

# Frequently Asked Questions about the Jewish Vote

A non-partisan poll conducted in May 2019 provided valuable insight into the political preferences and priorities of the Jewish electorate.<sup>1</sup> Using this and other public information, the [Jewish Democratic Council of America](#) has compiled the following answers to many of the most frequently asked questions about the Jewish vote.

## 1) How do Jewish voters view President Trump?

- 71 percent of Jewish voters disapprove of the job Trump is doing as president;
- 70 percent of Jewish voters have an unfavorable view of President Trump; and
- Only 23 percent of Jewish voters would support President Trump in 2020.



## 2) How do Jewish voters view President Trump's policies?

Jewish voters overwhelmingly disapprove of the president's handling of:

- Family separations at the Mexican border (78 percent);
- Gun safety (74 percent);
- The Mueller Report (73 percent);
- Building of a border wall (71 percent);
- Anti-Semitism (71 percent);
- Taxes (70 percent);
- Healthcare (69 percent);
- Supreme Court nominations (69 percent); and
- Banning immigration from certain Muslim-majority countries (66 percent).

<sup>1</sup> The poll of 1000 Jewish voters was commissioned by the Jewish Electorate Institute and conducted by Greenberg Research. It can be found at <https://www.jewiselectorateinstitute.org/poll-domestic-issues-dominate-the-priorities-of-the-jewish-electorate/>

### 3) Which policy priorities are driving the Jewish vote?

When asked which are the most important issues when deciding which candidate to support, Jewish voters overwhelmingly prioritize domestic policy issues:

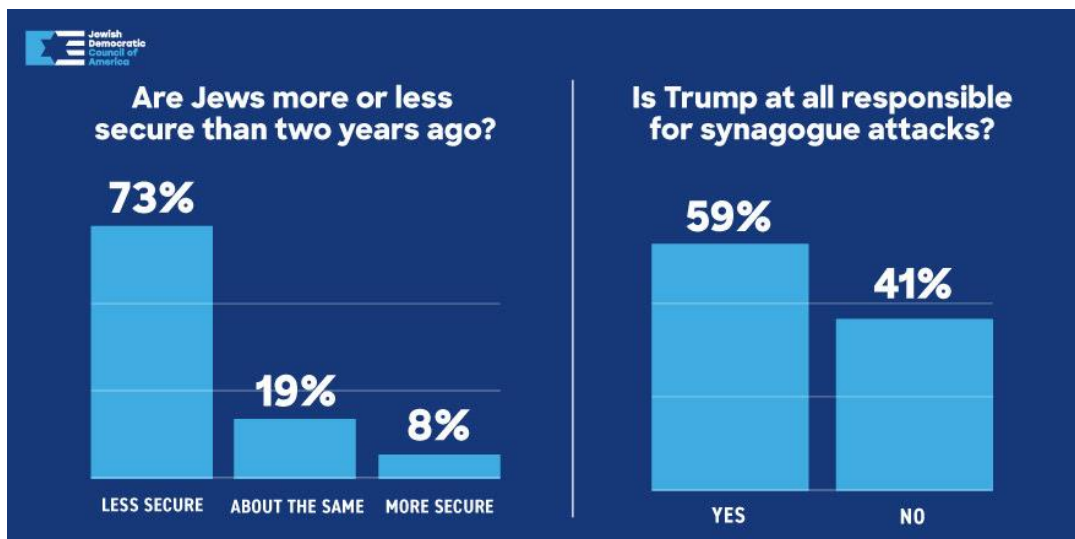
- Protecting Medicare and social security (87 percent);
- Improving the economy and creating jobs (86 percent);
- Combatting terrorism (82 percent);
- Making quality healthcare available to every American (80 percent);
- Enacting gun safety laws (79 percent); and
- Combatting influence of white supremacists and the far-right (78 percent).

### 4) Where does Israel rank as a policy priority driving the Jewish vote?

- 90 percent of Jewish voters identified as “pro-Israel.”
- Of the 16 policy priorities presented in the poll, policy related to Israel ranks the lowest for Jewish voters when deciding which candidate to support.
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  - Improving the economy and creating jobs (86 percent);
  - Combatting terrorism (82 percent);
  - Making quality healthcare available to every American (80 percent);
  - Enacting gun safety laws (79 percent); and
  - Combatting influence of white supremacists and the far-right (78 percent).

### 5) How do Jewish voters view the rise of anti-Semitism?

- 73 percent of Jewish voters believe Jews in the United States are less secure than they were two years ago;
- 71 percent of Jewish voters disapprove of Trump’s handling of anti-Semitism;
- 59 percent of Jewish voters believe President Trump is at least partially responsible for recent targeted attacks on synagogues; and
- 43 percent of Jewish voters believe the best way to improve the security of the Jewish community is to elect candidates who share their values.



## 6) Has Jewish support for Republicans increased under President Trump?

- No. The poll is very clear on this fact, despite the repeated false claims of President Trump regarding the Jewish electorate.
- Since JEDI's October 2018 poll, the percentage of Jewish voters who identify as Republican remains exactly the same (25 percent).
- Exit polling from Pew demonstrates that the percent of Jewish support for Republicans has been halved since the 2014 midterm election, from 33 percent in 2014 to 17 percent in the 2018 midterm election.



## 7) Why have Republicans repeatedly failed to capture a significant share of the Jewish vote?

- Jewish voters prioritize domestic policy issues that relate to Jewish values, such as providing access to affordable health care, protecting Medicare and Social Security, enacting gun safety laws to protect our communities from the epidemic of gun violence, combatting the rise of white supremacy, defending against climate change, and protecting individual rights, including reproductive rights.
- Jewish voters overwhelmingly disapprove of Republicans' handling of domestic policy issues that speak to these values, with a recent emphasis on President Trump's discriminatory and inhumane policies related to immigration.
- American Jews remain staunchly pro-Israel, yet this is not their top voting priority. and they know that support of Israel remains strong among Democrats.
- Jews vote their values, and so long as Republicans support policies that betray such values – as they have repeatedly done under President Trump – and overwhelming majority of Jewish voters will continue to support Democrats.



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