

American Attitudes: Palestine and Israel In The 2024 Election

November 4th, 2024



Executive Summary

In the last few days leading up to the 2024 presidential election, the Arab American Institute commissioned John Zogby Strategies to conduct a poll of likely voters focused on the role of Palestine and Israel in this election. In total, 1,005 voters were surveyed from November 2nd to November 3rd with a margin of error of +/- 3.2%.

We asked American voters five key questions on Palestine and Israel, producing results that highlight broadly popular actions the next President of the United States could take to address the unfolding genocide in Gaza and the expansion of violence into Lebanon.

Key Findings

- A majority of both Harris (77%) and Trump (51%) voters say it is very or somewhat important that the United States demand an immediate ceasefire in Lebanon and Gaza.
- 64% of Harris voters and 37% of Trump voters agreed that the next President should apply greater pressure on Israel to end the occupation of Palestinian land and allow the creation of a Palestinian state.
- 53% of Harris voters and 34% of Trump voters believe current U.S. policy towards the Middle East is too one-sided in favor of Israel.
- A majority of Harris voters (65%) and a plurality of Trump voters (45%) believe the United States should comply with U.S. laws and not provide unrestricted assistance to the Israeli government if it continues to operate in a way which puts civilian lives at risk in Gaza and Lebanon.

Narrative Analysis of Key Findings

When asked how important is it that the United States demand an immediate ceasefire in Lebanon and Gaza, 63% of American voters said it was very or somewhat important. Only 17% said it was not important for the United States to demand a ceasefire.

As demonstrated by the protest movements across college campuses calling for a ceasefire in Gaza, 66% of 18-29-year-olds said it was very important. Despite the current administration's reluctance to demand a ceasefire in Gaza, a staggering 80% of Democratic voters said it was important for the United States to take this action.

When voters were asked if the next President should apply greater pressure on Israel to end the occupation and allow the creation of an independent Palestinian state, 50% agreed while only 27% disagreed. A majority of Democrats, Independents, 18-29-year-olds, and non-White voters agreed the next President should apply more pressure on Israel. Only a slight margin of Republicans (40% to 37%) disagreed with applying more pressure on Israel.

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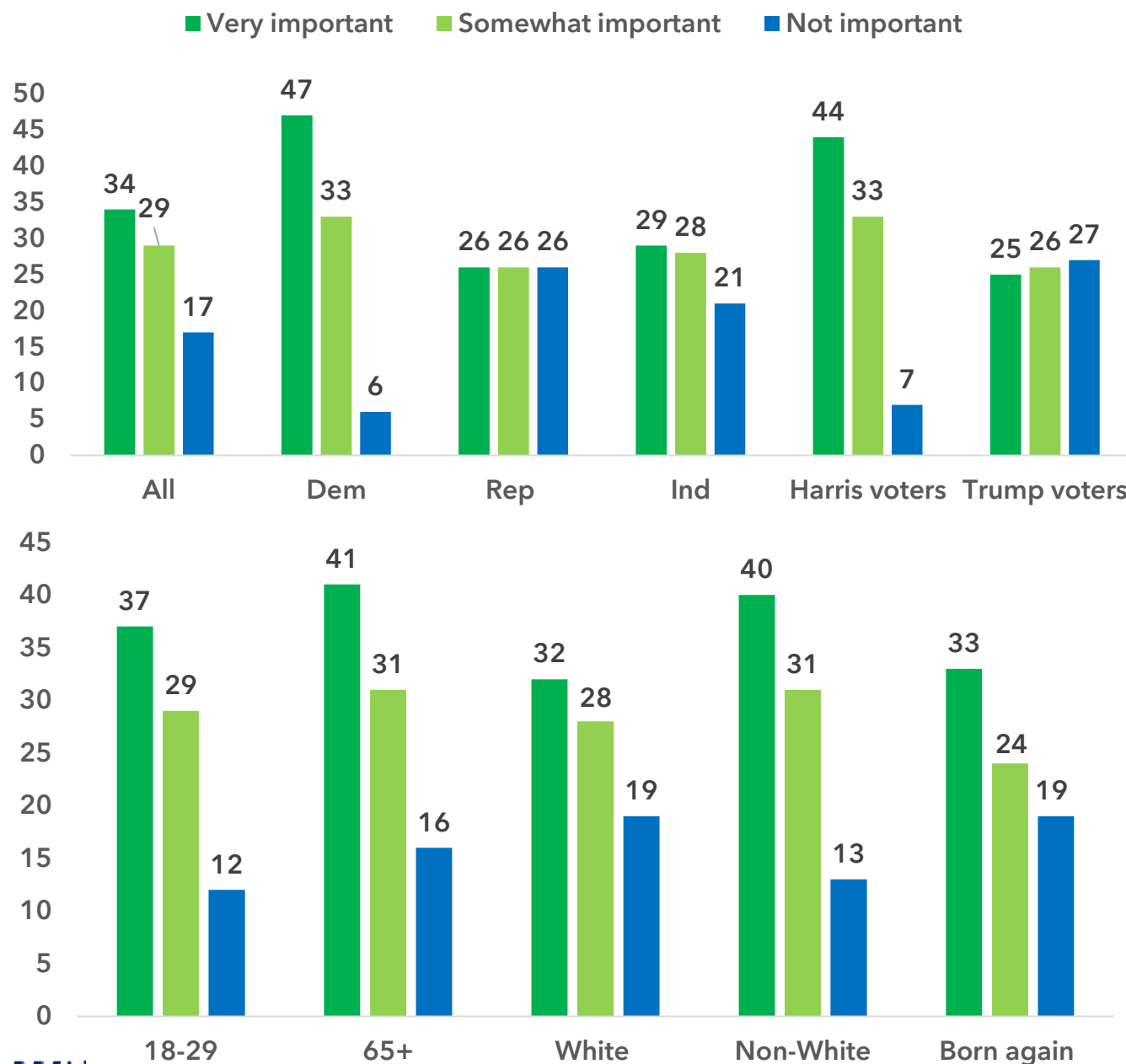
Regarding current American policy towards the Middle East and Israel, 44% of voters agreed with the statement that U.S. policy is currently too one-sided in favor of Israel, while only 30% disagreed. This is a clear rebuke by voters of the Biden administration's policy towards the war in Gaza, including among 54% of Democrats who said current U.S. policy was too one-sided.

