

# American Jewish Population Estimates 2020: Politics and Partisanship

Estimating the Political Views and  
Partisan Identification of US Jewish Adults

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Maurice and Marilyn Cohen Center for Modern Jewish Studies

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# HIGHLIGHTS

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Nationally, Jewish adults comprise a small minority—around 2%—of the US population (see Saxe et al., 2021). Previous results from the American Jewish Population Project’s (AJPP) data synthesis reported estimates of the size and demographic composition of the US Jewish population nationally, and by state, metropolitan area, and county. In this report, we summarize results of an analysis of questions about Jewish adults’ political party identification and political views (liberal/conservative). The research highlights the ways in which Jewish adults resemble and differ from the broader US electorate by geography, age, educational attainment, gender (binary), and race/ethnicity.

Highlights include:

- Jewish adults are more likely to identify as Democrats (50%) than Republican (17%) and are more liberal in their political views (43%) than conservative (22%).
- Compared to the overall US electorate, Jewish adults are more likely to be Democrats (50% versus 31%) and liberal (43% versus 26%).
- When including independents and Others who lean toward the Democratic Party or the Republican Party, the disparity in party affiliation between Jewish adults and all US adults increases. Sixty-three percent of Jewish adults identify as Democrats or lean Democratic, compared to less than half (45%) of US adults.
- Among age groups, Gen Z Jewish adults include the lowest percentage of Democratic identification (43%) and the highest percentage of independents (43%). When including Democratic/Republican leaning, a greater percentage of Gen Z adults identify as Democrats or lean Democratic (65%) compared to older Jewish adults (61%).
- Jewish women identify as Democrats or lean Democratic at a greater percentage than Jewish men, similar to the pattern among all US adults, though to a larger degree.
- For both Jewish adults and all US adults, those with a college degree have higher rates of liberal identification and are more likely to identify as Democrats or lean Democratic.
- Just over one third of Hispanic and Black/other non-Hispanic Jewish adults identify as liberal, though 70-80% identify as Democrats or lean Democratic.

# INTRODUCTION

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The US Jewish electorate—Jewish adults who are eligible voters ages 18 years or older—is estimated at just over 6 million or 2.4% of voting age adults (Saxe et al., 2021). Although just a small percentage of the total US electorate, some suggest that American Jews have played a much larger role relative to their size in many aspects of US politics and in their support for Democratic and liberal causes (Mellman et al., 2012; Wald, 2015). In this report, we present results from our most recent American Jewish Population Project’s (AJPP) analyses of the political party identification and political views of Jewish adults.

The AJPP is the only independent source of data to provide sociodemographic characteristics of Jewish adults (age, educational attainment, race and ethnicity) for the entire United States, its states, metropolitan areas, and counties in an ongoing program of research. The foundation of the AJPP population estimates is based not on a single survey, but instead on the synthesis of data from hundreds of surveys of US adults that include questions about religious identification.<sup>1</sup> Although the primary purpose of the AJPP data synthesis is to provide researchers with an independent benchmark with which to design and evaluate their own surveys of the US Jewish population, AJPP data can also be used to describe in detail US Jewish adults who identify their religion as Judaism. Jewish adults by religion account for 70% to 80% of US Jewish adults (Kosmin et al, 1991; Kosmin, 2009; Kotler-Berkowitz et al, 2003; Pew Research Center, 2021).<sup>2</sup> We use the term “Jewish adults” in this report to refer to Jewish adults by religion.

There appear to be no substantial differences with respect to political identification between those who identify as Jewish by religion and those who identify as Jewish aside from religion. Our secondary analysis of the data from Pew Research Center’s 2020 survey of American Jews indicated that there was no difference in the likelihood of those who identified as Jewish by religion or Jewish aside from religion in identifying as Democrats: Fifty-eight percent of all Jewish adults were Democrats, compared to 58% of those whose religion was Judaism and 57% of those who identified as Jewish aside from religion (within the margin of error). Similar proportions of those who identified as Jewish by religion and those who identified Jewish aside from religion also leaned Democratic and leaned Republican. Sixty-eight percent of all Jewish adults, 68% of Jewish adults by religion, and 66% of Jewish adults aside from religion were Democrats or leaned

Democratic (within the margin of error). Thirty percent of all Jewish adults, 30% of Jewish adults by religion, and 30% of Jewish adults aside from religion were Republican or leaned Republican.

There were, however, differences between those who identified as Jewish by religion and those who identified as Jewish aside from religion in terms of political views. Those who identified as Jewish aside from religion were more liberal (63%) than those who identified as Jewish by religion (47%). Those who identified as Jewish by religion were more moderate (34%) and more conservative (19%) than those who identified as Jewish aside from religion, of whom 29% were moderate and 8% were conservative. Because the majority of Jewish adults identify as Jewish by religion, the overall percentages (combining those who identify by religion with those who identify aside from religion) are closer to the percentage among those who identify by religion. Fifty-one percent of all Jewish adults were liberal, and 32% were conservative. The implications are that the results reported here, which are based on analysis of Jewish adults who identify their religion as Judaism in general population surveys, will likely have a somewhat conservative bias and understate liberal views. This bias might be more pronounced within age subgroups, given a higher percentage of younger adults identify as Jewish aside from religion compared to older adults. Although the majority of both young and old identify as Jewish by religion, just under two thirds of those 18 to 44 identify by religion compared to over 80% among those 45 years and older.

