

THE CIVIC HEALTH AND INSTITUTIONS PROJECT



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THE CIVIC HEALTH AND INSTITUTIONS PROJECT: A 50-STATE SURVEY REPORT #107: JEWISH AMERICAN VIEWS ON THE 2024 ELECTION (PART I)

USA, October 2024

Allison Wan, Northeastern University
John Wihbey, Northeastern University
James Druckman, University of Rochester
Alexi Quintana, Northeastern University
Matthew A. Baum, Harvard University
Roy H. Perlis, Harvard Medical School
Katherine Ognyanova, Rutgers University
Mauricio Santillana, Northeastern University
Ata Uslu, Northeastern University
Hong Qu, Northeastern University
David Lazer, Northeastern University



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THE CIVIC HEALTH AND INSTITUTIONS PROJECT

Report of October 16, 2024, v.1

The Civic Health and Institutions Project
and
The COVID States Project

A joint initiative of:

Northeastern University,
Harvard University,
Rutgers University,
University of Rochester

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Partners:

Northeastern University, Harvard University/Harvard Medical School, Rutgers University, and University of Rochester

Authors:

Allison Wan (Northeastern University); John Wihbey (Northeastern University); James Druckman (University of Rochester); Alexi Quintana (Northeastern University); Matthew A. Baum (Harvard University); Katherine Ognyanova (Rutgers University); Roy H. Perlis (Harvard Medical School); Mauricio Santillana (Northeastern University); Ata Uslu (Northeastern University); Hong Qu (Northeastern University); and David Lazer (Northeastern University)

Note on methods:

Between August 30, 2024 and October 8, 2024, we collected a total of 27,993 responses from individuals age 18 and older across all 50 states plus the District of Columbia. The surveys were conducted by PureSpectrum via an online, nonprobability sample. Extensive data quality checks were employed. The sample included 907 Jewish respondents and 27,026 non-Jewish respondents. Jewish respondents answered all questions. For some questions, all non-Jewish respondents were asked. For other questions, only a smaller, randomly selected subsample of the non-Jewish participants were asked. Non-responses were excluded from the calculation of reported percentages. The non-Jewish sample was weighted to reflect the US population with regard to gender, race, age, region, urbanicity, and education. The Jewish sample was weighted to the US national Jewish population on gender, race, age, region, and whether the respondent was a religious or non-religious Jew, based on reports by the Pew Research Center and American Jewish Population Project. More information on methodology is available at www.chip50.org/survey-methodology.

Contact information:

For additional information and press requests, contact:

- David Lazer at d.lazer@neu.edu
- James Druckman at jdruckma@ur.rochester.edu
- Matthew A. Baum at matthew_baum@hks.harvard.edu
- Katherine Ognyanova at katya.ognyanova@rutgers.edu
- Roy H. Perlis at rperlis@mgh.harvard.edu
- Mauricio Santillana at m.santillana@northeastern.edu

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Jewish American Views in the 2024 Election (Part I)

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- American Jews are much more likely to indicate that they will vote for Vice President Kamala Harris than for former President Donald Trump, preferring her by a margin of 2:1 (60% for Harris, and 30% for Trump.)
- On Israel-Gaza issues, 27% of Jews and 28% of non-Jews said Trump would definitely handle the situation better, while 36% of Jewish respondents said Harris would handle the situation better, compared to 25% of non-Jews in the survey.
- American Jews in the survey saw Trump as strongly pro-Israeli, more so than non-Jews did. A majority of non-Jews (56%) believed Harris offers equal support to both Israelis and Palestinians, compared to 42% of Jews who believe Harris is even-handed.

Introduction

The combustible mix of widening war in the Middle East following the Oct. 7, 2023 attacks by Hamas on Israeli border towns and subsequent U.S. domestic protests has created a marked period of uncertainty for American Jews. This survey report explores the views and preferences of a national sample of American Jews on a variety of cultural and political issues.

