

**THE  
EXCLUSIVE**

**Ami**  
MAGAZINE

**POLL**

**2020**

What do Orthodox  
Jews *really* think...?

**1,000 Orthodox Jewish  
respondents from 22 states  
participated in this poll**

*This poll was conducted during the first half of  
October*



Donald  
Trump  
**83%**

**If the  
elections  
were held  
today, how  
would you  
vote?**

Other/  
Undecided  
**4%**

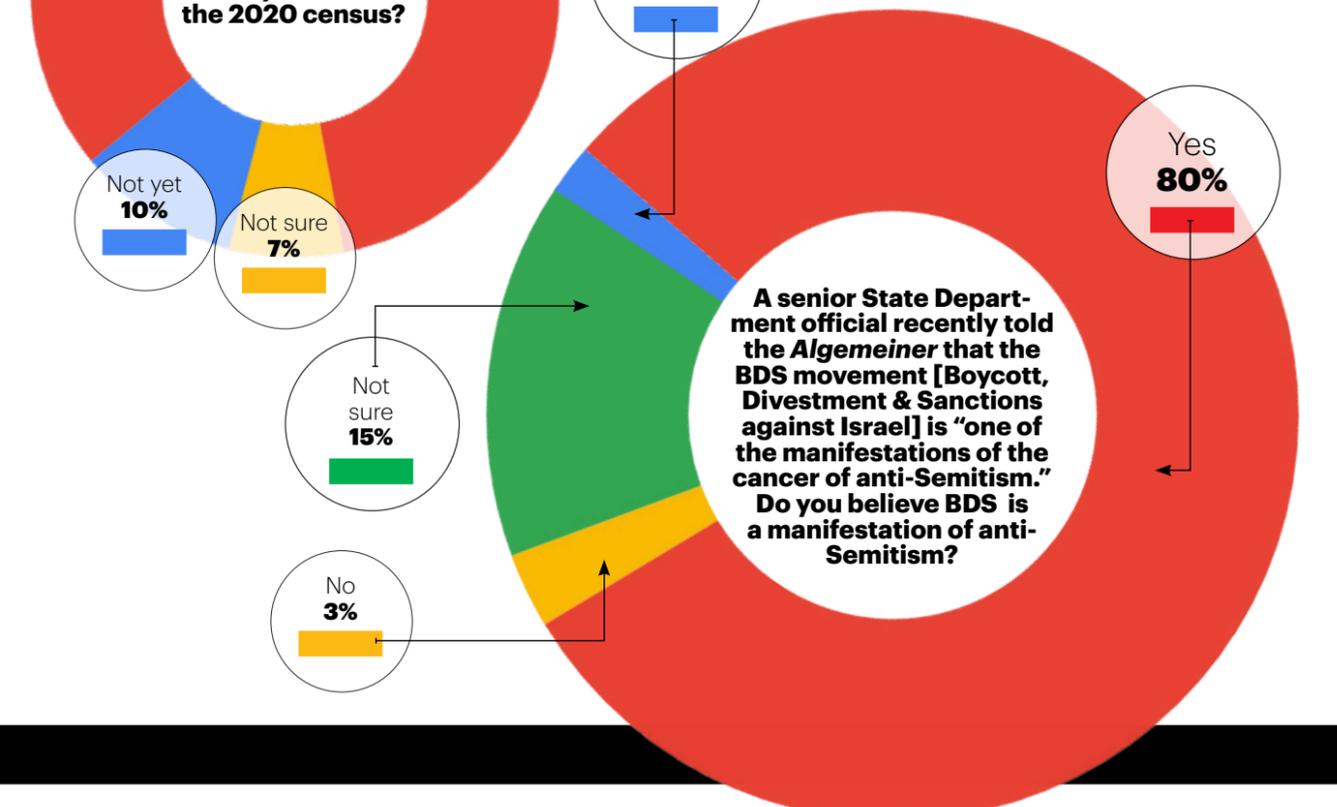
