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 Ohio and its 16 congressional districts.¹
Approximately 1.4% of Ohio’s adult population is Jewish (~125,000). Worth 18 electoral votes, Ohio was won by President Obama in 2012 (+2.9%; 166,272 votes) and swung to President Trump in 2016 (+8.1%; 446,841).

OVERVIEW: THE OHIO JEWISH ELECTORATE

The majority of Jewish adults (64%) 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%). About one third (32%) identify with or lean toward the Republican Party.²

![Jewish Adults Chart]

*Total does not sum to 100% due to omitted “Other” category.*
STATE-LEVEL DEMOGRAPHICS

Adults with a College Degree

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%).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>OH Adults</th>
<th>Jewish Adults</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>18-24</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25-34</td>
<td>15%</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35-44</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45-54</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>55-64</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>65+</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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).

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).
Of Ohio's 16 congressional districts, the top five by Jewish population account for a majority (~64%) of the state's total Jewish electorate (~80,000 out of ~125,000). These districts include areas in and around Cincinnati, Columbus, and Cleveland.

The top four districts—those with more than 10,000 Jewish adults—are split equally by Democratic and Republican representatives and, altogether, are home to ~71,000 Jewish adults. Ohio's 1st congressional district is considered competitive for incumbent Representative Steve Chabot (R). Representatives in the other three districts, including David Joyce (R) in OH-14, Marcia Fudge (D) in OH-11, and Joyce Beatty (D) in OH-3, are considered safe in the upcoming House races.
OH-11 & OH-14 District Profiles

Just over one third of Ohio’s Jewish electorate lives in just two congressional districts: OH-11 and OH-14. These districts, located in the northeast corner of the state, include portions of Cleveland and Akron metropolitan areas and the surrounding suburbs.

A majority of the Jewish electorate in Ohio’s 11th district identifies with or leans toward the Democratic Party (65%). Among all adults, the district leans Democratic, with ~81% casting their vote for Clinton in 2016, compared with just 17% who voted for President Trump. In the 14th congressional district, just 56% of Jewish adults identify with or leans toward the Democratic Party, and nearly one third (30%) identifies or leans Republican. The 14th district is considered a pivot district—one that voted Democrat in 2012 and then Republican in 2016—and is currently represented by Republican David Joyce.

In OH-11, the majority of Jewish adults (~83%) live in 13 ZIP Codes in the northern suburbs surrounding Cleveland. A similar pattern emerges in OH-14, where about half of Jewish adults live in 12 ZIP Codes in the southwest corner bordering the 11th district.

2016 Presidential Election Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Republican %</th>
<th>Democratic %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>OH-11</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>80.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OH-14</td>
<td>53.4%</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ages 18-24: 29% College educated, 39% Ages 25-64, 31% Ages 65+
Ages 11% College educated, 59% Ages 25-64, 30% Ages 65+

Ages 18-24: 47% College educated, 39% Ages 25-64, 31% Ages 65+
Ages 58% College educated, 59% Ages 25-64, 30% Ages 65+

Cleveland
Akron

Brandeis
STEINHARDT SOCIAL RESEARCH INSTITUTE
About two thirds of Ohio’s House seats are held by Republicans. All are considered safe for incumbents with the exception of OH-1, which is also considered competitive in the upcoming presidential race. The four districts held by Democrats are all considered safe for incumbents, as well as for the Democratic presidential nominee, Joe Biden.³

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

OH-1 is the state’s only competitive seat in the upcoming House races. Represented by Steve Chabot (R), the district leans toward the Republican Party and is home to 11.1% (~14,000 Jewish adults) of Ohio’s Jewish electorate. It is also considered competitive in the upcoming presidential race.

Four of Ohio’s 16 congressional districts are considered safe for their Democratic incumbents. Of these two—OH-11 and OH-3—have Jewish populations greater than or equal to ~14,000.

Ohio Competitive House Races
One of Ohio’s 16 congressional districts is considered a competitive House race in 2020.
OH-1 District Profile

OH-1 has the fourth largest Jewish adult population in the state and is represented by Republican Steve Chabot. President Trump won this district by about 6% of the vote in 2016, but it is expected to be competitive in the upcoming House and presidential races.

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).

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.*

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

* Northern ZIP Codes: 45034, 45036, 45039, 45040, 45045, 45240, 45241, 45242, 45246, 45249

† 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 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 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.