

New York University

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RESEARCH NEWS

Berman Jewish Policy Archive at NYU Wagner Releases Survey Showing Jews Are Far More Likely to Vote for Obama Than Are Other Americans

Monday, Oct 20, 2008

n-105-,2008-09

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American Jews are far more likely to vote for Democratic Senator Barack Obama for president than are non-Jewish voters, according to the results of a national survey released today by the Berman Jewish Policy Archive at NYU Wagner (www.bjpa.org).

The survey, conducted in early September - before the economic crisis hit with full force, and when Obama and Republican Senator John McCain were running nearly even in national polls - shows that Jews who have made up their minds about who they will vote for support Obama over McCain by an overwhelming 2-to-1 margin, or 67 percent to 33 percent.

In comparison, non-Jewish voters are split, with 50 percent of those who have made up their minds saying they will vote for Obama and the other 50 percent saying they will vote for McCain.

In all, 3,116 voters were surveyed a representative sample across the U.S. that included 1,596 Jews and - surveyed simultaneously with identical questions— 1,520 non-Jews. The margin of error is plus or minus 3 percent.

Since the survey was conducted, Obama's lead has widened in the general population to approximately 8 percentage points among those who say they've made up their minds. If Jews have shifted proportionally since then, according to projections by the study's authors, they will vote 3-to-1 for Obama, or 75 percent for the Democrat compared to 25 percent for McCain.

Interpreting the survey results were: Steven M. Cohen, Research Professor of Jewish Social Policy, Hebrew Union College, Jewish Institute of Religion/New York, and Director of the Berman Jewish Policy Archive at NYU Wagner; Professor Samuel J. Abrams, Fellow at the Hamilton Center for Political Economy at NYU; and Dr. Judith Veinstein, Research Associate, Berman Jewish Policy Archive at NYU Wagner. The survey was fielded by the research firm Synovate, Inc., which has been gauging American Jewish opinion for more than two decades.

"The findings point to overwhelming support for Senator Obama among American Jewry, even though concerns about Israel's security worked somewhat to the advantage of the McCain candidacy," said the study's authors

The authors added that the level of affluence and the age of respondents had little effect on Jews' overall support for Obama. Approximately 24 percent of Jewish voters surveyed said they were as yet undecided.

Journalists, please note: The Berman Jewish Policy Archive at NYU Wagner will hold a public forum entitled "American Jews and the Presidential Election" on Monday, October 27, 2008, from 4:30-to-5:30 p.m., at the Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service at New York University, located in the historic Puck Building, 2nd Floor, 295 Lafayette Street, New York, N.Y. To RSVP, visit <http://wagner.nyu.edu/events/policy-10-27-2008> .

In the sampling, Jewish and non-Jewish voters responded to dozens of identical questions on their vote intentions, political attitudes, and political identities. Statistical weighting assured that the distribution of characteristics for the General Population resembled those reported by the US Census, while the demographic and Jewish identity characteristics of the Jews closely paralleled those reported in recent national studies of American Jews (Pew Research Center in 2007; and National Jewish Population Study in 2000-01).

The gaps between Jews and other white Americans are even more dramatic than those between Jews and the entire electorate. In line with the high levels of support for Obama among blacks and Hispanics, the Obama-McCain balance among whites alone emerges as a lopsided 37percent for Obama to 63 percent for McCain. Thus, non-Jewish whites (i.e., those who are neither black nor Hispanic, nor Jewish) tilt heavily toward McCain. Jews, at the same time, tilted heavily toward Obama. In fact, the Jewish-white gap in voter intentions reaches a striking 30 percentage points.

What can explain "Jewish electoral exceptionalism," or their readiness to support the Democratic candidate far more than other Americans show, particularly other white Americans? A similar question has been asked of Jews' political leanings generally: If they are as a group so affluent, then why are they also so liberal and Democratic? For years, analysts and advocates have been anticipating a rightward shift toward the American political center on the part of American Jews. This election is no different, with the issue of Israel's security thought to work in favor of John McCain's candidacy.

