

TO: Jewish Democratic Council of America
FROM: The Mellman Group, Inc.
RE: New Analysis Shows The 2018 Jewish Vote Was Even More Democratic Than Expected
DATE: November 14, 2018

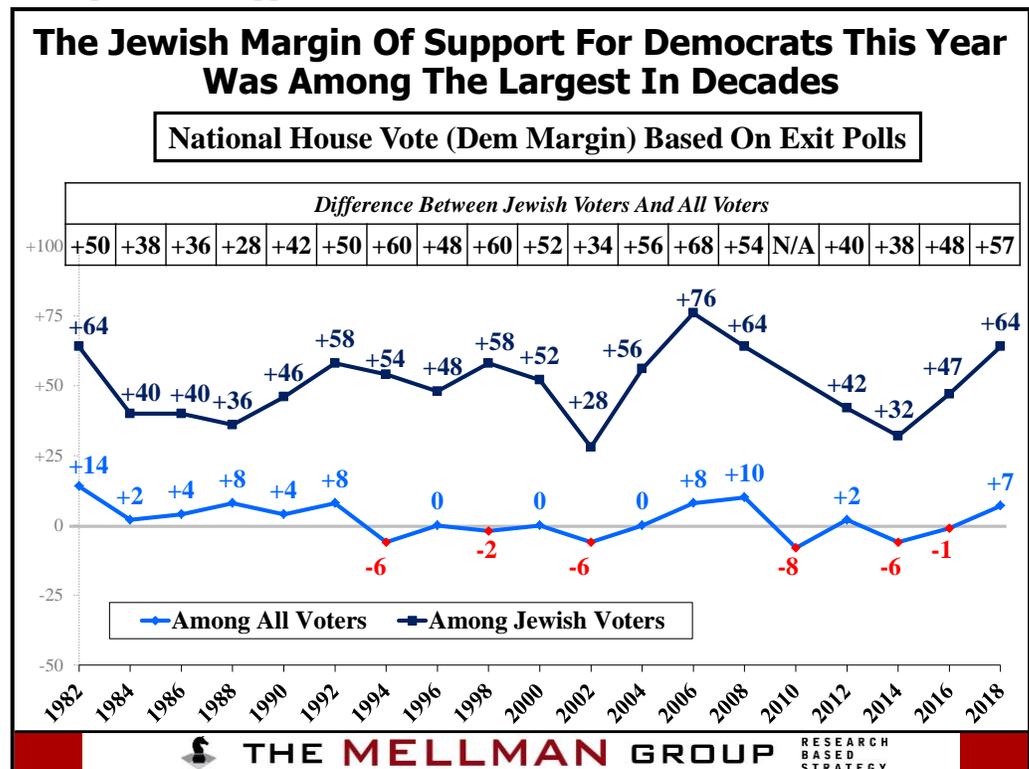
This analysis incorporates nationwide exit poll data, as well as the findings of a national survey commissioned by the Jewish Electorate Institute of 800 voters designed to reflect the likely 2018 Jewish electorate. Interviews were conducted online through a randomly selected panel October 2-11, 2018. The sample utilized a matching method to reflect the Jewish electorate; all respondents were screened for Jewish identity and likely participation in the Nov. 2018 general election. The margin of error is +/- 3.5% at the 95% level of confidence (higher for subgroups). This survey was conducted by The Mellman Group on behalf of the Jewish Electorate Institute, which is an independent, non-partisan 501(c)(3) organization.

American Jews Voted Democratic In Vast Numbers This Year

The nationwide exit poll used by the major networks and newspapers¹ confirms that Jewish voters overwhelmingly chose Democratic candidates in the recent midterm elections. Among Jews, 82% of the two-party U.S. House vote went to Democrats, with only 18% going to Republicans.² This enormous 64-point margin of support for House Democrats is the largest among Jewish voters in a decade and one of the largest on record.

Indeed, Jewish voters exhibited greater loyalty to the Democratic Party than any demographic group except African-Americans and equal to the support from LGBTQ voters.

By comparison, the overall national electorate favored Democratic House candidates by about 7 points³ – representing a clear rebuke of Trump and Republicans in its own right. But the margin for Democrats among Jews was 57 points higher than in the electorate overall, representing the fourth-largest Democratic over-performance among Jews in the last 18 elections.



¹ This is the exit poll used by ABC, CBS, CNN, NBC, the New York Times, and the Washington Post, among others.

² These percentages are calculated out of the two-party vote. In the raw results, 79% voted Democratic while 17% voted Republican. Recalculating out of just those two groups, the percentages come to 82% Democratic and 18% Republican. This makes the data comparable with earlier years which were also computed out of the two-party vote.

³ With the final vote tallying still in progress, that margin may grow further to 8 points.

Since 68% of Jews identify as Democrats, it's clear that Jews who see themselves as independents, and even Republicans, supported Democratic candidates for House this cycle – yielding the overall 82% level of support for Democrats.

Jewish Support For Democrats Seemed To Strengthen In The Campaign's Closing Weeks

In our early October poll, Democratic candidates for Congress earned support from 74% of Jewish voters, with only 26% planning to choose the Republican. This already-large 48-point margin appears to have grown over the following weeks; as noted, by Election Day exit polls indicated that Jewish voters had chosen Democratic candidates for Congress by a 64-point margin (82% to 18%).

Pittsburgh Could Be The Reason

Although the data can't tell us for certain what caused this jump in support for Democrats, one possibility is the shock and alarm caused by the Pittsburgh synagogue killings, which occurred after our poll.

An Election-Day survey for J Street by our colleagues at GBA Strategies found 72% of Jewish voters saying "Donald Trump's comments and policies" were at least somewhat "responsible for the recent shooting that took place at the synagogue in Pittsburgh." That view was not just shared by Democratic Jews, whose votes may have been importantly preordained, but also by other Jews. Eighty-six percent (86%) of Jews who identify as Democrats ascribed some responsibility for the massacre to Trump, but so did a 56% majority of Jewish independents and over a third (35%) of Jewish Republicans.

Conclusion

Jewish support for Democratic candidates – already overwhelming in early October – seems to have grown stronger by the election and ended in a historic rebuke of Trump and Republicans.

