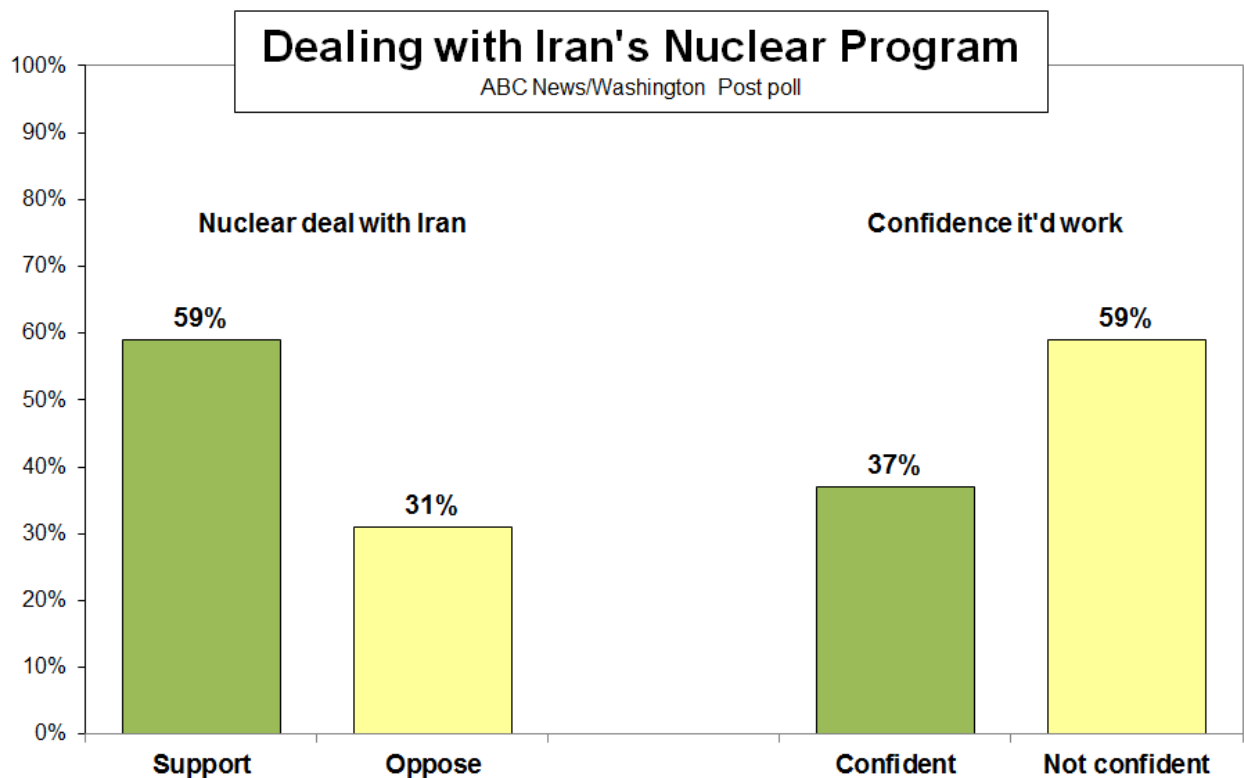


Americans Favor Deal with Iran by 2-1; Relations with Israel are Highly Politicized

Americans by a 2-1 margin favor an agreement with Iran over its nuclear development program, even while broadly questioning whether a deal would in fact prevent Tehran from producing nuclear weapons.

A new national ABC News/Washington Post poll also finds sharply politicized views of U.S.-Israel relations, which have been strained by the two allies' dispute over the advisability of an agreement with Iran.

In a result that supports the Obama administration's position in the face of Republican and Israeli criticisms alike, Americans by 59-31 percent back a plan to lift major economic sanctions against Iran in exchange for restrictions making it harder for it to produce nuclear weapons.



The finding in the survey, produced for ABC by [Langer Research Associates](#), is in concert with longstanding preferences for diplomatic rather than military solutions to international conflicts,

when possible. It comes as Secretary of State John Kerry seeks a framework for an agreement, working with negotiators from Iran, Great Britain, France, Germany, Russia and China. Their self-imposed deadline was today.

