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%
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 policy on such issues as national security and peace negotiations with the Palestinians?

Yes, appropriate 53%
No, not appropriate 43%
No opinion 4%

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?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Israel should be willing to dismantle all the settlements</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Israel should be willing to dismantle some of the settlements</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Israel should not be willing to dismantle any of the settlements</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No opinion</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Option</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Improve</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Decline</td>
<td>22%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stay the same</td>
<td>56%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No opinion</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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%
14. 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%

15. 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?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Liberal</td>
<td>37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lean Liberal</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderate, Middle of the Road</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lean Conservative</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Conservative</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Republican</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Democrat</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independent</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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?

<table>
<thead>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Republican</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Democrat</td>
<td>67%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
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32. Does the involvement of the United States in global affairs make our country more safe or less safe?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Choice</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>More safe</td>
<td>64%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Less safe</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No opinion</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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%