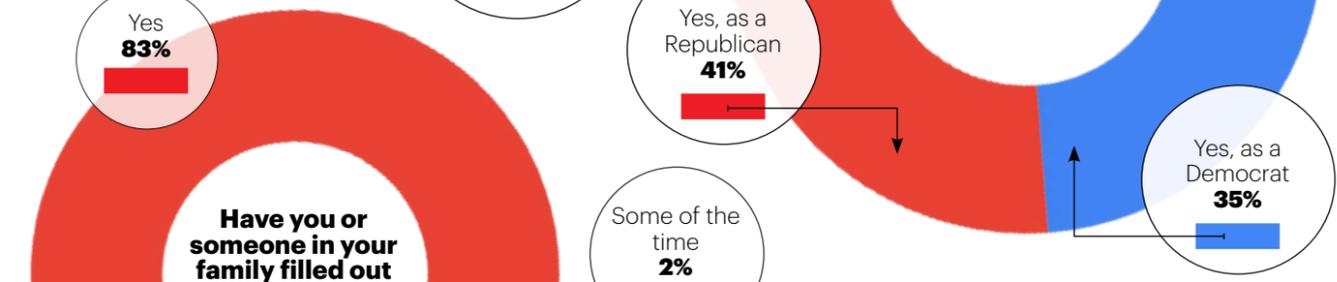
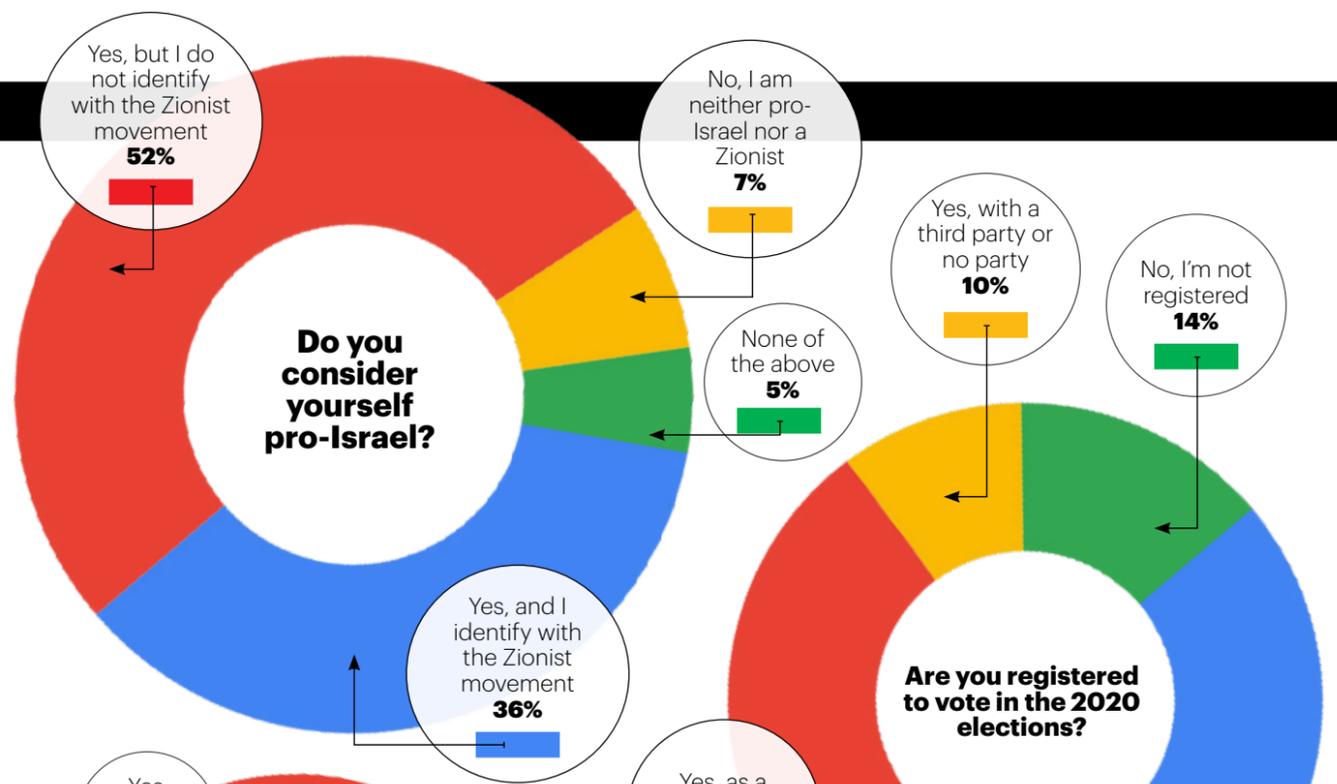
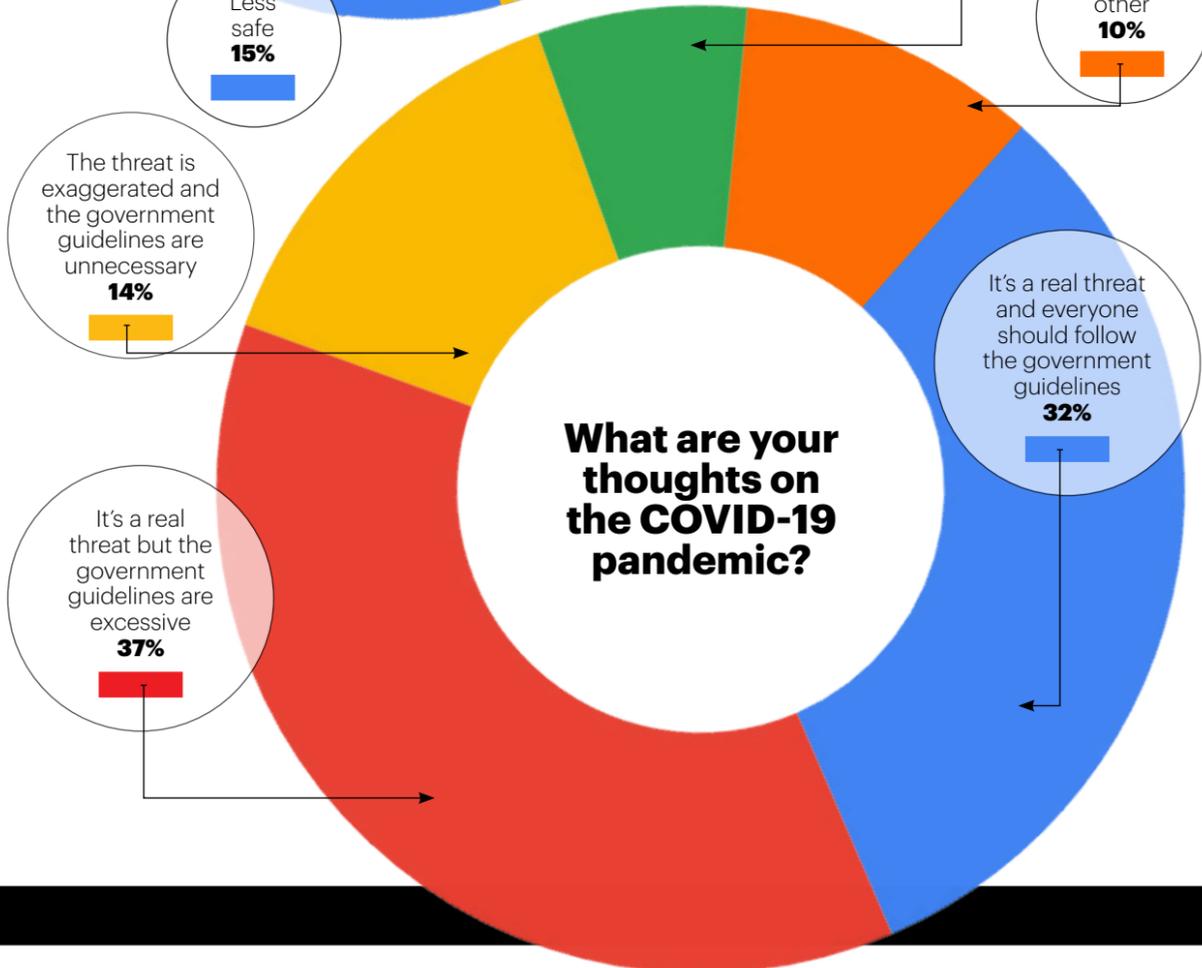
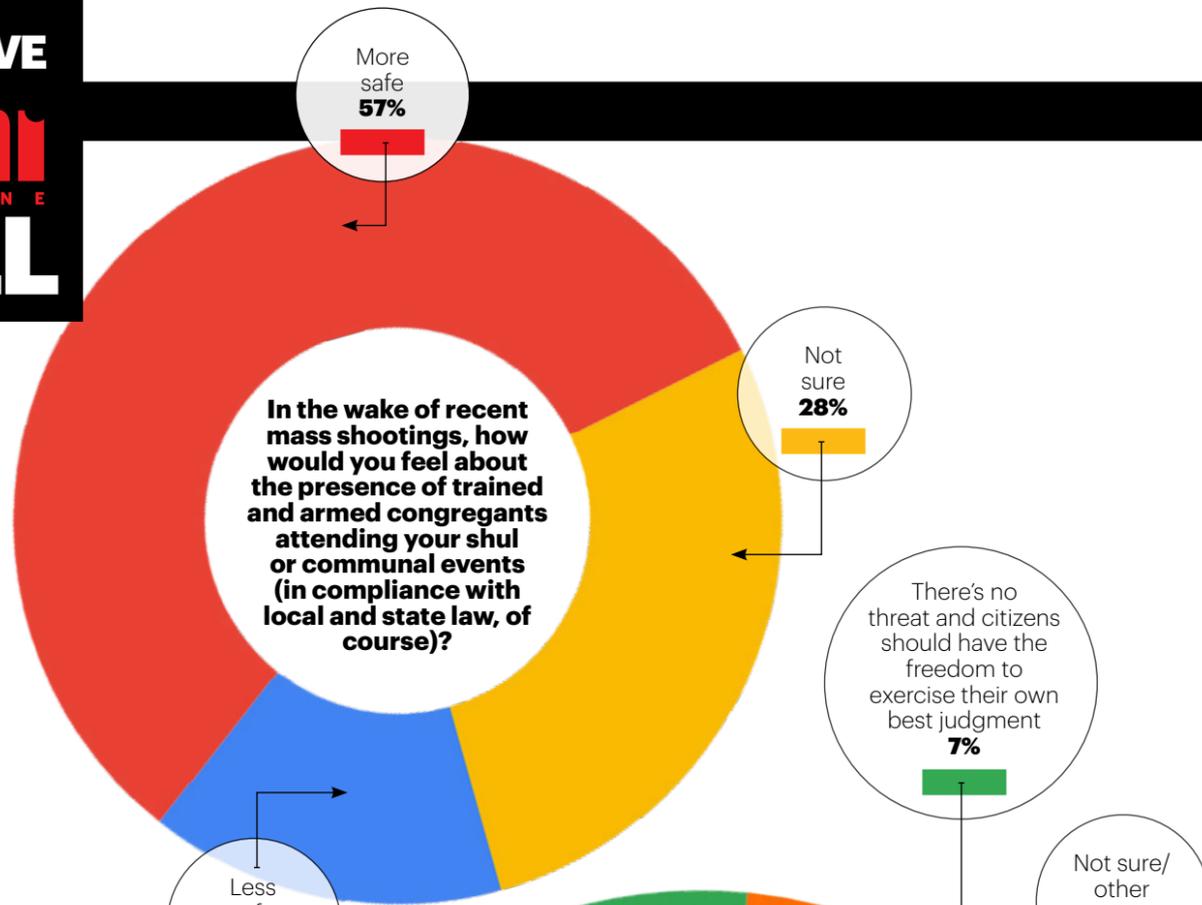
Joe Biden  
**13%**

