


# AJC 2018 Survey of American Jewish Opinion

A graphic with a light blue background and a large white arrow pointing to the right. The text is centered within the arrow. The top line is in a dark blue box with white text. The second line is in red, and the third line is in dark blue.

**AJC 2018 SURVEY OF**  
**AMERICAN**  
**JEWISH OPINION**

June 10, 2018

AJC's 2018 Survey of American Jewish Opinion, conducted by the research company SSRS, is based on telephone interviews carried out April 18-May 10 with a national sample of 1,001 Jews over age 18. The margin of error is plus or minus 3.9%.

**1. How important is being Jewish in your life?**

Very important 40%

Somewhat important 37%

Not too important 17%

Not at all important 6%

No opinion 1%

**2. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: “Caring about Israel is a very important part of my being a Jew.”**

Agree strongly 41%

Agree somewhat 29%

Disagree somewhat 19%

Disagree strongly 9%

No opinion 2%

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**3.**

**Do you consider being Jewish mostly a matter of religion, or more a matter of ethnicity and culture?**

Mostly a matter of religion	24%
Mostly a matter of ethnicity or culture	56%
Both equally	17%
No opinion	2%

**4. Looking ahead five years, do you think that the ties between American and Israeli Jews will be...**

Stronger than today	20%
Weaker than today	15%
About the same as today	60%
No opinion	5%

**5. Using the metaphor of a family, do you consider Israeli Jews as your...?**

Siblings	12%
First Cousins	15%
Extended family	39%
Not part of my family	31%
No opinion	2%

**6. Do you approve or disapprove of the way President Trump is handling U.S.-Israel relations?**

Approve strongly	21%
Approve somewhat	13%
Disapprove somewhat	16%
Disapprove strongly	41%
No opinion	8%

**Do you think it appropriate for American Jews to attempt to influence Israeli  
7. policy on such issues as national security and peace negotiations with the  
Palestinians?**

Yes, appropriate 53%

No, not appropriate 43%

No opinion 4%

**8. In the current situation, do you favor or oppose a two-state solution through  
the establishment of a demilitarized Palestinian state on the West Bank?**

Favor strongly 31%

Favor somewhat 28%

Oppose somewhat 12%

Oppose strongly 18%

No opinion 10%

**8a. As part of a peace agreement with the Palestinians, should Israel be willing to dismantle all, some, or none of the Jewish settlements in the West Bank?**

Israel should be willing to dismantle all the settlements	15%
Israel should be willing to dismantle some of the settlements	44%
Israel should not be willing to dismantle any of the settlements	35%
No opinion	6%

**9. Looking ahead five years, do you think that the chances for peaceful coexistence between Israel and a Palestinian state will...?**

Improve	18%
Decline	22%
Stay the same	56%
No opinion	3%

**10. In your opinion, can the State of Israel be both a Jewish state and a democracy, and if not, which should it be?**

Yes, it can be both 68%

No, it should be a Jewish state 7%

No, it should be a democracy 20%

No opinion 4%

**11. Do you think the fact that Orthodox Judaism is the only denomination recognized by Israel as an official form of Judaism...?**

Strengthens ties between Israeli and American Jews 7%

Weakens ties between Israeli and American Jews 53%

Has no effect on ties between Israeli and American Jews 35%

No opinion 4%

**12. Which of the following statements about non-Orthodox forms of Judaism is closest to your view:**

They strengthen Jewish life in the Diaspora but are irrelevant to Israel	10%
Their growth in Israel could improve the quality of Jewish life there	43%
They are destined to disappear	7%
None of the above	37%
No opinion	3%

**13. Currently, Jewish weddings, divorces, and conversions to Judaism in Israel are recognized only if Orthodox rabbis officiate. Should non-Orthodox rabbis also be permitted to officiate?**

Yes	80%
No	17%
No opinion	3%



**Currently, Israeli law does not allow for civil [secular] marriage and divorce. Should the law be changed, and civil marriage and divorce allowed?**

