OHIO REPORT

An Analysis of the Jewish Electorate for the Jewish Electorate Institute by the American Jewish Population Project
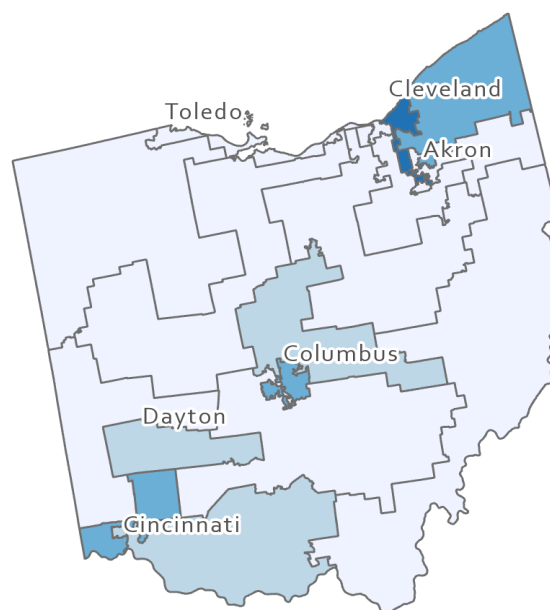
At the request of the non-partisan Jewish Electorate Institute, researchers at the American Jewish Population Project at Brandeis University's Steinhardt Social Research Institute conducted an analysis of hundreds of national surveys of US adults to describe the Jewish electorate in each of the 435 districts 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 percentages of political identity are not sensitive to quick changes in attitudes that can result from current events and they are not necessarily indicative of voting behaviors. The following report presents a portrait of the Jewish electorate in Ohio and its 16 congressional districts.[1]

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Approximately 1.3% of Ohio's adult population is Jewish (~117,000).[2] Worth 18 electoral votes, Ohio was won by Trump by roughly the same margin in the 2016 and 2020 presidential elections (+8.1%).
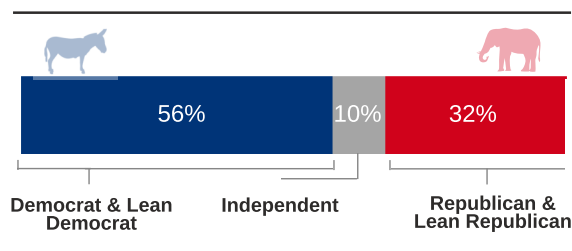
OVERVIEW: THE OHIO JEWISH ELECTORATE

The majority of Jewish adults (~60%) in Ohio reside in congressional districts that include the metropolitan areas around Cleveland, Columbus, and Cincinnati.
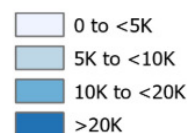
The Jewish electorate predominately identifies with or leans toward the Democratic Party (56%) compared with 65% of the Jewish electorate nationally. About one third (32%) identify with or lean toward the Republican Party.[3]
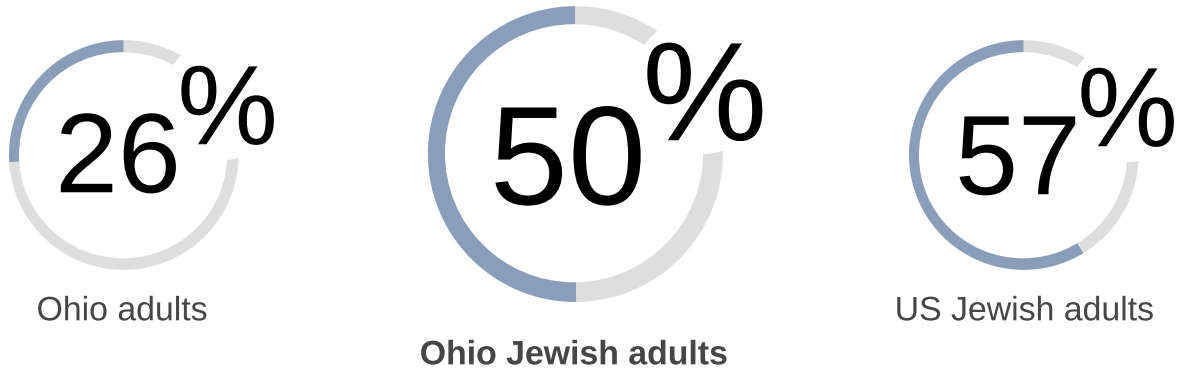
JEWISH ADULTS

56%	10%	32%
Democrat & Lean Democrat	**Independent**	**Republican & Lean Republican**

Total does not sum to 100% due to omitted "Other" category.

