



CRITICAL ISSUES POLL

With Nielsen Scarborough

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American Attitudes toward American Domestic Politics and Foreign Policy

Survey Methodology

The survey was carried out March 12-20, 2020 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 2,395 respondents, with a margin of error of +/- 2%. Overall, the sample was adjusted to reflect population estimates (Scarborough USA+/Gallup) for Americans. The survey variables balanced through weighting were: age, gender, race/ethnicity, household income, level of education, census regional division, and political party affiliation.

Valuable assistance was provided by Scott Willoth, Tisha Jett, Lauren Morris, and January Lee from Nielsen Scarborough. Brittany Kyser was particularly helpful.

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

*****These questions are part of a larger Critical Issues Poll on both domestic politics and foreign policy. In the coming weeks, we will issue a study of the major findings from the overall poll.*****

ALL RESPONDENTS

Q22. When each of the following candidates speaks, do you believe he is being truthful?
[RANDOMIZE ROWS]

Q22A. Donald Trump

	Rep	Dem	Ind	Total
1. All of the time	21%	1%	3%	10%
2. Most of the time	49	2	13	24
3. Some of the time	23	16	33	20
4. Never	7	79	50	45
Refused	1	2	1	2

Q22B. Bernie Sanders

	Rep	Dem	Ind	Total
1. All of the time	4%	22%	14%	13%
2. Most of the time	20	55	28	38
3. Some of the time	37	19	38	29
4. Never	37	2	18	19
Refused	2	2	2	2

Q22C. Joe Biden

	Rep	Dem	Ind	Total
1. All of the time	2%	17%	4%	9%
2. Most of the time	13	56	34	35
3. Some of the time	41	22	42	32
4. Never	43	3	18	22
Refused	2	2	2	2

Middle East Policy

Now we would like to ask you specifically about American foreign policy toward the Middle East.

Q50. Thinking about U.S. interests, how important of an issue is the Israeli-Palestinian conflict?
[RANDOMLY REVERSE]

	Rep	Dem	Ind	Total
1. The single most important issue for the U.S.	2%	4%	1%	3%
2. Among the top three issues	16	12	12	14
3. Among the top five issues	51	45	43	47
4. Not among the top five issues	30	38	40	35
Refused	1	2	3	2

Q52. Which of the following statements is closer to your view if a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is not an option? [RANDOMIZE]

	Rep	Dem	Ind	Total
1. I favor the Jewishness of Israel more than its democracy. I support the continuation of Israel's Jewish majority in the government even if it means that Palestinians will not have citizenship and full rights.	49%	13%	14%	29%
2. I favor Israel's democracy more than its Jewishness. I support a single democratic state in which Arabs and Jews are equal even if that means Israel would no longer be a politically Jewish state.	44	81	70	63
Refused	8	7	16	8

Q53. In the midterm election, several members of the House of Representatives were elected who have been vocally critical of Israeli government policies and of American support for Israel. Regardless of whether you agree or disagree with their specific criticism, or whether or not you back American support for Israel, tell me which of the following is closer to your view?

[RANDOMIZE]

	Rep	Dem	Ind	Total
1. It is unacceptable for a member of the U.S. Congress to question the Israeli-American relationship	12%	6%	9%	9%
2. It is the duty of a member of the U.S. Congress to defend the Israeli-American relationship	32	9	12	19
3. It is acceptable for a member of the U.S. Congress to question the Israeli-American relationship	42	46	39	43
4. It is the duty of a member of the U.S. Congress to question the Israeli-American relationship	11	35	29	24
Refused	3	5	12	5

Q53. In the midterm election, several members of the House of Representatives were elected who have been vocally critical of Israeli government policies and of American support for Israel. Regardless of whether you agree or disagree with their specific criticism, or whether or not you back American support for Israel, tell me which of the following is closer to your view?

[RANDOMIZE]

	Among the top five issues	Not among the top five issues
1. It is unacceptable for a member of the U.S. Congress to question the Israeli-American relationship	10%	9%
2. It is the duty of a member of the U.S. Congress to defend the Israeli-American relationship	23	12
3. It is acceptable for a member of the U.S. Congress to question the Israeli-American relationship	40	52
4. It is the duty of a member of the U.S. Congress to question the Israeli-American relationship	24	24
Refused	3	4

Q61. In early February, the Trump administration released its Middle East plan addressing the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. How familiar are you with this plan?

	Rep	Dem	Ind	Total
1. Very familiar	4%	4%	1%	4%
2. Somewhat familiar	27	25	15	25
3. Not very familiar	37	31	33	34
4. Unfamiliar	32	38	49	36
Refused	1	2	2	1

[Ask Q62-Q66 only if Q61 = 1, 2, or 3]

****Questions 62-66 below show the results of those who responded Q61=1 or 2****

Q62. Based on what you know, is the plan:

	Rep	Dem	Ind	Total
1. Too favorable toward Israel	12%	72%	46%	42%
2. Too favorable toward the Palestinians	8	11	9	10
3. About the right balance	71	10	29	40
4. Don't know	9	6	17	8
Refused	1	0	0	<1

Q62A. Based on what you know, what is your opinion of the plan?

