

## 2002 Annual Survey of American Jewish Opinion

### Introduction

The data reported here are from the 2002 Annual Survey of American Jewish Opinion, sponsored by the American Jewish Committee, detailing the views of American Jews about a broad range of subjects. Among the topics covered in the present survey are the war against terrorism and Iraq, the Israel-Arab peace process, the attachment of American Jews to Israel, political and social issues in the United States, Jewish perceptions of anti-Semitism, Jewish opinion about various countries, and Jewish identity concerns. Some of the questions appearing in the survey are new; others are drawn from previous American Jewish Committee surveys, including the Annual Surveys of American Jewish Opinion carried out in 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000 and 2001.

The 2002 survey was conducted for the American Jewish Committee by Market Facts, Inc., a leading survey-research organization. Respondents were interviewed by telephone during December 16, 2002 - January 5, 2003; no interviewing took place on the Sabbath. The sample consisted of 1,008 self-identified Jewish respondents selected from the Market Facts consumer mail panel. The respondents are demographically representative of the United States adult Jewish population on a variety of measures. The margin of error for the sample as a whole is plus or minus 3 percentage points.

### A. WAR ON TERRORISM AND IRAQ

1. Do you approve or disapprove of the way President George W. Bush is handling the U.S. campaign against terrorism?

Approve 59  
Disapprove 37  
Not sure 5

2. Do you think that Americans will or will not have to give up some of their personal freedoms in order to make the country safe from terrorist attacks?

Will 78  
Will not 20  
Not sure 2

3. Here are some increased powers of investigation that law enforcement agencies might use when dealing with people suspected of terrorist activity, which would also affect our civil liberties. For each, please say if you would favor or oppose it.

|                                                                        | Favor | Oppose | Not sure |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|--------|----------|
| a. Expanded undercover activities to penetrate groups under suspicion. | 86    | 12     | 2        |
| b. Adoption of a national I.D. system for all U.S. citizens.           | 67    | 30     | 3        |
| c. Expanded camera surveillance on                                     | 65    | 33     | 3        |

streets and in public places.

- Profiling of people and searching them  
d. based on their nationality, race, or religion. 35 62 2

4. Do you approve or disapprove of the United States taking military action against Iraq to try and remove Saddam Hussein from power?

Approve 59

Disapprove 36

Not sure 5

5. If the United States takes military action against Iraq, do you think the threat of terrorism against the United States will increase, decrease, or stay about the same?

Increase 62

Decrease 6

Stay about the same 32

Not sure 1

6. In your opinion, do you think that a war between the United States and Iraq is likely to lead to a larger war between other countries in the Middle East?

Yes, likely 56

No, not likely 41

Not sure 3

## Israel

### B. ISRAEL

7. How close do you feel to Israel?

Very close 29

Fairly close 44

Fairly distant 20

Very distant 6

Not sure 1

8. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? "Caring about Israel is a very important part of my being a Jew."

Agree 73

Disagree 26

Not sure 1

9. Have you ever been to Israel?

|                      |    |
|----------------------|----|
| No                   | 63 |
| Yes - once           | 20 |
| Yes - more than once | 17 |

10. Looking ahead 3 to 5 years, do you see Jews in Israel and in the United States becoming closer, drifting apart, or neither?

|                 |    |
|-----------------|----|
| Becoming closer | 38 |
| Drifting apart  | 8  |
| Neither         | 53 |
| Not sure        | 2  |

11. How would you characterize relations between Israel and the United States today? Are they very positive, somewhat positive, somewhat negative, or very negative?

|                   |    |
|-------------------|----|
| Very positive     | 21 |
| Somewhat positive | 69 |
| Somewhat negative | 9  |
| Very negative     | 1  |
| Not sure          | 1  |

12. How concerned are you that the United States will pressure Israel to make concessions to the Palestinians in order to keep the Arab countries in the anti-terrorist coalition? Are you very concerned, somewhat concerned, or not concerned at all?

|                      |    |
|----------------------|----|
| Very concerned       | 35 |
| Somewhat concerned   | 47 |
| Not concerned at all | 18 |
| Not sure             | 0  |

