MICHIGAN REPORT

An Analysis of the Jewish Electorate for the Jewish Electorate Institute by the American Jewish Population Project

At the request of the non-partisan Jewish Electorate Institute, researchers at the American Jewish Population Project at Brandeis University's Steinhardt Social Research Institute conducted an analysis of hundreds of national surveys of US adults to describe the Jewish electorate in each of the 435 districts of the 116th US Congress and the District of Columbia. Surveys include the American National Election Studies, the General Social Survey, Pew Political and social surveys, the Gallup Daily Tracking poll, and the Gallup Poll Social Series. Data from over 1.4 million US adults were statistically combined to provide, for each district, estimates of the number of adults who self-identify as Jewish and a breakdown of those individuals by age, education, race and ethnicity, political party, and political ideology. The percentages of political identity are not sensitive to quick changes in attitudes that can result from current events and they are not necessarily indicative of voting behaviors. The following report presents a portrait of the Jewish electorate in Michigan and its 14 congressional districts.[1]

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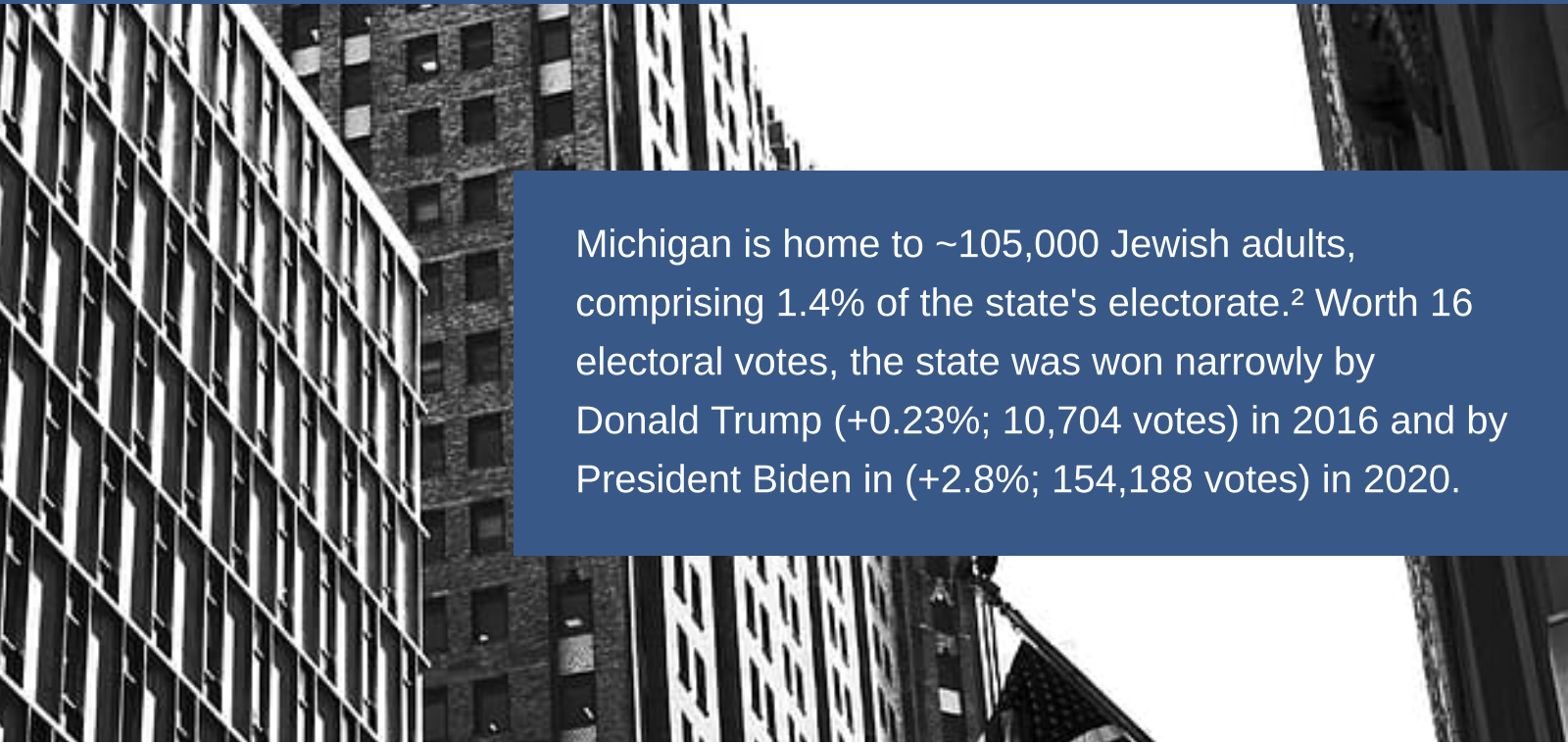
Michigan is home to ~105,000 Jewish adults, comprising 1.4% of the state's electorate.[2] Worth 16 electoral votes, the state was won narrowly by Donald Trump (+0.23%; 10,704 votes) in 2016 and by President Biden in (+2.8%; 154,188 votes) in 2020.

