

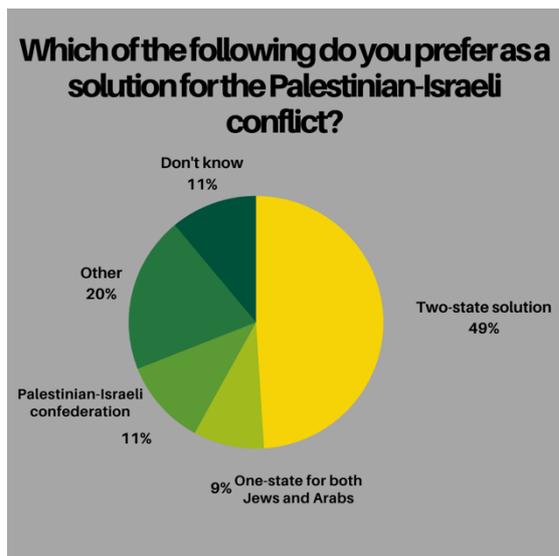
Two-State Index: Palestinian Public Opinion Poll

December 2020



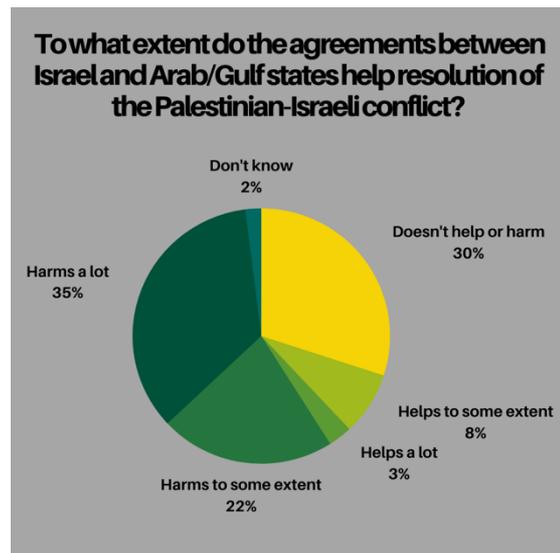
Jointly with the Palestinian Peace Coalition (PPC-GI), the Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research (PCPSR) conducted a poll on Palestinian public perceptions on the absence of a viable peace process, possible solutions to end the conflict, regional developments and on the elect of president-elect Joe Biden. The poll was conducted in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip between 8-11 December 2020. It is a representative sample of 1270 adults interviewed face to face in 127 randomly selected locations. Margin of error is +/-3%. It was conducted as part of the Geneva Initiative's Two-State Index Project, in partnership with the European Union.

Summary of the main findings

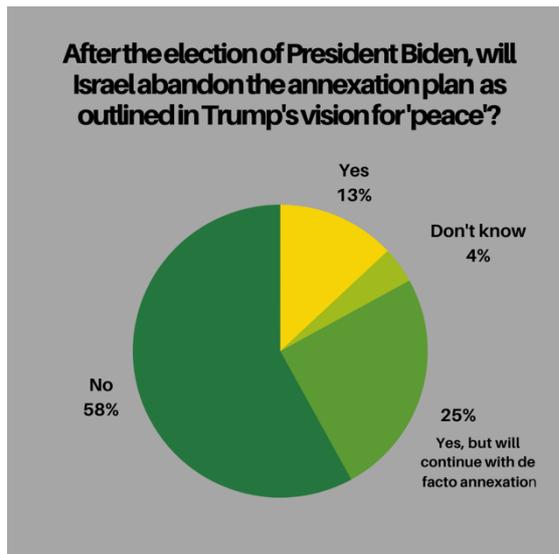


The poll results showed that the Palestinian public overwhelmingly support the two-state solution (49%) as their most preferred option for ending the conflict, compared to the options of one-state for both Jews and Arabs (9%) and a Palestinian-Israeli confederation (11%). When broken down, more Gazans (56%) than West Bankers (44%) prefer the two-state solution. Support for the two-state solution has risen since our last survey carried out in June of this year showed 38% in favour.

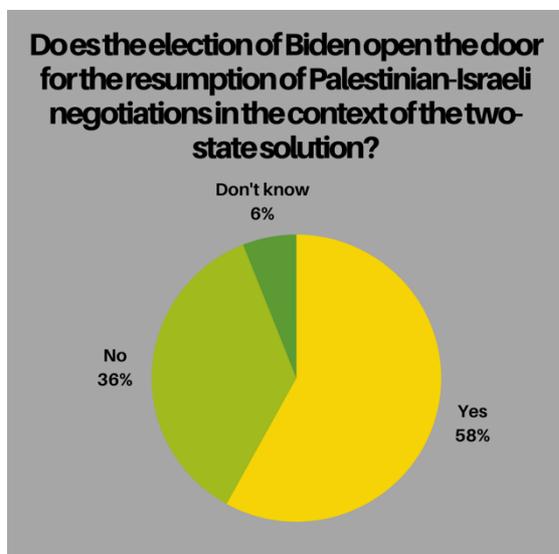
“The Palestinians see a new window of opportunity for the Middle East Peace Process with the success of Biden and given the announced program of the President-elect,” said Director of the PPC, Nidal Foqaha, “this development has encouraged them to firmly express their view on the preferred solution -- the two-state solution --which they believe to be the only way to put an end to the conflict and bring peace.”