The AJPP analysis conforms with previous findings that the Jewish electorate identifies more with the Democratic Party than other parties. Even though the data synthesis is based on Jewish adults who identify their religion as Judaism—a group that might be somewhat more conservative than secular Jews who identify as Jewish aside from religion—Jewish adults in our analyses still tend to be more liberal in their political views than US adults. The report also highlights how these general findings vary by demographic characteristics, such as age and educational attainment and by geographic areas.

## BACKGROUND

The strong swing among Jewish Americans toward the Democratic Party began in the 1928 US presidential election when 72% of Jewish voters supported Al Smith, the first Catholic to be nominated for president in the United States (Feingold, 2013; Sarna, 2012). Smith, having been raised in the ethnically diverse fourth ward of the Lower East Side of Manhattan, was a strong advocate for the rights of immigrants at a time when there was a large influx of Catholic and Jewish immigrants from eastern and southeastern Europe. Although he lost in a landslide to Herbert Hoover, his campaign stimulated a shift among urban, blue collar, and immigrant voters toward the Democratic Party. In the following election, among Jewish voters, there was overwhelming support for Franklin D. Roosevelt in the 1932 election and near unanimous support in the 1940 and 1944 elections (Sarna, 2012).

This degree of support, however, has not been ubiquitous. Support among Jewish voters for individual Democratic or Republican candidates has varied substantially from election to election at both the federal and local levels. There has, however, remained strong majority support for



Democratic and liberal causes throughout the past century (Mellman et al., 2012; Wald, 2015). Despite predictions in recent elections that American Jews would disassociate from the Democratic Party, referred to as ‘Jexodus’ or “Jewish exodus” (Boxer, 2019), Jewish support for the Democratic Party in the 2018 mid-term elections and again in the 2020 US presidential election remained consistent with past elections (AJC, 1981-2020; Jones & Cox, 2012; Pew Research Center, 2008, 2013, 2015, 2021).

In the 2020 presidential election, an AJC pre-election survey of Jewish voters estimated that 75% of Jewish voters supported Democratic candidate Joe Biden (AJC, 2020). A JStreet exit poll found 77% of Jewish voters supported Joe Biden (JStreet, 2020), consistent with the AJC pre-election survey. A Republican Jewish Coalition poll reported a lower proportion of Biden voters, most likely representing bias in their sample, but still a clear majority (61%; Republican Jewish Coalition, 2020). This 2020 election was notable not least because of the record turnout of approximately two thirds of the US electorate, the highest in more than 40 years (Desilver, 2020). The winning candidate, Joe Biden, received the largest number of votes of any presidential candidate in US history with 81,268,924, a majority of 51.3% of all votes cast. The election, however, was decided not by the national total, but by the state-by-state results, where each state has a number of electoral college votes based on population size. Biden won by clear majorities in some of the most populated states like California (63.5% of the vote) and New York (60.4% of the vote). In a few key states needed to reach the necessary 270 electoral college votes, the vote margins were slim. Biden won by just 0.1% of the votes in Arizona (10,457 votes) and by 0.3% in Georgia (11,779 votes).

The present report examines the political orientation of the Jewish electorate for the nation, states, and counties across the United States. Although Jewish voters represent a small percentage of the total US electorate, they comprise higher percentages in particular states and municipalities. Highlighted in the report are areas that have large populations of Jewish adults, such as in New York, California, and Florida, as well as areas where the political orientation of the Jewish electorate is notable because it diverges from the national profile or from the general electorate in that area. For example, in Brooklyn, NY, a greater share of Jewish adults is politically conservative compared to the overall electorate of Brooklyn (40% versus 27%, respectively). In states like Arizona, Georgia, and North Carolina, the majority of Jewish adults identify as Democrats or lean Democratic, while the plurality of all adults in these states identify as Republicans or lean Republican.

## DATA

Nearly all of the surveys included in the AJPP data synthesis include questions about political party identification and political views. In addition to detailed demographic profiles of the population, the AJPP data synthesis was used to estimate the percentage of Jewish (and US) Democrats, Republicans, independents, or Other, and those who identify as liberal, moderate, or conservative.

A majority of the surveys (88%) include assessment of whether those who identify as independent or Other lean more toward the Democratic Party or the Republican Party. The results are shared on the AJPP website and include estimates of these political variables for the:

- Nation
- States
- Top 40 metropolitan areas
- Counties (or groups of counties for smaller counties)

It is important to note that political attitudes such as party identification and views are not fixed characteristics. They can change depending on any number of factors, including current events. For example, Gallup's US Poll for the past five years show that the percentage of US adults who identify as Democrats or Republican varies from month to month (Gallup Inc, 2007). The results from the AJPP data synthesis represent the general trends within the Jewish population over the five years or so of data included in the synthesis, 2015 to 2019.<sup>3</sup>

