



CRITICAL ISSUES POLL

Shibley Telhami, Director

Michael Hanmer, Associate Director

Trends in Prejudice Toward Jews and Muslims Compared to Other Racial, Religious, and Ethnic Groups, 2026

University of Maryland (UMD) engaged SSRS to conduct the July Critical Issues Poll via the SSRS Opinion Panel among U.S. adults age 18 and older. Data collection was conducted from July 20 – 27, 2026, among a sample of 1,206 respondents.

The survey was conducted via web in English and data were weighted to represent the residential adult population of the United States. The margin of sampling error for the entire sample using this weight is ± 3.0 percentage points.

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

Q12. Assuming that you agree with the general positions of the presidential candidates on issues that are important to you, would you vote for that candidate if he/she were:

Evangelical Christian

	Republicans	Democrats	Independents	All respondents
Yes	79%	45%	55%	57%
No	6%	32%	21%	20%
I don't know	14%	24%	24%	22%

Jewish

	Republicans	Democrats	Independents	All respondents
Yes	65%	65%	60%	60%
No	16%	15%	22%	20%
I don't know	18%	20%	18%	20%

Muslim

	Republicans	Democrats	Independents	All respondents
Yes	12%	57%	41%	35%
No	72%	18%	37%	43%
I don't know	16%	25%	22%	22%

Mainline Protestant

	Republicans	Democrats	Independents	All respondents
Yes	61%	55%	59%	55%
No	15%	16%	15%	17%
I don't know	23%	28%	27%	28%

Catholic

	Republicans	Democrats	Independents	All respondents
Yes	80%	72%	68%	70%
No	8%	10%	13%	12%
I don't know	12%	18%	19%	18%

Mormon

	Republicans	Democrats	Independents	All respondents
Yes	46%	43%	47%	43%
No	32%	29%	31%	31%

I don't know	22%	28%	22%	25%
--------------	-----	-----	-----	-----

Hindu

	Republicans	Democrats	Independents	All respondents
Yes	27%	59%	48%	43%
No	49%	16%	28%	32%
I don't know	24%	25%	25%	25%

Buddhist

	Republicans	Democrats	Independents	All respondents
Yes	30%	64%	51%	46%
No	48%	16%	28%	30%
I don't know	22%	20%	21%	23%

Agnostic

	Republicans	Democrats	Independents	All respondents
Yes	33%	59%	54%	47%
No	42%	17%	24%	28%
I don't know	25%	24%	22%	25%

Atheist

	Republicans	Democrats	Independents	All respondents
Yes	27%	55%	52%	44%
No	58%	26%	30%	37%
I don't know	15%	19%	17%	19%

Q13. Compared to 5 years ago and based on your own experience, including interactions with others, how much racial/ethnic/religious prejudice (such as statements that reveal prejudice against a person because of their race, ethnicity, or religion), if any, would you say exists against each of the following groups in the U.S. today?

White Americans

	Republicans	Democrats	Independents	All respondents
A lot more	34%	6%	18%	20%
A little more	22%	10%	15%	16%
About the same	27%	45%	41%	37%
A little less	8%	7%	6%	7%
A lot less	4%	25%	15%	14%

I don't know	5%	7%	4%	6%
--------------	----	----	----	----

Black Americans

	Republicans	Democrats	Independents	All respondents
A lot more	8%	41%	20%	23%
A little more	8%	24%	22%	18%
About the same	38%	24%	33%	31%
A little less	19%	4%	11%	11%
A lot less	22%	2%	9%	11%
I don't know	5%	4%	4%	5%

Latino Americans

	Republicans	Democrats	Independents	All respondents
A lot more	11%	50%	30%	31%
A little more	16%	18%	20%	18%
About the same	41%	19%	31%	30%
A little less	13%	4%	8%	8%
A lot less	13%	3%	7%	7%
I don't know	6%	5%	4%	7%