More Palestinians believe that the normalization agreements between Israel and the Gulf/Arab States will impede (57%) the resolution of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict than those who consider it to be helpful (11%). Almost a third (30%) think that it will neither benefit nor damage the process. Generally, the trend indicates that Gazans are more optimistic than West Bankers on this matter. Without having yet witnessed the constructive engagement of the normalized states on this issue, it is likely that the Palestinian public opinion will remain skeptical of the potential benefits.



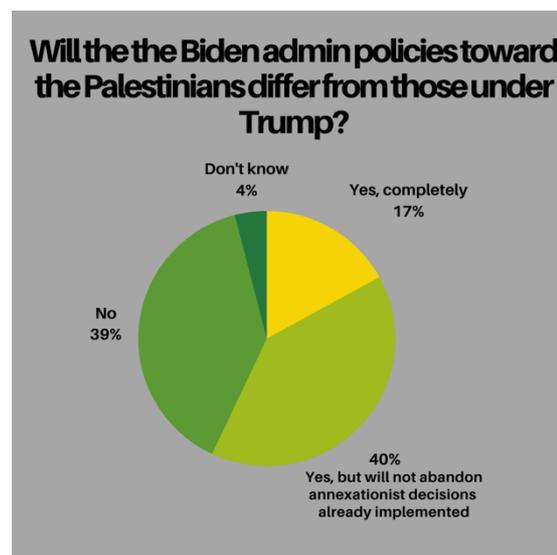
A majority of Palestinians (58%) do not believe that Israel will abandon de jure annexation policies as outlined in the Trump Plan despite the election of Joe Biden to the US presidency. A quarter (25%) think that Israel will abandon annexation in theory but will continue de facto annexation on the ground, meanwhile only 13% believe Israel will give up on this policy altogether.



A majority (58%) believe that the election of Joe Biden can open the door for the resumption of Palestinian-Israeli negotiations in the framework of a two-state solution, while only 36% expressed their pessimism. Again, Gazans were slightly more hopeful than West Bankers. This is likely the result of Biden's already stated intention to resume ties with the Palestinian

Authority and to reopen diplomatic channels, alongside his longtime public support for a two-state solution, commitment to international law and opposition to settlements.

At the same time, there is a degree of uncertainty regarding the specific policies a Biden administration is likely to adopt. The Palestinian public is divided in its response: 40% believe Biden's policies will not differ drastically from those promoted by the Trump administration, while an equal number (40%) think the new administration will change its policies but will not reverse annexationist decisions that have already been implemented such as moving the US embassy to Jerusalem. Only 17% were optimistic that Biden will adopt a totally different set of policies.



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Full Questions

Which of the following do you prefer as a solution for the Palestinian-Israeli conflict?

- Two-state solution: state of Palestine alongside the state of Israel based on the 67' borders: 49% (up 44% from October); 56% in Gaza Strip
- One-state for both Jews and Arabs: 9%
- Palestinian-Israeli confederation: 11%
- Other: 20%
- Don't know: 11%

To what extent can the normalization agreements between Israel and the Gulf/Arab states help or impede the resolution of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict?

- Will help to a large extent: 3%
- Will help to some extent: 8%
- Will neither help nor impede: 30%
- Will impede to some extent: 22%
- Will impede to a large extent: 35%
- Don't know: 2%

Will Israel abandon the annexation plan included in the Trump Plan after the election of the new US President Biden?

- Yes: 13%
- Yes, in theory, but will continue the de facto annexation on the ground: 25%
- No: 58%
- Don't know: 4%

Do you think the election of Joe Biden as the new American President can open the door for the resumption of Palestinian-Israeli negotiations in the context of the two-state solution?

- Yes: 58%
- No: 36%
- Don't know: 6%

Will the new US administration under president Biden change its policy toward the Palestinians, compared to the situation under president Trump?

- Yes completely: 17%
- Yes, but it will not abandon annexation decisions that have already been implemented (such as the move of the embassy to Jerusalem and recognition of capital): 40%
- No: 39%
- Don't know: 4%

For the full poll results from PSCPSR: <https://www.pcpsr.org/en/node/827>