When voters were asked if their sympathies lie more with Israel, the Palestinians, both, or neither, 30% said Israel while both closely followed at 28%. Sympathy for Israel is especially strong among Republicans (49%), older voters (44%), and born-again voters (50%). Sympathy for both was strongest with Democratic (38%) and non-white voters (32%). Sympathy for Palestinians was highest among 18-29-year-olds at 23%, highlighting the generational divide on the issue of Palestine and Israel as younger people are increasingly exposed to the plight of the Palestinian people. If this trend continues, more and more Americans will have increased sympathy for Palestinians and their struggle.

The final question focused on military and financial assistance to Israel from the United States. Voters were asked which statement was closer to their own view: that the United States should always provide unrestricted financial and military assistance to the Israeli government, or the United States should comply with U.S. laws and not provide unrestricted financial and military assistance to the Israeli government if it continues to operate in a way which puts civilian lives at risk in Gaza and Lebanon. A strong majority of 55% of voters agreed with the second statement that the United States should not provide unrestricted aid to Israel in compliance with U.S. law, while only 25% said the United States should always provide unrestricted aid to Israel. Despite the inaction of Congress and the current administration to enforce the Leahy law and the Arms Export Control Act, among other applicable U.S. laws, on Israel due to their documented human rights violations, American voters are clear that such an action would have broad popular support.

