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NEW POLL: Majority of American Jews Support Iran Nuclear Deal

WASHINGTON—The majority of American Jews support the Iran nuclear deal and do so at a higher rate than Americans as a whole, according to a <u>new poll</u>.

The poll, conducted by Jim Gerstein of GBA Strategies and released today by J Street, finds that 60 percent of American Jews support the agreement reached between the P5+1 and Iran. This, as compared to the 56 percent of American adults who backed the deal when asked the exact same question in a July 20 Washington Post-ABC poll.

"These results make clear that American Jews overwhelmingly support this deal and see this diplomatic agreement as the best way to keep Iran from getting a nuclear weapon," says J Street President Jeremy Ben-Ami. "The numbers just go to show—once again— that the pundits and those who speak most loudly on behalf of the Jewish community are flatout wrong in their presumption that Jewish Americans are hawkish on Iran or regarding U.S. policy in the Middle East in general."

The full survey, crosstabs and analysis can be found here.

As a fierce battle over the deal between pro-Israel advocacy organizations takes shape on Capitol Hill, American Jews want their Members of Congress to approve the agreement by the same 20-point margin, 60 to 40 percent.

Support for the agreement cuts across demographic groups. There is broad and, in most cases, majority support for the agreement across the Jewish community, regardless of age, gender, region, Jewish organizational engagement and knowledge of the issue.

"These findings underscore that American Jews are a solid base constituency of support for the agreement," says Gerstein. "The massive public campaign launched by AIPAC and the Republican Jewish Coalition against the agreement doesn't reflect the views of most American Jews."

The 20-point margin in favor of the agreement is consistent with the 18-point margin found in the LA Jewish Journal's survey released last week, as well as the 18-point margin in J Street's survey conducted prior to the agreement.

Jewish awareness of the Iran issue has notably risen since the signing of the agreement, with 79 percent reporting to have "a great deal" (32 percent) or "some information" (47 percent) about the deal. This marks a 13-point increase in awareness since the J Street survey conducted prior to the deal.

Despite a high level of awareness about the Iran deal, Jews indicate that Iran and Israel are low voting priorities, with the two tied for ninth place in a list of 11 issues they want the President and Congress to prioritize. Only ten percent listed Iran and Israel as one of their top two priorities, but it is notable that these percentages are up from six and seven percent, respectively, from the June poll, and both were at the highest level ever found in prior J Street surveys.

President Obama's job approval and personal favorability have increased slightly since the agreement was reached, and there is also an improvement in the national mood. Obama's job approval among Jews now stands at 59 percent, which marks a 3-point bump since J Street's June survey. Also, his personal favorability has risen from +7 (48 favorable/41 unfavorable) to +15 (52 favorable/37 unfavorable), and there has been a 5-point bump to 44 percent who believe the country is headed in the right direction. Favorability for Benjamin Netanyahu (+18), John Boehner (-54), and the Republican Party (-51) remains largely unchanged.

GBA Strategies designed the questionnaire for this national survey of American Jewish adults. The survey was conducted July 21-23, 2015 and includes 1,000 self-identified Jews. The survey is subject to a margin of error of +/- 3.1 percentage points at the 95 percent confidence level. GBA Strategies contracted the research company Mountain West Research Center to administer the survey by email invitation to its web-based panel, which is regularly updated and consists of nearly 900,000 Americans.

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