
Arab American Voters 2014

Their Identity and Political Concerns

November 24, 2014



Executive Summary

Identity and Personal Concerns

Ethnic pride and identity remains high among Arab Americans. A majority of Arab Americans identify by either their country of origin and as Arab American, or as Arab American alone. Republicans are the only subgroup in which a majority of individuals do not identify as Arab American.

43% of Arab Americans have experienced discrimination based on their ethnicity or country of origin and 41% are concerned about it happening in the future. American Muslims are especially concerned about facing future discrimination. Despite these concerns, a majority of Arab Americans feel very secure in their jobs, and most are confident that their children will live a better life than them.

Political Concerns

Bucking national trends, around twice as many Arab Americans identify as Democrats than as Republicans, continuing the steady move away from the Republican Party that began in 2002. The percentage of Arab Americans identifying with either party has been declining since 2008. Over half of Arab Americans believe that the U.S. is headed in the wrong direction.

Jobs and the Economy remains the most important issue to a majority of Arab Americans, a majority of almost all subgroups cite the issue most frequently. Independents are the only group that ranks Foreign Policy as their issue of top concern. Foreign Policy is the second most cited issue for all subgroups except for Republicans, who cited Health Care more frequently.

A strong majority of Arab Americans, and the majority of every subgroup, think that neither party would do a better job addressing the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict. Younger Generations (18-29) are least likely to put their trust in either party's ability to address the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, with 83% of the subgroup choosing neither party.

Methodology

Zogby Analytics conducted a survey of 400 Arab Americans between 10/31/14 and 11/10/14. Based on a confidence interval of 95%, the margin of error for 400 is +/- 5.0 percentage points.

I. Identity and Personal Concerns

If the following are the choices, how are you most likely to describe yourself?

Self Description	Overall	Born in U.S.	Not Born in U.S.	Dem	Rep	Ind	Male	Female	Catholic	Protestant	Muslim	18-29	65+
By Country of Origin	17	16	18	19	19	11	22	12	23	15	13	16	26
As Arab American	46	45	50	55	23	42	43	49	43	41	56	29	42
By Both	17	14	23	11	16	31	8	25	12	17	22	35	8
Neither	19	23	9	15	36	16	25	14	22	23	9	21	21

1. Arab American Identification (identifying as Arab American and by country of origin, or as Arab American alone) totals 63%.
2. Republicans are the only subgroup in which a majority of individuals do not identify as Arab American.
3. Republicans and Younger Generations (18-29) have the lowest rates of identification as Arab American alone.

Now, if the following are your choices, how are you most likely to describe yourself?

Self Description	Overall	Born in U.S.	Not Born in U.S.	Dem	Rep	Ind	Male	Female	Catholic	Protestant	Muslim	18-29	65+
By Country of Origin	13	11	19	15	9	10	12	13	15	10	11	4	19
By Religion	10	11	8	9	20	6	13	7	16	5	13	9	6
As Arab American	33	32	35	42	7	33	30	36	31	31	35	26	23
As All of the Above	23	24	21	16	26	37	21	25	13	25	37	40	20
Neither	21	23	14	17	37	14	23	18	25	28	4	21	32

1. When religion is added as an option, Arab American Identification (identifying as Arab American or as all three categories) drops slightly from 63% to 56%.
2. Republicans, Catholics and Older Generations (65+) do not have a majority of individuals that identify as Arab Americans.

On a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being 'not at all proud' and 5 being 'extremely proud,' how proud are you of your ethnic heritage?

Self Description	Overall	Born in U.S.	Not Born in U.S.	Dem	Rep	Ind	18-29	65+	Catholic	Protestant	Muslim
1 Not at all proud	4	5	1	4	7	<1	–	<1	5	2	2
2	<1	<1	<1	<1	2	–	–	<1	–	1	<1
3	8	7	11	9	6	9	5	8	10	5	7
4	16	18	10	20	13	9	36	12	8	22	17
5 Extremely Proud	71	69	77	67	72	81	58	80	76	69	73

1. A strong majority of Arab Americans are proud of their ethnic heritage.
2. Younger Generations are the least likely to feel “extremely proud,” while Republicans (85%) and Catholics (84%) are least likely to take pride in their ethnic heritage overall.

How secure do you feel in your current job?

Job Security	Overall	Born in U.S.	Not Born in U.S.	Dem	Rep	Ind
Very	51	52	49	54	53	53
Fairly	13	12	15	10	14	10
Not Very	1	1	2	2	<1	1
Not At All	1	1	<1	1	–	1

1. A majority of Arab Americans feel very secure in their present jobs.

How confident are you that your children will have a better life than you?