13. As compared with one year ago, are you now more optimistic about the chance for a lasting peace between Israel and the Arabs, less optimistic, or do you think the chance for a lasting peace is about the same as it was one year ago?

|                      |    |
|----------------------|----|
| More optimistic now  | 2  |
| Less optimistic now  | 49 |
| Same as one year ago | 49 |
| Not sure             | 0  |

14. To what extent do each of the following Arab leaders support or oppose peace with Israel?

|                    | Strongly support | Somewhat support | Somewhat oppose | Strongly oppose | Not sure |
|--------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------|
| a. President Hosni | 8                | 50               | 24              | 8               | 10       |

|    |                                             |    |    |    |    |    |
|----|---------------------------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|
|    | Mubarak of Egypt                            |    |    |    |    |    |
| b. | President Bashar Assad of Syria             | 1  | 13 | 32 | 39 | 15 |
| c. | King Abdullah of Jordan                     | 12 | 46 | 22 | 9  | 11 |
| d. | Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasir Arafat | 1  | 7  | 20 | 70 | 3  |

15. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? "The goal of the Arabs is not the return of occupied territories but rather the destruction of Israel."

Agree 82

Disagree 15

Not sure 4

16. Do you support or oppose the Israeli government's current handling of relations with Yasir Arafat's Palestinian Authority?

Support 67

Oppose 29

Not sure 5

17. Is Yasir Arafat's Palestinian Authority doing enough or not doing enough to control terrorist activity against Israel by Hamas and other Palestinian extremist groups?

Is doing enough 1

Is not doing enough 98

Not sure 1

18. In the current situation, do you favor or oppose the establishment of a Palestinian state?

Favor 49

Oppose 47

Not sure 5

19. In the framework of a permanent peace with the Palestinians, should Israel be willing to compromise on the status of Jerusalem as a united city under Israeli jurisdiction?

Yes 41

No 55

Not sure 4

20. As part of a permanent settlement with the Palestinians, should Israel be willing to dismantle all, some, or none of the Jewish settlements in the West Bank?

|          |    |
|----------|----|
| All      | 10 |
| Some     | 55 |
| None     | 34 |
| Not sure | 2  |

21. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? "Regardless of their individual views on the peace negotiations with the Arabs, American Jews should support the policies of the duly elected government of Israel."

|          |    |
|----------|----|
| Agree    | 61 |
| Disagree | 36 |
| Not sure | 4  |

### **National Affairs**

### **C. NATIONAL AFFAIRS**

22. In politics, as of today, do you consider yourself a Republican, a Democrat, or an Independent?

|             |    |
|-------------|----|
| Republican  | 18 |
| Democrat    | 48 |
| Independent | 32 |
| Not sure    | 2  |

23. I'm going to read you a list of political views that people might hold. They are arranged from extremely liberal to extremely conservative. Where would you place yourself on this scale?

|                              |    |
|------------------------------|----|
| Extremely liberal            | 4  |
| Liberal                      | 19 |
| Slightly liberal             | 14 |
| Moderate, middle of the road | 34 |
| Slightly conservative        | 15 |
| Conservative                 | 12 |
| Extremely conservative       | 2  |
| Not sure                     | 2  |

24. In the elections for the House of Representative held on November 5, 2002, did you vote for the Republican candidate or the Democratic candidate?

|            |    |
|------------|----|
| Republican | 22 |
| Democratic | 61 |

|                        |   |
|------------------------|---|
| Other candidate (vol.) | 2 |
| Did not vote (vol.)    | 8 |
| Not sure               | 7 |

25. Do you think the number of immigrants from foreign countries who are permitted to come to the United States to live should be increased a lot, increased a little, left the same as it is now, decreased a little, or decreased a lot?

|                            |    |
|----------------------------|----|
| Increased a lot            | 3  |
| Increased a little         | 9  |
| Left the same as it is now | 43 |
| Decreased a little         | 21 |
| Decreased a lot            | 22 |
| Not sure                   | 2  |

26. Which do you think is better for the United States - to encourage immigrants to blend into American culture by giving up some important aspects of their own culture, or to encourage immigrants to maintain their own culture more strongly, even if that means they do not blend in as well?

