The Jewish Vote and the 2010 Election
November 2010
Methodology

- National survey of 1,000 Jewish voters in 2010 election conducted November 2, 2010; margin of error +/- 3.1 percent

- Pennsylvania statewide survey of 600 Jewish voters in 2010 election conducted November 2, 2010; margin of error +/- 4 percent

- Illinois 9th CD survey of 400 Jewish registered voters conducted October 18-24, 2010 (no calls made on Jewish Sabbath); margin of error +/- 4.9 percent

- National survey conducted by web-based panel of 900,000 Americans, and administered by email invitation; respondents re-screened as Jewish in order to be eligible for the survey

- Pennsylvania and Illinois surveys conducted by telephone, calling a random sample of registered voters with Jewish names and people who self-identify as Jewish in consumer data that has been appended to the voter file
Key Findings

- Jewish vote overwhelmingly went to Democratic candidates despite dramatic shift in the 2010 national electorate

- The economy dominated the issue environment for Jews; Israel was a minor issue

- Israel-centric attacks on Sestak and Schakowsky were ineffective and only resonated with partisans whose vote was not contested

- President Obama remains very strong with Jewish voters

- American Jews seek active U.S. leadership in resolving the Arab-Israeli conflict

- Most Jews want some form of settlement freeze in the West Bank
2010 Pennsylvania Vote
2010 Vote for Senate, Governor

- Joe Sestak: 71
- Pat Toomey: 23
- Dan Onorato: 68
- Tom Corbett: 27
Senate and Gubernatorial Vote By Denomination

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Figure 6
Senate and Gubernatorial Vote By Non-Orthodox Age

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Figure 7
Voted for Sestak, Considered Toomey

- Yes, very seriously: 2
- Yes, somewhat seriously: 3
- Yes, a little seriously: 3
- Didn't consider Toomey: 68
Voted for Toomey, Considered Sestak

- Yes, very seriously: 3
- Yes, somewhat seriously: 3
- Yes, a little seriously: 3
- Didn’t consider Sestak: 19
Top TWO Issues in Deciding 2010 PA Senate Vote

- The economy: 53
- Health care: 35
- Social Security and Medicare: 15
- Education: 15
- The deficit and government spending: 14
- The wars in Iraq and Afghanistan: 11
- Taxes: 9
- **Israel**: 8
- Terrorism and national security: 7
- The environment: 7
- Illegal immigration: 2
- Iran: 1
### How Issue Preferences Affected Voting Decision

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Voted Sestak, Did Not Consider Toomey</th>
<th>Voted Sestak, Considered Toomey</th>
<th>Voted Toomey, Considered Sestak</th>
<th>Voted Toomey, Did Not Consider Sestak</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The economy</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>74</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>50</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health care</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>27</td>
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<tr>
<td>Education</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Security and Medicare</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The wars in Iraq and Afghanistan</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The environment</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The deficit and government spending</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>37</td>
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<tr>
<td>Taxes</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>22</td>
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<tr>
<td>Israel</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Terrorism and national security</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Illegal immigration</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iran</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Sestak and Toomey on the Issues

Do you think Democrat Joe Sestak or Republican Pat Toomey would do a better job on this issue?

- **Fighting for the things that are most important for me**: 65%
  - Joe Sestak: 47%
  - Pat Toomey: 12%
  - Somewhat better: 21%

- **Social Security and Medicare**: 64%
  - Joe Sestak: 46%
  - Pat Toomey: 12%
  - Somewhat better: 19%

- **The economy and jobs**: 61%
  - Joe Sestak: 40%
  - Pat Toomey: 16%
  - Somewhat better: 22%

- **National security**: 56%
  - Joe Sestak: 35%
  - Pat Toomey: 12%
  - Somewhat better: 20%

- **Supporting Israel**: 41%
  - Joe Sestak: 22%
  - Pat Toomey: 14%
  - Somewhat better: 22%
### How Issue Positions Affected Voting

