

The background features a stylized image of the Statue of Liberty, rendered in a golden-orange hue. The statue is positioned centrally, holding a torch aloft. The background is composed of large, overlapping semi-circular shapes in shades of orange, blue, and white, creating a modern, graphic aesthetic.

American Muslim Poll

Evolving Electorate, Enduring Challenges

Executive Summary



Institute for
Social Policy &
Understanding

2025

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For more information about the study, please visit: ispu.org/poll

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Introduction

After the 2024 presidential election and second inauguration of President Donald Trump, ISPU conducted our seventh American Muslim Poll, fielded by NORC at the University of Chicago between April 2, 2025 and May 8, 2025. The genocide in Gaza, as declared by the International Association of Genocide Scholars in August 2025, and the attacks on American students protesting it created a challenging new environment for American Muslims, who experienced heightened censorship and skyrocketing Islamophobia.

As these hardships mounted, so did civic participation: Many Muslims organized to withhold their vote from then-President Joe Biden and, after his withdrawal, new nominee Vice President Kamala Harris in the election in an effort to demand a ceasefire in Gaza. There were also Muslims who disagreed with this approach and endorsed the Democratic candidate, which created tensions within Muslim communities. Meanwhile, Trump secured votes from other American Muslims. How did Muslims ultimately vote in 2024? This survey captures vote shares among the splintered electorate, along with policy priorities, satisfaction with President Trump and the direction of the country, and experiences with discrimination in both interpersonal and institutional settings.

This survey provides an update on the demographic profile of American Muslims last collected in ISPU's

2022 poll. Included in the survey is the general population as well as an oversampling of Muslims and Jews, who are underrepresented religious groups in the United States whose distinct experiences are rarely polled. As a result, our report is able to compare the responses of American Muslims to Jews, Catholics, Protestants, white Evangelicals, and individuals who are not affiliated with any religion. Furthermore, the data was further broken down by race, gender, and age.

As in past polls, survey respondents were asked a series of questions about voting and civic engagement. In this survey, participants were asked about who they voted for in 2024 as well as 2020 to identify shifts in voting preferences for American Muslims in light of Israel's actions in Gaza and the U.S. response to it, which our survey questions refer to as "the war in Gaza." Respondents were also asked about their policy priorities when it comes to choosing a presidential candidate, as well as satisfaction with several of President Trump's policies. Their level of engagement with the political process aside from voting was also captured through a series of questions on civic engagement.

The Islamophobia Index was measured for a fifth time, enabling ISPU to provide a snapshot of where various faith and non-faith groups rank on the Islamophobia scale. We are able to assess if the war in Gaza shifted any faith group's attitudes toward Muslims. Furthermore, by repetitively surveying Americans on their attitudes toward Muslims, we are able to compare levels of Islamophobia in the U.S. over time and assess whether it is increasing or decreasing.

The report concludes with a **series of recommendations** identified by the researchers on addressing the important issues facing American Muslims.

Access the full report, including recommendations and methodology at ispu.org/poll

Who are American Muslims?

89%
of Muslims rate religion as important to their daily life

36%
of Muslims hold a college degree or higher

26%
of Muslims are between the ages of 18 and 24



Muslims in the United States Are Young and Diverse

Consistent with prior polls, we find that Muslims are more likely than Jews, Catholics, Protestants, white Evangelicals, the non-affiliated, and the general public to be younger; 26% of Muslims are between the ages of 18 and 24 compared to 7%–15% of the other groups. Muslims remain the most racially diverse religious group in the U.S. and the one group without a majority racial/ethnic group. Twenty-eight percent of Muslims identify as Black, 24% as Asian, 20% as white, 12% as Arab, and 9% as Hispanic.

Muslims in the U.S. on Par with General Public in Education, Have Lower Income, and More Likely to Currently Be a Student

Consistent with prior polls, we find about one third of Muslims have a household income below \$30,000, compared to 11%–21% of other groups. Additionally, 36% of Muslims hold a college degree or higher, on par with most other groups. Given the younger age of Muslims, it follows that they are more likely than all other groups to currently be a student in a two-year, four-year, graduate, or technical program (47% of Muslims vs. 6%–15% of all other groups).

Muslims among the Most Likely Religious Groups in the U.S. to Rate Religion as Important

Nearly 9 in 10 Muslims (89%) rate religion as important to their daily life, lower than 97% of white Evangelicals but more likely than 44% of Jews, 72% of Catholics, and 82% of Protestants. Muslims of all ages and racial/ethnic groups are equally likely to rate religion as very important. Forty-four percent of Muslims attend religious services once a week or more, more likely than 10% of Jews, 22% of Catholics, and 23% of the general public and less likely than 59% of white Evangelicals.



