



# Poll Results



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
November 21, 2002

CONTACT: Jenny Salan/AAI  
(202) 429-9210  
Lewis Roth/APN  
(202) 728-1893

## Arab American Institute/Americans for Peace Now Survey of Jewish American and Arab American Public Opinion

This survey was conducted by Zogby International. The Jewish American segment was completed on 10/25/02, and the Arab American segment was completed on 10/29/02. 500 people were polled in each community. The margin of error for the sampling of each community was +/- 4.5%.

**ENGAGEMENT IN MIDDLE EAST ISSUES:**

1. How closely would you say you follow the situation in the Middle East?

	Jewish Americans		Arab Americans	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
Very Closely	277	55.5	283	56.6
Somewhat Closely	202	40.4	183	36.6
Not Closely	20	4.1	28	5.7

2. Would you say you are mostly optimistic or pessimistic about Middle East peace?

	Jewish Americans		Arab Americans	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
Optimistic	86	17.2	169	33.8
Pessimistic	371	74.3	295	58.9
Not Sure	42	8.5	36	7.3

## THE U.S. AND THE MIDDLE EAST:

3. Generally speaking, how would you rate President George W. Bush's handling of Arab/Israeli conflict in the Middle East?

	Jewish Americans		Arab Americans	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
Excellent	28	5.5	39	7.8
Good	115	23.0	93	18.6
Fair	188	37.7	112	22.3
Poor	156	31.3	232	46.4
Not Sure	13	2.5	24	4.8

4. Concerning the Bush Administration's efforts at pursuing peace in the Middle East, which of the following statements do you feel is most accurate? The Bush Administration is...

	Jewish Americans		Arab Americans	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
Leaning-Israel	191	38.3	327	65.3
Leaning-Palestinian	11	2.2	8	1.6
Steering Middle Course	150	30.0	69	13.7
Leaning-Disengagement	99	19.7	46	9.1
Not Sure	49	9.8	52	10.3

5. Which of the following best describes how you feel the Bush Administration should pursue peace? It should...

	Jewish Americans		Arab Americans	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
Lean-Israel	197	39.4	58	11.6
Lean-Palestinian	8	1.5	38	7.7
Steer Middle Course	227	45.4	329	65.8
Lean-Disengagement	33	6.5	30	5.9
Not Sure	36	7.2	45	9.0

## THINKING ABOUT MIDDLE EAST PEACE PROCESS ISSUES:

6. Do you agree or disagree that Palestinians have a right to live in a secure and independent state of their own?

	Jewish Americans		Arab Americans	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
Agree	428	85.5	478	95.6
Disagree	42	8.4	10	2.0
Not Sure	30	6.1	12	2.4

7. Do you agree or disagree that Israelis have a right to live in a secure and independent state of their own?

	Jewish Americans		Arab Americans	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
Agree	483	96.6	477	95.4
Disagree	5	1.0	19	3.7
Not Sure	12	2.4	4	.9

8. Do you agree or disagree that Israelis and Palestinians each have the right to live in secure and independent states of their own?

	Jewish Americans		Arab Americans	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
Agree	435	86.9	484	96.8
Disagree	32	6.4	7	1.4
Not Sure	33	6.7	9	1.8

9. Generally speaking, whom do you blame for the breakdown of the Middle East peace process, the Israelis, the Palestinians, or both sides?

	Jewish Americans		Arab Americans	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
Israelis	13	2.6	156	31.2
Palestinians	206	41.3	32	6.4
Mostly Israelis	3	.6	29	5.7
Mostly Palestinians	47	9.4	3	.6
Both sides	210	42.1	248	49.6
Other	9	1.7	19	3.9
Not Sure	11	2.3	13	2.7

10. Would you support or not support a peace agreement between Israelis and Palestinians that included the establishment of an independent, secure Palestinian state alongside an independent, secure Israeli state, the evacuation of most settlements from the West Bank and Gaza, the establishment of a border roughly along the June 4, 1967 border, a Palestinian right of return only to inside a new Palestinian state, and establishing Jerusalem as the shared capital of both countries?

	Jewish Americans		Arab Americans	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
Support	259	51.7	394	78.9
Not Support	151	30.3	55	10.9
Not Sure	90	18.0	51	10.2

**MISPERCEPTIONS ABOUT ARAB AMERICAN AND JEWISH AMERICAN COMMUNITIES:**

11. (**Asked only to Arab Americans:**) Do you agree or disagree that a majority of Jewish Americans believes that Palestinians have a right to live in a secure and independent state of their own?

	Arab Americans	
	Frequency	%
Agree	252	50.4
Disagree	151	30.2
Not Sure	97	19.4

12. (**Asked only to Jewish Americans:**) Do you agree or disagree that a majority of Arab Americans believes that Israelis have a right to live in a secure and independent state of their own?

	Jewish Americans	
	Frequency	%
Agree	169	33.8
Disagree	203	40.7
Not Sure	128	25.5

13. How important do you think it is for Arab Americans and Jewish Americans to work together to achieve a Middle East peace where Palestinians and Israelis each have the right to live in an independent state of their own?

	Jewish Americans		Arab Americans	
	Frequency	%	Frequency	%
Very Important	332	66.5	400	79.9
Somewhat Important	100	20.1	70	14.0
Not Important	60	12.0	16	3.2
Not Sure	7	1.4	14	2.9