

# Local Political Participation Powerful Predictor of Muslim Civic Engagement

## Though growing, Muslim voter registration and engagement still lags behind other groups

73% of eligible Muslim voters report being registered to vote in 2019 compared to just 60% in 2016. But, Muslims are still less likely to be registered to vote than other faith groups (85-95%).

**2016**

60%

**2019**

73%

## Local political engagement is the strongest predictor of Muslim voter participation

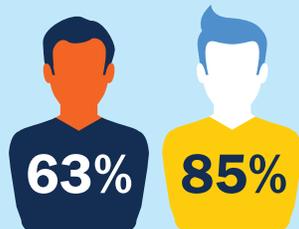
On average, Muslims who contact local officials are 25% more likely to vote in midterm elections.



Weekly mosque attendance stands out as a predictor of midterm voter participation. The same holds true for the general public, where weekly attendance of a religious service is also linked to voting in midterm elections.



The voter registration gap is most pronounced among Muslim young adults (aged 18-29), only 63% of whom report being registered to vote compared to 85% of their peers in the general population.



**83%** of Muslims expressed their intention to vote in the 2018 midterm elections while only 59% actually did.



Belonging to a high income bracket and older age group is linked to a greater likelihood of voting in midterm elections, which mirrors trends in the general public.

# AMERICAN MUSLIM POLL 2019: PREDICTING AND PREVENTING ISLAMOPHOBIA

ISPU's fourth annual poll surveys Muslims, Jews, Catholics, Protestants, white Evangelicals, and those that consider themselves non-affiliated to compare attitudes across religious groups. Triumphs and tribulations punctuated the year leading up to ISPU's fourth annual poll. Record-breaking voter turnout at the 2018 midterm elections led to the historic election of a diverse new class of Congress. At the same time, the Supreme Court ruled to uphold the travel ban, and the country faced the longest ever government shutdown. For the second year, in partnership with the Georgetown University's The Bridge Initiative, we track The National Islamophobia Index, measuring how much the public endorses anti-Muslim tropes. Our researchers examine protective factors against Islamophobia, as well as data-driven recommendations for those working to elevate American Muslim civic engagement and for those combating anti-Muslim bigotry.

## Methodology

ISPU created the questionnaire for this study and commissioned Social Science Research Solutions (SSRS) to conduct a nationally representative survey of self-identified Muslims and Jews and a nationally representative survey of the general American public. Researchers examined the views of self-identified Protestants (parsing out white Evangelicals), Catholics, and the non-affiliated. White Evangelicals are routinely studied in religion survey research as a separate subgroup due to their unique social and political characteristics. In our analysis, we make comparisons among age and racial groups. A total of 2,376 interviews were conducted. ISPU owns all data and intellectual property related to this study.

SSRS conducted the survey of Muslims, Jews, and the general population for ISPU from January 8-25, 2019. SSRS interviewed 804 Muslim and 360 Jewish respondents. The sample for the study came from multiple sources. SSRS telephoned a sample of households that were prescreened as being Muslim or Jewish in SSRS's weekly national omnibus survey of 1,000 randomly selected respondents (n = 648) and purchased a listed sample for Muslim and Jewish households in both landline (from Experian) and cell phone (from Consumer Cell) samples, sample providers that flag specific characteristics for each piece of a sample (n = 133). In an effort to supplement the number of Muslim interviews that SSRS was able to complete in the given time frame and with the amount of available prescreened sample, SSRS employed a web-based survey and completed the final 383 Muslim subject interviews via an online survey with samples from a non-probability panel. SSRS used their sample in the probability panel to administer the general population portion of the survey (n = 1,108). These are respondents who have completed a survey through the SSRS omnibus and signed up for the probability panel. In an effort to balance out the general population probability panel, SSRS interviewed 104 non-Internet respondents through the omnibus survey, which uses a fully replicated, stratified, single-stage, andom-digit-dialing (RDD) sample of landline telephone households and randomly generated cell phone numbers.

For the Muslim and Jewish samples, the data are weighted to: 1) adjust for the fact that not all survey respondents were selected with the same probability, and 2) account for non-response across known demographic parameters for the Jewish and Muslim adult populations. The survey has a margin of error at a 95% confidence level of Muslims  $\pm 4.9\%$  and Jews  $\pm 7.6\%$ . For the general population sample, the data are weighted to provide nationally representative and projectable estimates of the adult population 18 years of age and older. The survey has a margin of error at a 95% confidence level of general population  $\pm 3.6\%$ . For more details on polling methodology, visit [www.ispu.org/poll](http://www.ispu.org/poll).