Level of Confidence	Overall	Born in U.S.	Not Born in U.S.	Dem	Rep	Ind
Very	45	39	64	46	39	44
Fairly	20	20	18	21	22	18
Not Very	4	5	3	2	8	10
Not At All	5	6	2	4	10	2
I don't have children	25	30	10	26	20	27

1. A majority of Arab Americans are confident that their children will have better lives than them.
2. Those not born in the United States are the most confident that their children will have better lives, with 82% reporting that they are very or fairly confident.

Have you personally experienced discrimination in the past because of your ethnicity or country of origin?

Face Ethnic Discrimination	Overall	Born in U.S.	Not Born in U.S.	Dem	Rep	Ind	18-29	65+	Catholic	Protestant	Muslim
Yes	43	46	34	46	33	40	59	21	32	49	56
No	56	53	64	54	66	58	38	77	66	51	43

1. 43% of Arab Americans have personally experienced discrimination because of their ethnicity or country of origin.
2. American Muslims and Younger Generations (18-29) are most likely to have experienced discrimination, while Republicans, Older Generations (65+) and Catholics are least likely.

How concerned are you about facing discrimination in the future because of your ethnicity or country of origin?

Concern of Ethnic Discrimination	Overall	Born in U.S.	Not Born in U.S.	Dem	Rep	Ind	18-29	65+	Catholic	Protestant	Muslim
Concerned	41	42	40	51	14	41	32	26	27	37	63
Not Concerned	58	58	58	49	86	56	65	74	41	63	35

1. 41% of Arab Americans are concerned about future discrimination.
2. American Muslims (63%) are the most concerned about facing discrimination in the future.
3. Republicans and Older Generations (65+) are the least concerned about facing discrimination; nearly 9 out of 10 Republicans are not concerned with future instances of discrimination.

II. Political Concerns

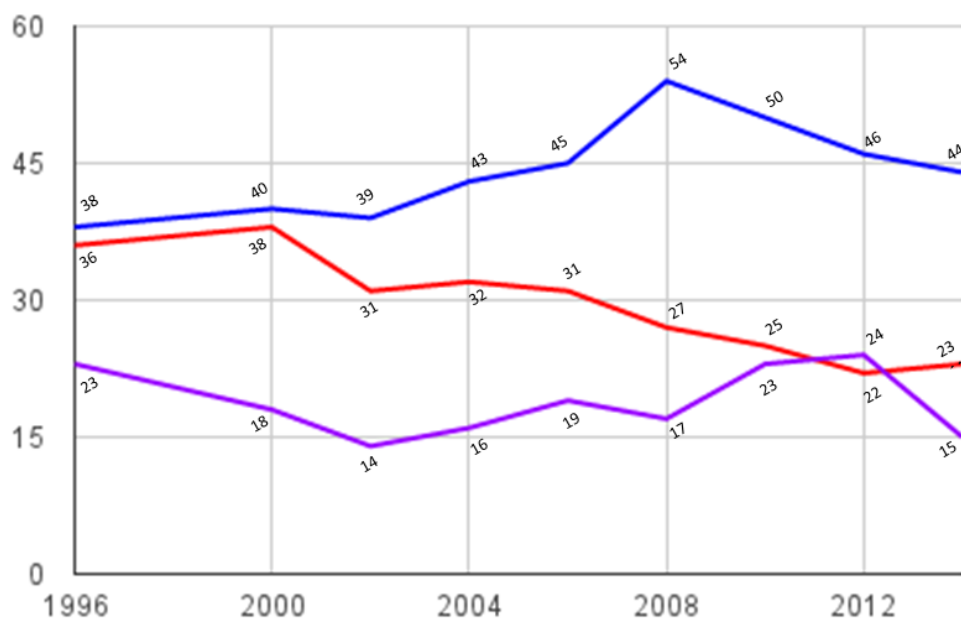
Party Identification

Party	2014	2012	2010	2008	2006	2004	2002	2000	1996
Democratic	44	46	50	54	45	39	39	40	38
Republican	23	22	25	27	31	31	31	38	36
Independent	15	24	23	17	19	14	14	18	23

1. Identification by Arab American voters with the Democratic and Republican parties has remained fairly steady since 2012.
2. Nearly twice as many Arab Americans identify as Democrats than as Republicans.
3. The percentage of Arab Americans registered with either party has been decreasing since 2008.

Arab American Party Identification

■ Democratic ■ Republican ■ Independent



For whom did you vote in the 2012 Presidential Election?