Toledo   Cleveland   Akron   Columbus   Dayton   Cincinnati

☐	0 to <5K
☐	5K to <10K
☐	10K to <20K
■	>20K

STATE-LEVEL DEMOGRAPHICS

Adults with a College Degree

26%

Ohio adults

50%

Ohio Jewish adults

57%

US Jewish adults

Half of the Ohio Jewish electorate is college educated. Compared to the general adult population of the state, Ohio's Jewish electorate is more likely to be college educated (50% vs. 26%); however, Jewish adults in Ohio are less likely to have a college degree compared to Jewish adults nationally (57%).

Age

The Jewish electorate in Ohio is slightly older than the rest of the state, with a greater proportion of Jewish adults ages 65+ (28% vs. 23%).

■ Jewish Adults

▪ OH Adults

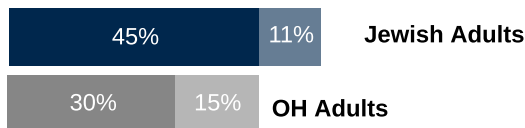| Age	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+
Jewish Adults	13%	15%	12%	13%	19%	28%
OH Adults	12%	17%	15%	16%	18%	23%
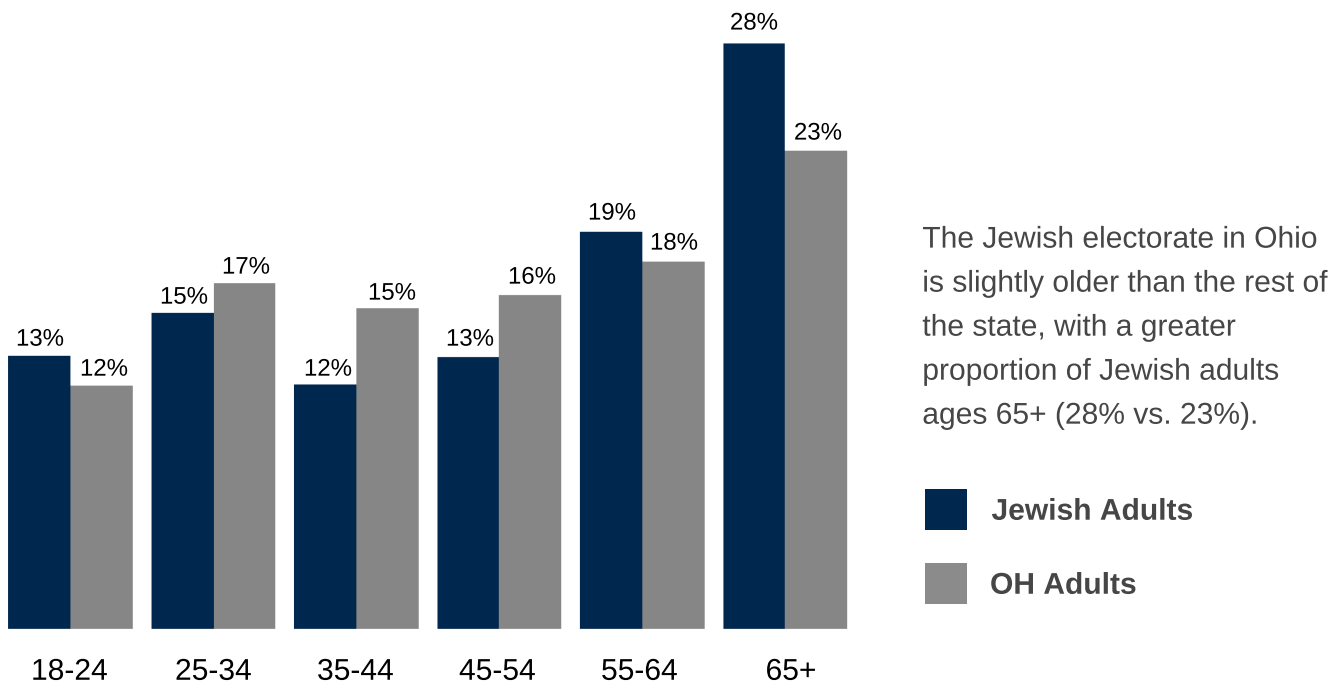
STATE-LEVEL POLITICS

