

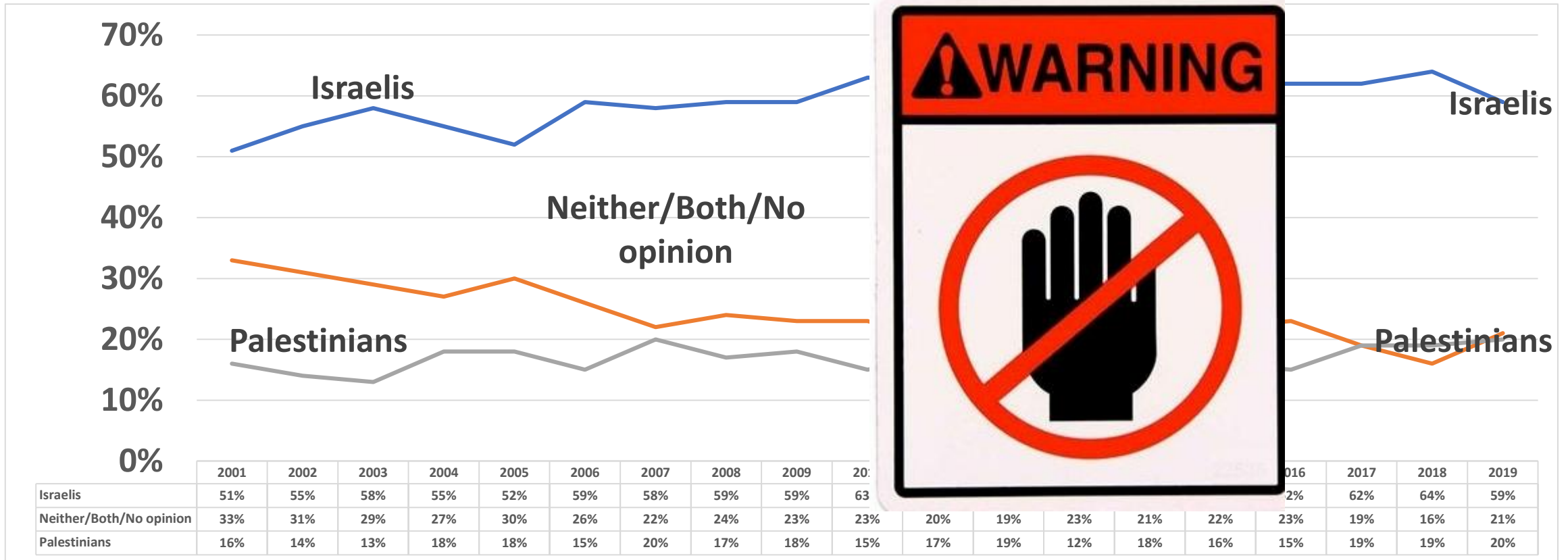
Confronting the “Deal of the Century” from a US perspective

Grant F. Smith, Director

Institute for Research: Middle Eastern Policy

November 8, 2019

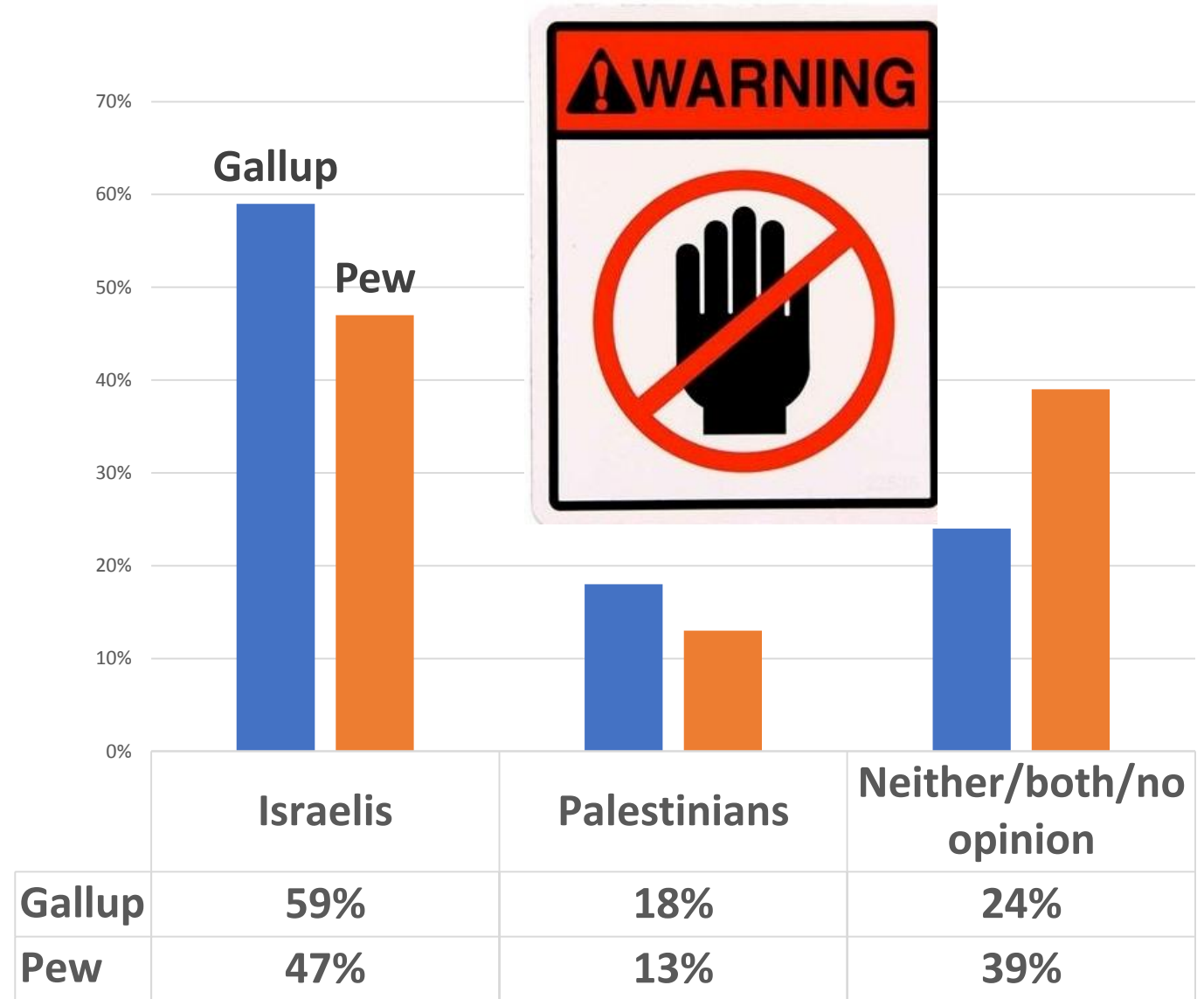
Gallup 2001-2018 results: “In the Middle East situation, are your sympathies more with the Israelis or more with the Palestinians?”