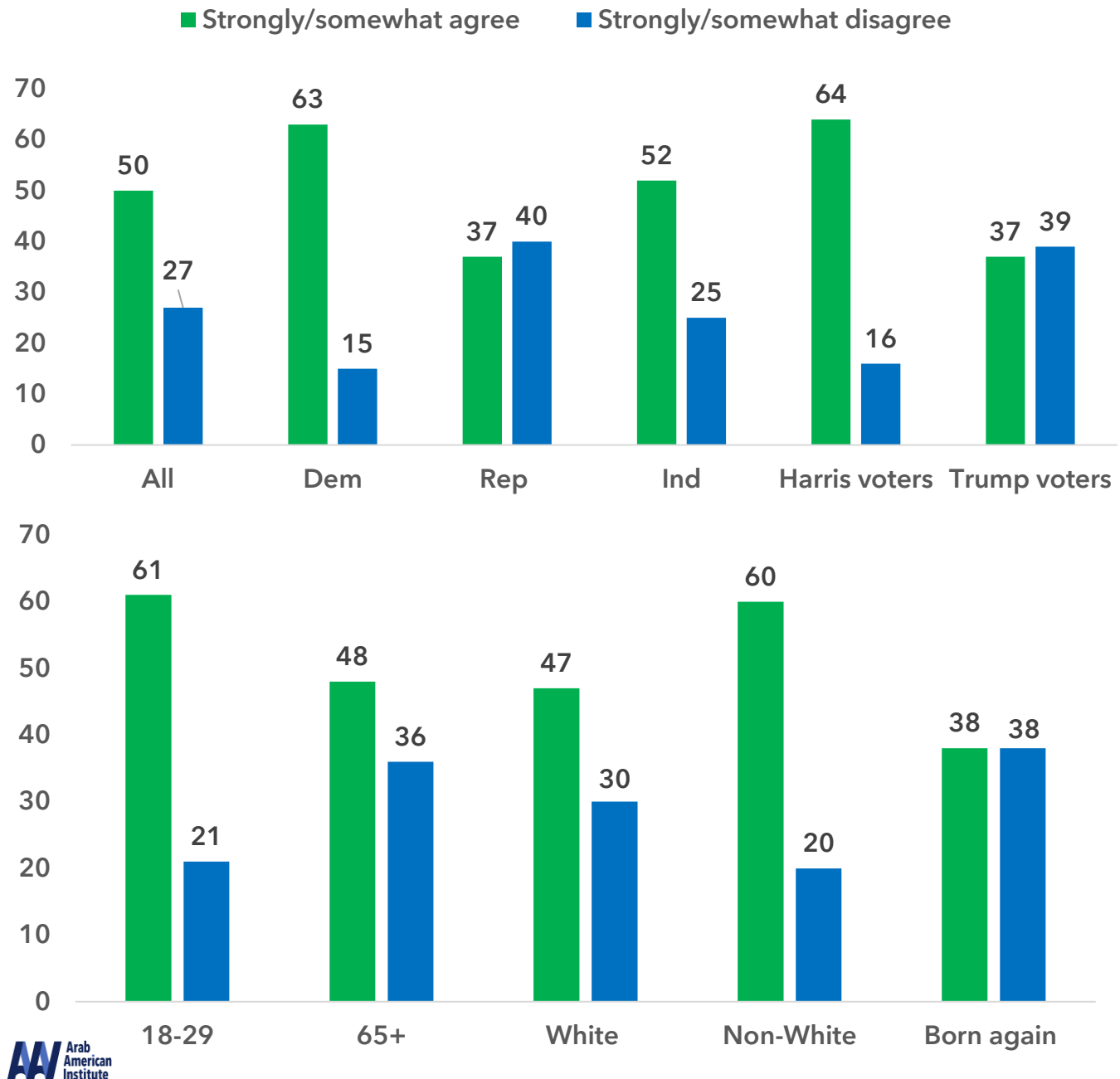
On the day before the election, American voters are clear that the current administration's approach is not in line with public opinion. 63% of Americans want the United States to demand a ceasefire and 44% believe current policy is too one-sided towards Israel. Half of all of voters want the next President to apply more pressure on Israel to end the occupation. Whoever win the 2024 election has the opportunity to take real and popular steps to end the current violence and the long-term plight of the Palestinian people.

