



J Street
National Survey of American Jews

February 28 – March 8, 2009
800 Respondents

Q.6 Generally speaking, do you think that things in this country are going in the right direction, or do you feel things have gotten pretty seriously off on the wrong track?

	Total
Right direction	36
Wrong track	64
Right - Wrong	-28
(ref:DIRECT)	

Q.7 Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling his job as president?

	Total
Strongly approve	50
Somewhat approve	24
Somewhat disapprove.....	9
Strongly disapprove.....	18
Total Approve	73
Total Disapprove	27
Approve - Disapprove	47
(ref:OBAMAJOB)	

Q.8 Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling the economy?

	Total
Strongly approve	38
Somewhat approve	33
Somewhat disapprove.....	7
Strongly disapprove.....	22
Total Approve	71
Total Disapprove	29
Approve - Disapprove	42
(ref:OBAMEACON)	



Q.9 Do you approve or disapprove of the way Barack Obama is handling the Arab-Israeli conflict?

	Total
Strongly approve	26
Somewhat approve	46
Somewhat disapprove.....	12
Strongly disapprove.....	16
Total Approve	72
Total Disapprove	28
Approve - Disapprove	44
(ref:OBAMACONF)	

Q.10 Now, we would like to rate your feelings toward some people and organizations, with one hundred meaning a VERY WARM, FAVORABLE feeling; zero meaning a VERY COLD, UNFAVORABLE feeling; and fifty meaning not particularly warm or cold. You can use any number from zero to one hundred, the higher the number the more favorable your feelings are toward that person or organization. If you have no opinion or never heard of that person or organization, please say so.

	Mean	Fav	Unfav	Ident
10 Barack Obama.....	69.8	74	23	100
11 Democratic Party	58.7	67	30	99
12 Republican Party.....	26.8	23	72	99
13 Hillary Clinton	63.1	70	26	99
14 Sarah Palin	25.0	23	73	99
15 George Mitchell	52.6	42	26	74
16 Rush Limbaugh.....	23.6	22	73	98
17 AIPAC	55.3	37	19	64
18 J Street.....	49.8	17	12	35
19 Your local Jewish Federation.....	67.1	69	10	92
20 Benjamin Netanyahu.....	60.0	58	27	93
21 Tzippi Livni	61.5	53	16	77
22 Yitzhak Rabin	70.7	76	11	95
23 Avigdor Lieberman.....	43.1	27	29	62
(ref:THERM)				

Q.24 Now, I am going to read you a list of words and phrases which people use to describe political figures. For each word or phrase, please tell me whether it describes Barack Obama very well, well, not too well, or not well at all.

	Very Well	Well	Not Too Well	Not Well At all	Total Well	Total Not Well	Well - Not
24 Honest and trustworthy	57	19	8	16	76	24	53
25 Supports Israel	35	41	12	12	76	24	52
26 Has a good vision for advancing Middle East peace	27	42	14	17	69	31	38
27 Restoring America's standing in the world	60	17	8	14	78	22	55
28 Has good plans for the economy.....	41	32	6	21	73	27	45
29 Shares my values.....	46	27	7	20	73	27	46
30 Too liberal.....	23	17	24	36	40	60	-19
31 Has the wrong national security policies	20	13	18	48	34	66	-33

(ref:OBAMAATT)

Q.32 Now, something different. Do you support or oppose the United States playing an active role in helping the parties to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict?

	Total
Strongly support	52
Somewhat support	37
Somewhat oppose	9
Strongly oppose	3
Total Support	88
Total Oppose	12
Support - Oppose	77

(ref:USROLE)

[354 Respondents]

Q.33 (IF SUPPORT ACTIVE ROLE) (SPLIT A) Would you support or oppose the United States playing an active role in helping the parties to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict if it meant the United States publicly stating its disagreements with both the Israelis and the Arabs?

	Total
Strongly support	46
Somewhat support	39
Somewhat oppose	10
Strongly oppose	5
Total Support	86
Total Oppose	14
Support - Oppose	71
(ref:USROLEB)	

<i>TOTAL AMONG FULL ADULT SAMPLE [INCORPORATING OPPOSE IN Q32]</i>	
Total support.....	76
Total oppose	24
Support - Oppose	52

[354 Respondents]

Q.34 (IF SUPPORT ACTIVE ROLE) (SPLIT B) Would you support or oppose the United States playing an active role in helping the parties to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict if it meant the United States publicly stating its disagreements with Israel?