OVERVIEW: THE MICHIGAN JEWISH ELECTORATE

The majority (~77%) of Jewish adults in Michigan resides in congressional districts that include the metropolitan areas around Detroit, Ann Arbor, and Lansing.

Nearly two thirds (61%) of Michigan's Jewish electorate identifies with or leans toward the Democratic Party compared with 65% of the Jewish electorate nationally.[3]

JEWISH ADULTS

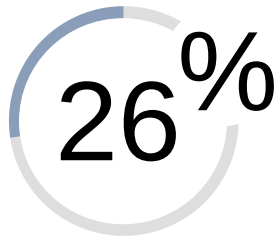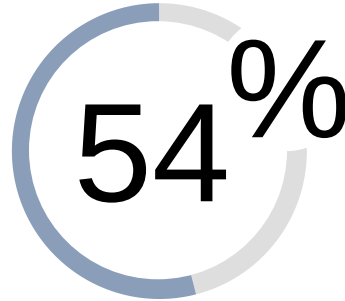| 61%		31%
Democrat & Lean Democrat	Independent (5%)	Republican & Lean Republican
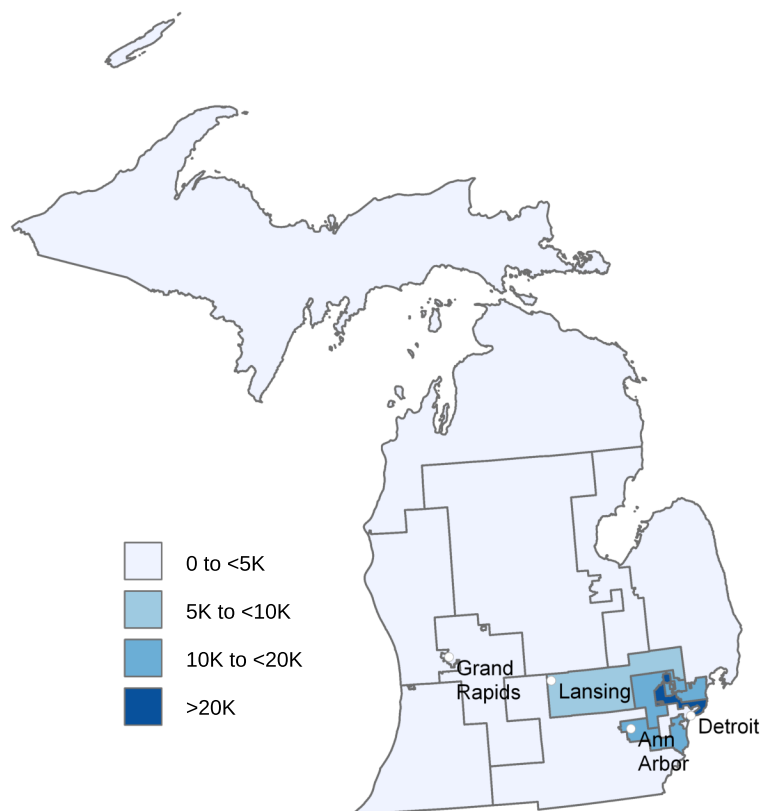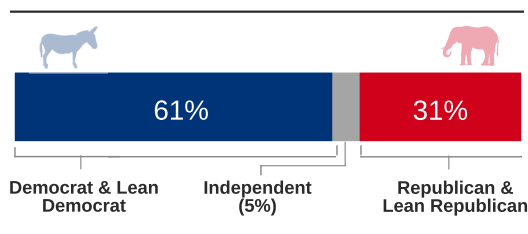
Total does not sum to 100% due to omitted "Other" category.