# NATIONAL SUMMARY

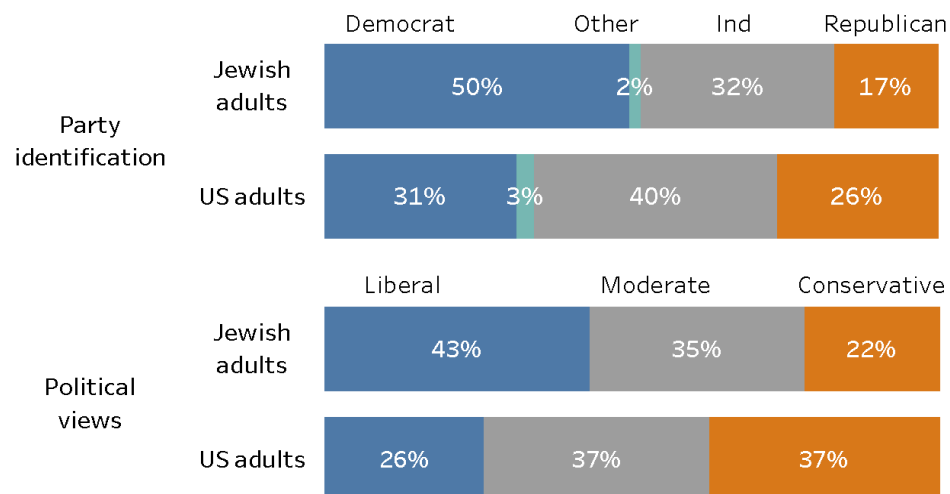
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## POLITICAL PARTY IDENTIFICATION AND VIEWS

Consistent with previous studies of the Jewish electorate in the United States, a greater percentage of Jewish adults identify as Democrats (50%) than Republican (17%) (See Figure 1). Jewish adults are also more likely to identify as Democrats when compared to all US adults, of whom just over 30% identify as Democrats. They are also more likely to be liberal in their political views (43%) than conservative (22%), and more likely to be liberal compared to all US adults (26%).

**Figure 1: Political party identification and views**

Percent of Jewish and US adults who are Democrats, independent, or Republicans, and are liberal, moderate, or conservative

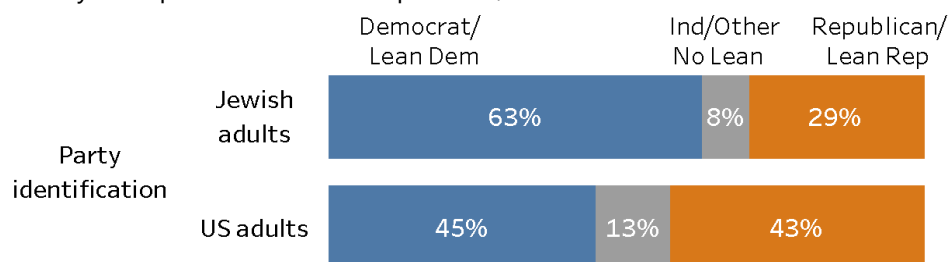


## POLITICAL LEANING

When independents and Others are asked whether they lean more toward the Democratic Party or the Republican Party, the disparity between Jewish adults and all US adults is even more pronounced. The majority of Jewish adults (63%) identify as Democrats or lean Democratic (See Figure 2). Less than one third identify as Republicans or lean Republican (29%). Just 8% identify as independent or Other with no political leaning. In comparison, among all US adults, the split between Democrat and Republican affiliation after including those who lean Democratic or lean Republican is much narrower than it is among Jewish adults. When taking into account whether they lean Republican, the percentage of all US adults who identify as Republicans or lean Republican increases from just over one quarter to 43%, near equal to the percentage who identify as Democrats or lean Democratic (45%).

**Figure 2: Political party identification with leaning**

Percent of Jewish and US adults who identify as Democrats or lean Democratic, identify as Republicans or lean Republican, or do not lean at all

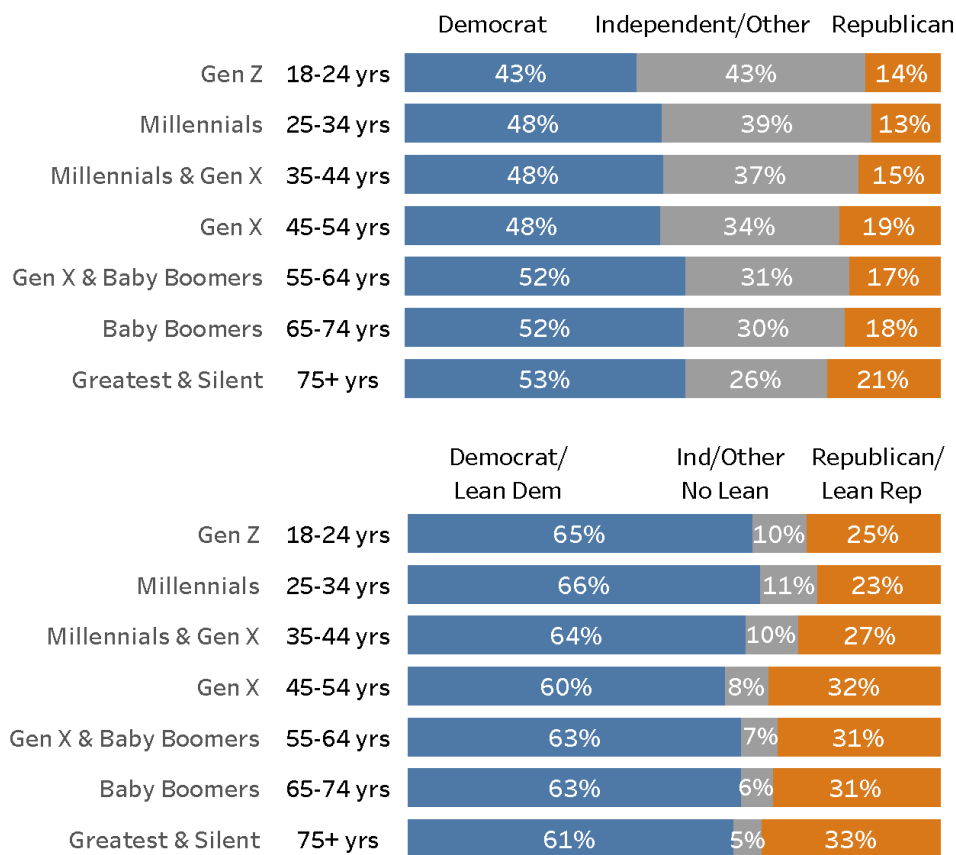


## AGE DIFFERENCES

Among Jewish adults, Gen Z adults (those ages 18 to 24 years) are the most likely to identify as independent or Other (43%)—especially compared to those ages 55 years and older who are predominately Democrats (52%), with fewer than one third identifying as independent (See Figure 3).