Yes	81%
No	13%
No opinion	5%

**Currently, prayer services at the Western Wall in Jerusalem—a site holy to Jews—are conducted according to Orthodox tradition, with men and women separated by a barrier. Do you support or oppose a mixed-gender prayer area adjacent to the Western Wall administered on an equal basis with the services at the Wall itself?**

Support	73%
Oppose	21%
No opinion	6%

**16. Do you support or oppose the recent U.S. decision to recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital and to relocate the U.S. embassy there?**

Support	46%
Oppose	47%
No opinion	6%

**17. Do you identify as...?**

Haredi [Ultra-Orthodox]	6%
Modern Orthodox [Religious Zionist]	5%
Conservative [Masorti]	14%
Reform	29%
Reconstructionist	3%
Secular	16%
Other	25%

**18. Do you have family in Israel to whom you feel close?**

Yes	25%
No	74%

**19. Do you think that a thriving Diaspora is vital for the long-term future of the Jewish people?**

Yes 69%

No 17%

No opinion 14%

**20. Do you think that a thriving State of Israel is vital for the long-term future of the Jewish people?**

Yes 79%

No 17%

No opinion 3%

**21. Where would you place yourself on this scale?**

Liberal	37%
Lean Liberal	14%
Moderate, Middle of the Road	25%
Lean Conservative	6%
Conservative	16%

**22. In politics today, do you consider yourself...**

Republican	16%
Democrat	51%
Independent	24%
Other	9%

**23. In the presidential election of 2016, whom did you vote for?**

Hillary Clinton 60%

Donald Trump 19%

Another  
candidate 6%

Didn't vote 11%

AJC is a non-partisan organization that neither supports nor endorses candidates for elective offices.

**24. Is your opinion of the job President Trump is doing favorable or unfavorable?**

Favorable 26%

Unfavorable 71%

No opinion 3%

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**25. From the standpoint of national security, compared to a year ago, is the United States more secure or less secure?**

More secure than a year ago 27%

Less secure than a year ago 58%

About the same as a year ago 13%

No opinion 2%

**26. Compared to a year ago, is the American economy doing better or worse?**

Better than a year ago 50%

Worse than a year ago 29%

About the same as a year ago 18%

No opinion 3%

**27. Compared to a year ago, do you think Americans are more united or more divided over their most important values?**

More united than a year ago 10%

More divided than a year ago 82%

About the same as a year ago 5%

No opinion 2%

**28. Compared to a year ago, is the status of Jews in the United States more secure or less secure?**

More secure than a year ago 18%

Less secure than a year ago 55%

About the same as a year ago 24%

No opinion 3%

**29. Compared to a year ago, is the climate on college campuses less hostile or more hostile toward pro-Israel students?**

Less hostile than a year ago 10%

More hostile than a year ago 53%

About the same  
as a year ago 14%

No opinion 22%

**30. In your opinion, do Jews in Europe have a future, or should they leave now?**

Jews in Europe have a future 75%

Jews in Europe  
should leave now 17%

No opinion 8%



**31. If the election for U.S. Congress were held today, would you vote for the Republican or the Democratic candidate in your district?**

Republican 20%

Democrat 67%

Other 3%

Other 9%

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**32. Does the involvement of the United States in global affairs make our country more safe or less safe?**

More safe 64%

Less safe 29%

No opinion 8%

**33. In your opinion, which foreign nation poses the single greatest danger to the United States?**

China	10%
Iran	18%
North Korea	17%
Russia	44%
Another country	7%
No opinion	4%

**34. In your opinion, should immigration be kept at its present level, increased, or decreased?**

Kept at present level	34%
Increased	46%
Decreased	17%
No opinion	3%

**35. Do you support or oppose DACA, a program that allows undocumented immigrants to stay in the United States if they arrived here as children, completed high school or military service, and have not been convicted of a serious crime?**

Support 89%

Oppose 10%

**36. What do you think is more important—to protect the rights of Americans to own guns, or to control gun ownership?**

To protect the rights of Americans to own guns 25%

To control gun ownership 70%

No opinion 4%