Jewish adults in Ohio are more likely to identify as Democrats than all adults in the state (56% and 45%, respectively). Within this group, 45% of Jewish adults identify with the Democratic Party when asked if they identify with a political party. An additional 11% say they lean toward the Democratic Party. Among all Ohio adults, these proportions are 30% and 15%, respectively.

When asked about political ideology, Jewish adults in Ohio are far more likely to identify as liberal (38%) than all adults in the state (23%). Jewish adults are also far less likely to identify as conservative (24%) than all adults (40%). Both groups, Jewish adults and the general Ohio population, identify as moderate in approximately equal proportions (39% and 38%, respectively).

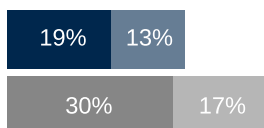### Partisan Identification, Jewish Adults vs. OH Adults

Democrat / Lean Democrat

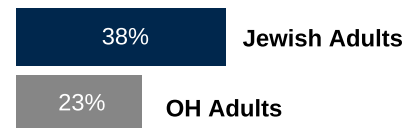| 45% | 11% | **Jewish Adults** |
| 30% | 15% | **OH Adults** |

Independent (No Lean)

10%

8%

Republican / Lean Republican

| 19% | 13% |
| 30% | 17% |

Political Orientation, Jewish Adults vs. OH Adults

Liberal

| 38% | **Jewish Adults** |
| 23% | **OH Adults** |

Moderate

39%

38%

Conservative

24%

40%

Age of Independents

Within Ohio'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 just over 60% more likely to identify as Independent than Jewish adults ages 65 or older (44% vs. 27%, respectively).
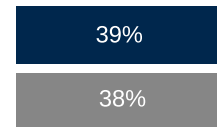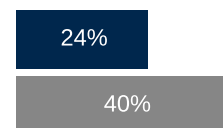
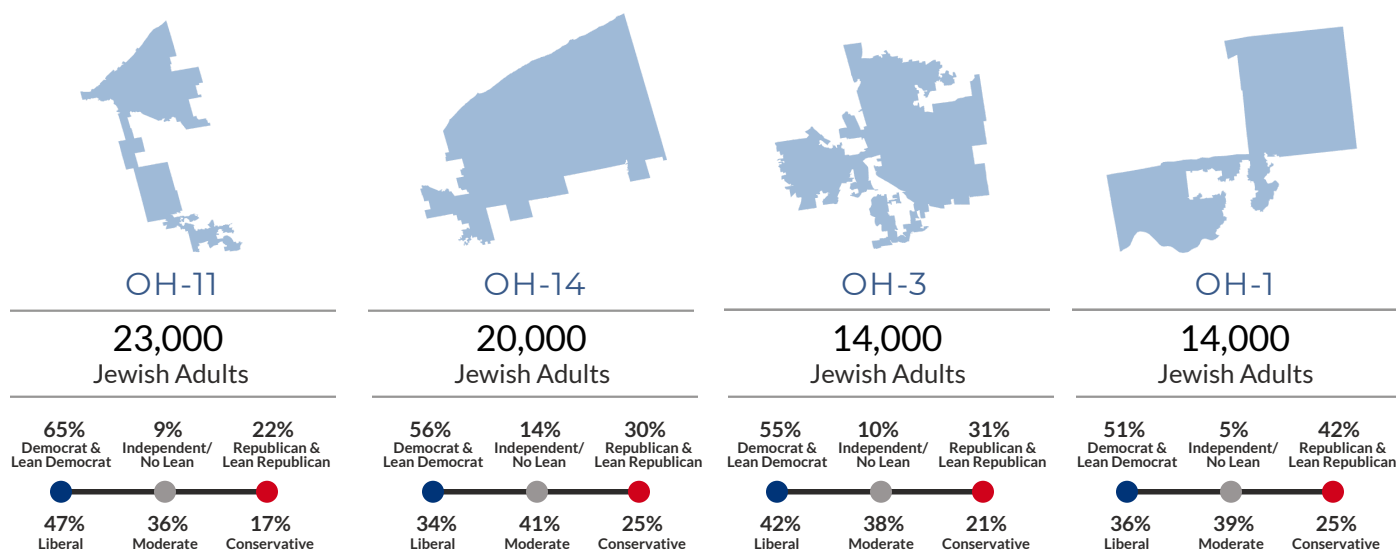**% Independent among Ohio Jewish Adults, by Age Group**