Indeed, the survey demonstrates how Jews differ from other Americans in their approach to this historic election.

Non-Jewish whites are more concerned than Jews about immigration, gas prices, and taxes (issues which tilt voters toward McCain). Jews, though, are more concerned about health care, environment, appointments to the Supreme Court (issues that tilt voters toward Obama). Moreover, whites in general are more inclined than Jews to favor a government role in protecting morality, while Jews are more favorably disposed than others to support government assistance to the needy. Jews are less likely to view favorably reliance on military strength rather than diplomacy. At the same time, they are more concerned than others about Iran, and about the Israel-Palestinian conflict.

With the possible exception of their concerns for Israel's security and Iran, Jews' political values incline them to support Obama. However, multivariate analysis demonstrates that the Jewish/white gap in vote intentions cannot be well-explained by their differences in political values, by such demographic factors as education and income, or by religiosity-secularity, a factor that has been shown to influence the vote even more than economic standing.

Only one factor substantially explains the Jewish/non-Jewish white gap in vote intentions: "Political identity," the tendency for Jews to identify as liberals and as Democrats rather than conservatives and Republicans. Nearly all the 30-point variation in support for Obama or McCain between Jews and non-Jewish whites can be statistically explained by their wide variations in political identities. Among Jews, liberals outnumber conservatives by roughly two-to-one, nearly the reverse of the white, non-Jewish distribution. Whereas among Jewish Democrats outnumber Republicans by more than three-to-one, among white non-Jews, Republicans exceed Democrats.

Further analysis demonstrates that Jews are "excessively" liberal and Democrat in their identities. That is, they are more liberal and more Democratic than their values would statistically predict. Given their view on the major issues, Jews are "too Democratic" and "too liberal."

Beyond these findings, several interesting intra-group variations characterize the American Jewish electorate:

- The Orthodox support McCain far more than the non-Orthodox.
- Those who see Israel as a major consideration in the Presidential election, move toward John McCain. At the same time, even those attaching high importance to the issue of Israel in the election still favor Obama over McCain.
- Among Orthodox Jews, those with more Jewish friends favor McCain even more than others. Among the non-Orthodox, those with more Jewish friends favor Obama, even more than others.
- Among Jews, education and income bear little relationship to vote intentions.

"To us, these results speak to the power of political identity as a driving force behind Jewish vote intentions and political activity more generally," commented the study's authors. "Values and interests alone cannot explain why Jews will be voting so heavily for Obama on November 4. Rather, for Jews, as for other Americans, electoral behavior is very much a reflection of political identities as Democrats or Republicans, and as liberals or conservatives."

"Ironically," they added, "Jews and other highly educated voters often view other Americans as responding to instinctual, historic habits, to their political heritage, if you will. People like to think of themselves as totally rational and driven by carefully considered values.

"In fact, Jews in the upcoming election also respond to their identities. In their case, they will be reflecting their long-held, multi-generation attachment to the liberal camp in America, and to the Democratic Party."

The entire report can be found at www.bjpa.org, the website of the Berman Jewish Policy Archive at NYU Wagner. The website will contain thousands of social scientific articles that will be text-searchable and downloadable. Associated with the Robert F. Wagner School of Public Service at NYU, and funded by the Mandell L. and Madeleine H. Berman Foundation and the Charles H. Revson Foundation, the Berman Jewish Policy Archive at NYU Wagner's website will be fully operational in February, 2009.

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Poll: Jews back party more than Obama

Published: 10/20/2008

Jews are backing Barack Obama based primarily on traditional identification with the Democratic Party, a new study finds.

The support has less to do with the the presidential candidates' positions on issues or other factors, according to the report released Monday by the Berman Jewish Policy Archive at New York University's Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service.

The report attempted to determine why Jews supported Obama by 30 percentage points more than non-Jewish whites did in simultaneous polls taken in early September.

The poll of 1,596 Jews was taken by Synovate shortly after the Republican Party convention and before all four debates and the stock market decline.