|                      |    |
|----------------------|----|
| Blend in             | 61 |
| Maintain own culture | 31 |
| Both                 | 4  |
| Not sure             | 4  |

27. Do you think that the government should or should not provide taxpayer funds for social service programs run by religious institutions, such as churches or synagogues?

|            |    |
|------------|----|
| Should     | 24 |
| Should not | 73 |
| Not sure   | 3  |

28. Do you favor or oppose government aid to parochial or other religious schools?

|          |    |
|----------|----|
| Favor    | 22 |
| Oppose   | 76 |
| Not sure | 2  |

29. In your opinion, how important is it that the United States achieve energy independence? Is it very important, somewhat important, or not important at all?

|                    |    |
|--------------------|----|
| Very important     | 71 |
| Somewhat important | 27 |

|               |   |
|---------------|---|
| Not important | 2 |
| DK/NA         | 1 |

30. What is the best way for the United States to handle its energy needs--by encouraging greater energy production, by encouraging greater energy conservation, or both equally?

|                             |    |
|-----------------------------|----|
| Greater energy production   | 6  |
| Greater energy conservation | 18 |
| Both equally                | 75 |
| DK/NA                       | 1  |

## International Jewish Issues

### D. INTERNATIONAL JEWISH ISSUES

31. I would like your opinion of some countries today. Is your overall opinion of (INSERT COUNTRY) very favorable, somewhat favorable, neutral, somewhat unfavorable, or very unfavorable?

|                  | Very favorable | Some-what favorable | Neu tral | Some what unfavor-able | Very unfavor-able | Not sure |
|------------------|----------------|---------------------|----------|------------------------|-------------------|----------|
| a. Iran          | 1              | 2                   | 11       | 30                     | 56                | 0        |
| b. Australia     | 50             | 29                  | 19       | 1                      | 1                 | 1        |
| c. Saudi Arabia  | 0              | 7                   | 18       | 37                     | 37                | 1        |
| d. Germany       | 5              | 28                  | 39       | 19                     | 9                 | 1        |
| e. Jordan        | 4              | 27                  | 32       | 27                     | 10                | 1        |
| f. Egypt         | 2              | 23                  | 35       | 29                     | 10                | 1        |
| g. Great Britain | 57             | 29                  | 11       | 2                      | 1                 | 0        |
| h. Pakistan      | 1              | 10                  | 27       | 37                     | 24                | 1        |
| i. Russia        | 3              | 31                  | 46       | 17                     | 3                 | 1        |
| j. France        | 8              | 22                  | 27       | 27                     | 15                | 1        |
| k. The Vatican   | 6              | 18                  | 42       | 22                     | 11                | 2        |
| l. Syria         | 1              | 4                   | 18       | 32                     | 44                | 1        |
| m. Turkey        | 6              | 28                  | 43       | 18                     | 4                 | 2        |
| n. India         | 4              | 25                  | 47       | 20                     | 3                 | 1        |
| o. China         | 1              | 19                  | 39       | 29                     | 10                | 1        |
| p. Bulgaria      | 2              | 10                  | 68       | 10                     | 3                 | 8        |

32. Is your opinion of the United Nations very favorable, somewhat favorable, neutral, somewhat unfavorable, or very unfavorable?

|                      |    |
|----------------------|----|
| Very favorable       | 9  |
| Somewhat favorable   | 34 |
| Neutral              | 22 |
| Somewhat unfavorable | 24 |
| Very unfavorable     | 11 |
| Not sure             | 0  |

33. Do you agree strongly, agree somewhat, disagree somewhat, or disagree strongly with the following statement: "Germany today is making a sincere effort to deal with the legacy of the Holocaust."

|                   |    |
|-------------------|----|
| Agree strongly    | 13 |
| Agree somewhat    | 50 |
| Disagree somewhat | 24 |
| Disagree strongly | 10 |
| Not sure          | 2  |

## **Jewish Identity**

### **E. JEWISH IDENTITY**

34. How important would you say being Jewish is in your own life?

|                    |    |
|--------------------|----|
| Very important     | 50 |
| Fairly important   | 38 |
| Not very important | 12 |