1 Source: The Gallup Organization

Gallup 2001-2018 results: “In the Middle East situation, are your sympathies more with the Israelis or more with the Palestinians?”

Comparing Pew & Gallup “sympathy” questions



Gallup & Pew 2001-2018 results: “In the Middle East situation, are your sympathies more with the Israelis or more with the Palestinians?”

"Though aid to Israel has both supporters and detractors, overall U.S. public support for Israel remains strong. **According to a February 2011 Gallup poll** that measured Americans' sympathies toward the disputants in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, a near record-high 63% said their sympathies lie more with the Israelis...." "There is less **specific public polling data on support for aid to Israel.**"



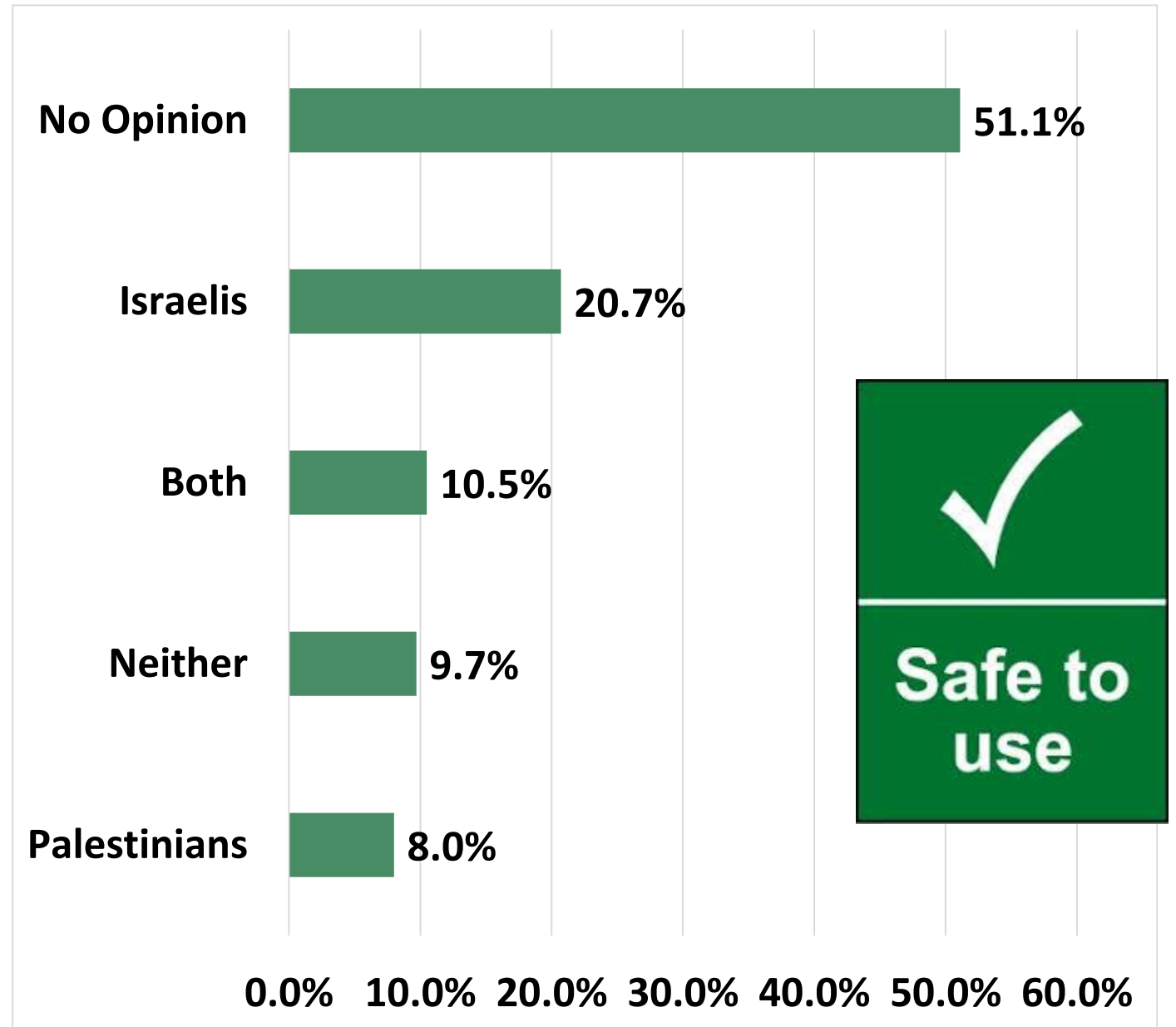
U.S. Foreign Aid to Israel

Jeremy M. Sharp

Specialist in Middle Eastern Affairs

March 12, 2012

2018
IRmep poll through
Google Surveys:
“In the Middle East
situation, are your
sympathies more
with the Israelis or
more with the
Palestinians?”



HIGHLIGHTS

The Rule of Law or CIA Coup?

