

TO: Democratic Majority for Israel
FROM: The Mellman Group
DATE: December 18, 2023
RE: The Impact Of The Hamas Israel War On President Biden

This analysis represents the findings of a survey of 1,637 registered voters in the United States. Interviews were conducted online December 7-12, 2023 using a carefully curated panel that is accepted by media outlets and peer reviewed academic works. The margin of error is +/-2.4% overall at a 95% level of confidence, and higher for subgroups. This memo also references a poll of 664 American Jews employing the same methodology. That poll has a margin of error of 3.8%

Based largely on guesswork or faulty interpretation, some analysts have argued that President Biden’s support for Israel could damage his electoral prospects.

This poll makes clear that there is no basis for such an inference and that, if anything, his support for Israel may provide a modest net boost.

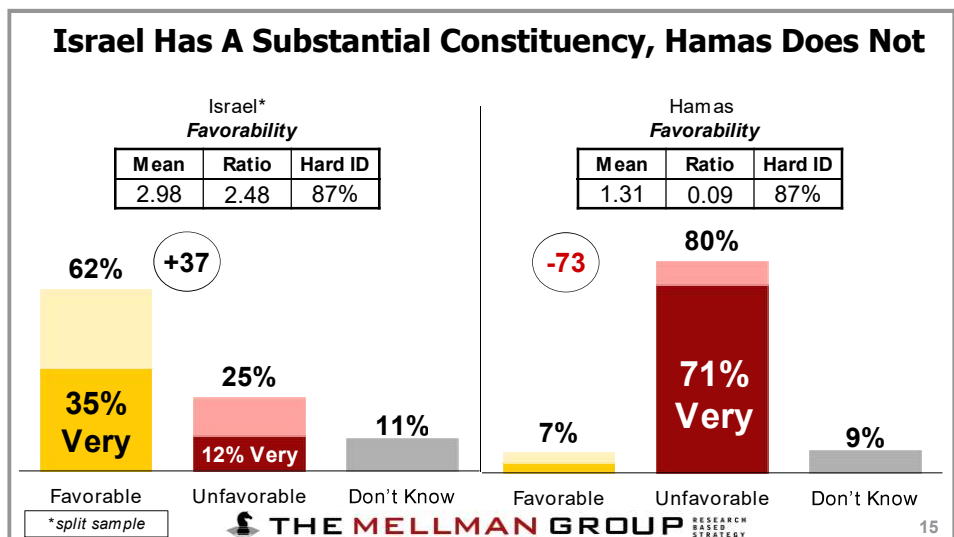
This conclusion is based on three pools of evidence from the survey:

THE PRO-ISRAEL COMMUNITY IS FAR LARGER THAN THE ANTI-ISRAEL SEGMENT

Pro-Israel voters can be defined in different ways, but no matter how they are measured they constitute a far larger proportion of the electorate than anti-Israel voters.

Sixty-two percent (62%) of voters have a favorable view of

Israel. Over two-thirds (67%) want the U.S. to support Israel in its war against Hamas.



Just 25% have an unfavorable view of Israel while a mere 5% think the U.S. should be supporting Hamas in the war.

Even the number with favorable impressions of Palestinians is only 38%, while favorables for the Palestinian Authority stand at just 14% and favorables for Hamas at a mere 7%.

Some wrongly reduce the pro-Israel and anti-Israel communities to religious identity. While it's true that in our poll of American Jews 91% said the U.S. should support Israel in its conflict with Hamas while only 2% favored support for Hamas (we are not aware of quality polling on this point in the Muslim American community), nonetheless, this is likely an oversimplification.

For what it's worth, numerous polls, including this one, make clear that around 3% of the national electorate is Jewish and about 1% are Muslim.

Michigan is often proffered as a state the President could lose because of his support for Israel. According to the Votecast Survey conducted by the University of Chicago's National Opinion Research Center, 1% of Michigan's 2020 electorate was Muslim, while 2% was Jewish. In Pennsylvania, another key swing state, Muslims also constituted 1% of the electorate while Jews comprised 3%. In swing Nevada, Jews were 3% while Muslims registered 0%.

No matter what question or answer one chooses to focus on, it is clear that pro-Israel voters far outnumber those with an anti-Israel posture.

MOST SAY BIDEN'S SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL WON'T AFFECT THEIR VOTE, THOUGH A FEW MORE SAY IT WILL LEAD TO A VOTE FOR, RATHER THAN AGAINST, HIM

We asked voters directly, "Regardless of how you feel about President Biden's handling of this conflict, does Biden's support for Israel make you more likely to vote for him, less likely to vote for him, or doesn't it make much of a difference in who you will vote for?"

By far the largest number, 68%, said it won't matter to their vote choice. Seventeen percent (17%) said Biden's support for Israel would make them more likely to vote for him, while a slightly lesser 15% said they are less likely to support Biden as a result of his support for Israel.

American Jews are different—44% are *more* likely to vote *for* the President because of his backing of Israel.

WHILE VOTERS DISAPPROVE OF THE PRESIDENT'S HANDLING OF THE CONFLICT, FEW SAY THEIR DISAPPROVAL IS BASED ON HIS SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL

Just 29% approve of the President's handling of the Israel-Hamas war, while 48% disapprove. Some leaped to the conclusion that disapproval stems from the President's support for Israel.

That turns out to be fallacious.

We asked those who disapproved of the President's performance in this arena whether it was because he was supporting Israel too much, or supporting the Palestinians too much, or whether their disapproval does "not have anything to do with which side he is supporting."

Just 13% of the electorate, and 6% of American Jews, disapprove of Biden's handling of the conflict because he supports Israel too much. Sixteen percent (16%) of voters nationally disapprove because they believe Biden supports the Palestinians too much, while an equal number say which side the President supports is unrelated to their negative assessment of his performance on this issue.

The evidence *against* the proposition that President Biden's support for Israel is an electoral liability is clear and overwhelming.

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