

## How Not to Measure Americans' Support for Israel

It's true that the issue has become politicized. But Americans are far more divided on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict than they are on Israel itself.

[Tamara Cofman Wittes](#) and [Daniel Shapiro](#) / Jan 26, 2018

When the Pew Research Center [released its findings](#) this week on American views of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the traditional handwringing ensued. Many pundits and reporters read in the results that Republicans and Democrats are growing further and further apart in their support for Israel. Based on the findings, some Israeli pundits and politicians, and many on the American right, have been arguing that Israel and its supporters should give up on the Democratic Party and its elected representatives as supporters of Israel. As the Republican Jewish Coalition tweeted,

The Pew poll is a terrible foundation for such claims, and the claims themselves demand close scrutiny. Support for Israel is, in fact, becoming a politicized issue in the United States, and partisan divides on policy toward the Israeli-Palestinian conflict are indeed getting wider. But the wrong response risks making Israel's real problems in American public opinion worse.

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