Do you think Democrat Joe Sestak or Republican Pat Toomey would do a better job on this issue?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Issue</th>
<th>Voted Sestak, Did Not Consider Toomey</th>
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<th>Voted Toomey, Considered Sestak</th>
<th>Voted Toomey, Did Not Consider Sestak</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fighting for the things that are most important for me</td>
<td>Sestak +86</td>
<td>Sestak +51</td>
<td>Toomey +28</td>
<td>Toomey +77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Security and Medicare</td>
<td>Sestak +85</td>
<td>Sestak +30</td>
<td>Toomey +17</td>
<td>Toomey +72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The economy and jobs</td>
<td>Sestak +84</td>
<td>Sestak +26</td>
<td>Toomey +40</td>
<td>Toomey +85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National security</td>
<td>Sestak +71</td>
<td>Sestak +24</td>
<td>Toomey +26</td>
<td>Toomey +64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supporting Israel</td>
<td>Sestak +52</td>
<td>Sestak +5</td>
<td>Toomey +37</td>
<td>Toomey +68</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Favorability Ratings: Democrats Very Strong, Republicans Don’t Gain Traction

- Barack Obama: Favorable 64, Unfavorable 26
- Benjamin Netanyahu: Favorable 60, Unfavorable 18
- Joe Sestak: Favorable 57, Unfavorable 25
- The Democratic Party: Favorable 56, Unfavorable 28
- Dan Onorato: Favorable 47, Unfavorable 21
- Arlen Specter: Favorable 38, Unfavorable 38
- Tom Corbett: Favorable 46, Unfavorable 20
- Pat Toomey: Favorable 60, Unfavorable 18
- The Republican Party: Favorable 69, Unfavorable 18
- The Tea Party movement: Favorable 70, Unfavorable 16
Did you see any television advertisements criticizing Congressman Joe Sestak’s positions on trying terrorist Khalid Sheikh Mohammed in a courthouse instead of a military tribunal?
Among all respondents, did this criticism make you more likely to support Joe Sestak, more likely to support his opponent Pat Toomey, or make no difference?

- Somewhat more likely Sestak: 11
- Much more likely Sestak: 8
- Somewhat more likely Toomey: 4
- No difference/didn't see/hear: 85
(Among all respondents) Did this criticism make you more likely to support Joe Sestak, more likely to support his opponent Pat Toomey or make no difference?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Democrat</th>
<th>Independent</th>
<th>Republican</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total more likely Sestak</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total more likely Toomey</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No difference/Haven't heard</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>83</td>
<td>87</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Israel Criticism of Sestak Largely Unnoticed

Have you seen, read or heard about any criticism of Congressman Joe Sestak’s positions on Israel?

- Yes: 30
- No: 66
Most Voters are Unaffected

(Among all respondents) Did this criticism make you more likely to support Joe Sestak, more likely to support his opponent Pat Toomey or make no difference?

- Somewhat more likely Sestak: 5
- Much more likely Sestak: 8
- Somewhat more likely Toomey: 5
- Much more likely Toomey: 86
- No difference/didn't hear/see: 0
(Among all respondents) Did this criticism make you more likely to support Joe Sestak, more likely to support his opponent Pat Toomey or make no difference?

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<tr>
<td>Total more likely Sestak</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total more likely Toomey</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No difference/Haven’t heard</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>84</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Agreement with Obama’s Policies on Israel, Split on Execution

- 36: Agree with President's policies and like the way he is executing them
- 24: Agree with President's policies but dislike the way he is executing them
- 60: Total agree
- 29: Total disagree
2010 National Jewish Vote
2010 Vote for Congress

- Democrat: 66
- Republican: 31
Voted for Democrat, Considered Republican

- Yes, very seriously: 4
- Yes, somewhat seriously: 6
- Yes, a little seriously: 1
- Didn't consider Republican: 23
Voted for Republican, Considered Democrat

- Yes, very seriously: 5
- Yes, somewhat seriously: 8
- Yes, a little seriously: 4
- Didn't consider Democrat: 53
Top TWO Issues in Deciding 2010 Congressional Vote, Nationwide

- The economy: 62%
- Health care: 31%
- The deficit and government spending: 18%
- Social Security and Medicare: 16%
- Taxes: 14%
- Terrorism and national security: 13%
- Education: 12%
- The environment: 7%
- Israel: 7%
- Illegal immigration: 6%
- The wars in Iraq and Afghanistan: 6%
- Energy: 4%
- Iran: 0%
- Separation between religion and state: 0%
Rising Confidence in Country Direction under Obama

- **Right Direction**
  - July 2008: 10
  - Mar 2009: 36
  - Mar 2010: 41
  - Nov 2010: 44

