



CRITICAL ISSUES POLL

With Nielsen Scarborough

Shibley Telhami, Director
Stella Rouse, Associate Director

American Attitudes towards Middle East Policy

Survey Methodology (June 2021)

The University of Maryland's Critical Issues Poll was carried out June 22 - July 21, 2021 online from a nationally representative sample of Nielsen Scarborough's probability-based panel, originally recruited by mail and telephone using a random sample of adults provided by Survey Sampling International. The poll was conducted among a national poll of 3379 respondents, with a margin of error of +/- 1.69%.

Overall, the sample was adjusted to reflect population estimates (Scarborough USA+/Gallup) for Americans. The survey variables balanced through weighting by age, gender, race/ethnicity, household income, level of education, census regional division, and political party affiliation.

Note that for questions 71B and 71C on Israeli and Iranian nuclear capabilities, the poll was conducted July 13-21, among a national poll of 1525 respondents, with a margin of error of +/- 2.51%.

Valuable assistance was provided by Jessica Lichtenfeld, and January Lee from Nielsen Scarborough. Kirsten Langlois and Jillian Rothschild were particularly helpful.

Note: Percentages may not always add to one-hundred due to rounding.

Q67. Several members of Congress suggested withholding possible sale of arms to Israel, after its bombings of Gaza resulted in the death of over 250 people, mostly civilians, during intense fighting that also saw 12 Israelis, mostly civilians, killed by Hamas rockets.

In general, do you support linking American arms supplies to Israel to Israel's actions toward Palestinians? **[RANDOMLY REVERSE]**

	Rep	Ind	Dem	Total
1. Yes	32.3%	21.2%	36.3%	33.1%
2. No	50.3	46.4	43.4	46.6
3. Don't know	17.4	32.4	20.3	20.3

Q67A. How closely have you followed the recent eruption of violence between Israel and the Palestinians, including the Israeli bombings of Gaza and rockets fired at Israel? **[RANDOMLY REVERSE]**

	Rep	Ind	Dem	Total
1. Very closely	12.7%	4.5%	6.9%	9.1%
2. Somewhat closely	43.2	26.6	40.8	40.4
3. Not very closely	33.3	36.8	34.9	34.4
4. Not at all	10.8	32.0	17.4	16.1

Q68. **[Ask of those who answered 1, 2, or 3 in Q67A]** Who is mostly to blame: **[RANDOMIZE]**

	Rep	Ind	Dem	Total
1. Israelis	3.7%	13.8%	34.8%	19.2%
2. Palestinians	59.1	23.7	8.1	32.1
3. Both equally	31.3	53.1	52.5	43.1
4. Neither	5.9	9.4	4.6	5.6

Q69. Considering the high level of civilian casualties and destruction, how would you evaluate President Biden's effort to end the fighting: **[RANDOMLY REVERSE]**

	Rep	Ind	Dem	Total
1. I highly approve	2.7%	8.4%	14.7%	9.0%
2. I somewhat approve	17.2	36.8	57.6	38.4
3. I somewhat disapprove	32.2	29.9	23.7	28.0
4. I highly disapprove	47.9	24.9	4.0	24.7

Q70. In its policy toward Israel and the Palestinians, which of the following is closer to your views?
[RANDOMIZE]

	Rep	Ind	Dem	Total
1. The U.S. must apply more pressure on Israel, including withholding aid	6.3%	18.4%	43.7%	25.4%
2. The U.S. must apply more pressure on Palestinians, including withholding aid	49.0	11.3	8.5	25.9
3. Neither	44.7	70.2	47.8	48.7

Q71. In general, what role do you want the United States to play in mediating the Israeli-Palestinian conflict? Should the United States: **[RANDOMIZE]**

	Rep	Ind	Dem	Total
1. Lean towards Israel	50.7%	13.3%	9.5%	27.4%
2. Lean towards the Palestinians	2.5	2.7	17.9	9.9
3. Lean toward neither side	46.7	84.0	72.5	62.7

Q71A. Compared with your view on this issue, how would you describe the positions of your elected congressional representatives on it? **[KEEP OPTIONS 1 +2 IN SAME ORDER AS Q71]**

	Rep	Ind	Dem	Total
1. Leaning more toward Israel	23.2%	20.5%	33.2%	27.7%
2. Leaning more toward the Palestinians	17.6	5.1	6.3	11.0
3. Matching my position	11.5	8.1	9.6	10.3
4. Don't know	47.6	66.3	50.9	51.0

Q71B. Do you think Israel possesses nuclear weapons?

	Rep	Ind	Dem	Total
1. Yes	51.7%	50.3%	51.9%	51.7%
2. No	15.3	4.6	7.1	10.3
3. I don't know	33.0	45.1	41.0	38.0

Q71C. Do you think Iran possesses nuclear weapons?

	Rep	Ind	Dem	Total
1. Yes	70.6%	55.8%	52.6%	60.5%
2. No	13.0	10.4	19.3	15.7
3. I don't know	16.4	33.8	28.1	23.8