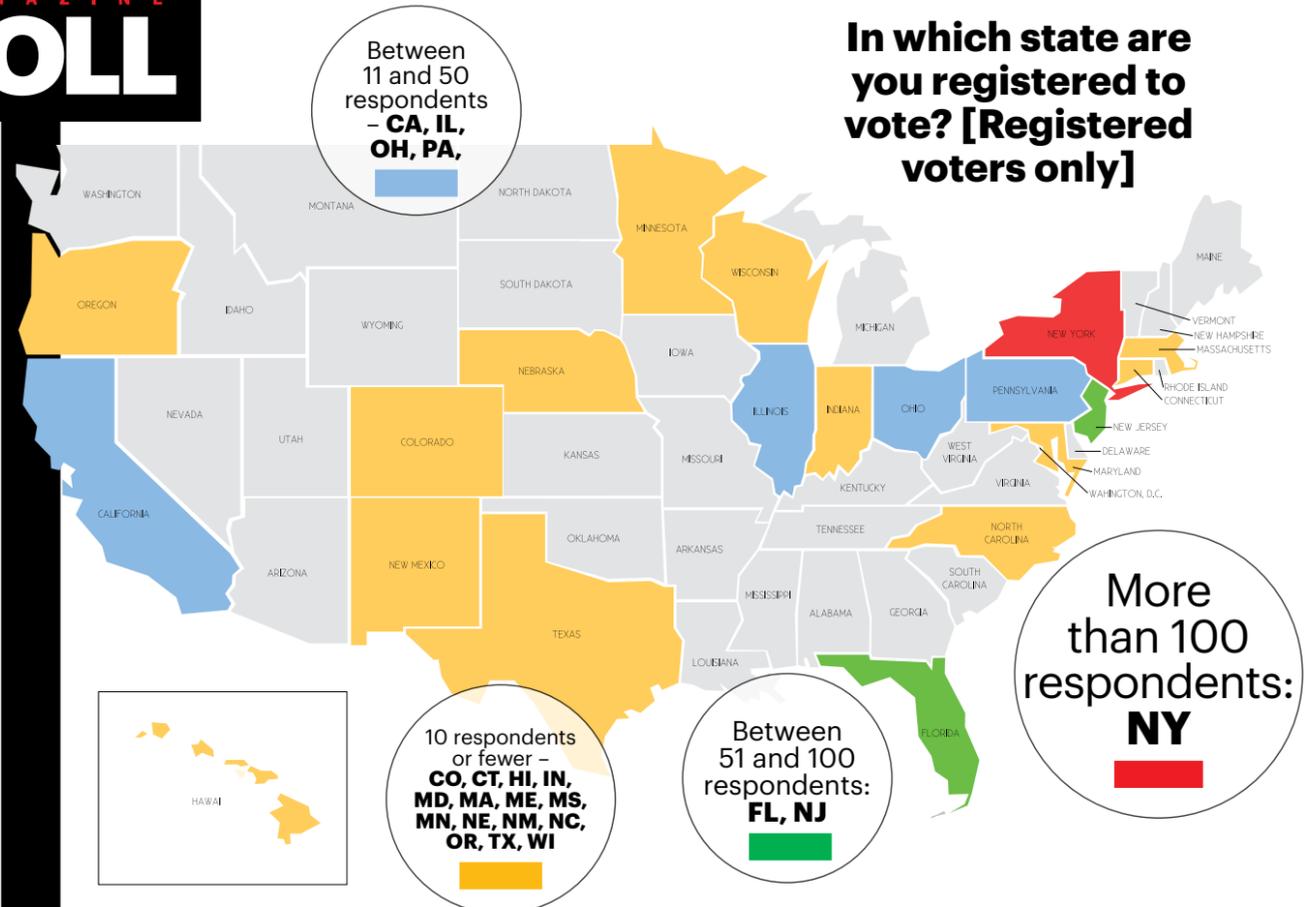
Mostly  
unfair  
**76%**

**What do you  
think of the way  
President  
Trump is  
covered by the  
mainstream  
media?**

Neither/  
not sure  
**10%**

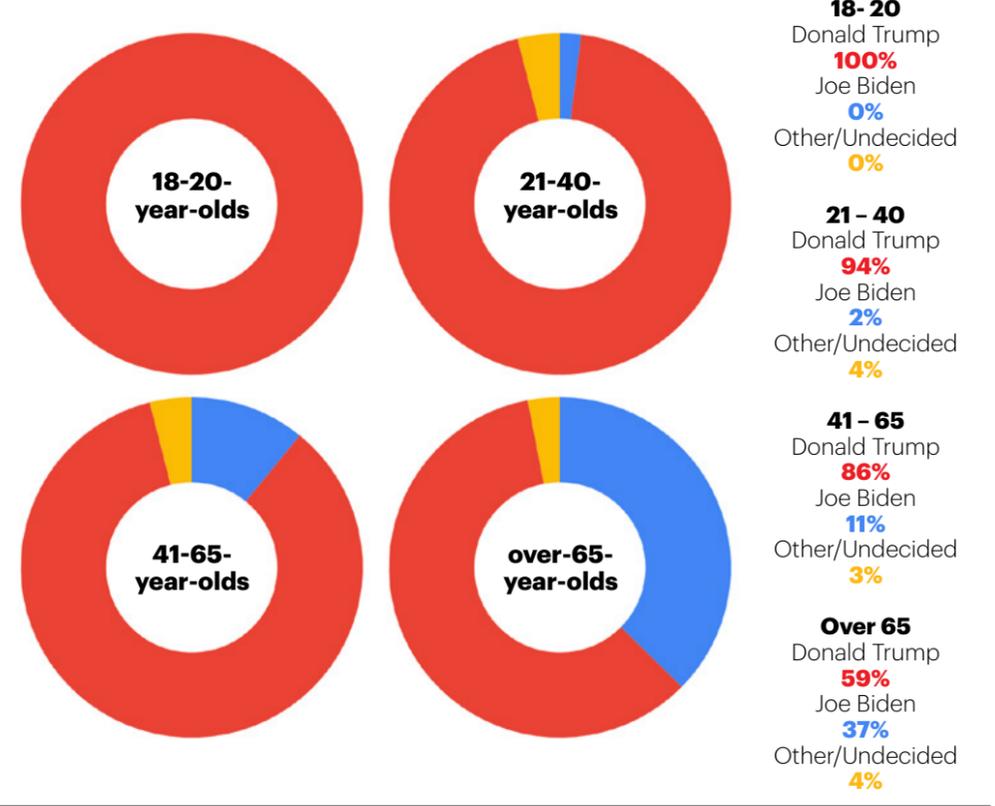
Mostly  
fair  
**14%**





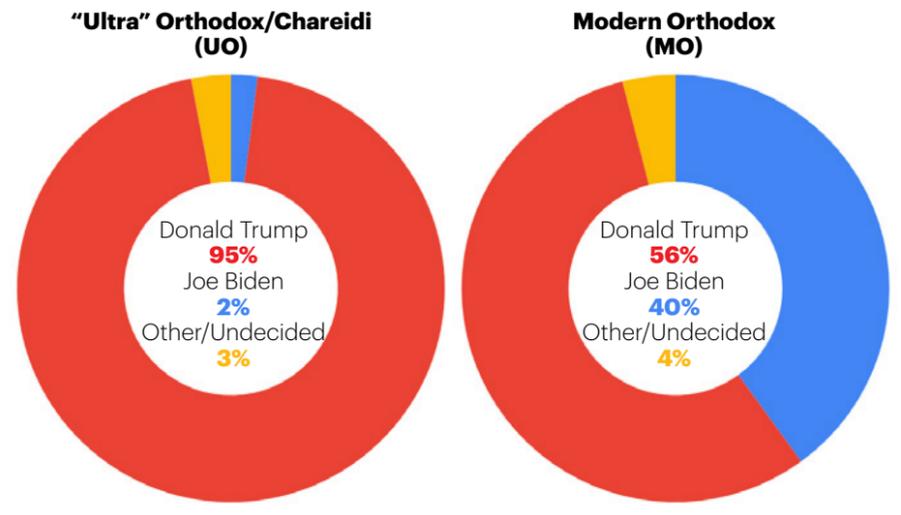
First, this highlights a significant discrepancy between the UO and MO in terms of voting preference. Now, let's compare this to the results of our December 2019 poll, where we asked respondents whether they approved of the job President Trump was doing. Of the 89% who said they approved of his job, UO approval was at 95%, while MO approval was closer to 70%. The 2020 poll indicates a 15% swing away from Trump among MO over the past year.

**Now let's take a look at age, where an interesting pattern emerges.**

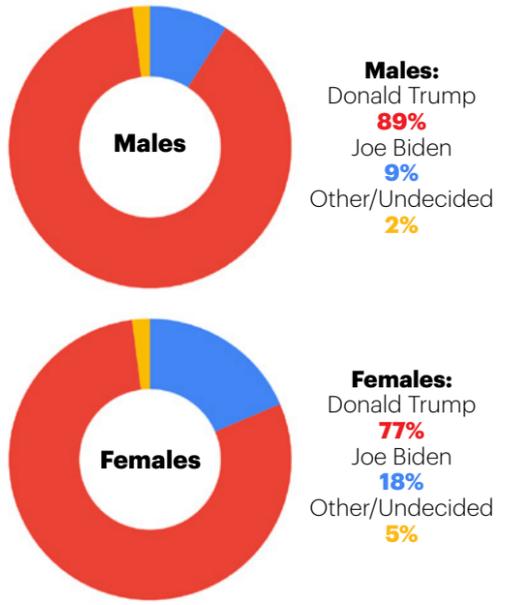