1. In your opinion, how important is it that the United States demands an immediate ceasefire in Lebanon and Gaza?



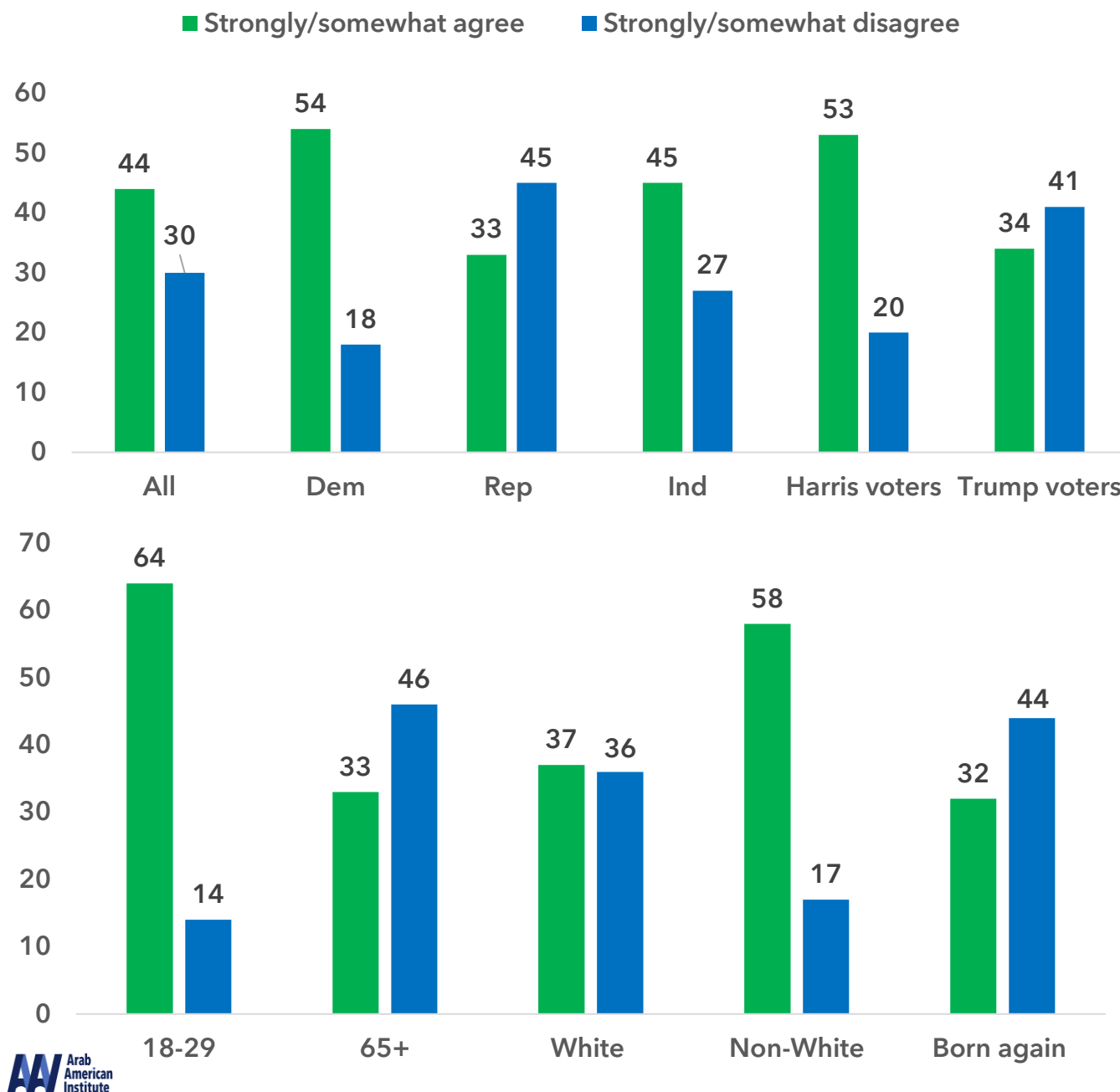
- 63% of Americans said it was very or somewhat important that the United States demand a ceasefire in Lebanon and Gaza.
- 80% of Democrats and 52% of Republicans said it was important to demand a ceasefire.

2. In your opinion, do you agree or disagree that the next President should apply greater pressure on Israel to end its occupation of Palestinian lands and allow the Palestinians to create an independent state of their own?