- **Wrong Track**
  - July 2008: 90
  - Mar 2009: 64
  - Mar 2010: 59
  - Nov 2010: 56

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Agreement with Obama’s Policies on Israel, Split on Execution

- Agree with President’s policies and like the way he is executing them: 33%
- Agree with President’s policies but dislike the way he is executing them: 38%
- Total agree: 71%
- Total disagree: 30%
Presidential and Congressional Approval

Barack Obama

National: 60% Approve, 40% Disapprove
Pennsylvania: 63% Approve, 31% Disapprove

U.S. Congress

National: 72% Approve, 28% Disapprove
Pennsylvania: 66% Approve, 24% Disapprove
Favorability Ratings

- Barack Obama: Favorable 52, Unfavorable 40
- Democratic Party: Favorable 47, Unfavorable 41
- Benjamin Netanyahu: Favorable 40, Unfavorable 33
- Republican Party: Favorable 21, Unfavorable 70
- The Tea Party Movement: Favorable 19, Unfavorable 71
- Sarah Palin: Favorable 16, Unfavorable 78
- Glenn Beck: Favorable 14, Unfavorable 67
## Issues By Waverers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Voted Democratic, Did Not Consider Republican</th>
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<th>Voted Republican, Considered Democrat</th>
<th>Voted Republican, Did Not Consider Democrat</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>The economy</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>50</td>
<td>60</td>
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<td>Health care</td>
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<tr>
<td>Iran</td>
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<td>0</td>
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<td>1</td>
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Jewish Support for Active U.S. Role Remarkably Stable

- U.S. playing an active role: 82% in March 2010, 83% in November 2010
- Even if it means U.S. publicly disagreeing with both sides: 73% in March 2010, 71% in November 2010
- Even if it means U.S. exerting pressure on both sides: 71% in March 2010, 65% in November 2010

Support: [Blue bars]
Oppose: [Red bars]
Support Drops and Jews are Split over Singling Out Israel

- **Active role**: 83% Support, 17% Oppose
- **Even if disagree with both sides**: 71% Support, 29% Oppose
- **Even if disagree with Israel**: 54% Support, 46% Oppose
- **Even if exert pressure on both sides**: 65% Support, 35% Oppose
- **Even if exert pressure on Israel**: 53% Support, 47% Oppose
Jews Continue to See Conflict as Core U.S. Interest and Seek Assertive Diplomacy

Statement 1: Middle East peace is a core American interest, and the United States should use assertive diplomacy to end the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

Statement 2: Only the parties themselves can make peace, and the United States should let the Palestinians and Israelis work out the conflict on their own.

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The United States should act as a fair and impartial broker in order to achieve a peace agreement between Israelis and Palestinians.

The United States should side with Israel during peace negotiations in order to protect America’s democratic ally Israel.

- Somewhat prefer 1st statement
- Strongly prefer 1st statement
- Somewhat prefer 2nd statement
- Strongly prefer 2nd statement
Israel Should Not Expand East Jerusalem Settlements

I support Israel, but it must stop taking actions that violate United States policy such as building in East Jerusalem.

Jerusalem is the eternal capital of the Jewish people, and the United States must not interfere with Israel's policies in Jerusalem.

- Somewhat prefer 1st statement
- Strongly prefer 1st statement
- Somewhat prefer 2nd statement
- Strongly prefer 2nd statement
I support Israel, but it must stop taking actions that violate United States policy such as expanding Jewish settlements in the West Bank.

Expanding Jewish settlements in the West Bank is necessary to accommodate natural growth, and the United States must not interfere with Israel's policies in the West Bank.

- Somewhat prefer 1st statement
- Strongly prefer 1st statement
- Somewhat prefer 2nd statement
- Strongly prefer 2nd statement
Settlement Construction in the West Bank

- Israel should build settlements in West Bank without restrictions or suspensions: 31%
- Israel should extend partial, temporary suspension of new settlement construction in West Bank: 45%
- Israel should suspend settlement construction in West Bank: 24%

J Street 2010 Election Surveys Figure 40
(SPLIT SAMPLE) I 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.
(SPLIT SAMPLE) I 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, with its capital in East Jerusalem.
Two-State Solution Necessary for Israel’s Security

A two-state solution is necessary to strengthen Israeli security and ensure Israel's Jewish democratic character.

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Figure 43
A two-state solution is an important national security interest for the United States.