**Figure 3: Political party identification with leaning of Jewish adults by age**

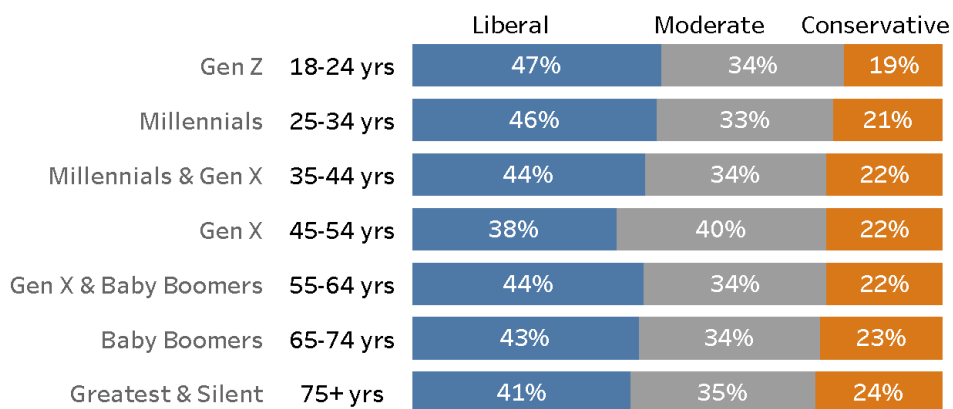
Percent of Jewish adults who are Democrats, independent, or Republicans, without and with party leaning, by age



However, when those who identify as independent or Other were asked whether they lean toward the Democratic Party or Republican Party, the differences between younger and older Jewish adults disappear (See Figure 3). In fact, a somewhat greater percentage of Gen Z Jewish adults (65%) and millennials (66%) identify as Democrats or lean Democratic, compared to 60% among Generation X ages 45 to 55 years and 61% among the Greatest and Silent generations ages 75 years and older. Similar differences between younger and older Jewish adults are seen in political views (See Figure 4). Younger Jewish adults (Gen Z and millennials) are more likely to be liberal (47%, 46% respectively) than older Jewish adults, particularly Gen X adults ages 45 to 55 years (38%) and the Greatest and Silent generations ages 75 years and older (41%).

**Figure 4: Political views of Jewish adults**

Percent of Jewish adults who are liberal, moderate, or conservative by age



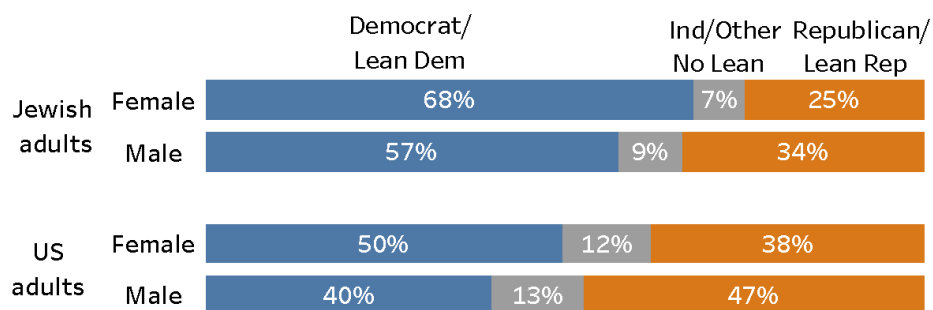
## GENDER DIFFERENCES

Using the demographic gender binary employed in the population model which is based on census categories, a greater percentage of Jewish women identify as Democrats or lean Democratic (68%), compared to Jewish men (57%) (See Figure 5). This trend is seen as well among all US adults where women are more likely to identify as Democrats or lean Democratic (50%) than men (40%), though to a lesser degree than Jewish adults where the majority of both men and women identify as Democrats or lean Democratic. The largest percentage of those who identify as Republicans or lean Republican are US male adults (47%), followed by US women (38%). The percentage of male and female Jewish adults who identify as Republicans or lean Republican is 34% and 25%, respectively.

Differences between Jewish women and men and between Jewish and US adults in terms of political views are similar to those concerning political party. Jewish women are more liberal than Jewish men (50% versus 36%), and both Jewish women and men are more liberal than US women (29%) and men (23%) (see Figure 6). The largest percentage of US adults who are conservative are men (41%), followed by US women (34%). Just over one quarter (26%) of Jewish men are conservative, and less than one-in-five Jewish women (18%) are conservative.