Building on CHIP50's February 2024 report, ["How Do Americans Feel about Israel, Palestine, Jews, and Muslims?"](#), the current report, based on a national survey fielded in August 30 to October 8, 2024, compares the responses of American Jews (n=907) to non-Jews among the full national sample of all U.S. persons (N=27,933).

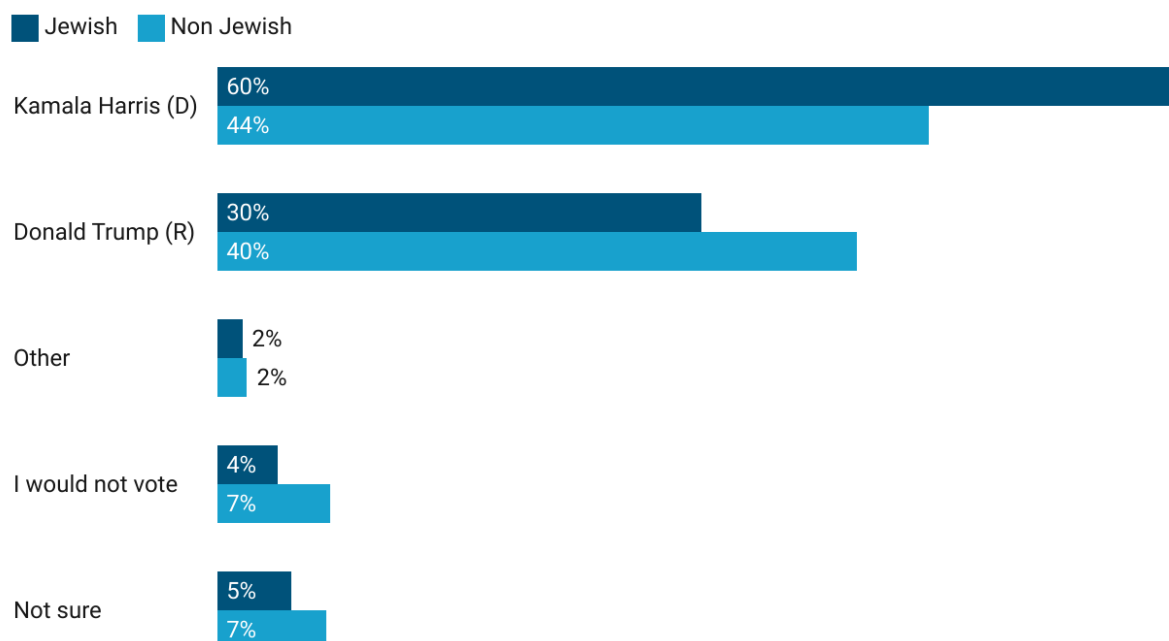
This method allows for a deeper look at the distinctive concerns of persons of Jewish faith and descent, relative to the wider pool of non-Jewish American respondents.

The following are key highlights from the survey. A full data table of relevant findings in the Appendix. This is Part I of a two-part report.

Comparative Views on the Presidential Election

Consistent with other polling and research indicating a [much greater likelihood of Democratic party affiliation](#), American Jews in our survey expressed stronger electoral support for Vice President Kamala Harris than for former president Donald Trump, preferring her by a margin of about 2:1 in the election (60% for Harris, and 30% for Trump.) That pattern stands in contrast to the preferences of non-Jews in the sample, who favored Harris over Trump by only 4 percentage points (44% to 40%).

If the 2024 U.S. presidential election were held today, which candidate would you vote for?