Asian Americans

	Republicans	Democrats	Independents	All respondents
A lot more	8%	23%	11%	14%
A little more	15%	23%	21%	20%
About the same	46%	33%	39%	39%
A little less	15%	8%	12%	11%
A lot less	9%	3%	9%	7%
I don't know	8%	8%	8%	9%

Muslim Americans

	Republicans	Democrats	Independents	All respondents
A lot more	20%	46%	32%	32%
A little more	24%	18%	22%	21%
About the same	27%	20%	24%	25%
A little less	10%	6%	8%	8%
A lot less	10%	2%	7%	6%
I don't know	9%	7%	7%	8%

Christian Americans

	Republicans	Democrats	Independents	All respondents
A lot more	30%	9%	11%	16%
A little more	21%	11%	20%	17%
About the same	29%	46%	41%	39%
A little less	8%	8%	11%	9%
A lot less	7%	18%	10%	11%
I don't know	6%	9%	7%	8%

Jewish Americans

	Republicans	Democrats	Independents	All respondents
A lot more	38%	27%	23%	29%
A little more	19%	30%	28%	25%
About the same	22%	24%	27%	26%
A little less	10%	6%	8%	8%
A lot less	4%	4%	7%	5%
I don't know	7%	9%	7%	9%

Q14. Would you say that, in general, the number of:

White Americans

	Republicans	Democrats	Independents	All respondents
Strengthen American society	68%	38%	50%	51%
Weaken American society	3%	27%	13%	14%
Have no impact on society	18%	19%	21%	19%
I don't know	11%	15%	17%	16%

Black Americans

	Republicans	Democrats	Independents	All respondents
Strengthen American society	41%	64%	52%	51%
Weaken American society	23%	7%	11%	14%
Have no impact on society	21%	14%	20%	18%

I don't know	15%	16%	16%	17%
--------------	-----	-----	-----	-----

Latino Americans

	Republicans	Democrats	Independents	All respondents
Strengthen American society	50%	65%	55%	56%
Weaken American society	14%	5%	11%	10%
Have no impact on society	20%	15%	18%	17%
I don't know	16%	15%	16%	17%

Asian Americans

	Republicans	Democrats	Independents	All respondents
Strengthen American society	56%	64%	58%	57%
Weaken American society	6%	4%	3%	5%
Have no impact on society	20%	15%	22%	19%
I don't know	18%	17%	17%	19%

Muslim Americans

	Republicans	Democrats	Independents	All respondents
Strengthen American society	16%	47%	36%	32%
Weaken American society	59%	9%	21%	30%
Have no impact on society	11%	19%	21%	16%
I don't know	15%	25%	22%	22%

Christian Americans

	Republicans	Democrats	Independents	All respondents
--	-------------	-----------	--------------	-----------------

Strengthen American society	74%	36%	52%	53%
Weaken American society	2%	29%	13%	15%
Have no impact on society	13%	17%	19%	16%
I don't know	11%	19%	15%	17%

Jewish Americans

	Republicans	Democrats	Independents	All respondents
Strengthen American society	52%	53%	42%	47%
Weaken American society	8%	9%	12%	10%
Have no impact on society	22%	16%	23%	20%
I don't know	17%	22%	23%	23%

Q16. Which of the following attitudes constitute antisemitism?

Against Jews

	Republicans	Democrats	Independents	All respondents
Yes	77%	71%	68%	70%
No	8%	9%	12%	10%
I don't know	14%	20%	20%	20%

Against Judaism

	Republicans	Democrats	Independents	All respondents
Yes	64%	54%	52%	55%
No	15%	15%	21%	17%
I don't know	21%	30%	26%	27%

Against Zionism

	Republicans	Democrats	Independents	All respondents
Yes	44%	23%	25%	30%
No	22%	32%	33%	29%

I don't know	34%	45%	42%	41%
--------------	-----	-----	-----	-----

Against Israeli policies

	Republicans	Democrats	Independents	All respondents
Yes	45%	23%	22%	29%
No	33%	46%	51%	42%
I don't know	22%	31%	28%	29%

Q17. What is your impression of how labeling people antisemitic is used in the American political discourse?