	Total
Strongly support	31
Somewhat support	35
Somewhat oppose	18
Strongly oppose	16
Total Support	66
Total Oppose	34
Support - Oppose	32
(ref:USROLEB1)	

<i>TOTAL AMONG FULL ADULT SAMPLE [INCORPORATING OPPOSE IN Q32]</i>	
Total support.....	58
Total oppose	42
Support - Oppose	16

[354 Respondents]

Q.35 (IF SUPPORT ACTIVE ROLE) (SPLIT A) Would you support or oppose the United States playing an active role in helping the parties to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict if it meant the United States exerting pressure on both the Israelis and Arabs to make the compromises necessary to achieve peace?

	Total
Strongly support	43
Somewhat support	37
Somewhat oppose	14
Strongly oppose	5
Total Support	81
Total Oppose	19
Support - Oppose	62
(ref:USROLEC)	

<i>TOTAL AMONG FULL ADULT SAMPLE [INCORPORATING OPPOSE IN Q32]</i>	
Total support.....	72
Total oppose	28
Support - Oppose	44

[354 Respondents]

Q.36 (IF SUPPORT ACTIVE ROLE) (SPLIT B) Would you support or oppose the United States playing an active role in helping the parties to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict if it meant the United States exerting pressure on Israel to make the compromises necessary to achieve peace?

	Total
Strongly support	27
Somewhat support	37
Somewhat oppose	16
Strongly oppose	20
Total Support	64
Total Oppose	36
Support - Oppose	28
(ref:USROLEC1)	

TOTAL AMONG FULL ADULT SAMPLE [INCORPORATING OPPOSE IN Q32]	
Total support.....	57
Total oppose	43
Support - Oppose	14

Q. 32/33/35 COMBINED SCALE

SPLIT A [400 Respondents]

FIRM SUPPORT.....	69
(SUPPORT US ROLE, USROLEB, AND USROLEC)	
CONDITIONAL SUPPORT.....	19
(SUPPORT USROLE, OPPOSE USROLEB OR USROLEC)	
FIRM OPPOSE.....	12
(OPPOSE USROLE)	

Q. 32/34/36 COMBINED SCALE

SPLIT B [400 Respondents]

FIRM SUPPORT.....	48
(SUPPORT US ROLE, USROLEB1, AND USROLEC1)	
CONDITIONAL SUPPORT.....	40
(SUPPORT USROLE, OPPOSE USROLEB1 OR USROLEC1)	
FIRM OPPOSE.....	12
(OPPOSE USROLE)	

Q.37 Below is a list of reasons that people give for supporting Israel. Please mark the SINGLE biggest reason you have for supporting Israel.

	Total
I am Jewish and Israel is the Jewish homeland	35
Israel is an American ally in the Middle East and strengthens our national security interests	31
Israel is a democracy which shares my values	19
I have family and friends in Israel	6
I don't support Israel	3
Other	6
(ref:VALUES)	

Q.38 Below are some pairs of statements. After reading each pair, please mark whether the FIRST statement or the SECOND statement comes closer to your own view, even if neither is exactly right.

	1st	1st	2nd	2nd	Both	Nei-ther	Total	Total	1st
	Strng	Not	Not	Strng	Strng	Strng	1st	2nd	-
39 Middle East peace is a core American interest, and the United States should use assertive diplomacy to end the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. OR Only the parties themselves can make peace, and the United States should let the Palestinians and Israelis work out the conflict on their own.	31	21	14	18	9	8	51	32	19
40 It bothers me when American Jews disagree publicly with Israeli government policy. OR It does not bother me when American Jews disagree publicly with Israeli government policy.	16	13	23	36	4	9	28	58	-30
[400 Respondents]									
41 (SPLIT D) The traditional Jewish organizations do a good job of representing my views on Israel. OR The traditional Jewish organizations do a poor job of representing my views on Israel.	23	24	13	16	4	20	47	29	18

	1 st Strng	1 st Not Strng	2 nd Not Strng	2 nd Strng	Both	Nei- ther	Total 1 st	Total 2 nd	1 st - 2 nd
42 Israel cannot rely on peace agreements with its enemies to provide security, and in the long run, Israel can only achieve real security by maintaining its military superiority. OR Israel must always maintain its strong military, but in the long run, Israel can only achieve real security through peace agreements that end conflicts and establish internationally recognized borders.....	30	6	13	37	11	4	36	49	-14