It's pretty obvious, says Scott Horton

Microsoft Shouldn't Fund Israel Spying

On Palestinians, says Ramzy Baroud

The New Middle East That's Coming

Conn Hallinan on Saudi's slow backpedal

BREAKING NEWS

US to Build 2 New Bases in Syria

Construction equipment being sent for new

Iraq PM Orders Harsher Tactics

Official: 'He's going to completely destroy the

Iran Resumes Enriching Uranium

Russian FM: Both sides need to save nuclear

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Why Gallup Overstates American Sympathy for Israel

False claims and outdated methodologies fuel policy disasters

by Grant Smith / April 18, 2018

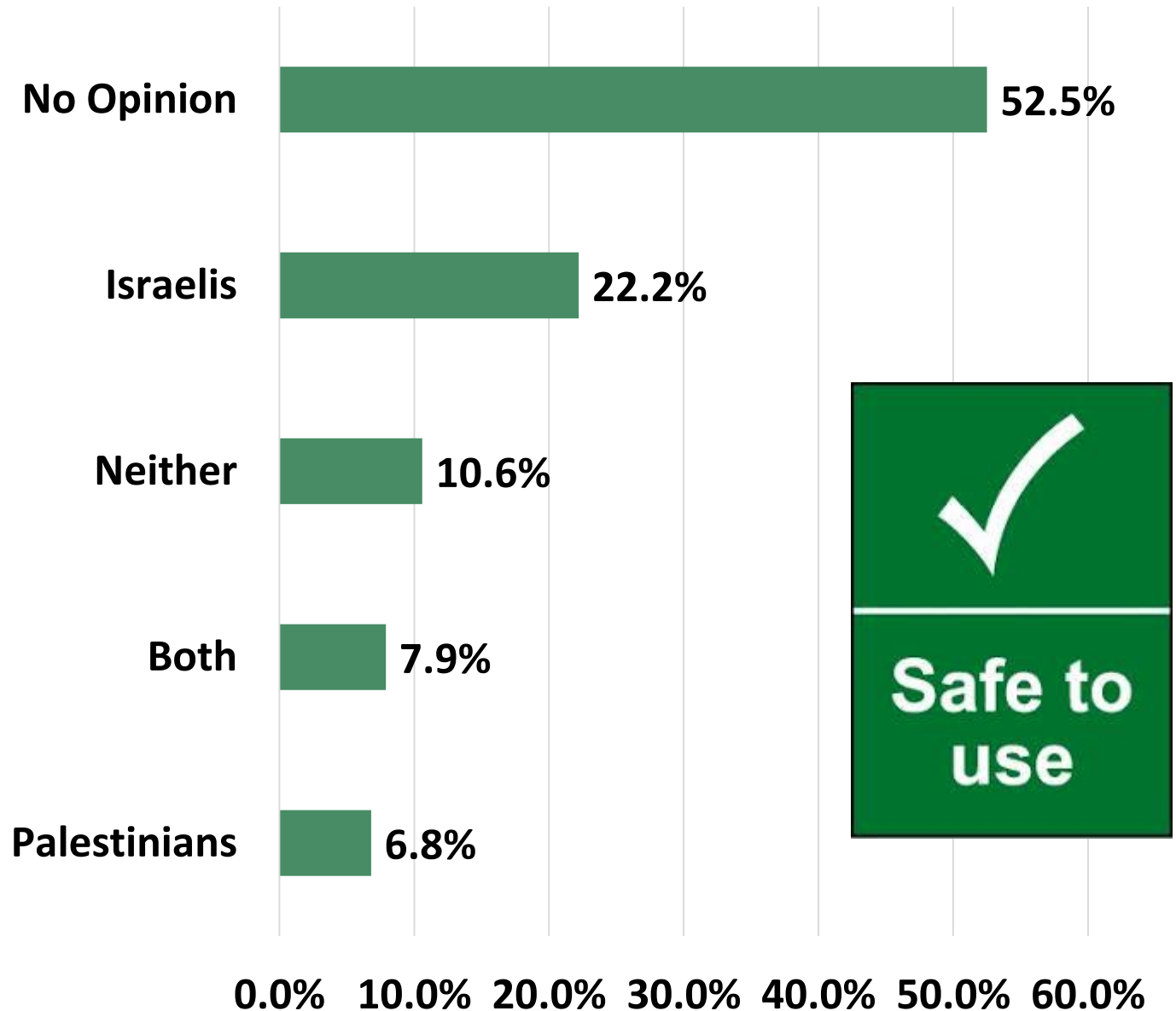
Pollster Gallup has claimed since the year 2001 that the majority of Americans (averaging 59% between 2001-2018) hold much greater sympathy for Israelis than for Palestinians (averaging 17%) "in the Middle East situation." Gallup releases its yearly results with titillating headlines, such as "Americans Remain Staunchly in Israel's Corner" (2018 poll) and "Israel Maintains Positive Image in U.S." (2017 poll).