**FURTHER ANALYSIS: What the Crosstabs Teach Us**

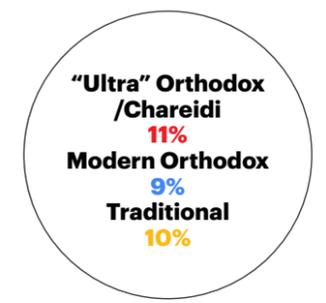
Often, the most important part of the story can be found in a poll's crosstabs, which develops when two or more variables are evaluated against one another. Look at what happens when we compare the results from "Ultra" Orthodox/Chareidi to Modern Orthodox on the question of how they plan to vote.



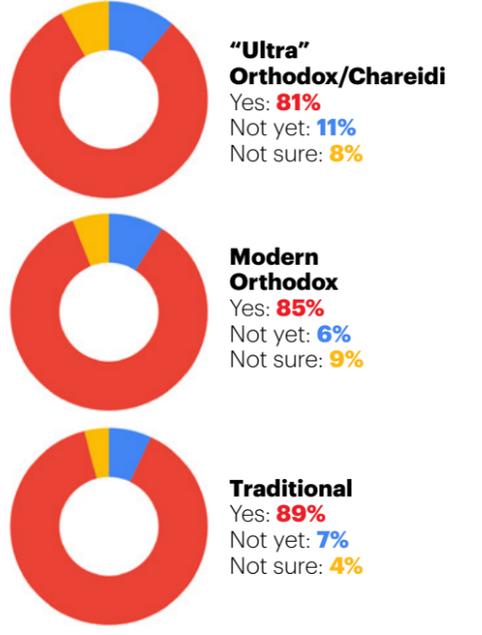
**Now let's check gender:**



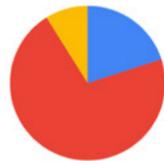
Even when the crosstabs don't yield much of a difference, that alone could be a story. For example, the percentage of respondents who, as of our poll, still hadn't registered to vote:



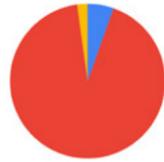
The poll found similar results on the census question:



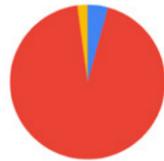
**On the question of COVID**, those who identify as MO and Traditional were nearly identical, while most responses that COVID isn't a threat came from those who prefer not to identify themselves:



**"Ultra" Orthodox/Chareidi**  
Threat is real: **64%**  
Threat is exaggerated: **18%**  
No threat: **8%**



**Modern Orthodox**  
Threat is real: **85%**  
Threat is exaggerated: **5%**  
No threat: **2%**



**Traditional**  
Threat is real: **88%**  
Threat is exaggerated: **4%**  
No threat: **5%**



**Prefer Not to Say**  
Threat is real: **56%**  
Threat is exaggerated: **9%**  
No threat: **14%**

**On the question of Zionism,**

87% of MO identify with the Zionist movement, while 62% of UO identify as pro-Israel but do not identify with the Zionist movement.