Candidate	Overall	Born in U.S.	Not Born in U.S.	Dem	Rep	Ind	Male	Female	Catholic	Protestant	Muslim
Barack Obama	59	59	58	88	7	63	53	65	51	48	76
Mitt Romney	23	28	9	1	84	20	33	14	35	33	1
Someone Else	3	2	7	1	4	5	4	2	3	10	2
Did not vote	11	9	17	7	2	10	10	12	8	7	17

1. A majority of Arab Americans voted for Barack Obama in the 2012 Presidential Election.
2. Republicans were the only subgroup in which a majority of individuals voted for Mitt Romney.

Overall, how would you rate President Obama's job performance?

Performance	Overall	Born in U.S.	Not Born in U.S.	Dem	Rep	Ind	Male	Female	Catholic	Protestant	Muslim
Excellent	11	12	6	20	—	8	7	15	12	11	7
Good	27	28	25	40	6	25	25	29	31	17	33
Fair	27	24	34	29	16	31	26	27	7	39	35
Poor	32	34	26	9	76	35	41	22	41	32	21

1. Around 1/3 of Arab Americans give President Obama a poor performance rating.
2. Those rating his performance fair/poor rose to 59% from 48% in 2012, and those rating his performance as excellent/good dropped to 38% to 51%.

U.S. Direction

Direction	Overall	Born in U.S.	Not Born in U.S.	Dem	Rep	Ind	18-29	65+	Catholic	Protestant	Muslim
Right Track	32	34	27	35	24	38	54	32	32	28	35
Wrong Direction	55	55	52	51	67	51	41	54	61	57	50
Not Sure	13	11	21	15	9	10	5	14	8	16	16

1. A majority of Arab Americans feel that the U.S. is headed in the wrong direction.
2. Younger Generations (18-29) are the only subgroup in which a majority feels the country is on the right track.

How would you rate the overall job performance of Congress?

Performance	Overall	Born in U.S.	Not Born in U.S.	Dem	Rep	Ind	Male	Female	Catholic	Protestant	Muslim	18-29	65+
Excellent	4	4	3	4	7	3	6	2	1	10	2	—	1
Good	9	5	21	7	5	11	6	12	10	4	15	15	9
Fair	28	29	26	23	47	18	26	30	21	38	24	53	22
Poor	53	58	41	61	41	55	59	48	68	47	43	19	64
Not Sure	6	4	10	5	—	13	3	9	<1	1	16	13	3

1. A majority of Arab Americans give Congress a poor approval rating.
2. Catholics and Older Generations (65+) are the subgroups that give Congress the lowest ratings.
3. A majority 18-29 year olds give Congress a “fair” rating, with only 19% giving it a “poor” rating.

Which party would you rather have controlling Congress - Democrats or Republicans?

Party	Overall	Born in U.S.	Not Born in U.S.	Dem	Rep	Ind	Male	Female	Catholic	Protestant	Muslim	18-29	65+
Democrats	42	45	33	72	—	29	38	46	42	34	51	42	38
Republicans	20	23	10	2	66	19	24	16	19	31	8	42	29
Neither	30	28	36	17	30	43	32	28	33	26	29	12	27
Not Sure	9	5	20	9	4	9	7	10	6	9	9	4	6

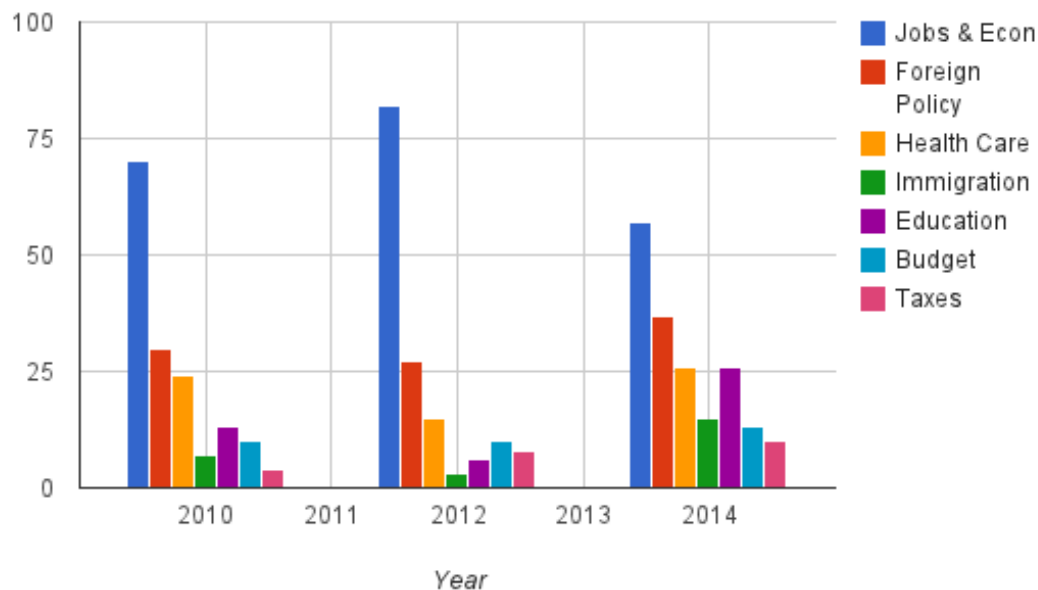
1. 42% of Arab Americans would prefer Democrats to control Congress, compared to 51% in 2012.
2. Those who prefer that Republicans control Congress dropped from 32% to 20%.
3. More Arab Americans than ever prefer that neither party have control, suggesting growing frustration with both parties.