18-24	44%
25-34	40%
35-44	37%
45-54	33%
55-64	30%
65+	27%
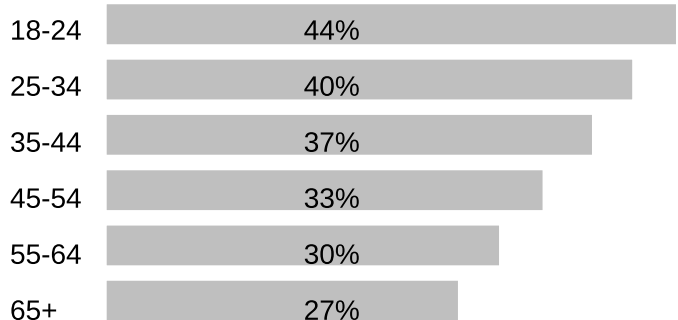
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS

Congressional Districts	Pct. Jewish	Jewish Adults*	Representative
OH-11	4.4	23,000	Marcia Fudge (D)
OH-14	3.6	20,000	David Joyce (R)
OH-3	2.3	14,000	Joyce Beatty (D)
OH-1	2.4	14,000	Steve Chabot (R)
OH-2	1.7	9,000	Brad Wenstrup (R)

* Estimates are based on a synthesis of sample surveys and may have a margin of error between +/- 2,000 to 4,000, depending on the estimate.
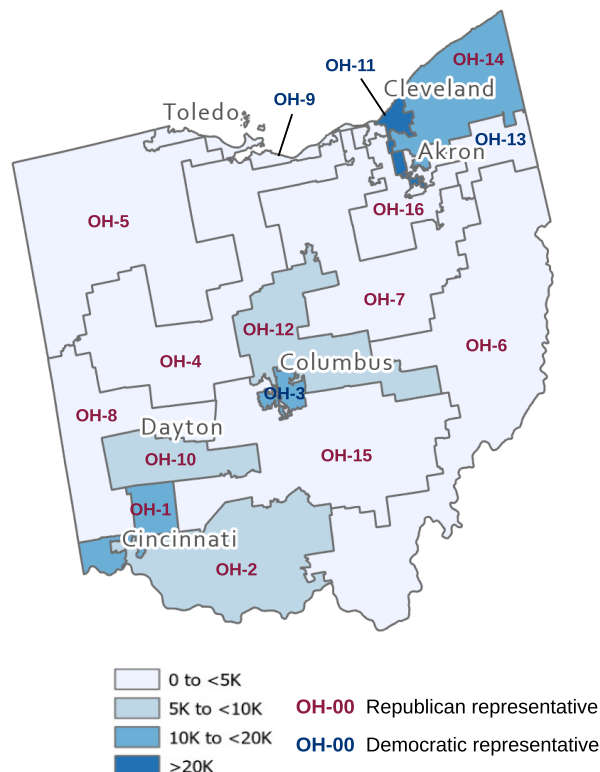
Of Ohio's 16 congressional districts, the top five by Jewish population account for a majority (~64%) of the state's total Jewish electorate. These districts include areas in and around Cincinnati, Columbus, and Cleveland.