While still a clear majority, support for a deal has slipped slightly from 64 percent in November 2013. It comes even though 59 percent are not particularly confident that such an agreement would achieve its goal of preventing Iran from developing nuclear arms. Support endures because even among those who are “not so confident” that an agreement will work, most still think it’s worth a try. Among those who are not at all confident, by contrast, most are opposed.

	Deal with Iran: Support-Oppose
Very/somewhat confident it’ll work	83-14%
Not so confident	67-23
Not at all confident	31-57

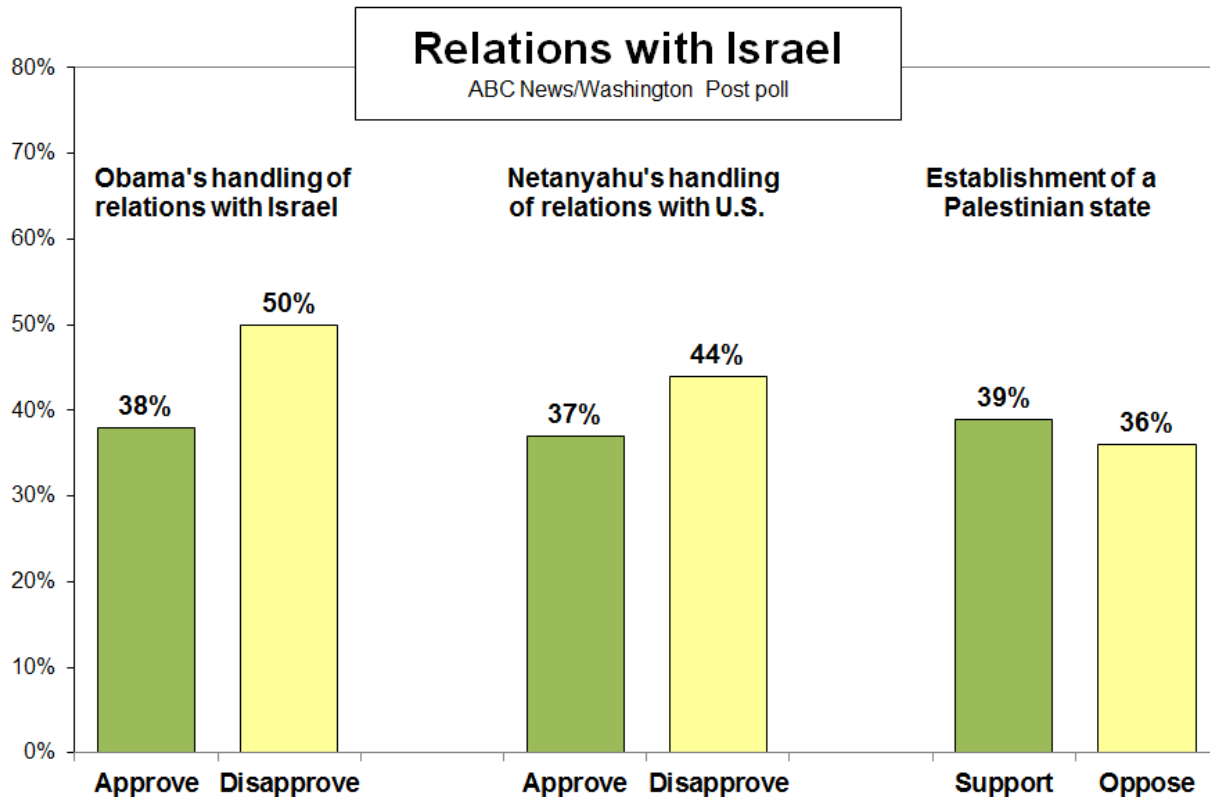
Support for an agreement peaks at 72 percent among liberals and 68 percent among Democrats, but also draws majorities of moderates and independents, 63 and 60 percent, respectively. Indeed, it’s backed by 46 percent of conservatives and 47 percent of Republicans – at least as many, in both groups, as oppose it. Forty-seven GOP U.S. senators wrote a letter to Tehran earlier this month opposing a deal, and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu accepted an invitation from Republican leaders to deliver an address to Congress criticizing the approach.