Gallup's results are uncritically amplified in mainstream and Israel partisan news outlets as the single most reliable indicator of Israel's ongoing high standing among Americans. Gallup also combines "sympathy" with other

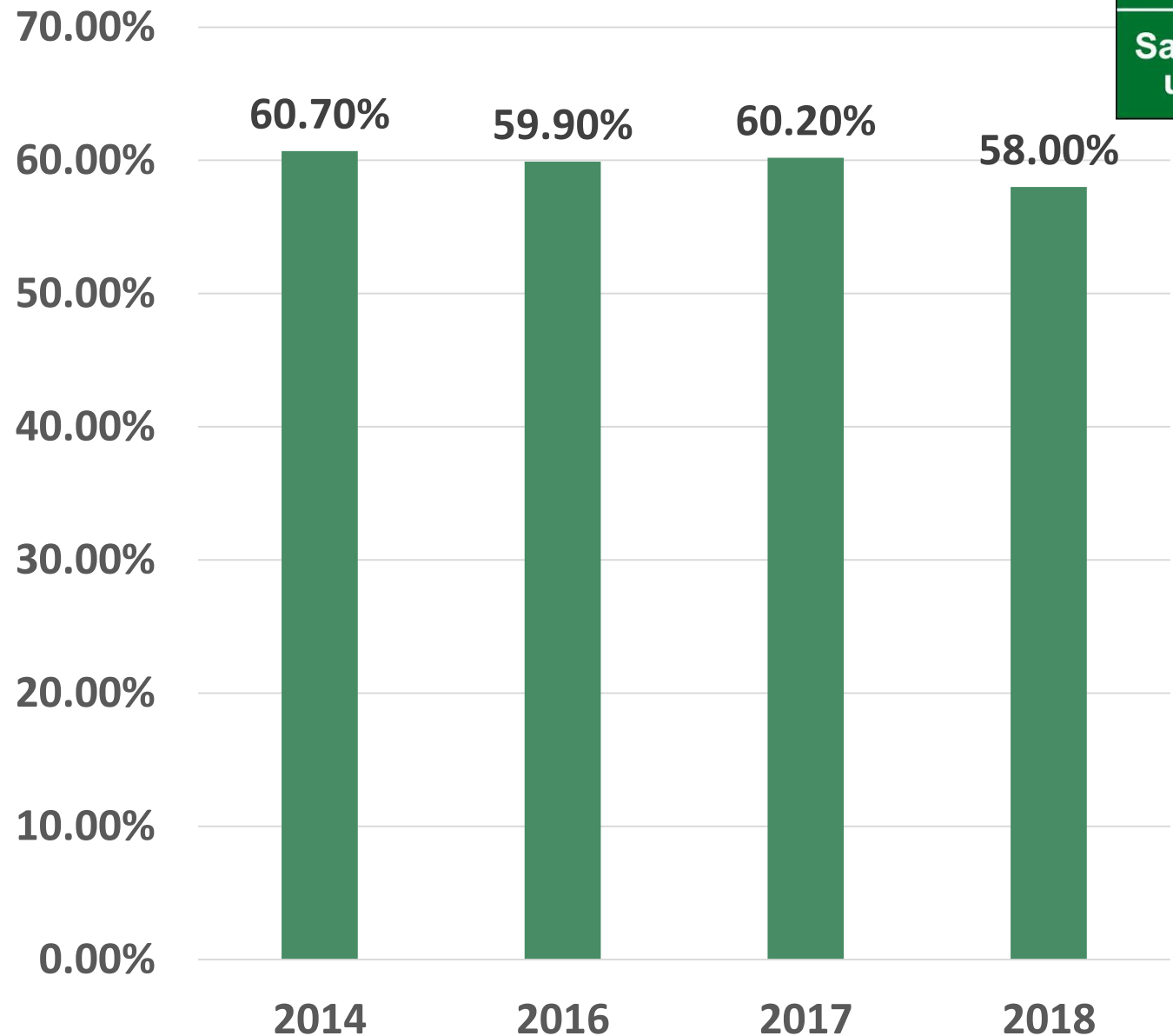
Why Do Gallup And Pew Have Very Different Israel Polls ...
<https://forward.com> > ... > **Opinion Pieces About The Jewish State Of Israel** >
Apr 29, 2018 - The Gallup poll, unlike the Pew poll, found that "Americans Remain ... Most
drastically, Gallup found that sympathy towards the Israelis among ...