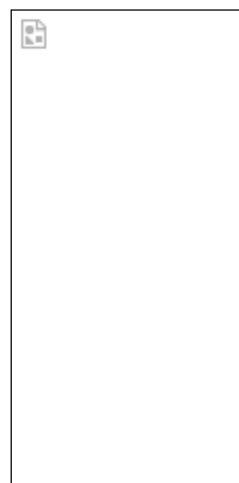
It found Jews favoring Obama over McCain by a 51-25 percent margin, with 24 percent undecided -- which the authors reconfigured to a 67-33 margin for Obama after throwing out the undecided voters and counting only those who had made a decision. A similar process found 37 percent of non-Jewish whites backing the Democrat.

The report finds that such a discrepancy could not be explained by differences in education or income, or by their stands on issues. For example, the study found that Jews are about as equally concerned with social welfare issues -- health care, education and poverty -- as non-Jewish whites and Hispanics and less concerned than blacks.

Instead, the report states support for Obama can best be explained by Jews' "historic, passionate, and high significant commitment to the Democratic Party and the liberal camp in America" -- with the numbers finding that Jews are "excessively" connected to the party and and a liberal political identity.

"I was surprised," said Hebrew Union College professor and Berman Archive director Steven M. Cohen, one of three authors of the study. "I thought Jews were voting more in line with issue orientation." But Jews, he said, "do not look like extreme liberals" when one looks at their stands on issues.

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Israel fell in the middle -- eighth out of 15 -- when Jews were asked how to rate their issues of importance. Those who rated Israel more important also were more likely to back McCain.

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Jews Really Are for Obama

by [Azi Paybarah](#) | October 20, 2008

Jews are twice as likely to vote for Barack Obama than John McCain, [according to a new poll from New York University](#).

The poll basically confirms that a [familiar, recurring election-year story that casts doubt on the Democrat's appeal to Jewish voters](#) is no more true this year than it was in the past. The Jewish vote has tilted heavily Democratic in every presidential election in recent memory, and it looks that it will happen again.

The 3,116-person survey was conducted by N.Y.U.'s Berman Jewish Policy Archive, and includes responses from 1,596 Jews and 1,520 non-Jews.

The pollsters write, "While only 37% of white respondents declared a preference for Obama, 67% of Jews did so- a gap of 30 percentage points. In short, with undecided voters eliminated from consideration, non-Jewish whites tilted heavily towards McCain, while Jews tilted even more heavily towards Obama."

So, maybe no need to [schlep to Florida](#).

The pollsters will discuss their findings at 4:30 p.m. at the Puck Building on Monday, October 27.



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NYU poll: US Jews favor Obama 2:1

Oct. 19, 2008

ALLISON HOFFMAN, Jerusalem Post correspondent New York , THE JERUSALEM POST

American Jews favor Democratic presidential candidate Barack Obama by a ratio of two-to-one, according to survey results being released Monday by researchers at New York University.

The data, taken from a nationwide poll conducted in early September, indicates that Jews as a group are 30 percent more likely than other white, non-Hispanic voters to support Obama.

Surprisingly, the poll found that gap widened to nearly 40% among Jews who rank Israel "very high" as a factor in their choice of candidate, indicating that Israel is a key issue for Jews across the political spectrum.

"Jews always look at candidates in their own camp as more sympathetic to their positions as Jews, so liberal Jews will tend to feel Obama is more pro-Israel than conservative Jews do," lead researcher Steven Cohen, a professor of Jewish social policy at Hebrew Union College, told *The Jerusalem Post*.

"In fact, liberal Jews have an argument about why McCain is bad for Israel, just as conservative Jews have an argument for why Obama is bad for Israel," he said. "There's a tendency toward cognitive consistency."

Nonetheless, support for McCain tracked support for Israel, with 58% of Jews who said Israel was very important favoring McCain.

Orthodox Jews - a category that encompasses Modern Orthodox and haredi respondents, Cohen said - were the likeliest to support McCain, with 73% indicating support for the Republican over just 27% for Obama.