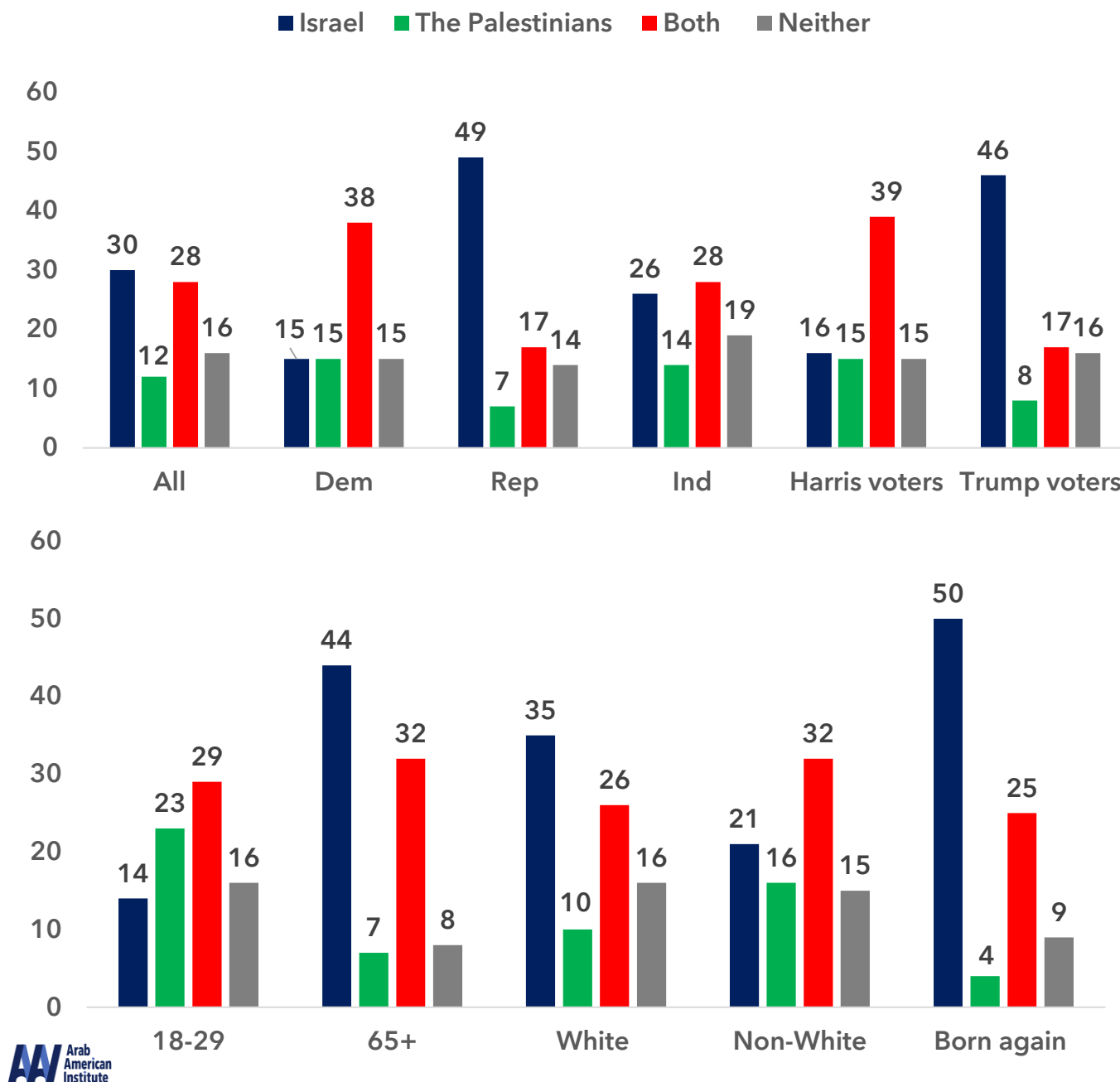
- 50% of Americans, including 63% of Democrats and 61% of 18-29-year-olds believe the next President should pressure Israel to end the occupation of Palestine and allow the creation of a Palestinian state.
- 64% of Harris voters and 37% of Trump voters agree that the next President should apply greater pressure on Israel.

3. In your opinion, do you agree or disagree that U.S. policy toward the Middle East is currently too one-sided in favor of Israel?



- 44% of Americans believe U.S. policy is currently too one-sided towards Israel compared to 30% who disagreed.
- 64% of 18-29-year-olds and 58% of non-White voters believe American policy is too one-sided towards Israel.