2019

IRmep poll through Google Surveys:
“In the Middle East situation, are your sympathies more with the Israelis or more with the Palestinians?”



There is no need to use “sympathy” as a proxy for “American support for aid to Israel” because when directly asked, majorities clearly think it’s “too much.”



About 33,600,000 results (0.65 seconds)

Six in Ten Americans Say U.S. Gives “Too Much” Aid to Israel ...

<https://www.wrmea.org> › 2011-2020 › 2014 November-December ▼

The first IRmep question was phrased: “The U.S. gives Israel over \$3 billion ... The IRmep survey report, “American **Public Opinion** on U.S. **Aid to Israel**,” with ...

People also ask

How wealthy is Israel? ▼

How large is Israel economy? ▼

How populous is Israel? ▼

How much milk does Israel consume annually? ▼

[Feedback](#)

American Public Opinion About U.S. Aid to Israel and Other ...

<https://www.wrmea.org> › 017-may › american-public-opinion-about-u.s.-a... ▼

Washington Report on Middle East Affairs • The Israel Lobby and American Policy • March 24, 2017. Grant Smith: American **Public Opinion** About U.S. **Aid to** ...

American Public Opinion Toward Israel: An Overview

<https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org> › american-public-opinion-toward-isr... ▼

Mar 19, 2019 - Support for **Israel** is not restricted to the Jewish community. Americans of all ages, races and religions sympathize with **Israel**. This support is ...

[\[PDF\] American Public Opinion on US Aid to Israel - IRmep](#)

On March 28, Gallup admits “sympathy” polls are biased

- "...the priming effect of asking country favorability appears to push people toward sympathizing with Israel rather than expressing no opinion (or not taking a side)."
- Gallup verified internally that the majority of Americans do not sympathize with Israel in an unpublished Gallup polling "experiment" conducted February 12-28.

METHODOLOGY BLOG MARCH 28, 2019

Survey Context Effects on Middle East Sympathies

BY JEFFREY M. JONES



Pew has also stopped fielding and interpreting its “sympathy” questions and phone polling

FEBRUARY 27, 2019



What our transition to online polling means for decades of phone survey trends

BY COURTNEY KENNEDY AND CLAUDIA DEANE

From the 1980s until relatively recently, most national polling organizations conducted surveys by telephone, relying on live interviewers to call randomly selected Americans across the country. Then came the internet.

It has taken survey researchers some time to adapt to the idea of online surveys, but a quick look at the public polls on an issue like presidential approval reveals a landscape now dominated by online polls rather than phone polls. Pew Research Center itself now conducts the majority of its U.S. polling online, primarily through its [American Trends Panel](#).

RELATED

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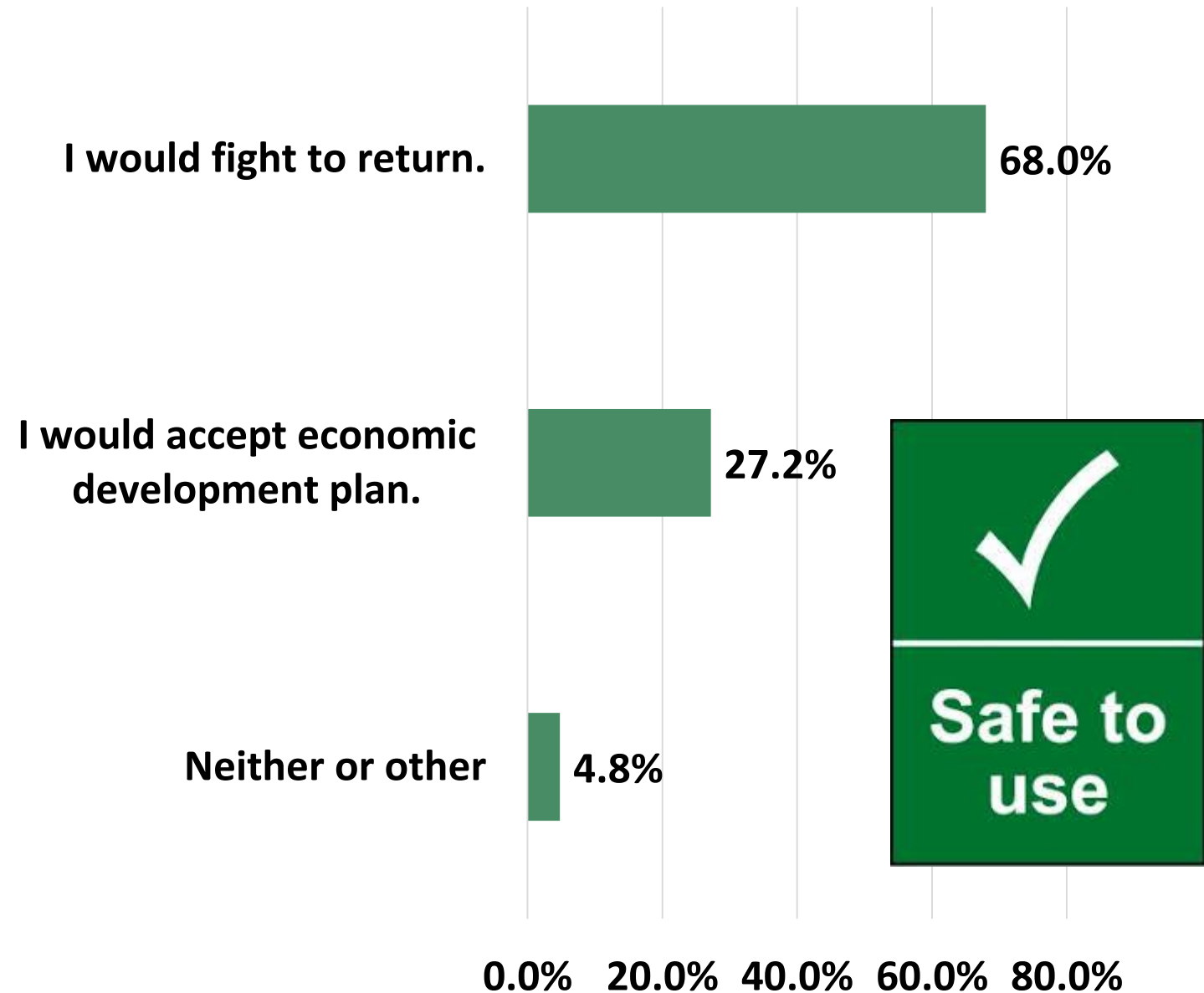
PEW RESEARCH CENTER | JUNE 16, 2017

