



JEWISH VOTERS & VIEWS IN THE 2012 ELECTION

The campaign of misinformation and attacks against President Obama on Israel failed:

- **President Obama received 70 percent of the Jewish vote**, consistent with the 70 percent average received by Democratic candidates since exit polling began in 1972. The shift from the 74 percent of the Jewish vote received in 2008 tracks shifts in other constituencies such as college graduates, whites, Independents, voters under 30, and Catholics.
- **Campaign contributions by Jewish donors remained steady for both Obama and the Republican candidate from 2008 to 2012.** Obama received a contribution from 19 percent of Jews in both 2008 and 2012, and Romney's 6 percent of contributions was in line with the 5 percent of contributions that John McCain received from Jews in 2008.
- **73 percent of American Jews agree with President Obama's policies regarding the Arab-Israeli conflict**, up from 71 percent in 2010.
- **Ads criticizing President Obama on Israel backfired with Jewish voters**, more often solidifying support for Obama. Among the 45 percent of American Jews who saw television ads or mail that criticized Obama on Israel, 40 percent said the ads made no difference, 38 percent said the ads made them more likely to support Obama, and only 23 percent said the ads made them more likely to support Romney.
- **Relatively few American Jews based their vote on Israel**, with only 10 percent saying it was among their top two issues in determining their vote. More Jewish voters gave greater priority to the economy (53 percent), health care (32 percent), Social Security and Medicare (23 percent), the deficit and government spending (20 percent), taxes (12 percent) and abortion (10 percent).

American Jews want the United States to do more to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict:

- **82 percent of Jewish voters support a two-state solution** that declares an end to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, resulting in all Arab countries establishing full diplomatic ties with Israel and creating an independent Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza.
- **79 percent of Jewish voters support such a two-state solution even if it means East Jerusalem becomes the capital of the Palestinian state**, up from 70 percent in 2009.
- **76 percent of Jewish voters would support the United States putting forth its own peace plan** for resolving the conflict between the parties.
- **69 percent of Jewish voters support the United States publicly disagreeing with both sides** when necessary to move toward a conflict-ending agreement.
- **71 percent of Jewish voters believe the United States should address the Israeli-Palestinian conflict at the same time or even before the Iranian nuclear program.**