ISRAEL – The poll finds both Obama and Netanyahu underwater in their handling of U.S.-Israel relations. Just 38 percent approve of Obama’s handling of relations with Israel, and 37 percent approve of Netanyahu’s work on relations with the United States. Fifty and 44 percent, respectively, disapprove.

There’s vast partisanship in these views, marking the sharply politicized nature of current relations between the two longtime allies. Obama’s approval for handling relations with Israel ranges from 66 percent among Democrats to 34 percent of independents and a mere 8 percent of Republicans. Opinions on Netanyahu run the other way; 59 percent of Republicans approve of his handling of U.S. relations, vs. 37 percent of independents and just 21 percent of Democrats.

	All	% approve		
		Dems	Inds	Reps
Obama’s handling of U.S. relations with Israel	38%	66	34	8
Netanyahu’s handling of Israel’s relations with the United States	37	21	37	59

Lastly, the poll finds essentially a split decision on the establishment of a Palestinian state, a cornerstone of U.S. policy that Netanyahu appeared to call into question during his recent re-election campaign. While many are undecided, 39 percent support establishment of a Palestinian state on the West Bank and Gaza Strip, while 36 percent are opposed. That’s backed off from 58-22 percent in a Gallup poll in June 2003, as the Bush administration pushed its “Roadmap for Peace.”



Rather than partisanship, ideology is the stronger factor in attitudes on a Palestinian state. Support ranges from 58 percent among liberals to 41 percent of moderates, then drops to 30 percent of “somewhat” conservative Americans – and just 18 percent of those who are “very” conservative. Strikingly, there were no such divisions in 2003.

	Palestinian state:	
	Support	Oppose
All	39%	36
Liberals	58	24
Moderates	41	34
Somewhat conservatives	30	47
Very conservatives	18	56

METHODOLOGY – This ABC News/Washington Post poll was conducted by landline and cellular telephone March 26-29, 2015, in English and Spanish, among a random national sample of 1,003 adults. Results have a margin of [sampling error](#) of 3.5 points, including design effect.

The survey was produced for ABC News by [Langer Research Associates](#) of New York, N.Y., with sampling, data collection and tabulation by Abt-SRBI of New York, N.Y.

Analysis by Gary Langer.

ABC News polls can be found at ABCNEWS.com at <http://abcnews.com/pollingunit>.

Media contacts: [Van Scott, 212 456-7243](#), or [Julie Townsend, \(212\) 456-4934](#).

Full results follow.

* in data columns = less than 0.5 percent

1-9, 15-27 held for release.

10. Thinking now about the situation with Iran - would you support or oppose an agreement in which the United States and other countries would lift major economic sanctions against Iran, in exchange for Iran restricting its nuclear program in a way that makes it harder for it to produce nuclear weapons? Do you feel that way strongly or somewhat?

	----- Support -----			----- Oppose -----			No
	NET	Strongly	Somewhat	NET	Somewhat	Strongly	opinion
3/29/15	59	34	25	31	8	23	10
11/17/13*	64	NA	NA	30	NA	NA	7

*"... would lift some of their economic sanctions..."

11. How confident are you that such an agreement would prevent Iran from developing nuclear weapons - very confident, somewhat confident, not so confident or not confident at all?

	----- Confident -----			----- Not confident -----			No
	NET	Very	Somewhat	NET	Not so	Not at all	opinion
3/29/15	37	4	33	59	26	34	3
11/17/13	36	4	32	61	27	34	3

On another subject,

12. Do you support or oppose the establishment of an independent Palestinian state on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip?

	Support	Oppose	No opinion
3/29/15	39	36	25
2/11/15*	42	38	20
2/9/14	46	36	18
2/10/13	44	37	19
2/5/12	51	37	12
5/31/09	51	29	20
6/1/03	58	22	20
5/22/02	48	27	25
6/9/00	40	24	36
5/9/99	53	26	21
11/10/98	36	26	38
10/25/94	39	20	41

*2/15 and previous: Gallup; "favor" not "support"

13. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Obama is handling U.S. relations with Israel?

	Approve	Disapprove	No opinion
3/29/15	38	50	12

14. Do you approve or disapprove of the way Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is handling Israel's relations with the United States?

	Approve	Disapprove	No opinion
3/29/15	37	44	19

*** END ***