55 percent of American Jews lack confidence that “negotiations between Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas can lead to peace in the foreseeable future,” and 36 percent are more hopeful.

Further, 74 percent of American Jews assert that Israel “cannot...achieve peace with a Hamas-led Palestinian government,” while 17 percent say they can.

On specific policy issues related to the Middle East, 46 percent of American Jews favor the establishment of a Palestinian state, while 43 percent are opposed. Fifty-eight percent of American Jews reject a call that Israel “compromise on the status of Jerusalem as a united city under Israeli jurisdiction,” but 36 percent endorse this view.

On Iraq, 27 percent of American Jews believe that the United States did the “right thing” in taking military action against Iraq, while 67 percent believe the U.S. should have stayed out.

Fifty-nine percent of American Jews disapprove, and 31 percent approve, of the way the U.S. government is handling the campaign against terrorism.

Regarding Iran’s nuclear program, 92 percent of American Jews are concerned about the prospect of Iran obtaining nuclear weapons. Still, a majority--57 percent-- oppose U.S. military action to prevent Iran from developing nuclear weapons.

Energy

Virtually all of American Jews – 99 percent – believe it important for the United States to achieve energy independence. As to the best way for the United States to handle its energy needs, 69 percent of American Jews favor developing alternative energy sources, 11 percent favor greater energy conservation, 7 percent favor greater energy production, while 11 percent support all three options.

Anti-Semitism

Twenty-seven percent of American Jews view anti-Semitism in the United States today as a “very serious problem,” 60 percent call it “somewhat of a problem,” and 12 percent see it as “not a problem at all.”

Looking ahead over the next several years, 55 percent of American Jews believe that anti-Semitism around the world will increase, 36 percent that it will remain the same, and 6 percent that it will decrease.

Jewish Identity

Asked, “How important would you say being Jewish is in your own life,” 61 percent of American Jews answer “very important,” 29 percent “fairly important,” and 10 percent “not very important.”

Seventy percent of American Jews feel “very close” or “fairly close” to Israel, while 29 percent feel “fairly distant” or “very distant”. Along the same lines, 69 percent of American Jews “agree” with the statement, “Caring about Israel is a very important part of being a Jew;” 28 percent “disagree.”

The 2007 Annual Survey of American Jewish Opinion was carried out for the American Jewish Committee by Synovate (formerly Market Facts), a leading survey-research organization. The sample consists of 1,000 self-identifying Jewish respondents selected from the Synovate consumer mail panel. The respondents, interviewed by telephone between November 6 and 25, are 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 three percentage points.

The complete AJC survey is available at www.ajc.org.

AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE
 2007 Annual Survey of American Jewish Opinion
 November 6- November 25, 2007

A. INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

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

Approve	31
Disapprove	59
Not sure	10

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	5
Less	22
Same	73
Not sure	1

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	27
Stayed out	67
Not sure	6

4. How would you say things are going for the United States in its efforts to bring stability and order to Iraq? Would you say things are going very well, somewhat well, somewhat badly, or very badly?

Very well	3
Somewhat well	20
Somewhat badly	33
Very badly	43
Not sure	2

5. As you may know, the United States has sent more than 20,000 additional troops to Iraq. From what you have heard or read, would you say this troop increase is making the situation in Iraq better, making it worse, or is it having no impact on the situation in Iraq so far?

Better	30
Worse	16
No impact	52
Not sure	3

6. How concerned are you about the prospect of Iran obtaining nuclear weapons? Are you very concerned, somewhat concerned, or not concerned at all?

Very concerned	59
Somewhat concerned	33
Not concerned at all	7
Not sure	0

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

Support	35
Oppose	57
Not sure	8

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

Agree	63
Disagree	26
Not sure	10

B. ISRAEL

9. Do you think there will or will not come a time when Israel and its Arab neighbors will be able to settle their differences and live in peace?

Will	37
Will not	55
Not sure	8

10. Do you think that negotiations between Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas can or cannot lead to peace in the foreseeable future?