0 to <5K
5K to <10K
10K to <20K
>20K

OH-00 Republican representative
OH-00 Democratic representative

The top four districts—those with more than 10,000 Jewish adults—are split equally between Democratic and Republican representatives. Altogether, these districts are home to ~71,000 Jewish adults, the majority of whom identify as or lean Democratic when asked about political affiliation. When asked about their political ideology, pluralities of Jewish adults identify as liberal in OH-11 (47%) and OH-3 (42%), and as moderate in OH-14 (41%) and OH-1 (39%).

OH-11
23,000
Jewish Adults

65% Democrat & Lean Democrat	9% Independent/ No Lean	22% Republican & Lean Republican
47% Liberal	36% Moderate	17% Conservative

OH-14
20,000
Jewish Adults

56% Democrat & Lean Democrat	14% Independent/ No Lean	30% Republican & Lean Republican
34% Liberal	41% Moderate	25% Conservative

OH-3
14,000
Jewish Adults

55% Democrat & Lean Democrat	10% Independent/ No Lean	31% Republican & Lean Republican
42% Liberal	38% Moderate	21% Conservative

OH-1
14,000
Jewish Adults

51% Democrat & Lean Democrat	5% Independent/ No Lean	42% Republican & Lean Republican
36% Liberal	39% Moderate	25% Conservative

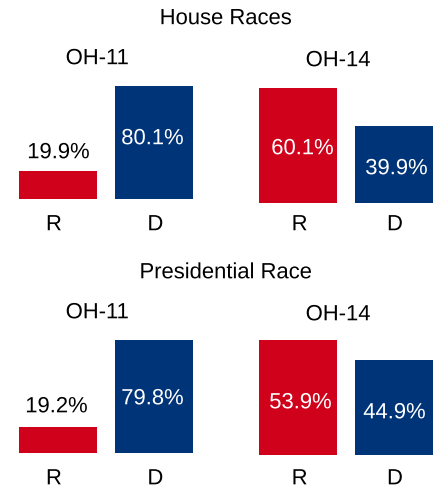**Brandeis** | STEINHARDT SOCIAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE

OH-11 & OH-14 District Profiles

Over a third of Ohio's Jewish electorate lives in two congressional districts: OH-11, represented by Marcia Fudge (D), and OH-14, represented by David Joyce (R). These districts, located in the northeastern corner of the state, include portions of Cleveland, Akron, and the surrounding areas. OH-11 is reliably Democratic, with ~80% of all adults casting their votes for both of the Democratic candidates in 2020.

A majority of the Jewish electorate in Ohio's 11th district identifies with or leans toward the Democratic Party (65%). In OH-14, just 56% of Jewish adults identify with or leans Democratic, and nearly one third (30%) identifies with or leans Republican.

In OH-11, the majority of Jewish adults (~83%) live in 13 ZIP Codes in the northeast portion of the district.* In OH-14, about half of Jewish adults live in 12 ZIP Codes in the district's southwest corner.**
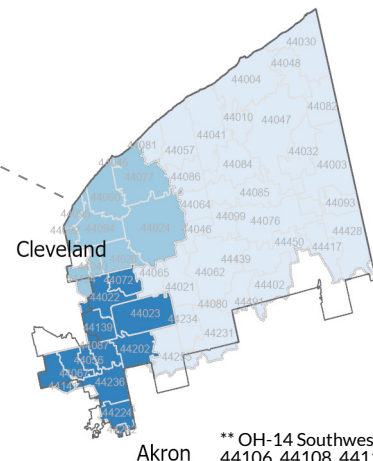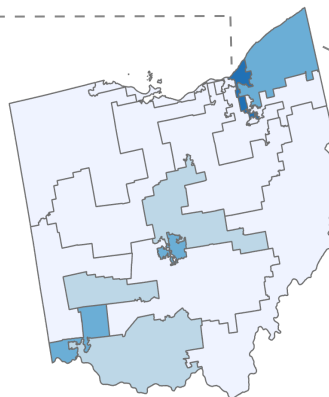
OH-11 and OH-14: 2020 Election Results