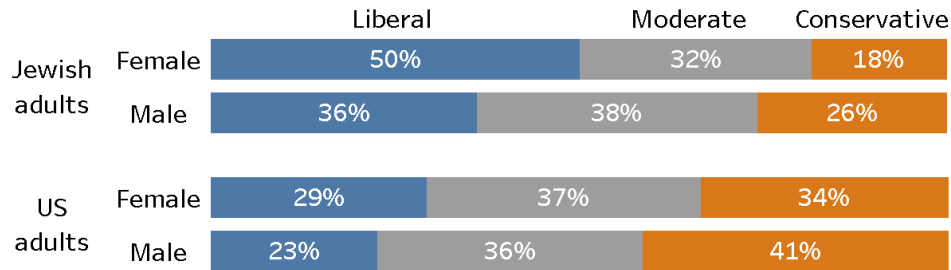
**Figure 5: Political party identification with leaning for Jewish and US adults by sex**

Percent of Jewish and US adults who identify as Democrats or lean Democratic, identify as Republicans or lean Republican, or do not lean at all by sex



**Figure 6: Political views by sex for Jewish and US adults**

Percent of female and male Jewish and US adults who are liberal, moderate, or conservative



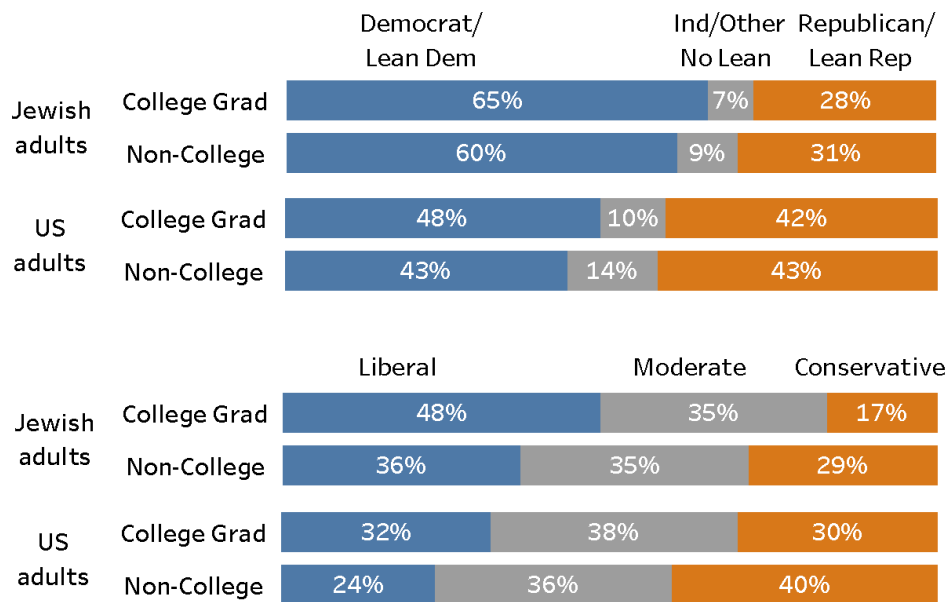
## EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

Although recent research has demonstrated that college graduates are more likely to identify as Democrats or lean Democratic than those with lower levels of educational attainment (Pew Research Center, 2018, 2020), differences are modest. Among Jewish adults, the majority identify as Democrats or lean Democratic regardless of educational attainment. Sixty-five percent of Jewish adults who are college graduates identify as Democrats or lean Democratic, compared to 60% of Jewish adults without college degrees (see Figure 7). Differences in political views is somewhat more pronounced. Forty-eight percent of Jewish adults with college degrees are liberal compared to 36% of Jewish adults without a college degree. Among US adults with a college degree, a greater percentage are moderate (38%) than liberal (32%) or conservative (30%). Among those without a college degree, a greater percentage are conservative (40%) than moderate (36%) or liberal (24%).



**Figure 7: Political party identification with leaning and political views of Jewish and US adults by education**

Percent of Jewish and US adults with and without a college degree who identify as Democrats or lean Democratic identify as Republicans or lean Republican, or do not lean at all, and who are liberal, moderate, or conservative



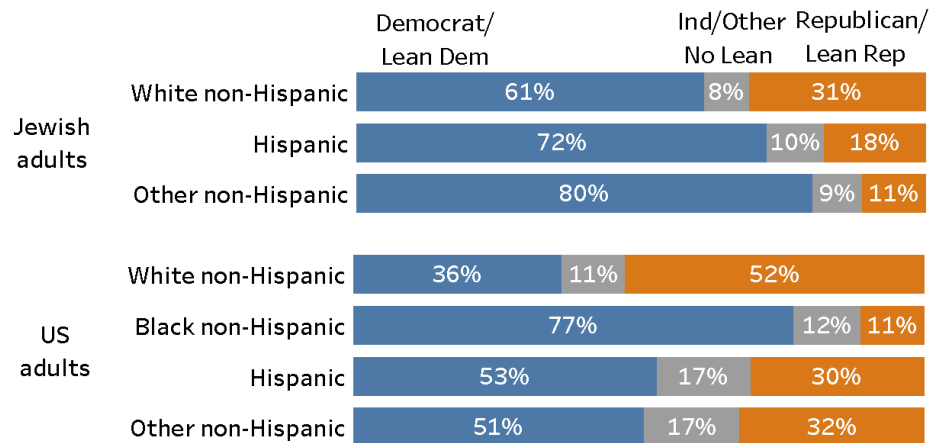
## RACE/ETHNICITY

The majority of the US Jewish population is white non-Hispanic (89%), with just 6% identifying as Hispanic and 5% as Black or other non-Hispanic (Saxe et al., 2021). Whereas the majority of white non-Hispanic US adults identify as Republicans or lean Republican (see Figure 8; also, Pew Research Center, 2018), this is not true of Jewish adults. The majority of white non-Hispanic Jewish adults identify as Democrats or lean Democratic (61%). The percentages are even higher among Hispanic (72%) and other non-Hispanic (80%) Jewish adults. Note that the other non-Hispanic group for Jewish adults includes Black non-Hispanic, which was too small a group within the Jewish population to estimate separately.