[400 Respondents]

43 (SPLIT C) The United States should propose a detailed plan to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict and assertively use our influence to lead the parties to implement this American plan. OR The United States should not propose a detailed plan to resolve the Arab-Israeli conflict and assertively use our influence to implement this American plan.....	20	24	18	19	4	15	45	37	8
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	1 st Strng	1 st Not Strng	2 nd Not Strng	2 nd Strng	Both	Nei- ther	Total 1 st	Total 2 nd	1 st - 2 nd
[400 Respondents]									
44 (SPLIT D) The new United States envoy to the Middle East, former Senator George Mitchell, should act as a fair and impartial broker in order to achieve a peace agreement between Israelis and Palestinians.									
OR									
The new United States envoy to the Middle East, former Senator George Mitchell, should side with Israel during peace negotiations in order to protect America's democratic ally Israel.....									
	37	20	9	15	8	10	57	25	32

[400 Respondents]									
45 (SPLIT C) Jewish organizations that lobby Congress to support every Israeli government policy are helping Israel's security.									
OR									
Jewish organizations that lobby Congress to support every Israeli government policy are not helping Israel's security.....									
	21	23	21	14	4	17	45	35	9

46 Using incentives such as economic aid, military assistance, and support in international institutions, the United States has the leverage to impose a peace agreement on the Israelis and Palestinians.									
OR									
Despite being the most powerful nation in history, the United States does not have the leverage to impose a peace agreement on the Israelis and Palestinians.									
	13	17	24	32	6	8	30	55	-25

	1 st Strng	1 st Not Strng	2 nd Not Strng	2 nd Strng	Both	Nei- ther	Total 1 st	Total 2 nd	1 st - 2 nd
[400 Respondents]									
47 (SPLIT C) The best way to deal with Iran is through direct negotiations that provide strong incentives for them to abandon the development of nuclear weapons.									
OR									
The best way to deal with Iran is through international sanctions that force Iran to choose between nuclear weapons and international isolation.....									
	25	14	10	28	14	9	39	37	2
[400 Respondents]									
48 (SPLIT C) America should not attack Iran with military force if they are on the verge of developing nuclear weapons.									
OR									
America should attack Iran with military force if they are on the verge of developing nuclear weapons.....									
	22	19	17	23	3	16	41	40	1
49 I am concerned that other Americans will end up resenting American Jews because of America's perceived favoritism toward Israel under all circumstances.									
OR									
I am not concerned that other Americans will end up resenting American Jews because of America's perceived favoritism toward Israel under all circumstances.....									
	20	26	17	21	4	12	47	37	10
(ref:PAIRS)									

Q.50 Now, something different. Do you approve or disapprove of the recent military action that Israel took in Gaza?

	Total
Strongly approve	47
Somewhat approve	28
Somewhat disapprove.....	16
Strongly disapprove.....	9
Total Approve	75
Total Disapprove	25
Approve - Disapprove	51
(ref:GAZAAPP)	

Q.51 Regardless of whether you approve or disapprove of the recent military action that Israel took in Gaza, do you think it made Israel more secure, less secure, or had no impact on Israel's security?

	Total
More secure	41
Less secure.....	18
No impact	41
(ref:GAZASEC)	

Q.52 Below are some statements that people made about the Israeli military action in Gaza. Please mark whether you agree or disagree with each of these statements.

		Smwt	Strng	Dis-	Dis-	Total	Dis-	Agree
	Strng	Agree	Agree	agree	agree	Agree	agree	Dis
53 With Hamas launching rockets into southern Israel that killed many Israeli civilians and Israel launching air and ground strikes that killed many Palestinian civilians, neither side has a monopoly on who is right and who is wrong.	22	25	20	33	47	53	-6	
54 With hundreds of Palestinian civilian deaths and a humanitarian crisis resulting from a month of no electricity and clean water throughout Gaza, Israel's response to Hamas' attacks was disproportionate.	12	18	24	45	31	69	-39	
[400 Respondents]								
55 (SPLIT C) Israeli military actions that target terrorists, but kill Palestinian civilians create more terrorism instead of preventing terrorism.	17	39	25	19	56	44	12	
July 2008 Results¹	23	31	24	22	54	45	9	
[400 Respondents]								
56 (SPLIT D) Israel has the right to defend itself, but it must also take into account humanitarian considerations and avoid collective punishment of the entire Palestinian population by closing the borders and causing major civilian hardship.	32	32	19	17	65	35	29	
July 2008 Results	26	35	21	18	61	39	22	
(ref:GAZAGREE)								

¹ July 2008 survey used different introductory language: “Now, we are going to look at some more specific statements and positions related to peace talks currently taking place between Israelis, Palestinians, and Syrians. For each statement or position, please mark whether you agree or disagree.”

