

# **American Attitudes on the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict**

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**A survey sponsored by  
University of Maryland Critical Issues Poll  
fielded by Nielsen Scarborough**

## **Survey Methodology**

The survey was conducted April 12-17, 2017 with a panel consisting of a probability-based representative sample. The panel was recruited by Nielsen Scarborough from its larger probability-based national panel, which was recruited by mail and telephone using a random sample of households provided by Survey Sampling International. A total of 2,138 panelists completed the survey. Responses were weighted by age, gender, income, education, race, and geographic region using benchmarks from the US Census. The survey was also weighted by partisan identification. The margin of error is 2.12%

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

## Foreign Policy

Q57. Please name a national or world leader you admire most. [**Open-ended text box**]

	<b>Rep</b>	<b>Dem</b>	<b>Ind</b>	<b>Total</b>
1. Barack Obama	2%	24%	10%	13%
2. Donald Trump	21	2	4	10
3. Angela Merkel	1	12	3	7
4. Justin Trudeau	1	9	6	5
5. Bernie Sanders	<1	6	3	3
6. Benjamin Netanyahu	7	<1	1	3
7. Ronald Reagan	6	<1	1	3
8. Pope Francis	2	3	2	2
9. Jesus/God	1	1	4	1
10. Other	21	10	14	15
11. Nobody	4	5	12	6
Refused	22	18	31	21

Q58. Please name a national or world leader you dislike most. [**Open-ended text box**]

	<b>Rep</b>	<b>Dem</b>	<b>Ind</b>	<b>Total</b>
1. Donald Trump	5%	52%	17%	28%
2. Kim Jong-un	23	8	12	15
3. Vladimir Putin	7	12	9	9
4. Bashar Assad	8	4	2	6
5. Barack Obama	10	<1	4	5
6. Hillary Clinton	7	<1	3	4
7. Angela Merkel	3	<1	3	2
8. George W Bush	1	1	2	1
9. Other	6	4	7	5
10. All of them	<1	<1	2	1
11. Nobody	1	2	5	2
Refused	18	13	29	17

Q59a. Who do believe is America's closest ally today? [**Open-ended text box**]

	<b>Rep</b>	<b>Dem</b>	<b>Ind</b>	<b>Total</b>
1. United Kingdom/England/Great Britain	48%	42%	29%	43%
2. Canada	8	15	5	11
3. Israel	16	2	7	9
4. Japan	2	1	3	2
5. Russia	1	4	2	2
6. Germany	1	4	1	2

7. China	1	2	5	2
8. Other	2	2	3	2
9. None	2	6	8	5
Refused	15	20	32	19

Q60a. Who do believe is America's biggest foe today? [**Open-ended text box**]

	<b>Rep</b>	<b>Dem</b>	<b>Ind</b>	<b>Total</b>
1. North Korea	29%	23%	23%	26%
2. Russia	16	34	12	24
3. ISIS	11	5	9	8
4. Iran	9	1	4	5
5. China	7	2	3	4
6. Donald Trump	<1	5	5	3
7. Syria	3	3	3	3
8. Other	3	5	5	4
9. None	<1	1	<1	<1
Refused	11	15	24	14

### **Middle East**

Q68. Thinking about U.S. interests, how important of an issue is the Israeli-Palestinian conflict?

	<b>Rep</b>	<b>Dem</b>	<b>Ind</b>	<b>Total</b>
1. The single most important issue for the U.S.	4%	4%	4%	4%
2. Among the top three issues	27	18	24	22
3. Among the top five issues	43	44	34	42
4. Not among the top five issues	25	33	34	30
Refused	2	2	4	2

Q69a. In general, what role do you want the new Trump administration to play in mediating the Israeli-Palestinian conflict? Should the new Trump administration:

	<b>Rep</b>	<b>Dem</b>	<b>Ind</b>	<b>Total</b>
1. Lean toward Israel	66%	15%	24%	37%
2. Lean toward the Palestinians	3	11	7	7
3. Lean toward neither side	30	72	64	54
Refused	1	3	5	2

Q69b. Assessing the Trump administration’s diplomacy toward the Israeli-Palestinian conflict so far, what best describes it?

	<b>Rep</b>	<b>Dem</b>	<b>Ind</b>	<b>Total</b>
1. Leaning toward Israel	65%	55%	39%	57%
2. Leaning toward the Palestinians	2	6	4	4
3. Leaning toward neither side	29	33	51	33
Refused	5	7	7	6

Q97. As you may know, the United States has been acting as a mediator between the Israeli government and the Palestinian Authority, with the aim of reaching an agreement in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Whether or not these efforts succeed, there is a question about what kind of future for Israel and the Palestinians the U.S. should be supporting over the long term, and many analysts feel that time is running out for some options. Here are four possible approaches that are frequently discussed. Please select the one you think the U.S. should support.

	<b>Rep</b>	<b>Dem</b>	<b>Ind</b>	<b>Total</b>
1. A two-state solution: Israel and a Palestinian state side by side. The Palestinian state would be established on the territories that Israel has occupied since 1967.	25%	50%	29%	37%
2. A one-state solution: A single democratic state in which both Jews and Arabs are full and equal citizens, covering all of what is now Israel and the Palestinian Territories.	27	33	32	31
3. Annexation without equal citizenship: Israel would annex the Palestinian territories, but keep a majority-Jewish state in the expanded territories by restricting citizenship rights of Palestinians.	15	3	12	9
4. Maintain the occupation of both the territories Israel has captured in 1967 and the Palestinians inhabiting them indefinitely.	22	8	17	15
Refused	11	6	10	9

**[IF Q97=1, ASK RESPONDENT Q98]**

Q98. If the approach you selected turns out over time to be impossible, which of the remaining three would you prefer?

**[RE-PRESENT THE LIST WITHOUT THE OPTION 1] [SHOW SAME ORDER AS Q97]**

	<b>Rep</b>	<b>Dem</b>	<b>Ind</b>	<b>Total</b>
1. A one-state solution: A single democratic state in which both Jews and Arabs are full and equal citizens, covering all of what is now Israel and the Palestinian Territories.	50%	70%	54%	63%
2. Annexation without equal citizenship: Israel would annex the Palestinian territories, but keep a majority-Jewish state in the expanded territories by restricting citizenship rights of Palestinians.	19	5	19	10
3. Maintain occupation of both the territories Israel has captured in 1967 and the Palestinians inhabiting them indefinitely.	31	25	27	27

Q70. One of the issues of tension between the United States and Israel has been its construction of Israeli settlements in the territories occupied by Israel in the 1967 war. These settlements are considered illegal by most of the international community and have been opposed by every U.S. administration, both Republican and Democratic. The Israeli government has continued to build settlements arguing that they have the right to do so, or that these are not obstacles to peace. How do you believe the U.S. should react to new settlements?

	<b>Rep</b>	<b>Dem</b>	<b>Ind</b>	<b>Total</b>
1. Do nothing	38%	14%	29%	26%
2. Limit U.S. opposition to words, but take no other action	32	26	21	28
3. Impose some economic sanctions, either through the United Nations or unilaterally	18	42	28	30
4. Take more serious action	8	14	14	11
Refused	5	4	9	5