House Races

OH-11: R 19.9% / D 80.1%
OH-14: R 60.1% / D 39.9%

Presidential Race

OH-11: R 19.2% / D 79.8%
OH-14: R 53.9% / D 44.9%

* OH-11 Northeast ZIP Codes: 44106, 44108, 44110, 44112, 44117, 44118, 44119, 44120, 44121, 44122, 44123, 44132, 44143.
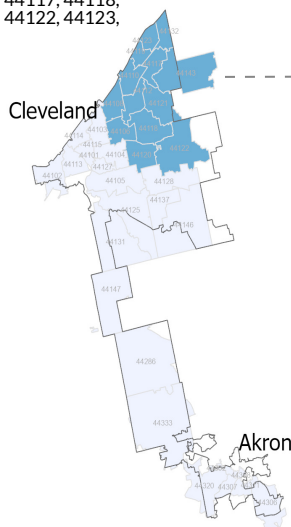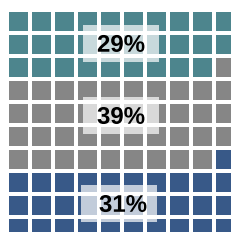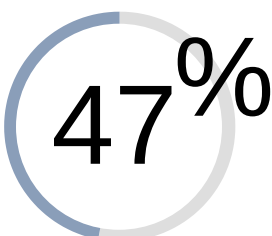
** OH-14 Southwest ZIP Codes: 44106, 44108, 44110, 44112, 44117, 44118, 44119, 44120, 44121, 44122, 44123, 44132, 44143.
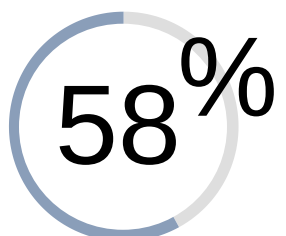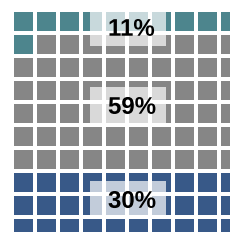
OH-11
College educated: 47%
Age: Ages 18-24: 29%, Ages 25-64: 39%, Ages 65+: 31%

OH-14
Age: Ages 18-24: 11%, Ages 25-64: 59%, Ages 65+: 30%
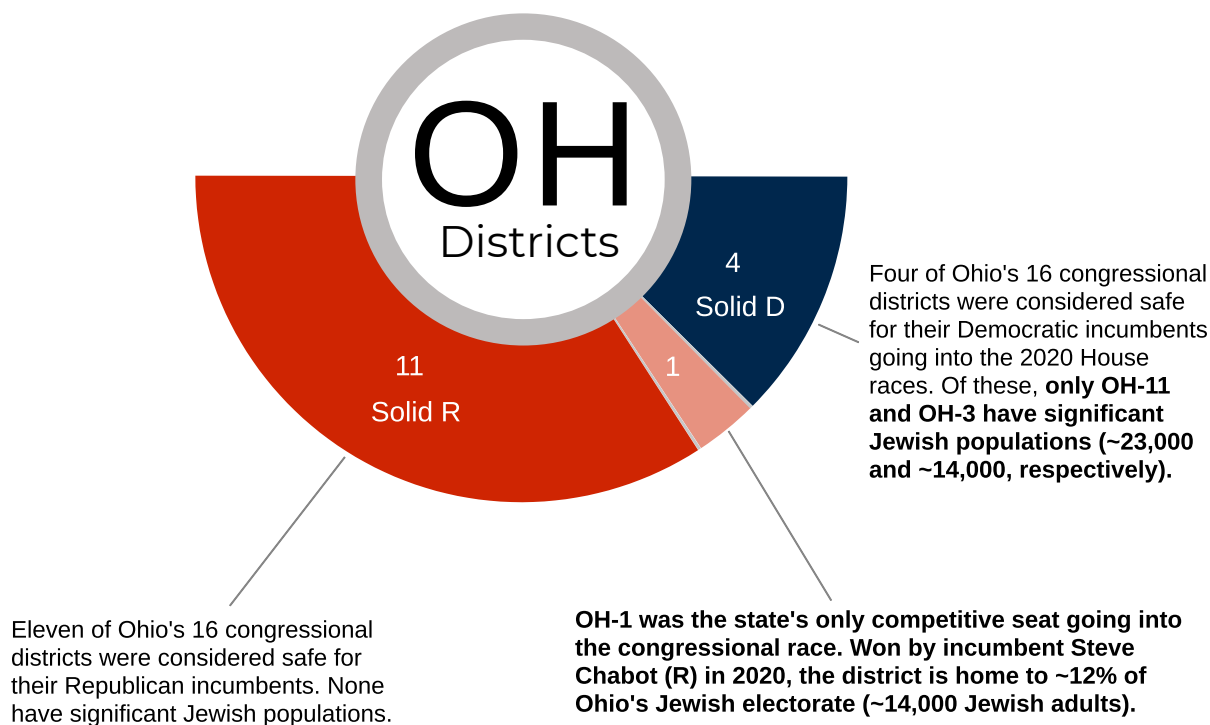College educated: 58%