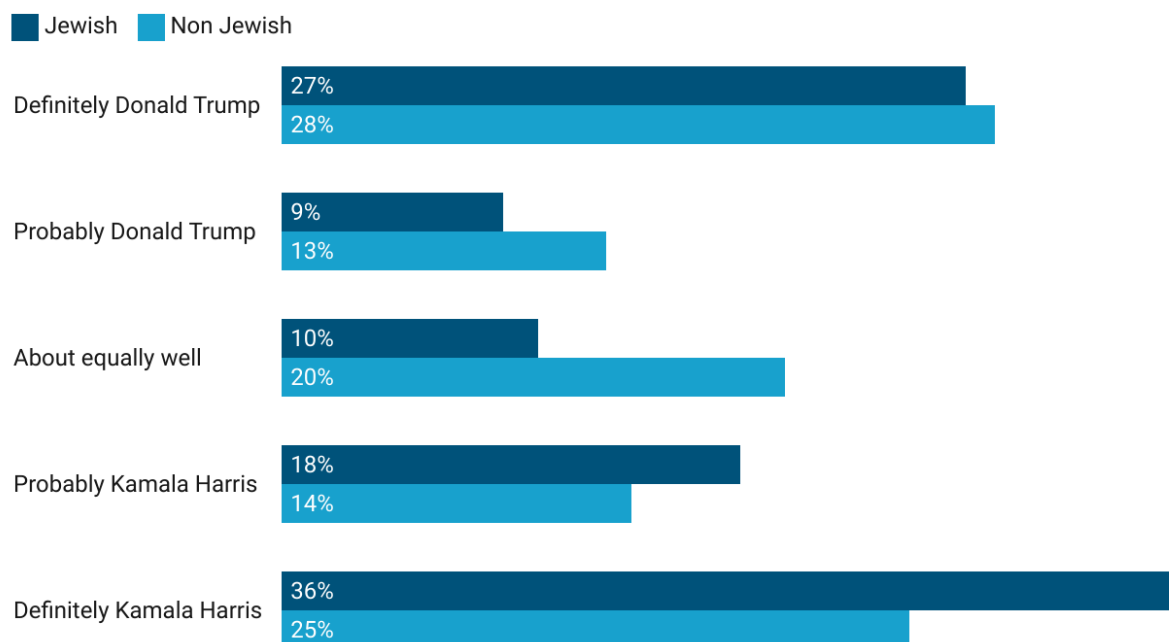
National Sample, N = 27,933, 08/30/2024-10/08/2024

Figure 1.

Leadership in Israel-Hamas Conflict

We asked respondents to indicate which U.S. presidential candidate would better handle the fighting between Israel and Hamas, which has now continued for more than a year, since the Oct. 7, 2023, attacks. Nearly identical percentages of Jews (27%) and non-Jews (28%) in the survey said Trump would definitely handle the situation better, while 36% of Jewish respondents said Harris would handle the situation better, compared to 25% of non-Jews.

Which presidential candidate do you think would better handle the following issues? The Israel-Hamas conflict



National Sample, N = 27,933, 08/30/2024-10/08/2024

Figure 2.

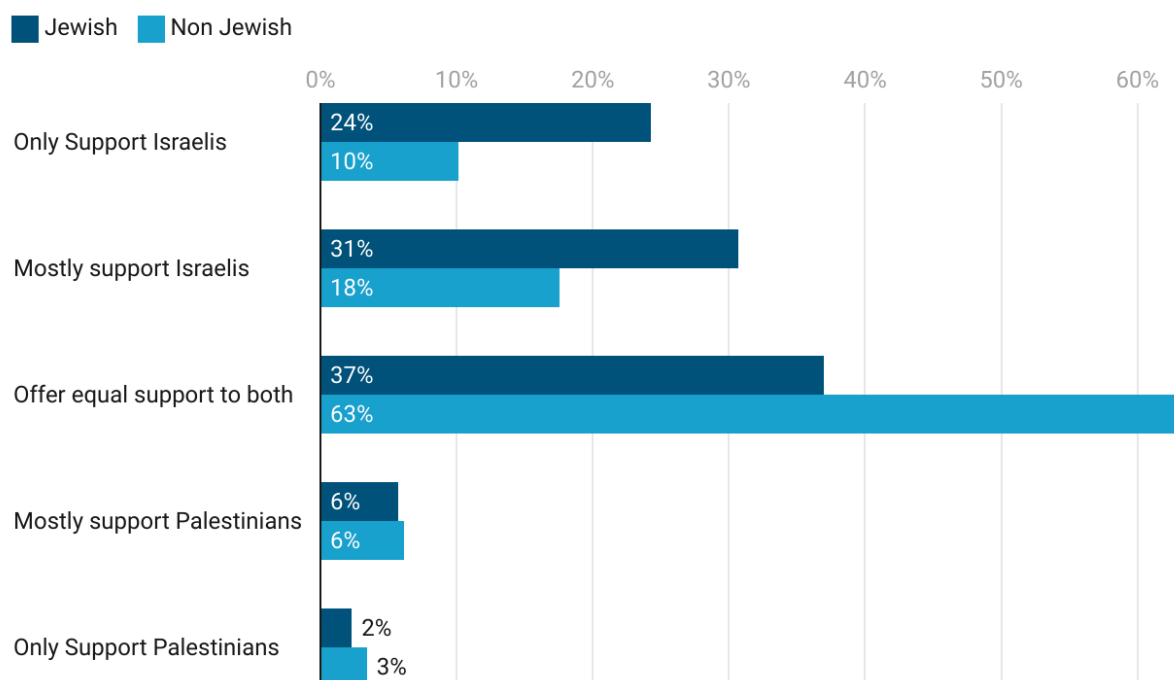
Ideal Support for Israelis and Palestinians