Muslim Voters in Focus: Trends, Insights, and Growth Opportunities

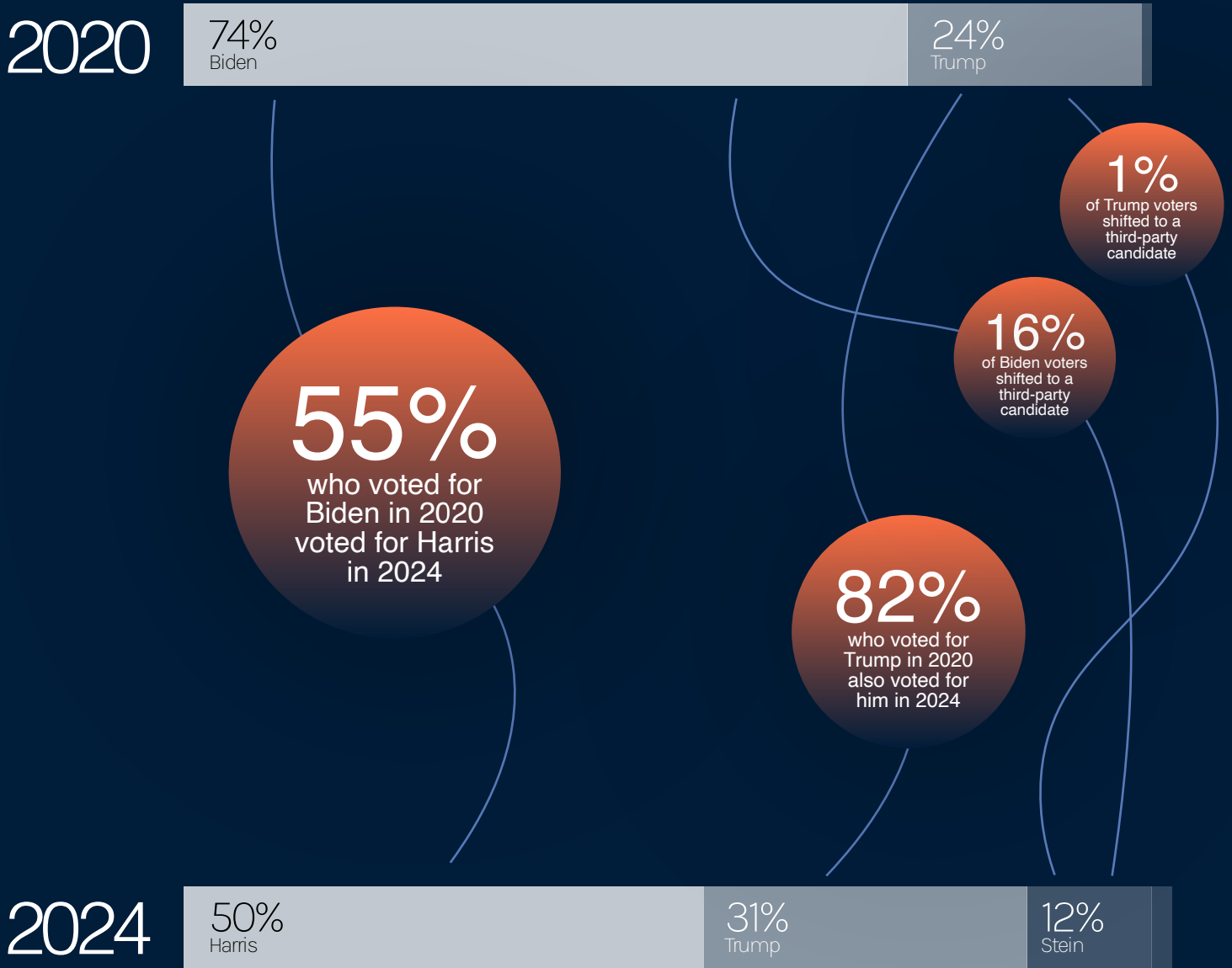
Muslim Voter Registration Rises Steadily since 2016

Eighty-five percent of Muslims who are legally eligible to vote in the U.S. report being registered to vote, which is less likely than 92% of Jews but on par with all other groups. Looking over time, we see a steady rise in Muslim voter registration from 60% in 2016. Despite Muslim voter registration being on par with most other groups in 2025, there is still room for growth. We find that among Muslims who are legally eligible to vote, women and non-white Muslims are least likely to be registered. Voter registration campaigns can make specific outreach to these demographics.

