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For more information, please contact: Greg Gatlin at 617-573-8428; <u>ggatlin@suffolk.edu</u> Gillian Smith at <u>gillian.smith@suffolk.edu</u>

Suffolk University/USA TODAY National Voter Poll: Complicated Attitudes Toward Protests Over Israel-Hamas War in Gaza

BOSTON—A new Suffolk University/*USA TODAY* national poll shows complicated attitudes toward the protests over the Israel-Hamas war in Gaza, dividing Democrats and unifying Republicans.

Some college campuses have seen large demonstrations protesting the Israel-Hamas war and demanding that schools cut financial ties to Israel and corporations that do business with Israel. According to the poll, 32% of Democrats said they support the protests, while 38% said they agree with the protestors' demands but oppose the way they are conducting themselves, and 17% said they oppose the protests.

Among Biden voters, 30% support the protests, 39% support the protestors' demands but oppose the way they are conducting themselves, and 20% oppose the protests.

Meanwhile, 81% of Republicans said they oppose the protests, with 4% saying they support the protests, and 9% saying they agree with the protestors' demands but oppose the way they are conducting themselves.

Among Trump voters, 5% support the protests, 9% support the protestors' demands but oppose the way they are conducting themselves, and 78% oppose the protests.

In the poll of all voters, 19% said they support the protests, 24% said they agree with the protestors' demands but oppose the way they are conducting themselves, 46% oppose the protests, and 12% were either undecided or refused to respond to the question.

Support for the protests was highest among younger voters: 35% of voters ages 18-34 said they support the protests, while 27% of the same group said they agree with the protestors' demands but oppose the way they are conducting themselves, and 27% said they oppose the protests.

The oldest voters, those 65 and older, is the age group that is the most supportive of Biden, followed by those ages 35 to 49. These older voters are also the most aligned against the protests; 54% oppose them and just 10% support them.

When voters were asked whether pro-Palestinian demonstrations reflect antisemitism, 41% said yes and 40% said no.

When asked whether they think the majority of pro-Palestinian demonstrators are pro-Hamas, 33% of voters said yes and 43% of voters said no, with 24% undecided or refusing to respond.

When asked how concerned they were that campus demonstrations will result in violence, 32% said they were "very" concerned, 35% said they were "somewhat" concerned, 15% said they were "not very" concerned, 14% said they were "not at all" concerned, and 3% were undecided.

Methodology

The nationwide Suffolk University/USA TODAY survey was conducted April 30-May 3, through live interviews of 1,000 registered voters, residing in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. Quota and demographic information—including region, race, and age—were determined from 2020 national census data. States were grouped into four general regions. Surveys were administered in English and Spanish. The margin of sampling error for results based on the total sample is +/-3.1 percentage points. Marginals and full cross-tabulation data are posted on the Suffolk University Political Research Center website. For more information, contact David Paleologos at 781-290-9310, dpaleologos@suffolk.edu.

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