When asked about the ideal policy stance that the United States should have, a majority (63%) of non-Jews and a plurality of Jews (37%) chose the option “offer equal support to both.” However, Jewish respondents tilted far more substantially toward support of Israel than non-Jewish respondents.

A majority of Jewish respondents indicated that the United States should “only support Israelis” or “mostly support Israelis” (55% combined), compared to 28% of non-Jews who favored Israeli support.

Notably, support for favoring Palestinians mostly or exclusively was not a popular choice, and support for those positions by Jews and non-Jews alike did not, combined, even rise above single-digit percentages (8% among Jews, 9% among non-Jews.)

Which point on the scale below best reflects what you think U.S. (general) support for Israelis and Palestinians should be?



National Sample, N = 27,933, 08/20/2024 - 10/08/2024

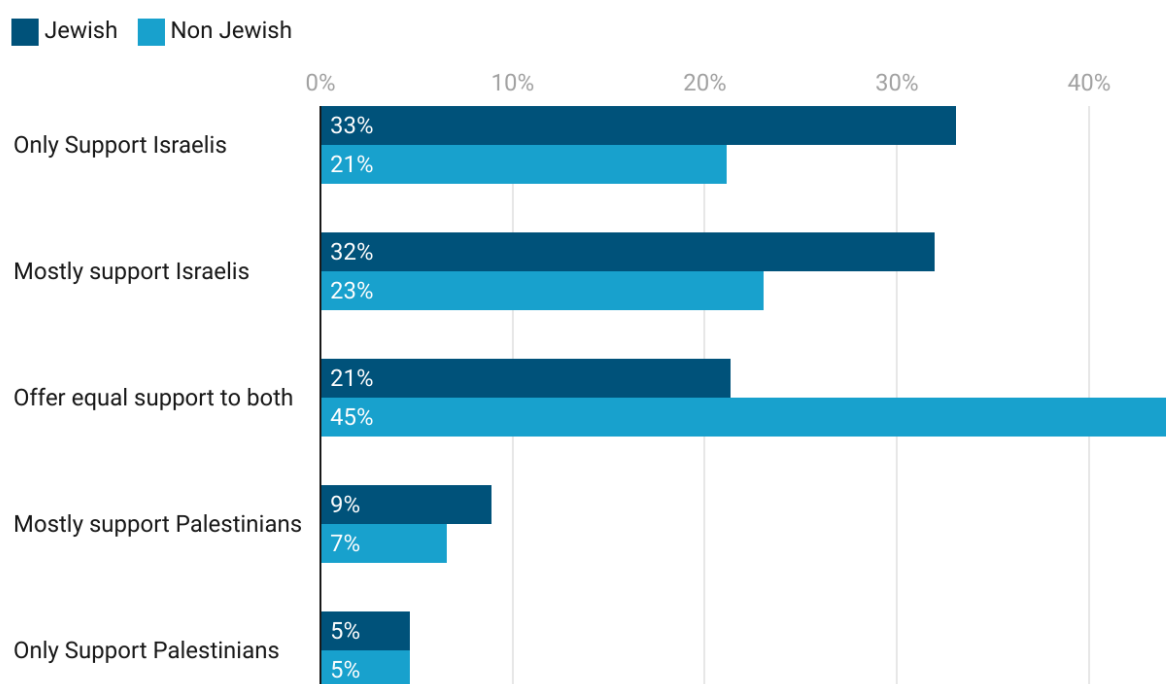
Figure 3.

