

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

August 26, 2016

**Media Contact:** Matt Dorf, West End Strategy Team  
202-776-7700, [matt@westendstrategy.com](mailto:matt@westendstrategy.com)

**NEW POLL OF FLORIDA JEWS:  
Progressive Domestic Issues Drive Vote, Clinton Holds *HUGE* Lead Over Trump**

WASHINGTON— Jewish voters in Florida overwhelmingly support Hillary Clinton over Donald Trump, say the economy, ISIS/terrorism and the Supreme Court are most important to them in deciding their vote, and reject banning Muslims from the United States, according to a poll released today.

The poll of 500 Florida Jewish voters conducted by GBA Strategies finds Clinton holding a 43-point lead over Trump, which is on par with the record of past democratic presidential candidates among Jews nationally.

The telephone survey using landlines and mobile phones conducted August 4-8 finds Clinton's margin of support over Donald Trump (66-23 percent) among Florida's Jews tracks closely with Jewish support for Democratic presidential candidates since exit polling began in 1972. As a point of comparison, in 2012, President Obama won the Jewish vote in Florida by 37 points.

There remains a solid block of Republican Jews – nationally and in Florida – who identify as ideological conservatives and give Republican presidential candidates a floor of approximately 25 percent in a two-way vote.

“Despite the quadrennial cry that ‘this will be the year that Republicans will win Jewish voters,’ and television crews inevitably rushing to South Florida to interview a handful of Jewish voters who support the Republican candidate, the data show that Florida Jewish voters remain a solid and unwavering base constituency for Democrats,” said pollster Jim Gerstein.

Clinton's 57 percent favorable/33 percent unfavorable rating matches the Democratic party's favorability, while Trump has an abysmal 21 percent favorable/71 percent unfavorable rating that is similar to the Republican Party's 19 percent favorable/67 percent unfavorable rating. Clinton's favorability among Florida's Jews (+24) is dramatically higher than it is among Americans overall (-10, Real Clear Politics, August 2016).

The most important issues that Florida Jews say will determine their votes are the economy, ISIS, and the Supreme Court, and Clinton's most resonant positive messages among Florida's Jews center on equal opportunity for all Americans, women's rights, and the high stakes in the elections that will impact the Supreme Court, Obamacare and equal protection. Arguments against Trump also connect with these voters, and his temperament and denigration of women are a powerful contrast with Clinton. In a near mirror image of Clinton's messaging success, Trump's messages, both positive and negative, fell uniformly flat with Florida's Jewish electorate.

“This poll establishes in Florida what we have long known about the way the Jewish community politically engages,” said Alex Soros, chair of Bend the Arc Jewish Action. “We are progressive voters who support social and political equality, civil rights and liberties, and access to affordable housing, educational opportunity, and health care. We build working alliances across demographic, geographic and generational lines to advance the kinds of causes which are also central to the Democratic Party's agenda.”

Florida Jews' strong objections to banning Muslims from entering the United States (19 percent support/75 percent oppose) underscore the core values that contribute to Jewish political identification, and exceed the opposition among the general U.S. population (35 percent support/59 percent oppose; CBS News/New York Times, July 12, 2016).

"For Jews, the sense of ourselves as strangers in a strange land is etched not only in our texts, but in our collective memory, as immigrants many of whom came to this country fleeing anti-Semitic oppression and violence," Soros said. "History has taught us where divisive and xenophobic rhetoric can lead."

Tellingly, Florida's Jews support Trump's candidacy (23 percent) at almost the same rate as Hispanic voters (22 percent, NBC Poll, August 22, 2016), who have been among the primary targets of Trump's insult and derision throughout the campaign.

The issue of Israel neared the bottom of the list of voting priorities. Only eight percent of those surveyed list Israel as one of their top two issues in determining their vote for president, ranking it ninth out of 13 issues. These findings are consistent with numerous national polls of Jews over the past decade.

"For Jewish voters, Israel is a threshold voting issue. Once candidates demonstrate that they are supportive of Israel, voters move on to consider other issues that more directly affect their daily lives. This has been a very stable dynamic for several years," said Gerstein.

Orthodox Jews as a group comprise the single outlier to this trend, with 46 percent identifying Israel as one of their top two voting priorities. They constitute the only group within the survey—including age, education and denomination—to identify as majority Republicans (67 percent). They hold extremely positive views of President George W. Bush (+69) and extremely negative views of President Barak Obama (-55). Sixty-six percent support Trump's candidacy and show little chance of changing in this election.

The majority of Florida's Jews support the Iran nuclear deal (51-39 percent), the negotiations of which began under Clinton's tenure as Secretary of State. They, in fact, back the deal in greater numbers than do Americans as a whole (45-44 percent, ABC News/Washington Post, October 10, 2015).

"One of the fundamental findings of this poll is the stability of the Jewish vote. Voters are locked in along partisan lines, which heavily favors Secretary Clinton in this highly Democratic constituency," said Gerstein. "When it comes to the Jewish vote in Florida, the primary focus of Clinton supporters should be maximizing Jewish turnout."

The full poll and analysis is available at [www.westendstrategy.com/florida](http://www.westendstrategy.com/florida).

###