Differences in political views by race/ethnicity are similar to party identification. Among US adults, white non-Hispanic are more likely to be conservative (42%) than liberal (23%); whereas white non-Hispanic Jewish adults are more likely to be liberal (44%) than conservative (21%) (See Figure 9).

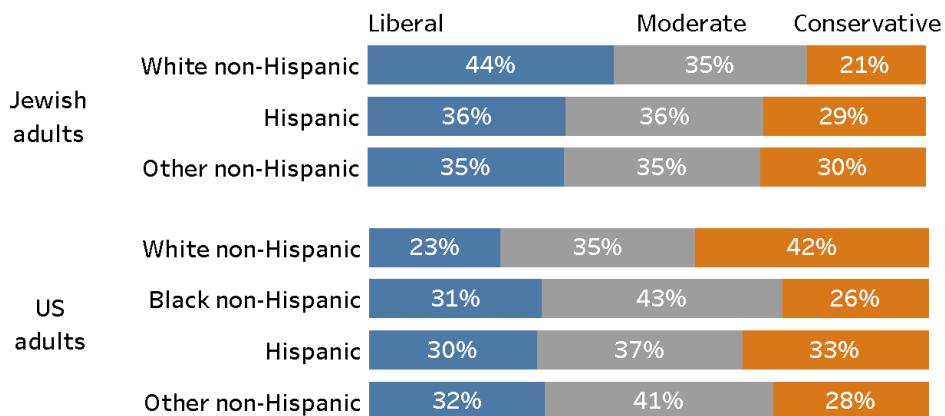
**Figure 8: Political party identification with leaning of Jewish and US adults by race/ethnicity**

Percent of Jewish and US adults who identify as Democrats or lean Democratic, identify as Republicans or lean Republican, or do not lean at all, by race/ethnicity



**Figure 9: Political views of Jewish and US adults by race/ethnicity**

Percent of Jewish and US adults who are liberal, moderate, or conservative by race/ethnicity

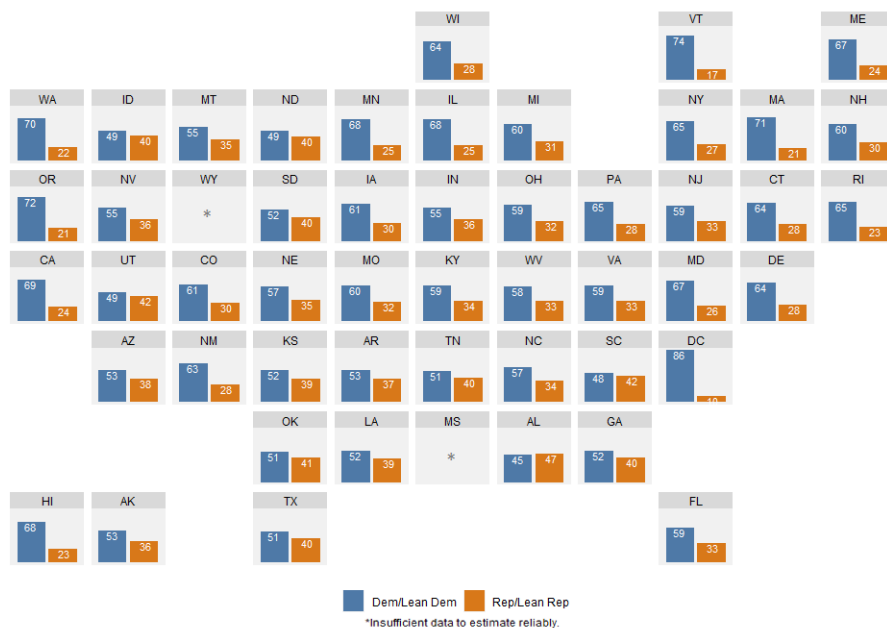


## US STATES

Patterns of politics and partisanship in the United States vary widely at the state level. This is true of Jewish adults, as well. Although a clear plurality or majority identify as Democrats or lean Democratic in 48 of the 50 US states and the District of Columbia, the percentage varies from a high of 86% of Jewish adults in Washington, DC to 53% in Alaska and 45% in Alabama (See Figure 10). It is important to note that the states with the lowest percentages of Democratic identification or lean among Jewish adults are also the states with the lowest percentages of Jewish adults. For example, in states such as Alabama, Alaska, and Arkansas, the Jewish population is estimated to be less than half a percent of the total population, with lower limits on the estimates near zero. More research to explore whether additional factors need to be considered when estimating the political attitudes of Jewish adults in these states, where their size is very small relative to the general population, is needed.

**Figure 10: Political party identification with leaning by US states**

Percent of Jewish adults who are Democrats or lean Democratic or who are Republican or lean Republican



To understand state-level variation in party identification and political views among Jewish adults in comparison to the general population, Table 1 highlights several states with the largest numbers of Jewish adults and states where the Jewish population is smaller, but electoral outcomes are often decided by slim margins. This includes the top three states by Jewish population (New York, California, and Florida) which together comprise nearly half of the total Jewish population in the United States.