Here are the percentages of each subgroup who identify as neither pro-Israel, nor as Zionist:

**"Ultra" Orthodox/Chareidi**  
I am neither pro-Israel nor a Zionist: **10%**

**Modern Orthodox**  
I am neither pro-Israel nor a Zionist: **0%**

**Traditional**  
I am neither pro-Israel nor a Zionist: **1%**

**Prefer Not to Say:**  
I am neither pro-Israel nor a Zionist: **15%**

The danger of relying on crosstabs is that they break down the respondents into smaller subgroups, which means they no longer enjoy the scientific credibility of the 1,000 original respondents. In fact, the reason why most other polling of Orthodox Jews is so unreliable is precisely because it comes from crosstabs. So if there's a poll with 1,000 Jewish respondents of which only 10% identify as Orthodox, it would be equivalent to only polling 100 people. What often tends to happen is the subgroup is further broken down to 70 "Ultra" Orthodox and 30 Modern Orthodox respondents, rendering it even more meaningless. With this disclaimer out of the way, let's see how different regions compare with the rest of the data.

**What are your thoughts on the COVID-19 pandemic?**

**A. It's a real threat and everyone should follow the government guidelines**

All Orthodox:	<b>32%</b>
"Ultra" Orthodox/Chareidi:	<b>18%</b>
All Orthodox in New York:	<b>24%</b>
"Ultra" Orthodox/Chareidi in New York:	<b>20%</b>

**B. It's a real threat but the government guidelines are excessive**

All Orthodox:	<b>32%</b>
"Ultra" Orthodox/Chareidi:	<b>43%</b>
All Orthodox in New York:	<b>40%</b>
"Ultra" Orthodox/Chareidi in New York:	<b>45%</b>

**C. The threat is exaggerated and the government guidelines are unnecessary**

All Orthodox:	<b>14%</b>
"Ultra" Orthodox/Chareidi:	<b>19%</b>
All Orthodox in New York:	<b>17%</b>
"Ultra" Orthodox/Chareidi in New York:	<b>17%</b>

**D. There's no threat and citizens should have the freedom to exercise their own best judgment**

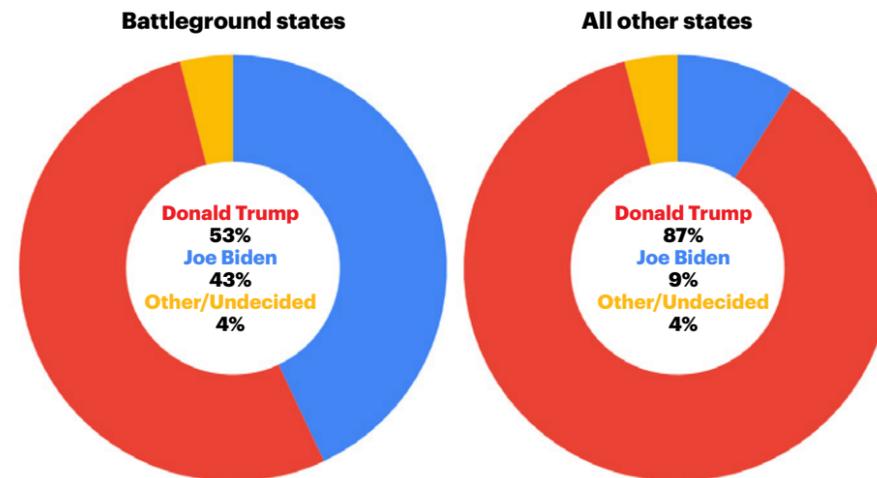
All Orthodox:	<b>7%</b>
"Ultra" Orthodox/Chareidi:	<b>9%</b>
All Orthodox in New York:	<b>9%</b>
"Ultra" Orthodox/Chareidi in New York:	<b>8%</b>

**E. Not sure/other**

All Orthodox:	<b>10%</b>
"Ultra" Orthodox/Chareidi:	<b>11%</b>
All Orthodox in New York:	<b>10%</b>
"Ultra" Orthodox/Chareidi in New York:	<b>10%</b>

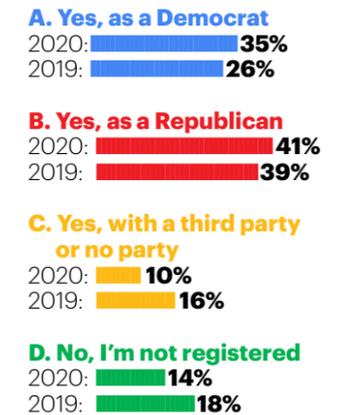
Let's now compare the nationwide results versus those from the battleground states of Florida, Ohio, Michigan, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin on the first question.

