



# Religious Groups' Views on Ceasefire: Majority of Muslim and Jewish Democrats Favor a Permanent Ceasefire in Gaza



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## Majority of Muslim and Jewish Democrats Favor a Permanent Ceasefire in Gaza

### Introduction

The crisis in Gaza, which as of this writing has claimed the lives of around 1,200 Israeli and more than 25,000 Palestinian civilians, has captured the attention of the world. Since October 7 several surveys have captured American public opinion on the situation. These studies examined the views of the old and young, Democrats and Republicans, men and women, college-educated and non-college-educated. The missing voice has been that of religious groups, particularly Muslim and Jewish Americans, who are often perceived as on opposing sides of this crisis.

This survey aimed to assess the views of these two key American religious groups, as well as Catholic, Protestant, including white Evangelicals, and those not affiliated with a religious group, on a number of contentious topics. This is the first in a series of brief analysis pieces, starting with a look at American religious and non-religious groups' support for a permanent ceasefire in Gaza and where respondents place blame for the ongoing violence. The full methodology is available in [Appendix I](#).

### Findings

#### 1. The majority of Americans favor a ceasefire in Gaza

The majority of Muslim, Catholic, Protestant, among them white Evangelical, and non-affiliated Americans favor a permanent ceasefire in Gaza. Though just shy of a majority, Jewish Americans are more likely to favor (50%) than oppose (34%) a cessation in violence.

#### The Majority of Americans Favor a Ceasefire in Gaza

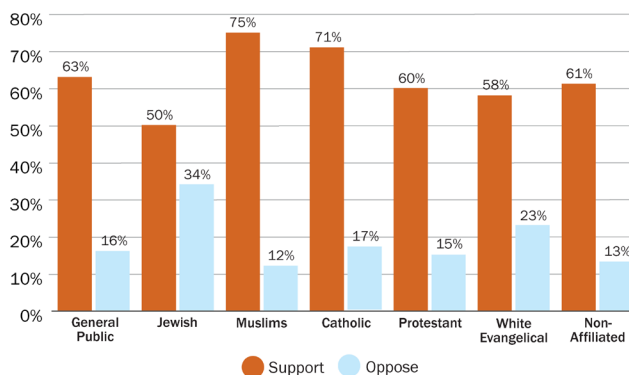


Figure 1: Do you support or oppose the US calling for a permanent ceasefire and a de-escalation of violence in Gaza? Base: All Respondents, Dec 22, 2023–Jan 15, 2024. Source of question wording: Data for Progress.

#### 2. Jewish and Muslim Democrats, like Democrats in the general public, favor an end to the violence in Gaza

The majority of Republicans in the general public also favor a ceasefire. Due to small sample sizes, we cannot report on Muslim or Jewish Republicans. Of note: Jews (10%) and Muslims (18%) are the least likely religious groups to identify as Republican, according to ISPU's [American Muslim Poll](#).

#### The Majority of Jewish and Muslim Democrats Favor a Ceasefire in Gaza

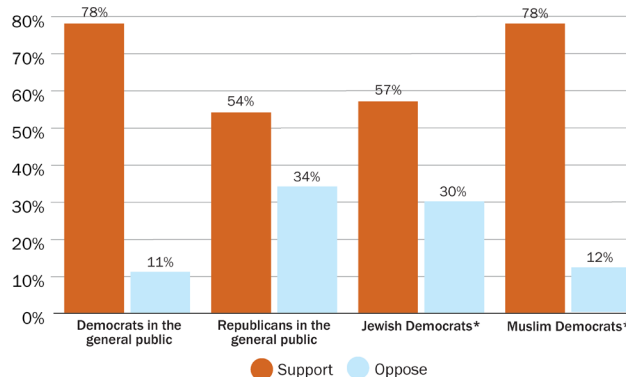


Figure 2: Do you support or oppose the US calling for a permanent ceasefire and a de-escalation of violence in Gaza? Base: All Respondents, Dec 22, 2023–Jan 15, 2024. Source of question wording: Data for Progress. \*Due to small sample sizes, we cannot report on Muslim or Jewish Republicans.

### 3. The majority of young Americans favor a cessation in violence in Gaza

Older Jews (age 50+) are almost twice as likely as younger members of the group (age 18-29) to oppose a ceasefire (41% vs. 22%), while 46% of older Jews support a ceasefire compared to 54% of younger members. Among the general public, all age groups studied are equally likely to support a ceasefire (61% - 65%). Among Muslims, surprisingly, young people are more likely than their elders to oppose a ceasefire in Gaza (20% vs 6%) though a majority of all age groups support it (between 68% - 80%).