In New York, for example, Jews are much more likely to identify as Democrats or lean Democratic (65%) than Republican (27%). This is true of New Yorkers overall, though not to the same degree, where the majority (54%) identify as Democrats or lean Democratic and one third identify as Republicans or lean Republican (33%). A similar pattern is observed in California, where a majority of all adults identify as Democrats or lean Democratic (52%) and a larger majority among Jewish adults (69%). The political views of Jewish adults in New York and California are more liberal (41% and 49%, respectively) compared to all adults in these states (33% and 32%, respectively; See Table 1). The plurality of all adults in these two states are moderate (37%).

In other states such as Florida and Pennsylvania, the majority of Jewish adults identify as Democrats or lean Democratic (59% and 65%, respectively), while all adults in the state are more evenly split between Democratic and Republican affiliation. In Florida, 44% of adults identify as Democrats or lean Democratic, and 44% identify as Republicans or lean Republican. In terms of political views, only one quarter of adults in Florida and Pennsylvania are liberal, compared to 47% of Jewish adults in Pennsylvania and 35% in Florida. That Jewish adults in Florida are less liberal than in other parts of the country might explain why a greater percentage supported the Republican candidate in the 2020 US presidential election (43%) (The New York Times, 2020) than identify as Republicans or lean Republican (33%).

In states like Arizona, Georgia, and North Carolina, the majority of Jewish adults identify as Democrats or lean Democratic, whereas among all adults in these states, the plurality identifies as Republicans or lean Republican. Adults in these states also are more conservative than liberal. In Georgia where, like Florida, the plurality is moderate (39%) rather than liberal (31%), a greater percentage supported the Republican candidate in the US presidential election (49%) (The New York Times, 2020) than identify as Republicans or lean Republican (40%). In contrast, in both Arizona and North Carolina, a greater percentage of Jewish adults voted for Joe Biden in the presidential election (68% and 72%, respectively) (The New York Times, 2020) than identify as Democrats or lean Democratic. That is, Jewish adults in Arizona and North Carolina were more likely to cross party lines to vote for the Democratic presidential candidate.

**Table 1: Political party identification with leaning and political views for selected states**

State	Total Adults	Pct. <sup>a</sup>	Political Party			Political Views		
			Dem/Lean Dem	Rep/Lean Rep	Ind/No Lean	Liberal	Conser-vative	Mod-erate
<b>New York</b>								
<i>Jewish Adults</i>	1,061,000	7.1%	65%	27%	8%	41%	25%	34%
<i>All NY Adults</i>	15,018,700		54%	33%	12%	33%	30%	37%
<b>California</b>								
<i>Jewish Adults</i>	699,800	2.3%	69%	24%	7%	49%	18%	34%
<i>All CA Adults</i>	30,190,500		52%	35%	13%	32%	31%	37%
<b>Florida</b>								
<i>Jewish Adults</i>	589,500	3.4%	59%	33%	8%	35%	26%	39%
<i>All FL Adults</i>	17,111,600		44%	44%	13%	25%	38%	37%
<b>Pennsylvania</b>								
<i>Jewish Adults</i>	213,300	2.2%	65%	28%	6%	47%	18%	35%
<i>All PA Adults</i>	9,906,800		46%	44%	11%	26%	37%	38%
<b>Virginia</b>								
<i>Jewish Adults</i>	89,300	1.4%	59%	33%	8%	44%	19%	37%
<i>All VA Adults</i>	6,521,100		44%	44%	12%	25%	37%	38%
<b>Ohio</b>								
<i>Jewish Adults</i>	87,300	1.0%	59%	32%	8%	41%	24%	35%
<i>All OH Adults</i>	8,913,900		42%	46%	12%	23%	39%	38%
<b>Arizona</b>								
<i>Jewish Adults</i>	86,500	1.6%	53%	38%	9%	43%	23%	35%
<i>All AZ Adults</i>	5,552,000		40%	47%	13%	24%	39%	37%
<b>Georgia</b>								
<i>Jewish Adults</i>	77,900	1.0%	52%	40%	8%	30%	31%	39%
<i>All GA Adults</i>	7,964,400		42%	46%	12%	22%	42%	36%
<b>North Carolina</b>								
<i>Jewish Adults</i>	61,700	0.8%	57%	34%	9%	40%	23%	37%
<i>All NC Adults</i>	8,021,400		43%	45%	12%	23%	42%	36%

Sources:

American Jewish Population Project, 2020 Jewish Population Estimates (March 2021).

American Jewish Population Project, 2020 Jewish Population Estimates: Politics and Partisanship (April 2022).

Claritas, Population Estimates (sex by age) 2020.

Adjusted for the population in households and noninstitutionalized group quarters (within ZIP Code) by educational attainment, race, and ethnicity from the U.S. Census Bureau 2014-2018 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Note:

a) Percentage of Jewish adults out of all area adults.

## US COUNTIES

As at the state level, politics and partisanship varies between counties. In all of the top 10 counties by Jewish adult population, Jewish adults identify as Democrats or lean Democratic at higher rates than the general electorate (See Table 2), with the exception of Queens County, NY, where Jewish adults look very similar to all adults in the county. About two thirds of Jewish and all adults in Queens County identify as Democrats or lean Democratic, and one quarter identify as Republicans or lean Republican. Jewish adults are also more liberal and less conservative than all adults in each of these counties, with the exception of Brooklyn, where 40% of Jewish adults are conservative compared to 27% of all adults in Brooklyn.