Half of Muslim Voters Cast a Ballot for Kamala Harris in 2024, Less than One Third for Trump, More than One in Ten for Stein

Four in five Muslims registered to vote cast a ballot in the 2024 presidential election. Among Muslim voters, 50% voted for Harris, 31% for Trump, and 12% for Jill Stein. Among the general public, 50% of registered voters selected Harris, 45% selected Trump, and 0% selected Stein. Notably, among Muslim voters, men were far more likely than women to vote for Trump (42% of Muslim men vs. 17% of Muslim women). We did not find gender differences in any other group. Factors that predict voting for Trump among Muslim voters include Republican party affiliation, an income of \$75,000 or more (compared to less than \$30,000), being born in the U.S. (compared to being born outside of the U.S.), identifying as white (vs. any other race/ethnicity), and endorsing any anti-Muslim tropes (compared to not endorsing tropes).

Muslim Votes *Shifted* between 2020 and 2024



Among Muslims who voted in the 2020 and 2024 presidential elections, 55% who voted for Biden in 2020 voted for Harris in 2024, and 82% who voted for Trump in 2020 also voted for him in 2024. Compared to the general public, Muslims were less likely to consistently vote for the Democratic candidate in both years but similarly voted Republican consistently. Our analysis reveals that 16% of Biden voters in 2020 shifted to a third-party candidate in 2024. In comparison, just 1% of Muslim Trump voters in 2020 voted third party in 2024.

Muslim Voters Name Family/Friends and Party Affiliation as Top Influences on Their 2024 Candidate Choice

Slightly more than half of Muslim voters, 53%, selected family or friends as having an influence on their candidate selection for the 2024 election, followed by 49% reporting their political party affiliation having influence, and 40% who selected social media influencers. Fewer Muslim voters reported that local or religious leaders (35% for both) and national civic organizations associated with their religious group (36%) had an influence on their vote choice.

Muslim Voters Name Economy/Jobs, War in Gaza, and Healthcare as Top Three Policy Priorities Influencing Their 2024 Vote

Forty-one percent of Muslims selected the economy and job creation as a top policy priority influencing their 2024 vote, followed by 35% who selected the war in Gaza and 23% who selected healthcare. The economy was also the most frequently selected policy priority for the general public at 50%, which is higher than Muslims. Just 4% of voters in the general public named the war in Gaza as a policy priority, while 18% named healthcare. For the general public, securing the border (34% of general public voters vs. 16% of Muslim voters) and preserving democracy (26% of general public voters vs. 12% of Muslim voters) were also top policy priorities. Thirty percent of Muslims who voted for Trump named the war in Gaza as a top policy priority, compared to 2% of Trump supporters in the general public. Twenty-two percent of Muslims who voted for Harris said Gaza was a top policy priority, compared to 6% of Harris voters in the general public. Seventy-eight percent of Muslims who voted third party in 2024 named Gaza as a top policy priority.

Muslims Report Economic Insecurity, Fear, and Stress as a Result of the 2024 Election

Forty-four percent of Muslims report fear of economic insecurity for themselves or a member of their household as a result of the 2024 presidential election outcome, on par with most other groups. However, Muslims and Jews are more likely than all other groups to report fear for their personal safety (29% of Muslims and 23% of Jews vs. 3%–20% of other groups). We previously asked this question in 2017 about post-2016 election concerns. When comparing 2017 and 2025, we find an increase in the proportion of Muslims who report stress and anxiety enough to seek help from a mental health professional (13% in 2017 vs. 22% in 2025). At the same time, the proportion of Muslims who report fearing for their personal safety dropped from 38% in 2017 to 29% in 2025.

Muslim Satisfaction with the Direction of the Country and Presidential Approval Drops

Muslim satisfaction with the direction of the country declined for the first time since 2018 with a sizable drop from 48% in 2022 to 23% in 2025. This is also a drop from the 41% who previously expressed satisfaction with the direction of the country in 2017 during President Trump's first term. Muslims are on par with the general public, Jews, Catholics, and Protestants in satisfaction with the direction of the country. About one fifth (21%) of Muslims in the U.S. approve of President Trump's job performance, which is on par with Jews (17%) and the non-affiliated (20%) but lower than Protestants (41%), Catholics (34%), white Evangelicals (63%), and the general public (32%). The 21% of Muslims who approve of the president's performance is a significant drop from the 60% who approved of Biden in 2022. Muslim men were more likely than Muslim women to approve of Trump's job performance (27% vs. 14%).

Muslim Civic Engagement with Elected Officials Increased since 2019

The American Muslim Poll evaluates non-electoral civic engagement through town hall participation, campaign activity, and contact with public officials. We previously asked about engagement with local and national elected officials in 2019. In 2025, 22% of Muslims reported contacting a federal elected official, compared to 17% of the general public in 2025 and 17% of Muslims in 2019. On the other hand, 31% of the general public previously reported engaging with federal elected officials in 2019, marking a decline. Nineteen percent of Muslims and 18% of the general public contacted a local elected official in 2025. Muslims (23%) and Jews (18%) were more likely than 4%–10% of other groups to attend a town hall in the previous year. Similarly, Muslims (15%) and Jews (12%) were more likely than 3%–8% of all other groups to volunteer for a political campaign in the prior year. Nineteen percent of Muslims donated to a political campaign in the year prior, less than 30% of Jews but on par with other groups.