Q&A: Pew Research Center's president on key issues in U.S. polling

METHODS | JULY 28, 2014

Q&A: What the New York Times' polling decision means

July 2019 IRmep Poll
“If you were expelled & resettled into a resource restricted area, would you fight to return or forfeit legal claims for a new life under a promised economic development plan?”



Israel advocate economic policy makers inside Virginia government

- VIAB is part of the State Government
 - Formerly Office of the Governor
 - Now the state assembly
- Four designated BOD members from leadership of state Jewish federations.
- Board membership has given \$1.5 million in campaign contributions.
- Long term BOD member “service.”
- VIAB deploy “big donors” to push projects.
- Rest of BOD mostly drawn from the state Israel advocacy organizations and advocates.



THE ISRAEL LOBBY ENTERS STATE GOVERNMENT

RISE OF THE VIRGINIA ISRAEL
ADVISORY BOARD

GRANT F. SMITH

Virginians have been on the receiving end of a VIAB “Deal of the Century Lite” economic plan promises

- Jobs and economic development
- Key assumption: That Israeli companies are inherently market leading innovators that can succeed anywhere.
- Virginia should feel privileged to receive them.
- Beneficial academic exchanges via MOUs with Virginia colleges and universities.

Actual Results: Ongoing predation and systematized corruption:

- Secrecy to hide beneficial owners/code names
 - “Project Jonah, Project Turbine, Project Biodiesel”
- Draining and defrauding the billion-dollar Tobacco Region Opportunity Fund, state and counties.
- State subsidized Israeli companies geared to put Virginia and U.S. innovators out of business.
 - AquaMaof targeting Blue Ridge Aquaculture, a socially conscious market leader.
 - Sabra Dipping Company vs Cedars
- Tapping Pentagon classified information while delivering out of spec products to soldiers.
- Self dealing and funneling the “cream” of subsidized businesses to insiders, while endlessly touting non-existent “milk” to Virginians.

THE ISRAEL LOBBY ENTERS STATE GOVERNMENT

RISE OF THE VIRGINIA ISRAEL
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The predation and corruption has been ongoing, bringing in:

- Israeli companies heavily involved in supporting the Israeli military
 - Strauss Group
 - Oran Safety Glass
- Israeli companies heavily involved in illegal settlement activities - LLCs
 - Alony Hetz
 - Energix
- An MOU that turns Virginia Tech into Sabra Dipping Company's marketing division, displacing resources formerly devoted to its own tech portfolio.