### The Majority of Jewish and Muslim Young People Favor a Ceasefire in Gaza

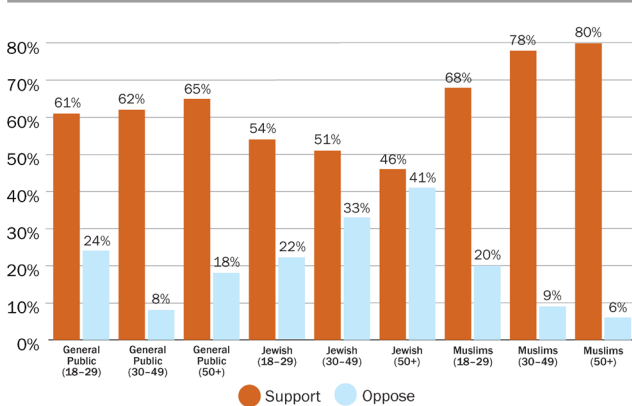


Figure 3: Do you support or oppose the US calling for a permanent ceasefire and a de-escalation of violence in Gaza? Base: All Respondents, Dec 22, 2023-Jan 15, 2024. Source of question wording: Data for Progress.

### 4. Though there is widespread agreement across religious groups in support of a ceasefire in Gaza, views on where to lay the blame are divided

A majority of Jews (65%) and white Evangelicals (51%) blame Hamas for the ongoing violence, and the plurality of Catholics (47%) agree. Muslims are roughly four times as likely to blame the Israeli government (40%) as Hamas (12%), while a little more than a third blame both sides equally (35%). Protestants are about twice as likely to blame Hamas (29%) as the Israeli government (13%), but the plurality (34%) blame both equally. Non-affiliated Americans are far more likely to blame Hamas as opposed to the Israeli government (34% vs 6%) but the plurality blame both equally (38%).

### American Religious Groups Divided on Where to Place Blame for Violence in Gaza

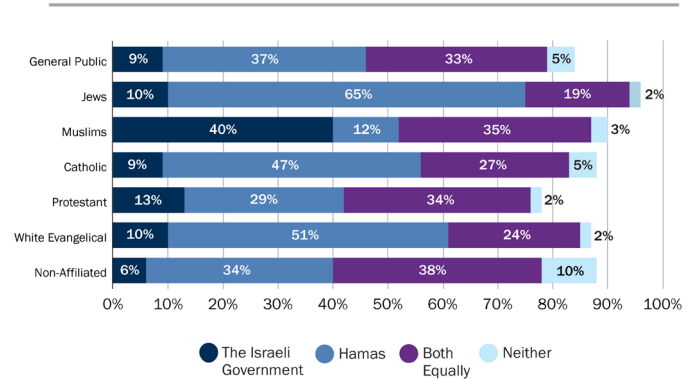


Figure 4: Who do you think is more responsible for the current conflict in Israel and Gaza? Base: All Respondents, Dec 22, 2023-Jan 15, 2024. Source of question wording: Reuters.

### 5. More than half of non-Hispanic Black (64%), non-Hispanic white (57%), and Hispanic (74%) Americans in the general public express support for a ceasefire in Gaza

Black and Hispanic Americans make up significant minority voting blocs whose views are important to consider in this election cycle. Due to small sample sizes, we cannot report on the views of racial/ethnic groups among Muslims.

### The Majority of Racial/Ethnic Groups in the General Public Favor a Ceasefire in Gaza

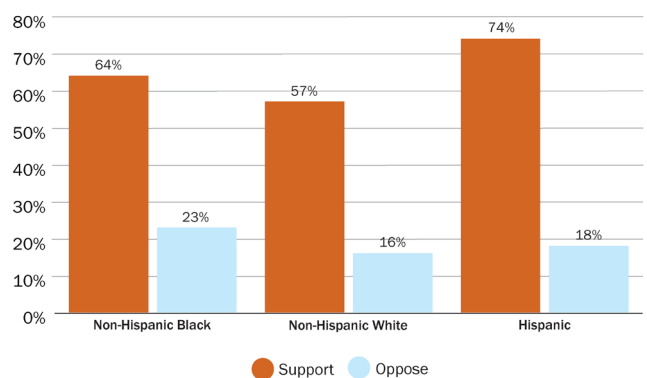


Figure 5: Do you support or oppose the US calling for a permanent ceasefire and a de-escalation of violence in Gaza? Base: Respondents in the general public, Dec 22, 2023-Jan 15, 2024. Source of question wording: Data for Progress. \*Due to small sample sizes, we cannot report on other racial/ethnic groups.

# Conclusion

US involvement in the conflict through sustained and long term military and diplomatic aid to Israel means that the course this crisis takes is directly relevant to the American public, especially ahead of the 2024 general election. ISPU will continue to inform the dialogue on this important issue with a series of analysis pieces throughout early 2024.

*\*Correction: Figures 1 and 4 in this analysis originally listed incorrect figures for religiously non-affiliated respondents' views on a ceasefire. The correct figures are listed in the text of the report. The graphs have been updated to display the correct figures.*



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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 equip 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.

For more information, please visit: [www.ISPU.org](http://www.ISPU.org).

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