

To: Interested Parties  
From: GBA Strategies  
Date: August 20, 2015

## **Survey of Colorado Jewish Voters *Iran Agreement Summary Findings***

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As Members of Congress and U.S. Senators consider whether to approve the agreement reached last month between the United States, world powers, and Iran, a new statewide survey of 400 Colorado Jewish voters finds that Jews strongly support the agreement.<sup>1</sup> The survey, conducted August 16-19 by GBA Strategies, shows a 29-point margin (62 percent to 33 percent), which exceeds Jewish support in national polls taken last month.

Colorado's Jewish population is a very progressive, Democratic constituency, and they clearly support President Obama in this legislative battle that has become quite partisan. President Obama (64 percent approve/32 percent disapprove) and Senator Michael Bennet (50 percent approve/17 percent disapprove) are seen as doing their jobs very well, unlike Senator Cory Gardner whose anemic job approval (28 percent approve/43 percent disapprove) underscores the progressive political values held by Jewish voters.

Contrary to punditry that says Jews are divided over the agreement, the data are very clear: Jews in Colorado clearly support the agreement. With less than one month remaining before the Congressional vote on the Iran agreement, Jewish voters want their elected officials to approve the agreement because they believe that the core trade-off of inspections in exchange for sanctions relief is a good deal for the United States.

### **Key Findings**

- **Jews report a high level of awareness regarding the agreement.** A large majority of 81 percent say that they have heard a great deal of (47 percent) or some (34 percent) information about the final agreement reached between the U.S., Britain, China, France, Germany, Russia, and Iran. This awareness level among Colorado Jewish voters is similar to the awareness level (79 percent) found in national Jewish polling.

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<sup>1</sup> GBA Strategies conducted a statewide survey of Colorado Jewish voters for J Street August 16-19, 2015. The survey consisted of 400 Jewish registered voters, and has a margin of error of +/- 4.9 percent. The survey methodology is detailed at the end of this memo. Topline results and crosstabs can be accessed at [jstreet.org](http://jstreet.org).

- **The economy and education are the most important issue priorities, while Iran and Israel are a much lower priority.** Even though Jews are paying a lot of attention to the agreement with Iran, only 12 percent cite Iran as one of the top two issues that Congress and President Obama should be prioritizing. Notably, Israel is also a lower tier issue for Jews, and 7 percent cite it as one of their two most important issues. The economy (31 percent), education (31 percent), and the environment (21 percent) are the most important issues for Colorado's Jewish voters.
- **The agreement with Iran receives very strong support among Colorado's Jewish voters.** With 62 percent supporting the agreement and 33 percent opposing the agreement, Jewish public opinion is very clear. In order to avoid question bias and have a comparison with national surveys, this survey used the exact same description of the agreement that is used in ABC News/Washington Post polls. Notably, the 62 percent support among Jewish voters in Colorado exceeds the 56 percent support among the overall population in the last ABC News/Washington Post poll.
- **To the extent that Iran impacts their voting decision, Colorado's Jewish voters want Senator Bennet to support the Iran agreement.** When asked the impact that Senator Bennet's vote will have on whether they would be more or less likely to vote for him in the 2016 election, 66 percent indicated that Bennet voting to approve the agreement would make them more likely (47 percent) to support him in 2016 or have no impact (19 percent) on their support, while 34 percent said they would be less likely to support Bennet.
- **Looking forward to the 2016 Presidential election, Hillary Clinton has a massive lead over Jeb Bush among Colorado's Jewish voters.** Clinton leads by a 68-23 margin over Bush. The survey did not have a Clinton-Trump horserace, but Trump is the most disliked politician in the survey, receiving a 16 percent favorable/73 percent unfavorable rating (compared to Bush's 13 percent favorable/66 percent unfavorable rating).

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GBA Strategies designed the questionnaire for this statewide survey of Jewish voters in Colorado. The survey was conducted August 16-19, 2015 and includes 400 self-identified Jews, and is subject to a margin of error of +/- 4.9 percentage points at the 95 percent confidence level.

The survey was conducted by landline telephones and cell phones, calling a random sample of people with Jewish names who voted in the 2012 or 2014 elections or registered since the 2014 election. Respondents were screened at the beginning of the survey when they were first asked for their religion and then, if they did not identify themselves as Jewish by religion, they were asked again if they considered themselves Jewish.

The full survey results, including full question wording and crosstabs are available at [jstreet.org](http://jstreet.org).