Can	36
Cannot	55
Not sure	9

11. Do you think that Israel can or cannot achieve peace with a Hamas-led, Palestinian government?

Can	17
Cannot	74
Not sure	9

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

Favor	46
Oppose	43
Not sure	12

13. 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	36
No	58
Not sure	7

14. 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	82
Disagree	12
Not sure	6

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

Fairly	27
Unfairly	61
Not sure	12

C. NATIONAL AFFAIRS

16. 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	23
Slightly liberal	16
Moderate, middle of the road	31
Slightly conservative	9
Conservative	13
Extremely conservative	3
Not sure	3

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

Republican	15
Democrat	58
Independent	26
Not sure	2

18. What is the most important problem facing the United States today? Please select one of the following:

War in Iraq	16
Economy and jobs	22
Terrorism and national security	15
Health care	19
Immigration	8
Education	8
Energy crisis	7
Not sure	4

19. In deciding who you would like to see elected president next year, which issue will be most important to you? Please select one of the following:

War in Iraq	16
Economy and jobs	23
Terrorism and national security	14
Health care	19
Support for Israel	6
Immigration	6
Education	4
Energy crisis	6
Not sure	5

20. 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	21
Democratic	61
Both (vol.)	0
Neither (vol.)	13
Not sure	6

21. 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	26
Democratic	62
Both (vol.)	1
Neither (vol.)	6
Not sure	6

22. 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	30
Democratic	53
Both (vol.)	2
Neither (vol.)	8
Not sure	7

23. I am going to mention the front-running, Democratic presidential candidates. Please tell me if your opinion of the candidate is favorable, not favorable, undecided, or haven't you heard enough as yet to have an opinion?

	Favorable	Not favorable	Undecided	Haven't heard enough
Clinton	53	29	15	4
Obama	38	26	22	14
Edwards	38	26	23	14

24. I am going to mention the front-running, Republican presidential candidates. Please tell me if your opinion of the candidate is favorable, not favorable, undecided, or haven't you heard enough as yet to have an opinion?

	Favorable	Not favorable	Undecided	Haven't heard enough
Giuliani	41	38	14	8
McCain	31	38	19	12
Romney	15	41	18	27
Thompson	11	43	16	30

25. 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	42
Somewhat serious problem	37
Not too serious problem	16
Not a problem at all	5
Not sure	0

26. Which comes closest to your view of 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	15
Remain to work for limited amount of time	14
Remain to work if meet certain criteria	67
Not sure	4

27. 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	82
Somewhat important	17
Not important	1
Not sure	0

28. 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	7
Greater energy conservation	11
Developing alternative energy sources	69
All three (vol.)	11
Not sure	2

29. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? “The United States should develop independent sources of energy even at the risk of damaging the environment.”

Agree	22
Disagree	73
Not sure	5

D. ANTI-SEMITISM

30. 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	60
Not a problem at all	12
Not sure	2

31. 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	3	31	37	17	11
b. Muslims	32	25	29	6	1	7
c. Hispanics	2	6	38	33	9	13
d. Blacks	6	13	49	19	4	8
e. Evangelical Protestants	8	14	38	17	8	15
f. Catholics	4	8	49	25	6	8

32. 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	68
Somewhat of a problem	30
Not a problem at all	1
Not sure	1

33. 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	18
Increase somewhat	37
Remain the same	36
Decrease somewhat	5
Decrease greatly	1
Not sure	4

E. JEWISH IDENTITY

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

Very important	61
Fairly important	29
Not very important	10

35. Do you think of yourself as . . .

Orthodox	8
Conservative	29
Reconstructionist	2
Reform	30
Just Jewish	29
Not sure	2

36. Do you belong to a synagogue or temple?

Yes	50
No	50

37. How close do you feel to Israel?

Very close	30
Fairly close	40
Fairly distant	21
Very distant	8
Not sure	1

38. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? "Caring about Israel is a very important part of my being a Jew."

Agree	69
Disagree	28
Not sure	3