Q.57 As you may know, the Palestinian Authority is the Palestinian government in the West Bank and has been engaged in peace talks with the Israeli government. Hamas is the Palestinian government in Gaza and is not recognized by the United States because of its terrorism and refusal to recognize Israel. Currently, Hamas and the Palestinian Authority are negotiating to become a unified Palestinian government. If they reach an agreement, would you support or oppose the United States working with that unity government to achieve a peace agreement with Israel?

Total	
Strongly support	28
Somewhat support	41
Somewhat oppose	15
Strongly oppose	16
Total Support	69
Total Oppose	31
Support - Oppose	38
(ref:UNITYGOV)	

Q.58 As you may know, Israel had an election earlier this month. The party receiving the third largest number of seats is led by Avigdor Lieberman who has previously called for the execution of Arab members of Israel's parliament who met with Hamas and whose main campaign message called for Arab citizens of Israel to sign a loyalty oath to the Jewish state in order to prevent their citizenship from being revoked. Do you support or oppose these positions?

Total	
Strongly support	8
Somewhat support	22
Somewhat oppose	28
Strongly oppose	42
Total Support	31
Total Oppose	69
Support - Oppose	-39
(ref:LIEBSUP)	

Q.59 If Avigdor Lieberman becomes a senior member of the Israeli cabinet and refuses to change his positions on Arab citizens of Israel, how would this affect your feelings toward Israel?

Total	
Strengthens my support for Israel against the international criticism that will follow his cabinet appointment	10
Weakens my personal connection to Israel because Lieberman's positions go against my core values	32
Has no impact on my feelings toward Israel	58
(ref:LIEBREACT)	

Q.60 From what you know about Israeli settlements in the West Bank, do you support or oppose expanding these settlements?

	Total
Strongly support	14
Somewhat support	25
Somewhat oppose	28
Strongly oppose	32
Total Support	40
Total Oppose	60
Support - Oppose	-21
(ref:SETTLESUP)	

Q.61 Supporters of expanding Israeli settlements in the West Bank say this is the biblical Land of Israel, Jews have the right to live there, and settlement expansion is necessary to accommodate natural growth.

Opponents of expanding Israeli settlements in the West Bank say the settlements break agreements with the United States, violate international law, and prevent Arab-Israeli peace because they establish Israeli population centers in the middle of a future Palestinian state.

After hearing these statements, do you support or oppose expanding these settlements?

	Total
Strongly support	16
Somewhat support	24
Somewhat oppose	29
Strongly oppose	30
Total Support	40
Total Oppose	60
Support - Oppose	-19
(ref:SETTLESUP1)	

Q.62 Eight years ago, Israeli, Palestinian, and American negotiators came very close to reaching a final status peace agreement, but ultimately fell short.

The details of that agreement include: a demilitarized Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza; internationally recognized borders that include some land swaps allowing for most Jewish settlers in the West Bank to be inside Israel while the Palestinians get comparable land areas in return; Palestinian neighborhoods in Jerusalem become part of the new Palestinian state while Israel retains control of Jewish neighborhoods and the Western Wall in Jerusalem; international forces to monitor the new Palestinian state and border crossings; and financial compensation for Palestinian refugees while allowing some refugees to return to Israel if they meet specific family reunification criteria and the Israeli government approves.

Do you support or oppose such an agreement?

	Total
Strongly support	33
Somewhat support	43
Somewhat oppose	13
Strongly oppose	11
Total Support	76
Total Oppose	24
Support - Oppose	52
(ref:FINALSTAT)	

[610 Respondents]

Q.63 (IF SUPPORT AGREEMENT) Below is a list of actions the United States could take to try convincing the Palestinians and Israelis to accept this peace agreement today. For each action, please mark whether you approve or disapprove that action.