Support for McCain was highest - 90% - among Orthodox Jews who said they socialized exclusively with other Jews, while only 60% of Orthodox respondents who said they had non-Jewish friends planned to vote for McCain.

Cohen said that while New York Senator Hillary Clinton might have had an easier time attracting Jewish voters than Obama has had, he did not believe large numbers of Jewish Democratic voters would change parties in November.

"I'm willing to speculate that Obama had a bit of a tougher time than Hillary - she's from New York, where most Jewish voters are, and she's familiar," Cohen said. "But if you look at the organized Jewish community, for years already you see that hardline pro-Israel Jews were arguing the Republicans were a better choice."

Yet even Jews who categorized themselves as conservative Republicans were far likelier to support Obama, with 7% indicating they planned to vote for the Democrat over just 1% of non-Jewish conservative white voters.

The difference was almost nil at the other end of the spectrum, where 97% of Jews who said they were liberal Democrats planned to vote for Obama, slightly more than the 96% of non-Jewish liberal Democrats.

Mark Mellman, a Democratic strategist, said Obama's recent surge in national polls and in states like Florida negated the possible electoral impact of a rightward swing among Jewish voters at the margin.

"The question in 2008 is, are we talking about 66% Jewish support for Obama or 75%? That's the range of difference," Mellman said. "In some years that could make the difference between winning and losing, but this year it's not likely to because so many other people are voting for Obama."

At the time of the survey, slightly more than half of all Jewish voters - 51% - favored Obama, while just 25% favored McCain and 24% were still undecided.

That translates into 67% for Obama versus 33% for McCain among those who had already made their choice - though Cohen estimated support for the Democrat among Jews at 75% today, based on his lead in more recent polls.

National polls released Sunday by Gallup and Reuters/C-Span/Zogby indicated a three-point lead for Obama, while an expanded Gallup poll of likely voters showed Obama as much as seven points ahead.

The survey, conducted by the Berman Jewish Policy Archive at NYU's Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service, was conducted by Synovate, which contacted more than 1,500 Jewish respondents in September.

Another Synovate poll conducted on behalf of the American Jewish Committee in September indicated that 57% of Jews intended to support Obama, with 30% for McCain and just 13% undecided.

This article can also be read at <http://www.jpost.com/servlet/Satellite?cid=1222017577374&pagename=JPost%2FJPArticle%2FShowFull>

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NYU poll: Two-thirds of U.S. Jews back Obama over McCain

By Haaretz Service

A new poll commissioned by researchers at New York University reveals that American Jews favor Democratic presidential frontrunner Barack Obama over his Republic rival, John McCain, by a 67 - 33 percent margin.

The survey, which sampled the opinions of over 3,000 respondents - half of them being Jewish - also found that Jews as an ethnic group will support Obama by almost 30 percent more than other white, non-Hispanic voters.

The poll sought to gauge the importance Jewish voters attach to Israel as a consideration in whom they would vote for, with some surprising results. Of all the Jews surveyed who said that Israel is of "high" importance, 63 percent said they would vote for Obama. In contrast, only 42 percent of Jews who said Israel has "very high" importance said they planned to vote for Obama.

Not surprisingly, the Jewish vote swings heavily in McCain's favor among the Orthodox. According to the survey, the Arizona senator can count on support from 75 percent of Orthodox Jewish voters.

The poll was conducted this past September, when the gaps in poll numbers between Obama and McCain were smaller. Given the recent numbers favoring Obama, the survey's authors project that the ratio of Jewish voters backing the Illinois Democrat would swell from 2-to-1 to 3-to-1.

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Why Jews Are Voting Obama

Posted By [Shmuel Rosner](#) On October 22, 2008 @ 11:25 AM In [Contentions](#) | [30 Comments](#)

As was [1] [previously established](#) by polls, Barack Obama will be the candidate for whom Jewish Americans are going to vote. While getting the majority of Jewish votes, it looks as if Obama will not nab quite as large a percentage as previous Democratic candidates have. It is still interesting to understand the reasons for these voting patterns, and a [2] [new study](#) has some answers.