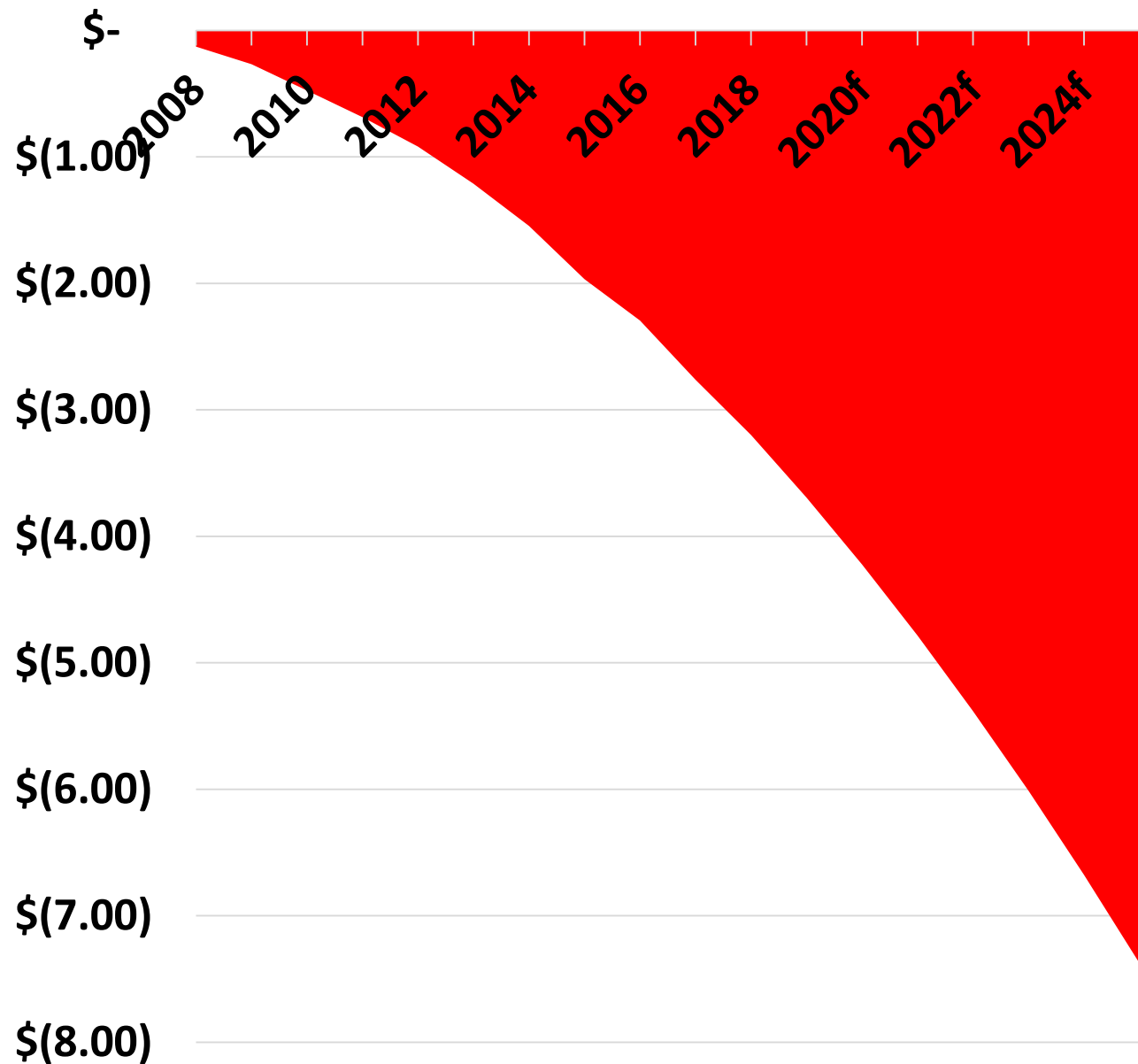
THE ISRAEL LOBBY ENTERS STATE GOVERNMENT

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Cumulative Virginia trade deficit in goods with Israel - actual and forecast