Used to describe people who are genuinely antisemitic

	Republicans	Democrats	Independents	All respondents
Frequently	38%	23%	24%	27%
Sometimes	31%	40%	40%	36%
Not often	11%	15%	14%	13%
Not at all	4%	4%	6%	5%
I don't know	16%	18%	16%	19%

Used to delegitimize political opponents

	Republicans	Democrats	Independents	All respondents
Frequently	38%	37%	41%	37%
Sometimes	33%	38%	30%	33%
Not often	9%	7%	9%	8%
Not at all	4%	2%	5%	3%
I don't know	16%	16%	15%	18%

Used to delegitimize critics of Israel

	Republicans	Democrats	Independents	All respondents
Frequently	32%	45%	42%	39%
Sometimes	37%	28%	28%	30%
Not often	7%	6%	6%	6%
Not at all	5%	2%	5%	4%
I don't know	18%	19%	18%	21%

Q18. What is your attitude about each of the following?

The Muslim people

	Republicans	Democrats	Independents	All respondents
Very Favorable	6%	30%	18%	19%
Somewhat Favorable	27%	47%	44%	39%
Somewhat Unfavorable	35%	16%	25%	25%
Very Unfavorable	32%	7%	13%	18%

The Muslim religion

	Republicans	Democrats	Independents	All respondents
Very Favorable	5%	20%	10%	12%
Somewhat Favorable	14%	46%	34%	31%
Somewhat Unfavorable	30%	23%	34%	29%
Very Unfavorable	51%	10%	22%	28%

The Jewish people

	Republicans	Democrats	Independents	All respondents
Very Favorable	35%	34%	27%	31%
Somewhat Favorable	51%	48%	49%	48%
Somewhat Unfavorable	10%	11%	14%	13%
Very Unfavorable	4%	7%	10%	8%

The Jewish religion

	Republicans	Democrats	Independents	All respondents
Very Favorable	25%	25%	19%	23%
Somewhat Favorable	53%	50%	48%	49%
Somewhat Unfavorable	16%	18%	23%	19%
Very Unfavorable	7%	7%	10%	9%

Q19. In your life, how familiar are you with people who are Jewish?

	Republicans	Democrats	Independents	All respondents
I don't know any	16%	23%	23%	23%
I know some, but not very well	56%	48%	49%	50%
I know some very well	28%	29%	28%	27%

Q20. In your life, how familiar are you with people who are Muslim?

	Republicans	Democrats	Independents	All respondents
I don't know any	44%	28%	30%	35%
I know some, but not very well	45%	53%	47%	47%
I know some very well	11%	19%	23%	18%

Q23. When the Israeli-Palestinian conflict comes up in conversations outside your home, do you feel the need to be more careful than usual about what you say?

	Republicans	Democrats	Independents	All respondents
Yes	40%	48%	42%	42%
No	35%	25%	30%	29%
Does not apply	25%	28%	28%	29%

Q24. What do you feel the need to be most careful about?

	Republicans	Democrats	Independents	All respondents
Criticism of Palestinians	39%	8%	21%	21%
Criticism of Israelis	16%	43%	42%	34%
Criticism of U.S. policy	24%	31%	24%	28%
Other	21%	17%	13%	17%

Q35. When the Russia-Ukraine conflict comes up in conversations outside your home, do you feel the need to be more careful than usual about what you say?

	Republicans	Democrats	Independents	All respondents
Yes	16%	16%	17%	17%
No	60%	55%	57%	56%
Does not apply	25%	28%	26%	28%

Q36. What do you feel you need to be most careful about?

	Republicans	Democrats	Independents	All respondents
Criticism of Russia	14%	21%	10%	14%
Criticism of Ukraine	20%	7%	27%	18%
Criticism of U.S. policy	53%	56%	44%	51%
Other	14%	16%	19%	17%