35. Which one of the following qualities do you consider most important to your Jewish identity?

|                                 |    |
|---------------------------------|----|
| Being part of the Jewish people | 41 |
| Religious observance            | 13 |
| Support for Israel              | 5  |
| A commitment to social justice  | 21 |
| Something else                  | 18 |
| Not sure                        | 2  |

36. Do you belong to a synagogue or temple?

|     |    |
|-----|----|
| Yes | 51 |
| No  | 49 |

37. Do you think of yourself as . . .



|                   |    |
|-------------------|----|
| Orthodox          | 7  |
| Conservative      | 31 |
| Reconstructionist | 2  |
| Reform            | 30 |
| Just Jewish       | 30 |

38. In your opinion, which is a greater threat to Jewish life in the United States today--intermarriage or anti-Semitism?

|                     |    |
|---------------------|----|
| Intermarriage       | 31 |
| Anti-Semitism       | 66 |
| Both equally (Vol.) | 2  |
| Not sure            | 2  |

## Anti-Semitism

### F. ANTI-SEMITISM

39. Do you think that anti-Semitism in the United States is currently a very serious problem, somewhat of a problem, or not a problem at all?

|                       |    |
|-----------------------|----|
| Very serious problem  | 29 |
| Somewhat of a problem | 66 |
| Not a problem at all  | 5  |
| Not sure              | 0  |

40. Do you think that anti-Semitism on American college campuses is currently a very serious problem, somewhat of a problem, or not a problem at all?

|                       |    |
|-----------------------|----|
| Very serious problem  | 23 |
| Somewhat of a problem | 57 |
| Not a problem at all  | 12 |
| Not sure              | 7  |

41. Looking ahead over the next several years, do you think that anti-Semitism in the United States will increase greatly, increase somewhat, remain the same, decrease somewhat, or decrease greatly?

|                   |    |
|-------------------|----|
| Increase greatly  | 9  |
| Increase somewhat | 35 |
| Remain the same   | 46 |
| Decrease somewhat | 8  |
| Decrease greatly  | 1  |
| Not sure          | 2  |

42. In your opinion, what proportion of each of the following groups in the United States is anti-Semitic--most, many, some, very few, or none?

Most Many Some Very Few None Not

|                           |    |    |    | few |    | sure |
|---------------------------|----|----|----|-----|----|------|
| a. Asians                 | 2  | 2  | 34 | 46  | 10 | 7    |
| b. Muslims                | 31 | 26 | 33 | 6   | 1  | 3    |
| c. Hispanics              | 3  | 4  | 49 | 34  | 5  | 6    |
| d. Blacks                 | 6  | 14 | 56 | 17  | 3  | 4    |
| e. The Religious Right    | 19 | 20 | 37 | 16  | 3  | 6    |
| f. Catholics              | 4  | 9  | 57 | 25  | 3  | 4    |
| g. Mainstream Protestants | 3  | 8  | 54 | 28  | 3  | 5    |

43. Do you agree or disagree with the following statement? "Virtually all positions of influence in the United States are open to Jews."

Agree 56

Disagree 44

Not sure 0

44. Do you think that anti-Semitism in Europe is currently a very serious problem, somewhat of a problem, or not a problem at all?

Very serious problem 41

Somewhat of a problem 53

Not a problem at all 3

Not sure 3

45. Do you think that anti-Semitism in the Muslim world is currently a very serious problem, somewhat of a problem, or not a problem at all?

Very serious problem 75

Somewhat of a problem 22

Not a problem at all 2

Not sure 2

46. Do you think that anti-Semitism at the United Nations is currently a very serious problem, somewhat of a problem, or not a problem at all?

Very serious problem 29

Somewhat of a problem 55

Not a problem at all 13

Not sure 4

47. Looking ahead over the next several years, do you think that anti-Semitism around the world will increase greatly, increase somewhat, remain the same, decrease somewhat, or decrease greatly?

|                   |    |
|-------------------|----|
| Increase greatly  | 13 |
| Increase somewhat | 42 |
| Remain the same   | 38 |
| Decrease somewhat | 5  |
| Decrease greatly  | 1  |
| Not sure          | 2  |