4. In the current Middle East crisis, are your sympathies more with Israel, the Palestinians, both, or neither?

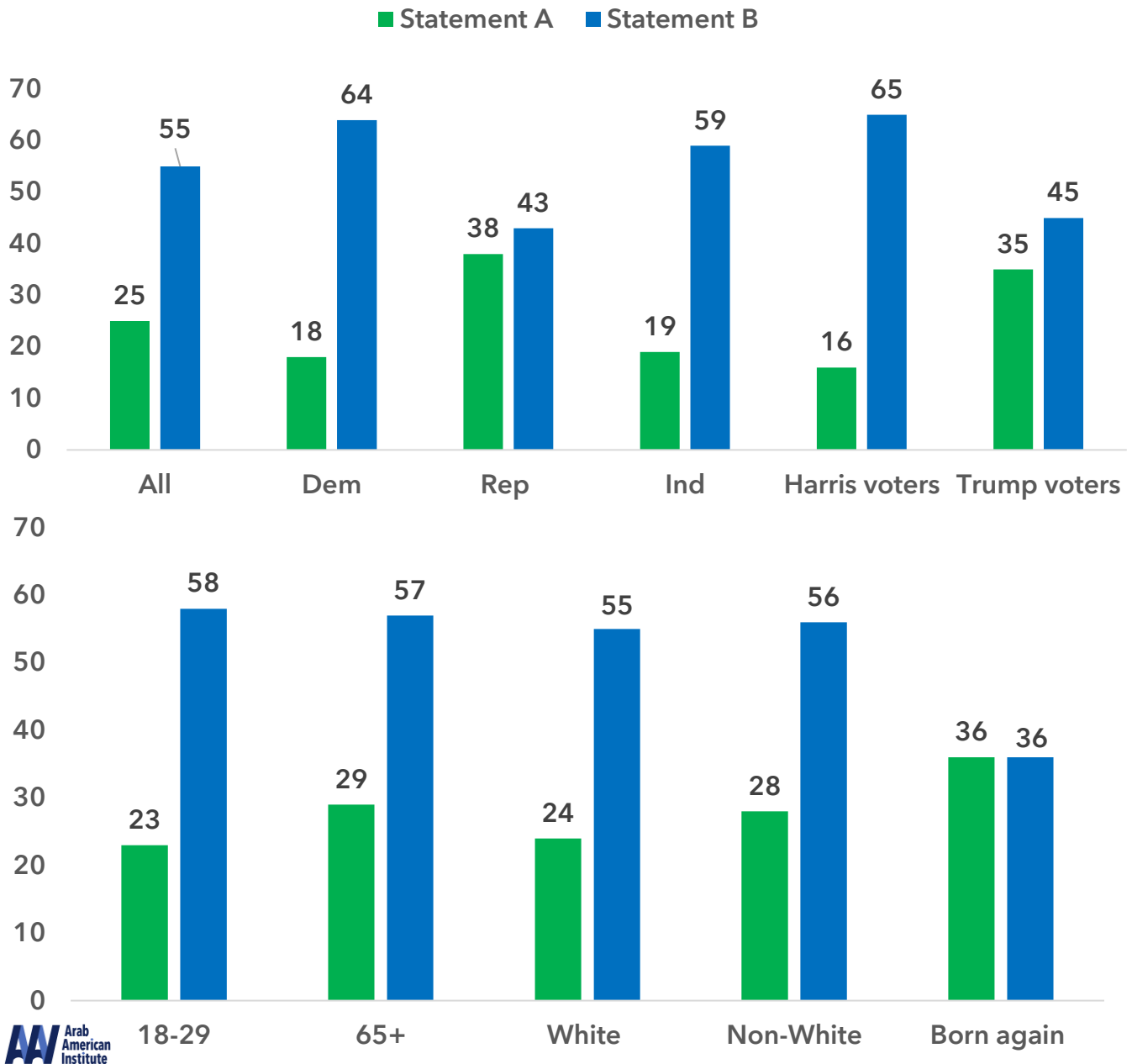


- Overall, there is more sympathy for Israel especially among Republicans, older voters, and born-again voters. There is slightly more sympathy for Palestinians among younger voters, while 38% of Democrats and 32% of non-White voters had sympathies for both.

5. Which statement comes closer to your own view:

Statement A: The United States should always provide unrestricted financial and military assistance to the Israeli government.

Statement B: The United States should comply with U.S. laws and not provide unrestricted financial and military assistance to the Israeli government if it continues to operate in a way which puts civilian lives at risk in Gaza and Lebanon



- 55% of respondents said the United States should not provide unrestricted assistance to Israel if it violates U.S. laws.
- 64% of Democrats and 59% of Independents agreed that the United States should not provide unrestricted assistance to Israel while only 25% agreed on providing unrestricted assistance for Israel.

Demographics and Methodology

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John Zogby Strategies was commissioned by AAI to conduct an online poll of 1,005 U.S. likely voters. The poll was conducted Nov 2 to Nov 3, 2024. The margin of error is +/- 3.2 percentage points.

Gender	Percent
Male	48%
Female	51%
Other	1%
Race	Percent
White	68%
Hispanic	12%
Black	12%
Asian	4%
Other	4%
Education	Percent
College	41%
No College	59%
Party	Percent
Democrat	37%
Republican	36%
Independent	27%
Age	Percent
18-29	22%
30-44	25%
45-64	33%
65+	20%