**If the elections were held today, how would you vote?**



On the surface, it seems like trouble for Trump with Orthodox voters in the battleground states, but a deeper dive suggests matters could actually be either better or worse than the numbers suggest. First, while the UO population around the country exceeds the numbers of MO by more than 2-1, the percentage of UO and MO respondents in the battleground states were nearly identical. This could either imply an oversampling of MO, in which case it's not looking nearly as bad for Trump, or it could be the result of a greater percentage of MO registered as Democrats in swing states. The breakdown of battleground states by party could conceivably support either theory, as 50% said they were registered as Democrats, while only 39% were registered as Republicans.

Finally, I discovered something interesting when comparing the number of registered voters from our 2019 poll with this one.



One noticeable difference is the surge in voter registration. Based on these results, 4% of non-registered voters and 6% who had been registered with a third party or no party have registered with either of the major parties, with the Democrats enjoying a 9% to 2% advantage.

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**IN CONCLUSION:**

**Does the Orthodox Vote Really Matter?**

Many pundits, especially in the NY bubble, are quick to dismiss the impact of Orthodox Jewish voters on a national level, given their disproportionate numbers in NY and NJ as well as their comparatively low percentage nationally. Indeed, of the 135 million voters cast in the 2016 presidential elections, the percent of Orthodox Jewish voters may seem negligible. Then again, the popular vote alone doesn't establish the presidency, as Bush's razor-thin victory in Florida of 537 votes gave him enough electoral votes to win the presidency.

Notwithstanding this, a president cannot expect a mandate without majorities in Congress. Congressional districts, where far less attention is paid by the pollsters and pundits, is where the Orthodox Jewish vote can really come into play. In the lead-up to the 2018 midterms, I identified no less than 21 close congressional races where the Orthodox Jewish vote potentially could have decided the outcome. Orthodox Jewish voters can even decide a statewide election, as was the case in Florida's 2018 elections, where 10,000 votes secured the Senate seat for Rick Scott and 33,000 votes gave Ron DeSantis the governor's mansion.

The bottom line is that Orthodox Jews cannot expect to have a noticeable impact if they don't vote. In 2016, it came down to 44,000 votes in Pennsylvania and Minnesota, 10,000 votes in Michigan, 22,000 votes in Wisconsin and under 2,500 votes in New Hampshire. How confident are you that the next surprise battleground state won't be yours? ●

**Methodology Statement:**

● *Ami Magazine's* polls are conducted through a fusion of advanced technology, a comprehensive database and a well-established understanding of America's variously diverse Orthodox Jewish communities. The survey's scientific results offer a rare portal into a populace that's frequently scrutinized yet rarely polled.

● Sampling is based on an unmatched database comprising nearly 200,000 potential participants and is compiled through apolitical sources and non-partisan registries, in proportion to the overall Orthodox Jewish population in each of the 50 states.

● All our interviews are conducted by live interviewers via a computer-assisted telephone program, which generates randomly-selected numbers from within the database. Roughly half the respondents are reached by landline phones and half by cell phones. When

met with busy signals and answering machines, multiple retry attempts are made. These interviews are performed by trained operators who have considerable experience with—and sensitivity towards—the various Orthodox Jewish communities, ensuring a near-perfect rate of respondent cooperation.

● Our model is based on the most currently available internal data, which breaks down America's Orthodox Jewish constituency as 66% "Ultra" Orthodox or Chareidi, 23% Modern Orthodox, 6% Traditional, with 5% identifying either as Orthodox without a specific denomination or preferring not to say.

● Since our sampling is randomized and not quota driven, slight weighting is occasionally employed, on parameters like gender, age and religious identification, in proportion to the corresponding data.

● All poll questions and their accompanying options employ the

precise wording and appear in the same order as they were presented to respondents. On election-related questions respondents are pre-screened, and only registered voters are polled.

● The poll concludes once 1,000 surveys have been completed.

● A sample of 1,000 random respondents from among an estimated population of one million Orthodox Jews incorporates a margin of error of just 3.1%, at a confidence level of 95%.

● The poll's call center and technical dynamics are managed by an independent, non-partisan firm that conducts opinion surveys on behalf of media outlets, research institutions and non-profit organizations. Their experience, combined with their familiarity with America's Orthodox Jewish communities, makes them an invaluable asset on such projects.

● Journalists may send any questions about the poll to [Turx@AmiMagazine.org](mailto:Turx@AmiMagazine.org).