“American Jews and the 2008 Presidential Election: As Democratic and Liberal as Ever?” (released by the Berman Jewish Policy Archive at NYU Wagner) was conducted by distinguished experts. They affirm that “there is some reason to believe that this election may see a narrowing of the traditional gap between Jews and other Americans in their vote for president” - namely, Jews will not be as liberal as they were in recent years. The “gap”, though, hardly disappeared (note: the data quoted in this study is from September, so some changes should be expected):

The Jewish tilt toward the Democratic candidate may be seen through two comparisons. First, Jews split 67-33 in favor of Obama, producing a gap of 17 percentage points with the nation. Second, and even more telling, is the contrast with non-Jewish whites. While only 37% of white respondents declared a preference for Obama, 67% of Jews did so — a gap of 30 percentage points. In short, with undecided voters eliminated from consideration, non-Jewish whites tilted heavily toward McCain, while Jews tilted even more heavily toward Obama.

However, this study is not just about support but also about the reasons for this support. One conclusion: Israel, to say the least, is hardly a dominant issue:

Commentators have suggested that Jews’ concern for Israel may well serve to diminish their enthusiasm for the Democratic candidate. Indeed, Jews do care about the Israel-Palestine conflict more than other Americans. Yet, with that said, the Israel issue ranked 8th out of 15 issues in importance as a presidential election consideration for Jewish respondents. Aside from the economy (a prime issue of concern for the vast majority of respondents), ahead of Israel on Jewish voters’ minds were such matters as health care, gas prices and energy, taxes, and education. Ranking just below Israel in importance for Jewish respondents were appointments to the Supreme Court and the environment. In fact, when asked to name their top three issues, just 15% of Jewish respondents chose Israel as one of the three, and these were heavily Orthodox Jews.

So what is it that makes Jews vote Democratic, and what will make them vote for Obama?

While their political views tending in the liberal direction help explain their support for Obama, and their concern for Israel may actually pull them in the other direction, political views alone cannot explain their high levels of Democratic vote intention. Neither can the major socio-demographic variables. Rather, their vote intentions are a product of their political identities - their long-standing association with the liberal camp and the Democratic Party.

The professors responsible for this study should be commended for concluding on this bold and revealing point:

Ironically, Jews and other highly educated voters often view other Americans as responding to instinctual, historic habits, to their political heritage, if you will. People like to think of themselves as totally rational and driven by carefully considered values.

In fact, Jews in the upcoming election also respond to their identities. In their case, they will be reflecting their long-held, multi-generation attachment to the liberal camp in America, and to the Democratic Party.

Of course, this doesn't mean that they vote for the candidate with the wrong views. It just suggests that they didn't seriously ponder the implications of their vote — and didn't even try to entertain the other option.

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CAMPAIGN CONFIDENTIAL: Study of Jewish Dems, Obama in the Sukkah, Scholars for Obama

Thu. Oct 23, 2008

Study of Jewish Dems

Jews continue to lean heavily Democratic, but not necessarily because of the issues, according to a new study.

A report released by New York University's Berman Jewish Policy Archive argues that while Jews will likely continue to vote disproportionately Democratic in the upcoming election, that tendency is due less to Jews' liberal stance on issues than due to their strong sense of affiliation as liberal Democrats.

Jews are "still tribally Democratic. They like that affiliation," said Sam Abrams, a political science professor at NYU who co-authored the study. But, he added, "A Jewish Democrat may not be what a typical Democrat in the population would be."

One common explanation for the tendency of Jewish voters to vote Democratic is that Jews are more liberal on social issues. The study, however, undercut that explanation. On a variety of social issues, ranging from foreign policy to the government's role in setting public morality, the study found that the disparity between Jewish respondents and the general population was too small to explain the discrepancy in voting patterns. In fact, Jews were slightly less likely than the general population to say that social issues such as health care, poverty and education were important to their vote for president (33% of Jews versus 37% of the general population).

