



[Pew Survey Findings Mirror Those of Last Month's Gallup Poll Regarding Americans' Increasingly Negative Views of Israel](#)

Similarly to [last month's Gallup poll](#) which we covered in [Issue 277 of our NIF Newsletter](#), a recent Pew Research Center survey has found that the American public's views of Israel have become increasingly negative over the preceding years. This trend in sentiment has been demonstrated through polls that have been conducted since the onset of the Gaza War back in October of 2023. The percentage of American adults who expressed that they now have negative views of Israel is more than half of the population and up to 53% – a substantial 11-point increase from the 42% figure back in 2022. These new Pew Research Center findings reaffirm those of the aforementioned Gallup poll as well as a recent one conducted by Data for Progress – two analysis groups that published polls on perceptions regarding Israel and Palestine within the last few months. The repeated consistency in survey findings on this issue prove that Israel's destructive Gaza War and the array of evidence of egregious war crimes and human rights violations have certainly had an impact on U.S. domestic public opinion.

The Pew Research Center poll's findings outlined how negative views towards Israel have increased across the board among every surveyed demographic group. While the total jump among U.S. adults overall was significant from 42% to 53%, the increases were also particularly profound among older Democrats aged 50 and above. The percentage for those in this group spiked from 43% to a whopping 66%. The survey results showed that Democrats tend to view Israel in an even more unfavorable light than Republicans, with these respective numbers being 69% compared to 37%. What is noteworthy as well is the considerable rise in younger Republicans aged 18-49 who now have negative views of Israel – an increase from 35% to 50%.

Views towards Israel among religious groups within the United States do differ widely. Unfavorability regarding Israel is especially high among Muslims and those who are religiously unaffiliated, at 81% and 69% respectively. Among Catholics and White non-Evangelical Protestants, those with unfavorable views slightly outnumber those with favorable views – by 8 percentage points among Catholics and 3 percentage points among White non-Evangelical Protestants. On the other hand, favorability figures towards Israel are higher among Protestants overall, White Evangelical Protestants, and Jewish Americans.

The survey respondents were also asked about their level of confidence in Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu to do the right thing regarding world affairs. The poll found that a majority of Americans (52%) expressed that they have either little or no confidence on this. Yet again, similar to the unfavorability towards Israel percentages, more Democrats than Republicans were critical of the Israeli prime minister, as 70% of Democrats responded that they had little or no confidence compared to 34% for Republicans. On the flip side, while 50% of Republicans expressed some or a lot of confidence in Netanyahu, only a miniscule 15% of Democrats did so.

When broken down by religious identity, all groups except White Evangelical Protestants and Protestants overall had more respondents express little or no confidence in Netanyahu than those who voiced some or a lot of confidence in him. Among the five religious affiliation groups who said they have little or no confidence, this included an overwhelming 87% of Muslims, 66% of religiously unaffiliated, 53% of Jews, 51% of Catholics, and 49% of White non-Evangelical Protestants. The gaps in percentages within these religious groups between those who had little or no confidence vs. those who had some or a lot of confidence were also extremely high for two groups

in particular, at 79% for Muslims and 50% for those religiously unaffiliated. They were also notable for Catholics at 16%, White non-Evangelical Protestants at 11%, and Jews at 8%.

The Pew poll also examined views regarding the prospect of peaceful coexistence between Israel and an independent Palestinian state. It found that overall, 52% of respondents believe this cannot be done, while 46% believe that it can. In addition to the close 6% gap in these overall percentages, 56% of Democrats expressed their view that this is possible compared to 43% who stated that it was not. This differed considerably from Republicans with 62% of them believing this was not possible as opposed to 36% who think that it is. A sizable number of younger Republicans were more optimistic however compared to older Republicans – at 43% to 28%, respectively.

Regarding whether they believe that the Gaza War is important to them and to U.S. interests, older Americans among both Republicans and Democrats were more likely to say this than younger Americans. Among older Republicans and older Democrats aged 50 and above, 69% and 61% respectively expressed this when it comes to whether or not the war is important to them personally. The numbers were even higher when these same Americans were asked whether or not the war was important for U.S. national interests, with 77% and 75% respectively stating this. Conversely, regarding both questions, it was younger Republicans who expressed the least amount of perceived importance personally and for U.S. national interests.

Lastly, the Pew survey respondents were asked about their level of support or opposition to the idea of the United States taking over Gaza. This notion was strongly opposed among Americans affiliated with both political parties. In totality, 62% of Americans either strongly oppose or somewhat oppose the Gaza takeover proposal, compared to only a small 15% that either strongly or somewhat favor it. Of the 4 oppose/favor classifications, the percentage who strongly oppose is way larger than those in any of the 3 other categories, as nearly half of all respondents overall – 49% – are firmly opposed to the idea. This is even more evident among Democrats, with a huge figure of 72% stating that they strongly oppose.