At the request of the non-partisan Jewish Electorate Institute, researchers at the American Jewish Population Project at Brandeis University’s Steinhardt Social Research Institute conducted an analysis of hundreds of national surveys of US adults to describe the Jewish electorate in each of the 435 districts of the 116th US Congress and the District of Columbia. Surveys include the American National Election Studies, the General Social Survey, Pew Political and social surveys, the Gallup Daily Tracking poll, and the Gallup Poll Social Series. Data from over 1.4 million US adults were statistically combined to provide, for each district, estimates of the number of adults who self-identify as Jewish and a breakdown of those individuals by age, education, race/ethnicity, political party self-identification, and political ideology. The following report presents a portrait of the Jewish electorate in Florida and its 27 congressional districts.¹
There are ~722,000 Jewish adults in Florida, comprising 4.2% of the Florida electorate. Florida was narrowly won by President Obama in 2012 and narrowly swung to the Republican presidential candidate in 2016 by just over one percentage point (49% vs. 47.8%). The state carries the fourth highest number of electoral votes (29) behind New York, California, and Texas.

**OVERVIEW: THE FLORIDA JEWISH ELECTORATE**

The majority (~57%) of Jewish adults in Florida resides in congressional districts on the southeastern coast that include the metropolitan areas around Miami, Fort Lauderdale, and Palm Beach.

Over half (59%) of Florida’s Jewish electorate, consistent with the Jewish electorate nationally, identifies with or leans toward the Democratic Party.²

### JEWISH ADULTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Democrat &amp; Lean Democrat</th>
<th>Independent (7%)</th>
<th>Republican &amp; Lean Republican</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>59%</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>32%</strong></td>
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Total does not sum to 100% due to omitted “Other” category.
Nearly half of Jewish adults in Florida are college educated. Compared to the general adult population of the state, Florida's Jewish electorate is more likely to be college educated (49% vs. 27%), though they are less likely to have a college degree compared to Jewish adults nationally (57%).

The Jewish electorate is older than all adults in Florida, with a greater proportion of adults ages 65+ (42% vs. 26%, respectively).
STATE-LEVEL POLITICS

Jewish adults in Florida are more likely than all Florida adults to identify as Democrats (59% vs. 48%, respectively). Of the 59% of Jewish adults who identify as Democrats, 46% identified as Democrat when asked if they identify with a political party. An additional 13% identify as Independents who lean toward the Democratic Party. Jewish adults are also less likely to identify as or lean Republican (31%) and as Independent (7%) than all Florida adults (42% and 9%, respectively).

When asked about political ideology, Jewish adults in Florida are far more likely to identify as liberal (39%) than all adults in the state (25%). Jewish adults are also far less likely to identify as conservative (24%) than all adults (38%). Both groups, Jewish adults and the general Florida population, identify as moderate in approximately equal proportions (38% and 37%, respectively).

Age of Independents

Within Florida’s Jewish electorate, those in younger age groups are more likely to identify as Independent compared with older adults. Jewish adults ages 18-24 are about 50% more likely to identify as Independent than Jewish adults ages 65 or older (43% vs. 28%, respectively).
Of Florida’s 27 congressional districts, the 20 with significant Jewish adult populations account for 94% of the state’s Jewish electorate. Mostly concentrated around Florida’s southeastern coast, these districts include metropolitan areas across the state, including West Palm Beach, Miami, Fort Lauderdale, Jacksonville, Sarasota, and Orlando.

Among these top 20 districts, three (FL-21, FL-23, and FL-22) have more than 75,000 Jewish adults, together comprising nearly half (46%) of Florida’s Jewish electorate.
Competitive Districts

The majority of Florida's congressional districts—23 out of 27—are considered safe for incumbent representatives in upcoming House elections. Of these, 12 are represented by Republicans and 11 by Democrats. The remaining districts, split evenly between parties, are considered competitive in November 2020.³

Only six of Florida's 27 districts are rated as competitive in the presidential election. Of these, just two—FL-27 and FL-18—have significant Jewish populations.

Florida Competitive House Races

Four of Florida's 27 congressional districts are considered competitive House races in 2020.

Twelve of Florida's congressional districts are considered solidly Republican. Of these, FL-18, represented by Brian Mast (R), is the only district with a significant Jewish electorate (~41,000). FL-18 is likely to remain Republican, though it is considered competitive in the presidential election.

FL-16, represented by Vern Buchanan (R), is likely to remain Republican. It has been a red district since 2009 and is home to 3.4% (~24,000 Jewish adults) of the Florida Jewish electorate.

FL-15, represented by Ross Spano (R), leans Republican and until recently has been a stronghold for the Republican Party. It is home to less than 2% (~8,000 Jewish adults) of Florida’s Jewish electorate.