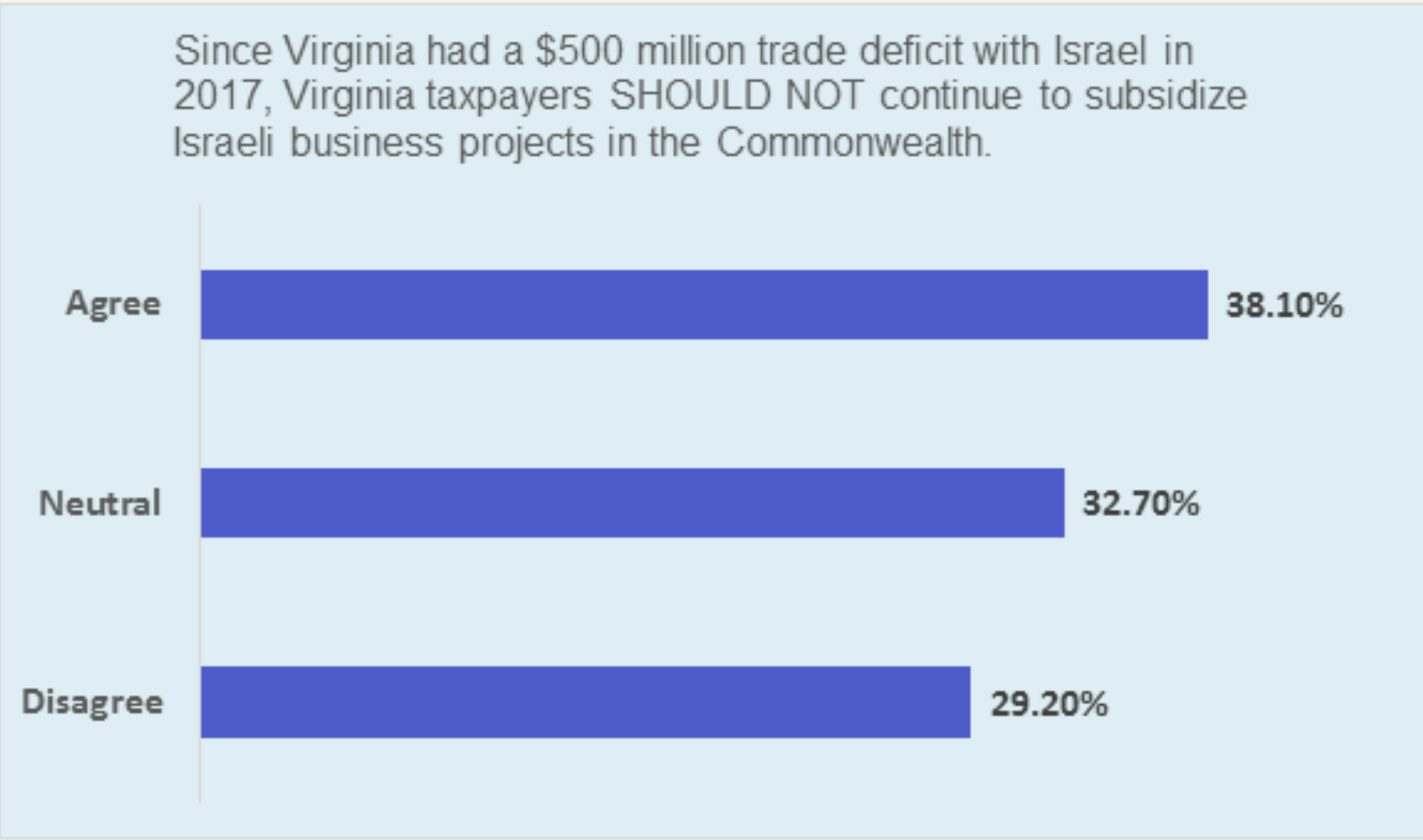


**Virginia Coalition
for
Human Rights**


Virginia Israel Advisory Board Campaign

From September 25 through October 5, 2018, the Virginia Coalition for Human Rights (VCHR) chartered an unprecedented state-level public opinion poll. This came after disturbing revelations surfaced about the Virginia Israel Advisory Board (VIAB) **from a 2018 Virginia Freedom of Information Act response**, which provided VCHR with a collection of relevant documents.

The bar graph below summarizes the outcome of the poll.



Who really influences policy in America?

Group Preference – passed with in 4 years	Influence: scale of 0-1
Average Citizens	.03 
Economic Elites	.76
Interest Groups	.56

THE ISRAEL LOBBY ENTERS STATE GOVERNMENT

RISE OF THE VIRGINIA ISRAEL
ADVISORY BOARD

GRANT F. SMITH

Virginia Campaign Contributions in the “best case scenario”

- Total state campaign contribution pool: \$90 million/year
- Unconditional, committed “pro-Israel” campaign contribution pool: \$25 million/year
 - Organized, influential
- Estimated best case “hold Israel accountable” campaign contribution pool: \$13 million/year
 - Mostly unorganized
 - Hard to communicate with segment
 - Therefore not as influential

The U.S. National Non-Profit Israel Affinity Ecosystem in 2020

Employees: 14,076

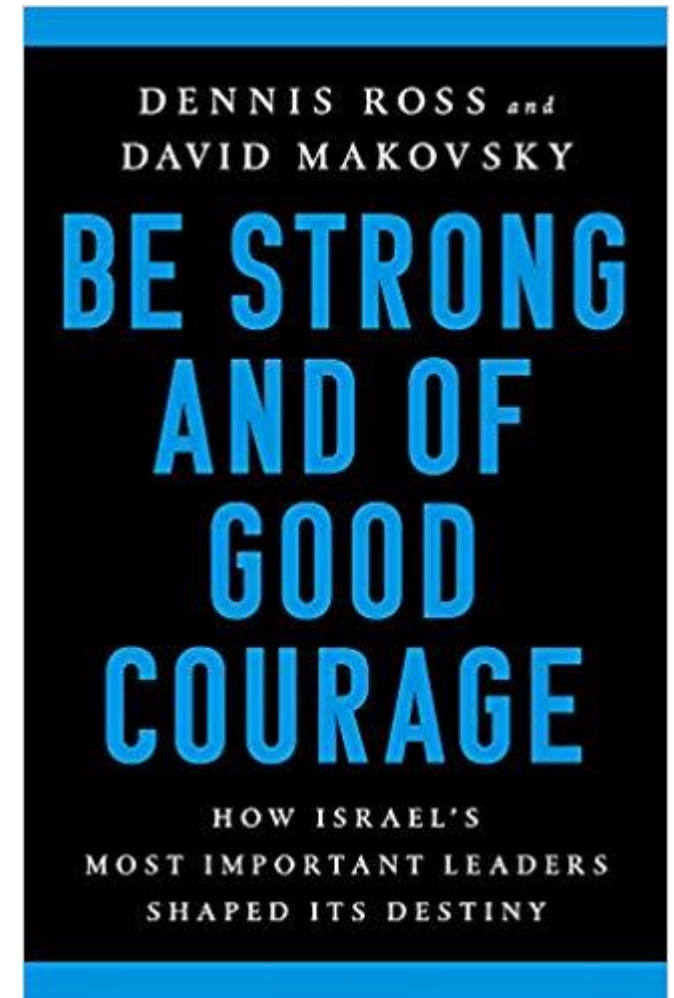
Volunteers: 353,337

Revenues: \$6.3 Billion



What do the interest group and their economic elite want from a “Deal of the Century” or other deal?

- U.S. acceptance of select Israeli settlement bloc annexation.
- Special U.S. financial support to relocate isolated settlers into annexed areas or inside Green Line.
- U.S. pressure on Europeans and other countries to accept unilateral Israeli move.
- Increase in the so-called “qualitative military edge” (more U.S. military aid) for Israel.



Who really influences policy in America?

Group Preference – passed with in 4 years	Influence: scale of 0-1	
Average Citizens	.03	✓
Economic Elites	.76	✓
Interest Groups	.56	✓

These slides

<https://IRmep.org/PDF/11082019slides.pdf>

The Israel Lobby Enters State Government:
Rise of the Virginia Israel Advisory Board



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