**Table 2: Political party identification with leaning and political views for selected counties**

County Area	Total Adults	Pct. <sup>a</sup>	Political Party			Political Views		
			Dem/Lean Dem	Rep/Lean Rep	Ind/No Lean	Liberal	Conservative	Moderate
<b>Los Angeles, CA</b>								
<i>Jewish Adults</i>	314,500	4.0%	72%	21%	7%	47%	19%	34%
<i>All Los Angeles Adults</i>	7,814,700		58%	29%	14%	34%	29%	38%
<b>Brooklyn, NY</b>								
<i>Jewish Adults</i>	276,400	14.2%	64%	27%	9%	29%	40%	31%
<i>All Brooklyn Adults</i>	1,949,600		66%	22%	12%	38%	27%	36%
<b>Manhattan, NY</b>								
<i>Jewish Adults</i>	183,300	13.8%	80%	14%	6%	56%	11%	33%
<i>All Manhattan Adults</i>	1,328,500		73%	18%	9%	50%	16%	34%
<b>Palm Beach, FL</b>								
<i>Jewish Adults</i>	174,800	14.4%	57%	35%	8%	36%	24%	40%
<i>All Palm Beach Adults</i>	1,211,100		50%	38%	12%	28%	34%	38%
<b>Nassau County, NY</b>								
<i>Jewish Adults</i>	144,900	13.6%	55%	37%	8%	38%	24%	38%
<i>All Nassau Adults</i>	1,069,000		47%	43%	11%	29%	32%	40%
<b>Broward County, FL</b>								
<i>Jewish Adults</i>	133,700	8.6%	64%	28%	8%	35%	23%	43%
<i>All Broward Adults</i>	1,551,600		57%	30%	13%	30%	30%	39%
<b>Cook County, IL</b>								
<i>Jewish Adults</i>	128,500	3.3%	73%	20%	7%	54%	14%	32%
<i>All Chicago Adults</i>	3,905,300		63%	25%	12%	36%	26%	38%
<b>Queens, NY</b>								
<i>Jewish Adults</i>	111,000	6.2%	66%	25%	8%	40%	24%	36%
<i>All Queens Adults</i>	1,779,900		64%	24%	12%	36%	26%	38%
<b>Miami, FL</b>								
<i>Jewish Adults</i>	85,500	3.9%	67%	25%	9%	33%	28%	39%
<i>All Miami Adults</i>	2,220,400		51%	35%	14%	29%	35%	36%
<b>Middlesex County, MA</b>								
<i>Jewish Adults</i>	76,200	6.1%	76%	17%	7%	59%	13%	28%
<i>All Middlesex Adults</i>	1,254,900		58%	29%	12%	42%	21%	37%

Sources:

American Jewish Population Project, 2020 Jewish Population Estimates (March 2021).

American Jewish Population Project, 2020 Jewish Population Estimates: Politics and Partisanship (April 2022).

Claritas, Population Estimates (sex by age) 2020.

Adjusted for the population in households and noninstitutionalized group quarters (within ZIP Code) by educational attainment, race, and ethnicity from the U.S. Census Bureau 2014-2018 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

Note:

a) Percentage of Jewish adults out of all area adults.

# SUMMARY

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Results from the analysis of hundreds of independent surveys provide a portrait of the US Jewish electorate in terms of the size of the electorate nationally and in states and counties, as well as the demographic composition of the electorate, party self-identification, and political views. A majority of Jewish adults identify as Democrats or lean Democratic in 44 of the 50 US states including the District of Columbia, and a plurality in 48 states. New York, Florida, and California have the highest numbers of Jewish adults in the electorate, including 1.2 million in New York, over 900,000 in California, and 660,000 in Florida. Compared to the overall US electorate, Jewish adults are more likely to identify as Democrats or lean Democratic (63%) and identify as liberal (43%). US adults are a near equal split between Democratic leaning or identification (45%) and Republican leaning or identification (43%), and just over one quarter are liberal (26%), with the majority splitting between moderate (37%) and conservative (37%).

Demographic differences among Jewish adults reflect similar patterns as observed among all US adults, though often to a greater degree. Gen Z Jewish adults are more likely to identify as independent than older Jewish adults, but when asked about party leaning, Gen Z along with millennials are more likely to identify as Democrats or lean Democratic than older Jewish adults. A greater percentage of Jewish women identify as Democrats or lean Democratic than the percentage of Jewish men who identify as Democrats or lean Democratic. Jewish adults with a college degree have higher rates of liberal identification and are more likely to identify as Democrats or lean Democratic than those without a college degree. Just over one third of Hispanic and Black/other non-Hispanic Jewish adults identify as liberal, though the vast majority (70%-80%) identify as Democrats or lean Democratic.

Detailed estimates for states, counties, and metropolitan areas are available at [ajpp.brandeis.edu](http://ajpp.brandeis.edu).



## NOTES

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<sup>1</sup> See Saxe et al. 2021 for discussion of the need for and the benefits of synthesizing data from hundreds of independent sources to estimate the Jewish population in the United States.

<sup>2</sup> The most recent estimates from Pew Research Center (2021) are that ~72% of US Jewish adults identify their religion as Judaism while another 28% identify as secular—ethnically or culturally as Jewish, but atheist, agnostic, or otherwise not practicing religion. There are no systematic, independent sources of data with which to validate whether this might under- or over-estimate the size of this group. The AJPP provides a more conservative estimate of 20% who identify as secular based on analysis of community studies conducted by local Jewish federations throughout the United States, and the previous Pew survey of American Jews (Pew Research Center, 2013).

<sup>3</sup> The synthesis includes a few surveys on either end, 2014 and 2020, to increase sample size, but the majority of the data reflect the 2015-2019 period.

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