The Competitive District

About two-thirds of Ohio's House seats are held by Republicans and, with the exception of OH-1, were considered safe for their incumbents going into the 2020 elections. The other four districts, represented by Democrats, were also considered safe for both their incumbents and for Joe Biden.[4]

Ohio's first congressional district was considered a toss-up ahead of the 2020 House races. Republican incumbent Steve Chabot kept his seat, defeating the Democratic challenger, Kate Schroder.

Ohio 2020 House Races

One of Ohio's 16 House races was considered competitive in 2020.

OH
Districts

4
Solid D

11
Solid R

1

Four of Ohio's 16 congressional districts were considered safe for their Democratic incumbents going into the 2020 House races. Of these, **only OH-11 and OH-3 have significant Jewish populations (~23,000 and ~14,000, respectively).**

Eleven of Ohio's 16 congressional districts were considered safe for their Republican incumbents. None have significant Jewish populations.

OH-1 was the state's only competitive seat going into the congressional race. Won by incumbent Steve Chabot (R) in 2020, the district is home to ~12% of Ohio's Jewish electorate (~14,000 Jewish adults).

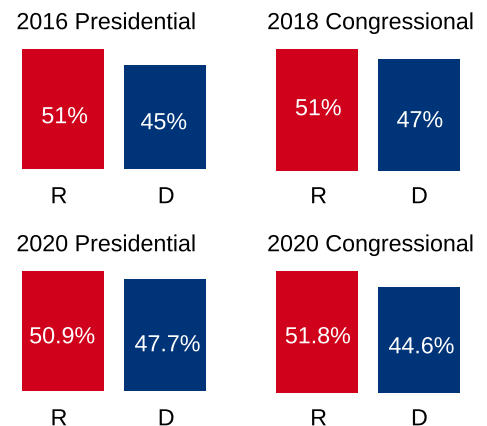**Brandeis** | STEINHARDT SOCIAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE
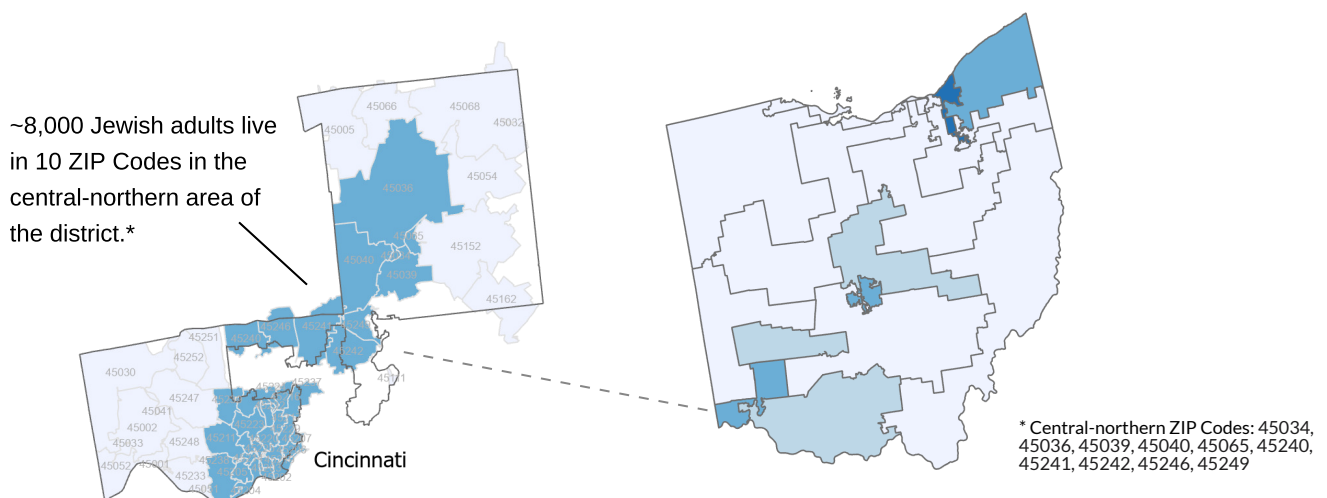
OH-1 District Profile