	Strng App	Smwt App	Dis- app	Strng Dis- app	Total App	Total Dis- app	App - Dis
64 Publicly state which party is responsible for blocking the agreement from being reached.....	37	40	15	8	77	23	54
65 Reduce economic aid for any party that blocks the agreement from being reached.....	27	48	18	7	75	25	50
66 Reduce military aid for Israel if it blocks the agreement from being reached.....	15	33	29	22	49	51	-2
67 Reduce humanitarian aid for the Palestinians if they block the agreement from being reached.....	25	33	29	12	59	41	17
68 Reduce American support for Israel in international institutions if it blocks the agreement from being reached.....	13	33	31	23	46	54	-7
69 Support Israel's blockade of Gaza if the Palestinians block the agreement from being reached..... (ref:IMPOSE)	36	39	19	7	75	25	50

Q.70 Finally, a few questions for statistical purposes. Do you belong to a synagogue or temple?

	Total
Yes.....	42
No.....	58
(ref:SYNOG)	

Q.71 How often, do you attend formal religious services?

	Total
Every week.....	11
Once or twice a month.....	12
A few times a year.....	32
Hardly ever.....	33
Never.....	12
(ref:ATTEND)	

Q.72 Do you participate in events or activities sponsored by any other Jewish community or advocacy organizations?

	Total
Yes	47
No	53
(Don't know/Refused).....	-
(ref:PARTIC)	

Q.73 How would you characterize the organizations and causes to which you contribute money? Please mark as many as apply.

	Total
Non-Jewish charities	57
Jewish organizations and charities	52
Political campaigns.....	44
Synagogue or temple	36
Israel-related organizations and charities	30
Non-Jewish advocacy organizations	29
Other	11
I don't contribute money to organizations or causes	17
(ref:CONTRIB)	

[667 Respondents]

Q.74 (IF CONTRIBUTE MONEY) Has the current economic situation affected your charitable or political contributions? Please mark as many as apply.

	Total
I have reduced or will reduce my contributions to non-Jewish organizations and charities	42
I have reduced or will reduce my contributions to political campaigns	37
I have reduced or will reduce my contributions to Jewish organizations and charities	35
I have reduced or will reduce my contributions to synagogues or temples	21
I have not and will not reduce my contributions to organizations and political campaigns.....	39
Total reduced	61
(ref:ECONIMPACT)	

Q.75 Have you, someone you know, or an organization that you support been affected by the Bernard Madoff financial scandal? Please check as many as apply.

	Total
Yes, I have been personally affected.....	2
Yes, someone I know has been affected.....	17
Yes, an organization that I support has been affected.....	28
No, I have not been personally affected, I don't know anyone who has been affected, and none of the organizations that I support have been affected	55
I do not know about the Bernard Madoff financial scandal	6
Total yes.....	39
(ref:MADOFF)	

Q.76 Have you ever traveled to Israel?

	Total
Yes.....	46
No	54
(ref:TRAVEL)	

Q.77 Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as a Democrat, a Republican or what?

	Total
Strong Democrat.....	50
Weak Democrat	11
Independent-lean Democrat.....	9
Independent	7
Independent-lean Republican	7
Weak Republican.....	6
Strong Republican	11
(ref:PTYID1)	

Q.78 Thinking in political terms, would you say you that you are conservative, moderate, progressive, or liberal?

	Total
Conservative	23
Moderate	28
Liberal.....	33
Progressive	17
(ref:IDEOL)	

Q.79 One last question. Remember this is confidential and anonymous survey, and we are not selling anything. Last year, that is in 2008, what was your total household income from all sources, before taxes?

	Total
Less than \$20,000	8
\$20,000 to \$49,999	17
\$50,000 to \$74,999	18
\$75,000 to \$99,999	16
\$100,000 to \$199,999	25
\$200,000 or more.....	11
(Don't know/refused)	-
(ref:INCOME)	

Q.2 First, how would you describe your Jewish denomination?

	Total
Orthodox	8
Conservative	25
Reform.....	34
Reconstructionist	3
Unaffiliated.....	26
Other	4
I'm not Jewish.....	-
(ref:JEWISHID)	

Q.3 What is your gender?

	Total
Male	49
Female	51
(ref:GENDER)	

Q.4 What is the last year of schooling that you have completed?

	Total
1 - 11th grade.....	2
High School graduate	11
Non-college post H.S.....	1
Some college	20
College graduate	29
Post-graduate school.....	36
(ref:EDUC)	

Q.5 In what year were you born?

	Total
Under 18	0
18 - 24	8
25 - 29	8
30 - 34	8
35 - 39	8
40 - 44	4
45 - 49	10
50 - 54	8
55 - 59	13
60 - 64	13
Over 64	21
(ref:AGE)	