Instead, the authors found, the strongest statistical correlation with voting patterns for Jews was not stances on issues but affiliation as Democrats and liberals.

The report comes toward the end of a campaign where the depth of Democratic nominee Barack Obama's connection with Jewish voters has been heavily discussed. Throughout the campaign, Obama has appeared to poll lower among Jews compared to other recent Democratic candidates.

The survey, taken in early September, found that Jews were roughly twice as likely to support Obama for president as they were John McCain, by a count of 51% to 25%, with 24% undecided. Although the undecided figure is higher than other recent polling on the issue, the distribution is roughly consistent with other Jewish opinion polls on the subject, which have generally found Obama's support hovering near 60% and support for McCain in the range of 30%.

One of the study's co-authors, Steven M. Cohen, recently signed a statement by Jewish studies scholars in support of Obama.

— *Anthony Weiss*

Obama in the Sukkah

The Obama campaign plunged into the heart of the ultra-Orthodox community at a Sukkot event hosted by a rabbi in the Williamsburg section of Brooklyn.

Rep. Jerrold Nadler of New York, wearing a yarmulke with “my bubbe votes for Obama” written on it, spoke in a Sukkah with a delegation of rabbis and members from different ultra-Orthodox sects. As at most Jewish Obama events, Nadler spoke about Obama’s pro-Israel credentials, but his campaign also talked about social services, which are a key issue for the ultra-Orthodox community.

“Other more affluent communities have less social issues than we do,” said Rabbi David Niederman, head of the United Jewish Organization, a community-wide advocacy group in Williamsburg. “But for people here, social services are really important.”

The Obama campaign was invited to speak by a variety of Brooklyn ultra-Orthodox groups and took place at a Sukkah outside the home of Joseph Menczer, a rabbi from the Pupa Hasidic sect.

Williamsburg is a stronghold of Hasidic Jews who trace their roots to Hungary, including the neighborhood’s dominant sect, the Satmar Hasidim. The Satmar community traditionally votes en bloc by following the recommendations of its leader. Since the death of its grand rabbi Moshe Teitelbaum, however, the community has been divided as two of his sons have feuded to take over leadership of the community.

One of the sons, Zalman Teitelbaum currently heads the Williamsburg-based branch, and the event took place before a Zalman-affiliated crowd. Another son, Aaron Teitelbaum leads the sect in the Borough Park neighborhood of Brooklyn and the enclave of Kiryas Joel, in upstate New York. The two camps split their endorsements in a state senate race earlier this year and it is still unclear who they will support in the presidential race.

Jeremy Goldberg, Obama’s Jewish outreach director for the tri-state area, told the Forward that the campaign had reached out to a variety of Hasidic communities, including the other main Satmar branch, and was working on holding similar events before the election.

“We firmly believe in trying to get every vote and that our platform resonates with everyone,” he said, adding that the campaign felt optimistic about getting support from the whole Satmar community.

Nadler focused his talk on foreign policy but the conversation quickly turned to social issues and what the Obama administration would do to ensure funding for education, healthcare and housing. Goldberg stressed that the Democratic presidential nominee had spelled out the importance of religious groups in education and vowed to make funding more transparent and accessible, especially for small religious organizations.

Niederman said that the community was waiting to hear from the McCain campaign and would then reach a decision, “through a vote.”

“We wanted to hear from them because there is an unknown aspect to this candidacy,” Niederman said. “The community leaders will get together and reach a decision.”

— *Marc Perelman*

Scholars for Obama

The latest group of Jewish professionals that is banding together to support Barack Obama's candidacy are professors in Jewish studies.

A group of more than 240 scholars of Jewish studies have signed a letter endorsing Obama. The statement urges fellow Jews to vote for the Democratic candidate and decries the persistent fears about Obama that have circulated among Jewish voters.