OH-1 has the fourth largest Jewish adult population in the state. Trump won here by about 6% of the vote in 2016, and again by 3% in 2020. In the 2020 congressional race, the district was rated as a toss-up, but Republican incumbent Steve Chabot went on to win another term by defeating Democratic challenger Kate Schroder.

Bordering Kentucky and Indiana, OH-1 is home to ~14,000 Jewish adults, accounting for about 2.4% of the district's voting-age population. Compared to the state's overall Jewish electorate, a slightly larger proportion of Jewish adults in OH-1 are college educated (50% and 55%, respectively).

Election Results: OH-1

2016 Presidential
51% R | 45% D

2018 Congressional
51% R | 47% D

2020 Presidential
50.9% R | 47.7% D
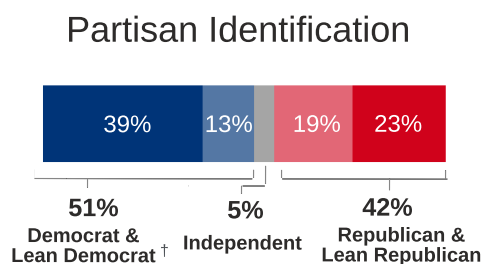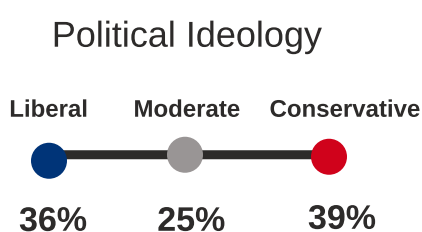
2020 Congressional
51.8% R | 44.6% D

Although a majority of the OH-1 Jewish electorate identifies with or leans toward the Democratic Party (55%), Jewish adults in this district are more likely to identify with or lean toward the Republican Party (30%) than Jewish adults in the rest of the state (26%).

~8,000 Jewish adults live in 10 ZIP Codes in the central-northern area of the district.*

Cincinnati

* Central-northern ZIP Codes: 45034, 45036, 45039, 45040, 45065, 45240, 45241, 45242, 45246, 45249

2.4%
of the voting-age population is Jewish

14,000
Jewish Adults

55%
of the Jewish electorate lives in 10 ZIP Codes in the central-northern area

Political Ideology

Liberal — Moderate — Conservative

36% — **25%** — **39%**

Partisan Identification

39% | 13% | 19% | 23%

51%
Democrat & Lean Democrat †

5%
Independent

42%
Republican & Lean Republican

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

Age

18-34   29%
35-64   45%
65+   26%
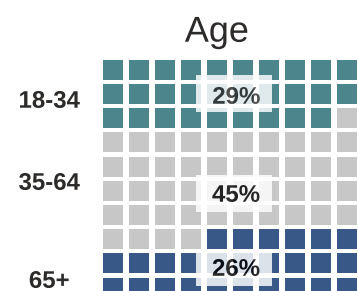
NOTES

[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 to 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] State-level Jewish adult totals are estimated from AJPP 2020 models and adjustments for Jewish adults who do not identify religiously as Jewish.

[3] 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.

[4] Congressional district competitive scores from Cook Political Report House Race Ratings (Nov 2, 2020) and FiveThirtyEight's Partisan Lean (Oct 19, 2020); data accessed January 2021.