What are the top two issues facing the country today?

Issues	Overall	Democrat	Republican	Independent
Jobs and the Economy	57	54	57	48
Foreign Policy	37	37	23	52
Health Care	26	26	27	31
Education	26	33	20	15
Immigration	15	20	17	5
Budget	13	4	21	21
Taxes	10	11	14	1
Terrorism	8	8	9	11
Not Sure/Refuse	2	1	1	5

1. Jobs and the Economy is the most frequently cited issue of importance for Arab Americans across almost all subgroups.
2. Foreign Policy is the second most cited issue for all subgroups except for Republicans, who cited Health Care more frequently.
3. Democrats are much less likely to be concerned about the Budget than Republicans or Independents.
4. Independents are the only group that cited Foreign Policy as the issue of top concern.

Top Issues: 2010-2014



For each of the following issues, please tell me who you think will do a better job - Democrats or Republican?

Healthcare	Overall	Born in U.S.	Not Born in U.S.	Dem	Rep	Ind	18-29	65+
Democrats	48	50	43	73	4	39	34	41
Republicans	18	19	16	4	57	22	16	23
Neither	23	20	30	13	33	26	39	28
Not Sure	11	11	11	11	6	14	12	8

Israeli-Palestinian Conflict	Overall	Born in U.S.	Not Born in U.S.	Dem	Rep	Ind	18-29	65+
Democrats	17	18	16	34	2	8	7	20
Republicans	12	13	10	9	23	17	3	18
Neither	64	64	64	53	70	71	83	53
Not Sure	6	5	10	5	6	5	8	10

The Economy	Overall	Born in U.S.	Not Born in U.S.	Dem	Rep	Ind	18-29	65+
Democrats	44	44	42	75	4	25	38	37
Republicans	28	31	21	5	77	35	43	37
Neither	22	21	26	18	18	23	7	22
Not Sure	6	4	10	2	2	17	12	4

Civil Liberties	Overall	Born in U.S.	Not Born in U.S.	Dem	Rep	Ind	18-29	65+
Democrats	48	47	51	74	8	44	38	47
Republicans	22	25	11	2	63	31	42	25
Neither	23	22	26	18	23	20	12	20
Not Sure	7	5	11	6	6	6	8	9

Immigration	Overall	Born in U.S.	Not Born in U.S.	Dem	Rep	Ind	18-29	65+
Democrats	45	44	47	75	5	32	27	37
Republicans	23	27	12	7	57	34	44	27
Neither	25	25	25	13	35	25	25	28
Not Sure	8	5	16	6	4	9	4	8

Terrorism/National Security	Overall	Born in U.S.	Not Born in U.S.	Dem	Rep	Ind	18-29	65+
Democrats	24	27	17	44	2	16	7	22
Republicans	27	28	22	14	65	32	32	31
Neither	40	39	45	35	25	41	60	30
Not Sure	9	7	16	7	8	11	1	17

1. A plurality of Arab Americans believes Democrats would do a better job addressing all issues except for the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict and Terrorism/National Security. On both of these issues, a plurality feels that neither party would do a better job.
2. 64% of Arab Americans, and the majority of every subgroup, think that neither party would do a better job addressing the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict.
3. Younger Generations (18-29) are least likely to put their trust in either party's ability to address the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, with 83% of the subgroup choosing neither party.
4. Arab American Democrats are most confident in their Party's handling of the Economy and Immigration.
5. Arab American Republicans are most confident in their Party's handling of the Economy and Terrorism/National Security.