Trump Support for Israelis over Palestinians

American Jews in the survey saw Trump as strongly pro-Israeli, more so than non-Jews did. When asked about whether Trump supports Israelis or Palestinians more, nearly two-thirds (65%) of Jewish respondents said he “only” or “mostly” Israelis, compared to 44% of non-Jews who held those views.

Indeed, while nearly half (45%) of non-Jews saw Trump as offering equal support to both sides, only about one-fifth (21%) of Jews believed that Trump is even-handed.

Which point on the scale below best reflects where you think Donald Trump stands when it comes to U.S. (general) support for Israelis and Palestinians?



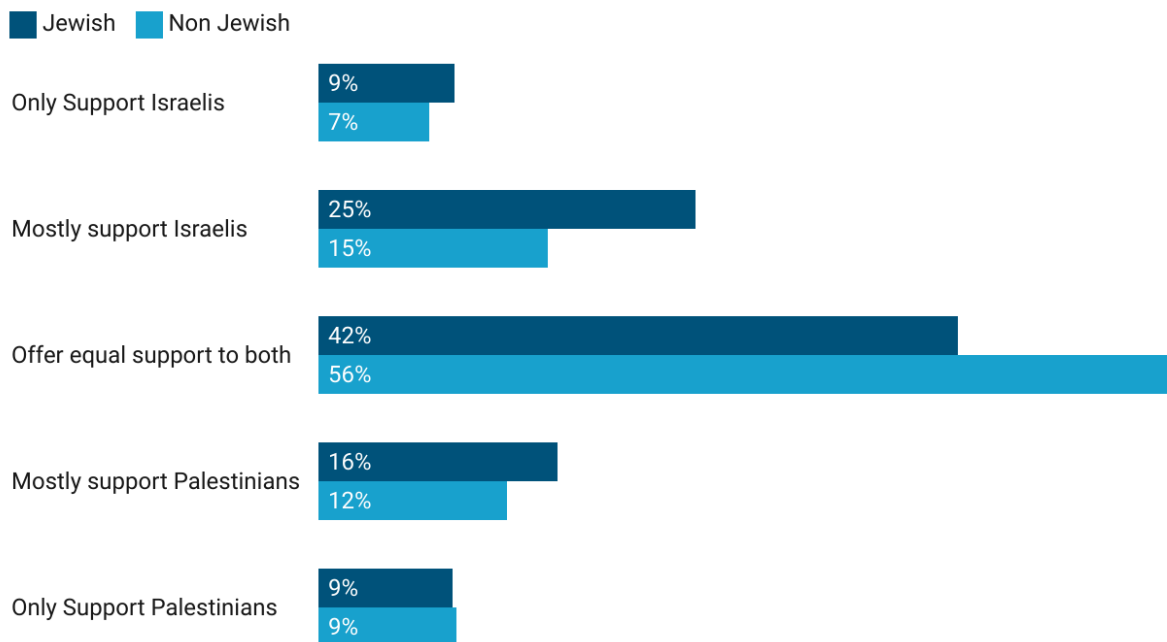
National Sample, N = 27,933, 08/30/2024-10/08/2024

Figure 4.