The endorsement comes with Obama still facing doubts about whether he can attract the levels of Jewish support that Democratic candidates have traditionally garnered. In response, a number of left-leaning Jewish professionals and activists have organized to show their support in ways that some observers say is unprecedented. In September, more than 300 rabbis announced the formation of Rabbis for Obama. More recently, a political group called the Jewish Council for Education and Research organized a Web site to counter false information about Obama and coordinated an event for young Jews to travel down to Florida and urge their grandparents to vote for Obama.

"I've never seen as much organization on the Democratic side in the Jewish community as in this year," said Ira Forman, executive director of the National Jewish Democratic Council.

No similar efforts have been planned on behalf of John McCain's campaign. McCain supporters argued that the frantic efforts by Jewish elites to mobilize for Obama were, in fact, a sign of Obama's weakness among grassroots Jewish voters.

"I think they're organizing out of a concern about Barack Obama's underperformance and erosion of support among Jewish voters," said Matt Brooks, executive director of the Republican Jewish Coalition. "What that tells me is that, by and large, these elites, in many regards, just speak for themselves, that they don't have a lot of coattails."

Daniel Soyer, a professor of American history at Fordham University and one of the main organizers behind the letter, said the group was hoping to counteract the well-publicized concerns that have taken root in some parts of the Jewish community.

"In our opinion, those misgivings are misguided, based often on false rumors and malicious kinds of falsehoods that have been spread, if not by the McCain campaign, then by people who are friendly to it," Soyer said.

[Full disclosure: The signatories of the letter included several members of the Forward Association — including Forward Association secretary Paula Hyman — which owns this newspaper. Those who signed the letter did so as individuals. This newspaper does not support or oppose candidates for public office.]

— *Anthony Weiss*

Thu. Oct 23, 2008



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Study: Young US Jews don't see Israel as campaign issue

By HAVIV RETTIG

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When young, non-Orthodox American Jews vote in next week's US elections, they will be far less likely than their elders to be thinking about Israel's security, according to the 2008 National Survey of American Jews, sponsored by the Berman Jewish Policy Archive at New York University.

The key finding of the study, released over the weekend: Just 29 percent of non-Orthodox Jews younger than 35 say "the situation involving Israel and the Palestinians" is either "high" or "very high" as a consideration in determining their vote for president.

That figure nearly doubles to 54% among non-Orthodox Jews over 65, and stands at 39% for those aged 35-54.

The figure among young non-Orthodox Jews was similar to that of non-Jews (26%) found in a parallel simultaneous national survey.

At 81%, Orthodox young adults report the highest concern for Israel among their peers, a figure as high as that of their elders. Among all Jews, the figure stands at 52%.

Regarding the young non-Orthodox demographic, the study found that the detachment from Israel was not connected to a detachment from Judaism.



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"Thus, it's not that they care less about being Jewish and thus care less about Israel - their "Jewish-caring" levels match their elders. Diminished concern with Israel in the election does NOT reflect diminished importance attached to being Jewish," the study states.

"Younger non-Orthodox Jews are no less likely than their elders to say that being Jewish is important or very important to them," reads the study.

Among the non-Orthodox, 81% rate being Jewish as "somewhat" or "very" important to them, with no difference between older and younger respondents.

The study noticed a marked rise in visits to Israel among American Jews, attributing this partly to birthright Israel. 36% of non-Orthodox Jews under 35 have visited Israel, compared to 37% of non-Orthodox Jews of their parents' generation - a marked increase considering that they had fewer years in which to make the visit.

Seventeen percent of the young Jews came on a second visit, compared to just 13% of their parents' generation.

Of second trips, the study finds: "It is only among those who've visited Israel twice that the age-related gap in Israel-concern disappears. Each trip to Israel is associated with leaps in levels of caring about Israel as a factor in the presidential election. However, for young people especially, the second trip to Israel is the true watershed in boosting their caring for Israel."

In all, "with the passage of time, not only is the level of attachment to Israel likely to decline among non-Orthodox Jews, but so too is the breadth of political support for the Jewish state. That said, expanded repeat travel to Israel consisting of two or more visits appears capable of offsetting these declines."

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