

## New American Poll Illustrates the Unpopularity of the Idea That the U.S. Take Ownership of Gaza and Elsewhere

A recent Data for Progress (DFP) survey has shed light on the significant level of opposition to President Trump's Gaza takeover proposal, in addition to several other notable findings regarding Trump-floated ideas. Among the major takeaways is the finding that survey respondents strongly oppose Trump's proposal to take ownership of Gaza and forcibly resettle its residents by a large margin of 37 percentage points, 64% to 27%. Furthermore, voters polled are also firmly against the potential notion of the United States sending troops to the Middle East in order to take ownership of Gaza by an even slightly bigger margin of 44 percentage points, 69% to 25%. In addition to Gaza, the majority of those surveyed for the DFP poll expressed opposition to the idea of the United States taking ownership of other places as well – Canada, Greenland, and the Panama Canal – albeit to differing degrees, and with Gaza receiving the strongest amount of objection out of the four.

When asked if they supported or opposed Trump's proposal for the United States to "take over" and "own" Gaza, and in doing so, forcibly displace the nearly 2 million Palestinians who live there into neighboring countries, about two-thirds of all respondents either "strongly opposed" or "somewhat opposed" this. Specifically, 47% of those polled expressed that they "strongly opposed." Among Democrats, a whopping 85% opposed the takeover and forcible resettlement of residents, while only 10% supported it; a colossal 75% margin between opposition and support. The gap was also substantial when it came to those who identified as independents or third-party affiliated, as 40% more of these respondents opposed the proposal than supported. With respect to Republican survey participants, the results were a lot more mixed, with 46% supporting the idea and 43% opposing it; a miniscule margin of only 3 percentage points. The overall findings of strong opposition to the Trump Gaza takeover proposal are aligned with other recent polls on the issue, such as one conducted by CBS News which saw 47% of respondents say that the United States taking over Gaza would be a "bad idea," compared to only 13% who deemed it a "good idea," – the remaining 40% stated that they were "not sure."

Another major finding from the DFP survey was the extremely high proportion of respondents who opposed the idea of the United States sending troops to the Middle East in order to take ownership of Gaza. This was even slightly larger of a gap than the one regarding the Gaza takeover proposal. Nearly 70% of those polled voiced that they opposed the deployment of troops to the Middle East, with 50% of all respondents expressing that they "strongly oppose." The wave of those who opposed in some capacity included 86% of Democrats, 68% of Independents/Third-party affiliates, and 52% of Republicans – a majority in each grouping and something which highlights the overwhelming opposition to this potential notion. This should come as no surprise given the American public's growing weariness regarding the harmful effects of U.S. military entanglement in overseas conflicts – as witnessed over the preceding decades when looking back on what took place in countries like Iraq and Afghanistan. While Trump has been vague about the details of his proposal, he has tried to claim that no troops would be needed for it, however, military experts have outlined that it would clearly require the use of U.S. military personnel in some capacity.

The DFP survey also uncovered that Trump's stances on <u>"taking back" the Panama Canal, making Canada the 51st</u> <u>state</u>, <u>buying Greenland</u>, and <u>"redeveloping Gaza" into what he calls the "Riviera of the Middle East"</u> are not what the majority of Americans want. Regarding all four places – the Panama Canal, Greenland, Canada, and Gaza – more survey respondents opposed than supported the idea of the United States taking ownership. The margin with respect to Gaza was the largest at 39 percentage points, 62% to 23%, while a similarly high gap was seen towards Canada at 34 percentage points, 61% to 27%. Over 50% opposed taking ownership of Greenland, compared to only around 30% who supported this. Meanwhile, the possibility of taking ownership of the Panama Canal was the closest of the four margins, as 46% opposed the idea and 41% supported it.

Overall, the survey findings in totality highlight the across-the-board disapproval of Trump's suggested proposals for the U.S. to take ownership of various places around the world, and the particularly strong objection when it would also involve the forcible displacement of civilians and the deployment of American troops overseas.