	Rep	Dem	Ind	Total
1. Favorable	54%	5%	9%	29%
2. Unfavorable	12	71	53	42
3. Neither favorable nor unfavorable	25	18	29	22
4. Don't know	8	6	9	7
Refused	1	0	0	1

Q63. The plan calls for Israeli annexation of all the Jewish settlements built on the West Bank, which was occupied by Israel in the 1967 War. How much do you agree or disagree with the following statements: **[RANDOMIZE] [ON A GRID]**

- a. Settlements are illegal under international law and UN resolutions and have been opposed by the international community as well as every single American administration, Democrat and Republican, until the Trump administration. Annexation would reward and encourage violations of international law and norms.

	Rep	Dem	Ind	Total
1. Strongly disagree	33%	7%	9%	19%
2. Somewhat disagree	14	8	17	11
3. Neither agree nor disagree	29	16	17	22
4. Somewhat agree	12	23	20	18
5. Strongly agree	8	46	37	28
Refused	5	1	0	3

- b. Annexing these settlements would take away Palestinian land that has already been shrunk historically and undermine the viability of a possible contiguous, independent Palestinian state.

	Rep	Dem	Ind	Total
1. Strongly disagree	24%	6%	3%	14%
2. Somewhat disagree	15	7	6	11
3. Neither agree nor disagree	32	15	27	24
4. Somewhat agree	19	28	35	24
5. Strongly agree	4	44	27	24
Refused	6	1	3	3

- c. The United States should disregard the history of the conflict, international law, and UN resolutions as one must contend with the current reality that Israeli settlements have been built since 1967 across much of the West Bank, which Israel controls already, and take into account that Israel is now much stronger than the Palestinians.

	Rep	Dem	Ind	Total
1. Strongly disagree	12%	46%	33%	29%
2. Somewhat disagree	10	19	12	15
3. Neither agree nor disagree	34	19	27	26
4. Somewhat agree	20	13	27	17
5. Strongly agree	18	3	0	10
Refused	7	1	0	4

- d. Israel has the right to political sovereignty over the entire West Bank, including the settlements it built there, regardless of the circumstances of its territorial acquisition, and international positions. This is so because of my understanding of the Bible, which gives Israel the right to control these lands, including applying sovereignty over them, and the Jews to settle in them.

	Rep	Dem	Ind	Total
1. Strongly disagree	13%	56%	44%	35%
2. Somewhat disagree	6	17	9	11
3. Neither agree nor disagree	23	17	15	20
4. Somewhat agree	26	6	24	16
5. Strongly agree	29	3	9	16
Refused	3	1	0	2

Q64. Now tell me, which one of these four options is closer to your view? [**KEEP IN SAME ORDER AS Q63**]

	Rep	Dem	Ind	Total
1. Settlements are illegal under international law and UN resolutions and have been opposed by the international community as well as every single American administration, Democrat and Republican, until the Trump administration. Annexation would reward and encourage violations of international law and norms.	8%	53%	34%	31%

2. Annexing these settlements would take away Palestinian land that has already been shrunk historically and undermine the viability of a possible contiguous, independent Palestinian state.	11	24	20	17
3. The United States should disregard the history of the conflict, international law, and UN resolutions as one must contend with the current reality that Israeli settlements have been built since 1967 across much of the West Bank, which Israel controls already, and take into account that Israel is now much stronger than the Palestinians.	26	14	11	20
4. Israel has the right to political sovereignty over the entire West Bank, including the settlements it built there, regardless of the circumstances of its territorial acquisition, and international positions. This is so because of my understanding of the Bible, which gives Israel the right to control these lands, including applying sovereignty over them, and the Jews to settle in them.	48	7	29	28
Refused	8	3	6	5

Q65. What is your position on the proposal to have Israel annex all the settlements it has built in the West Bank:

	Rep	Dem	Ind	Total
1. Support	56%	8%	17%	31%
2. Oppose	16	79	69	48
3. Don't know	26	13	14	19
Refused	3	0	0	2

Q66. The Trump plan envisions Palestinian control over about 70% of the West Bank and Gaza, which were occupied in the 1967 War, in addition to some territorial exchange. According to the plan, the Palestinian territories will be fragmented but connected through passages and Palestinians would have no control over territorial water, air, security, borders, and no right for alliances with other countries. In your opinion, what would you call an entity with those characteristics?

	Rep	Dem	Ind	Total
1. A state	14%	3%	3%	8%
2. Occupied territories	20	53	53	37
3. Autonomous region	19	8	18	14
4. One state but without equality	13	24	21	18
5. Don't know	34	12	6	22
Refused	2	0	0	1

Coronavirus – ALL RESPONDENTS

Q74. Are you worried about personally contracting coronavirus (COVID-19)?

	Rep	Dem	Ind	Total
1. Yes, I am worried a great deal	6%	18%	12%	12%
2. Yes, I am somewhat worried	38	50	41	44
3. No, I am not worried	54	28	42	40
4. Don't know	2	3	3	3
Refused	1	2	1	1

Q75. Are you worried about the threat that coronavirus (COVID-19) poses to the United States as a whole?

	Rep	Dem	Ind	Total
1. Yes, I am worried a great deal	21%	46%	32%	34%
2. Yes, I am somewhat worried	47	40	44	43
3. No, I am not worried	31	11	21	20
4. Don't know	1	2	2	1
Refused	1	2	1	1

Q76. How satisfied are you with the Trump administration's response to coronavirus (COVID-19)?

	Rep	Dem	Ind	Total
1. Very satisfied	52%	3%	13%	25%
2. Somewhat satisfied	27	7	16	17
3. Neither satisfied nor unsatisfied	11	8	18	10
4. Somewhat unsatisfied	5	14	13	10
5. Very unsatisfied	5	67	38	37
Refused	<1	1	2	1