Muslims Who Voted Third Party in 2024 Aligned with Harris Voters in the General Public on Most Trump Policies

Muslims who voted for Harris in 2024 were more likely than Harris voters in the general public to support President Trump's policies. Rather, Muslims who voted third party were more in line with Harris voters in the general public. Specifically, 1%–13% of Harris voters in the general public expressed support for the various Trump policies, in line with 2%–13% of Muslims who voted outside of the two-party candidates.

Majority of Trump Supporters Oppose Displacement of Gazans

Fewer than half of Muslims who voted for Trump in 2024 (46%) expressed support for the displacement of Palestinians from Gaza, on par with 39% of Trump voters in the general public. Trump voters in the general public, however, were more likely than Muslim Trump voters to support deporting pro-Palestinian protesters (58% vs. 45%, respectively).

Aside from Gender Definition, Majority of Muslims Oppose Trump Policies

Slightly more than half (52%) of Muslims expressed support for defining gender as male and female, on par with 50% of the general public. Majorities of Catholics (53%), Protestants (65%), and white Evangelicals (84%) also expressed support. The majority of Muslims oppose all other Trump policies we asked about (see full report for list of policies). Looking across all groups, white Evangelicals were most supportive of Trump policies, with the majority supporting all policies except the proposed forced displacement of Palestinians from Gaza (31%) and proposed cuts to Medicare and Medicaid (19%). Muslim men tend to be more supportive of Trump's policies than Muslim women. Muslims and Jews show comparable levels of support for Trump-era policies, including those on Gaza, with the notable exception being support for Trump's policy on gender definitions (52% of Muslims support vs. 33% of Jews).

Islamophobia Linked to Higher Support for Trump Policies

Among the general public, Islamophobia is a meaningful, significant predictor of all policies we asked about except for two: 1) cutting Medicare/Medicaid and 2) reducing the federal workforce. Among Muslims, Islamophobia is a significant predictor of support for all of the Trump policies we tested except 1) the recognition of only two sexes; 2) support for tariffs on Canada, Mexico, and China; 3) the creation of the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE), and 4) reducing the federal workforce.



Islamophobia *Rises* in 2025

For the fifth year, ISPU measures Islamophobia using the National Islamophobia Index. Among the general population in the U.S., the index jumped from 25 in 2022 to 33 in 2025. This jump was most pronounced among white Evangelicals (15 points), Catholics (12 points), and Jews (11 points). Protestants also rose 7 points from 23 in 2022 to 30 in 2025. Muslims' score on the Islamophobia Index remained stable with no statistically significant difference between 26 in 2022 and 21 in 2025. Nevertheless, the existence of internalized Islamophobia for Muslims is a challenge to be addressed. The non-affiliated also did not significantly change on the Islamophobia Index since 2022 (22 to 25). Looking at factors that predict Islamophobia, we find that a vote for President Trump (for the general public and Muslims) and conservative political views (for the general public) were among the strongest factors associated with higher Islamophobia scores.

Muslim Experience with Religious Discrimination Holds Steady, More Likely than All Other Groups

Sixty-three percent of Muslims report facing religious discrimination in the past year, more likely than 50% of Jews and 22%–27% of other religious groups. The 63% for Muslims in 2025 is on par with previous years (2016–2022) where reports of religious discrimination ranged from 59%–62%. Muslims experience religious discrimination in both structural and social settings. Muslim men are as likely as Muslim women to report facing religious discrimination in the past year (63% of Muslim women and 64% of Muslim men).

Nearly Half of Muslim Families Report Children Facing Religious Bullying, Often from Adults in Authority

Forty-seven percent of Muslim families with school-aged children report having a child who faced religious-based bullying in the past year, compared to 23% among the general public. This is on par with the 48% of Muslim families who reported bullying in 2022. When it comes to who bullied the children, 55% report another group of students, 36% report a teacher or school official, and 13% report the bullying was from a parent of a classmate.

*As of May 2026, our research team has made a correction, which includes the update of three figures from the Islamophobia Index in American Muslim Poll 2025. See the full explainer on page 40 of the full report.



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About the Institute for Social Policy and Understanding (ISPU)

ISPU provides objective research and education about American Muslims to support well-informed dialogue and decision-making. Since 2002, ISPU has been at the forefront of discovering trends and opportunities that impact American Muslim communities. Our research aims to educate the general public and enable community change agents, the media, and policymakers to make evidence-based decisions. In addition to building in-house capacity, ISPU has assembled leading experts across multiple disciplines, building a solid reputation as a trusted source for information for and about American Muslims.

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