Harris’s Even-Handedness with Israelis, Palestinians

A majority of non-Jews (56%) believed Harris offers equal support to both Israelis and Palestinians, compared to 42% of Jews who believe Harris is even-handed. Still, one-third of Jewish respondents indicated that Harris “only” or “mostly” supports Israelis, with 25% of Jews saying that Harris mostly or only favors Palestinians.

Which point on the scale below best reflects where you think Kamala Harris stands when it comes to U.S. (general) support for Israelis and Palestinians?



National Sample, N = 27,933, 08/30/2024-10/08/2024

Figure 5.

Conclusion

This report finds that Jewish Americans continue to hold more liberal views on election matters, as compared to non-Jews, and their support for Vice President Harris is strong relative to their non-Jewish counterparts. Donald Trump is perceived as more squarely pro-Israel, while Harris is considered by Jewish respondents to be more even-handed. The findings presented here are, of course, a snapshot in time, but they contribute to a complex and evolving picture for Jewish Americans as they navigate and respond to this time of election, war, and evolving cultural dynamics.

Appendix A: Data Tables

Values in parentheses represent margins of error at the 95 percent confidence level.

Table 1. If the 2024 U.S. presidential election were held today, which candidate would you vote for?

	Jewish Respondents		Non-Jewish Respondents	
	Count	Percent (MOE)	Count	Percent (MOE)
Kamala Harris (D)	542	59.8% (3.2%)	11967	44.4% (0.6%)
Donald Trump (R)	274	30.2% (3%)	10751	39.9% (0.6%)
Other	14	1.6% (0.8%)	511	1.9% (0.2%)
I would not vote	34	3.8% (1.2%)	1906	7.1% (0.3%)
Not sure	42	4.6% (1.4%)	1843	6.8% (0.3%)
Total	907	100%	26979	100%

Table 2. Which presidential candidate do you think would better handle the following issues? The Israel-Hamas conflict

	Jewish Respondents		Non-Jewish Respondents	
	Count	Percent (MOE)	Count	Percent (MOE)
Definitely Donald Trump	209	27.2% (3.2%)	6651	28.3% (0.6%)
Probably Donald Trump	68	8.8% (2%)	3030	12.9% (0.4%)
About equally well	78	10.2% (2.1%)	4686	20% (0.5%)
Probably Kamala Harris	140	18.2% (2.7%)	3259	13.9% (0.4%)
Definitely Kamala Harris	272	35.5% (3.4%)	5841	24.9% (0.6%)
Total	767	100%	23467	100%

Table 3. Which point on the scale below best reflects where you think Donald Trump stands when it comes to U.S. (general) support for Israelis and Palestinian?

	Jewish Respondents		Non-Jewish Respondents	
	Count	Percent (MOE)	Count	Percent (MOE)
Only Support Israelis	297	33.1% (3.1%)	684	21.1% (1.4%)
Mostly support Israelis	287	32% (3.1%)	748	23.1% (1.5%)
Offer equal support to both	191	21.3% (2.7%)	1442	44.5% (1.7%)
Mostly support Palestinians	80	8.9% (1.9%)	215	6.6% (0.9%)
Only Support Palestinians	42	4.7% (1.4%)	151	4.6% (0.7%)
Total	897	100%	3240	100%

Table 4. Which point on the scale below best reflects where you think Kamala Harris stands when it comes to U.S. (general) support for Israelis and Palestinians?

	Jewish Respondents		Non-Jewish Respondents	
	Count	Percent (MOE)	Count	Percent (MOE)
Only Support Israelis	80	8.9% (1.9%)	237	7.3% (0.9%)
Mostly support Israelis	223	24.7% (2.8%)	490	15.1% (1.2%)
Offer equal support to both	379	42% (3.2%)	1821	56.1% (1.7%)
Mostly support Palestinians	142	15.7% (2.4%)	403	12.4% (1.1%)
Only Support Palestinians	79	8.8% (1.8%)	292	9% (1%)
Total	903	100%	3244	100%