FL-26, represented by Debbie Mucarsel Powell (D), leans Democratic and is home to 1.6% (~11,000 Jewish adults) of Florida’s Jewish electorate.

Eleven of Florida's 27 congressional districts are considered solidly Democratic.

FL-27, represented by Donna Shalala (D), is the only competitive district with a significant Jewish population. It is located entirely within Miami-Dade County and is home to 5.6% (~41,000 Jewish adults) of the Florida Jewish electorate. The district is likely to remain Democratic in 2020 but is also rated competitive in the presidential election.

FL-27, represented by Donna Shalala (D), is the only competitive district with a significant Jewish population. It is located entirely within Miami-Dade County and is home to 5.6% (~41,000 Jewish adults) of the Florida Jewish electorate. The district is likely to remain Democratic in 2020 but is also rated competitive in the presidential election.
FL-18 District Profile

FL-18 has the fifth largest Jewish adult population in the state. Although the district is represented by Republican Brian Mast and voted for President Trump (53.3%) in 2016, the district is rated as competitive for the 2020 presidential election.

FL-18 spans St. Lucie, Martin, and northern Palm Beach counties and contains ~41,000 Jewish adults, representing 5.9% of the overall voting-age population. A majority of the FL-18 Jewish electorate identifies with or leans toward the Democratic Party (55%), and a plurality identifies as politically moderate (40%). As in much of South Florida, FL-18 skews older, with nearly half of Jewish adults ages 65 and older (47%). A high Jewish population density cluster is located in the mainland areas of Port St. Lucie and Fort Pierce in the north, and Juno Beach, Palm Beach Gardens, and Jupiter in the south. Although 46% of the district's adults live in these areas, 80% of Jewish adults reside there.

**Previous Election Results: FL-18**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2016 Presidential</th>
<th>2018 Congressional</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>R 53.3%</td>
<td>R 54.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D 44.1%</td>
<td>D 45.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **5.9%** of the voting-age population is Jewish
- **41,000** Jewish Adults
- **80%** of the Jewish electorate lives in the high-density areas in the north and south of the district

**Political Ideology**

- Liberal: 33%
- Moderate: 40%
- Conservative: 27%

**Partisan Identification**

- Democrat & Lean Democrat: 55%
- Independent/No lean: 4%
- Republican & Lean Republican: 39%

**Age**

- 18-64: 47%
- 65+: 38%
- 15%
Among Florida's four competitive House races, only FL-27 (D-Shalala) is home to a significant Jewish adult population (~41,000). Jewish adults account for 4.8% of the adult population in the district, which is located entirely within Miami-Dade County.

A more densely populated area includes ZIP Codes in downtown Miami and Miami Beach in the north. A second, less dense area includes ZIP Codes in South Miami and Kendall in the south. About 70% of the district's voting-age adults, including those who identify as Jewish, reside in the northern area. The Jewish adult population in FL-27 is not as old as the Jewish adult population in Florida overall, particularly in the more densely populated northern cluster.

The more densely populated areas of downtown Miami and Miami Beach are home to ~71% of Jewish adults

South Miami and Kendall are home to about ~29% of Jewish adults

6.1% of the voting-age population is Jewish

41,000 Jewish Adults

71% of the Jewish electorate lives in the Miami and Miami Beach areas in the north

Political Ideology

Liberal Moderate Conservative

44% 19% 38%

Partisan Identification

Democrat & Lean Democrat Independent/No lean Republican & Lean Republican

62% 8% 28%

49% 13% 12% 17%

‡ Interpret data with caution. The coefficient of variation (CV) for the "lean" political estimate is greater than 30%.
NOTES

¹ Methodology: Individual-level data from all surveys were combined using Bayesian multilevel modeling with poststratification. Poststratification included geographic distributions of respondents by ZIP Codes within congressional districts, and demographic characteristics of age, educational attainment, race/ethnicity, population density, as well as interactions of age by educational attainment, population density by age, and population density by educational attainment. Modeling is based on Jewish adults who self-identify as Jewish when asked about their religion. Estimates of “Total Jewish Adults” are obtained by adding to the model-based estimate, independent estimates of the percentage of Jewish adults who do not identify religiously as Jewish. This percentage can range from a low of 10% to a high of 30% depending on the region.

² Partisan lean of Independents was estimated using a design-based pooled analysis method in which each survey’s original survey weights were adjusted for survey specific designs and sample sizes. This method is not as sensitive to estimation of rare populations as the Bayesian methods used for the main Jewish population estimates but provides an initial ballpark estimate of the groups of interest. Follow-up studies will compare these estimates to those derived from more fully developed Bayesian model-based estimates.

³ Congressional district competitive scores from Cook Political Report and fivethirtyeight.com; data accessed May 2020.