0 to <5K
5K to <10K
10K to <20K
>20K

Grand Rapids   Lansing   Detroit
Ann Arbor

STATE-LEVEL DEMOGRAPHICS

Adults with a College Degree

26%
Michigan adults

54%
Michigan Jewish adults
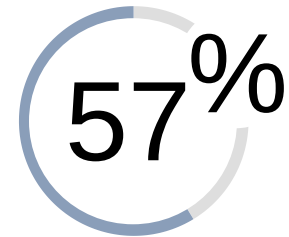
57%
US Jewish adults

Just over half of Jewish adults in Michigan are college educated. Compared to the general adult population of the state, Michigan's Jewish electorate is more likely to be college educated (54% vs. 26%), with educational attainment comparable to Jewish adults nationally (54% vs. 57%).

Age

The Michigan Jewish electorate is older compared to all adults in the state, with a greater proportion of adults ages 65+ (28% vs. 23%, respectively).

	18-24	25-34	35-44	45-54	55-64	65+
Jewish Adults	14%	15%	12%	13%	19%	28%
MI Adults	12%	16%	15%	16%	18%	23%

■ Jewish Adults
■ MI Adults
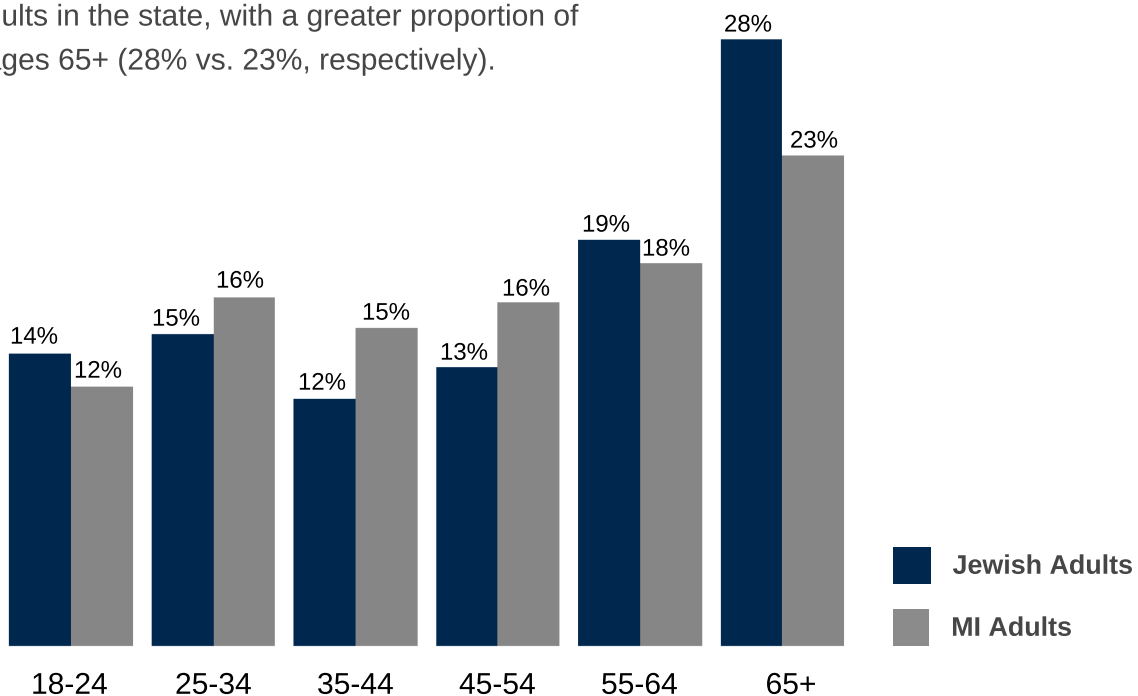
STATE-LEVEL POLITICS

Jewish adults in Michigan are more likely to identify as Democrats (61%) than all adults in the state (49%). Of the 61% of Jewish adults who identify as Democrats in some way, 47% identified as Democrat when asked if they identify with a political party. An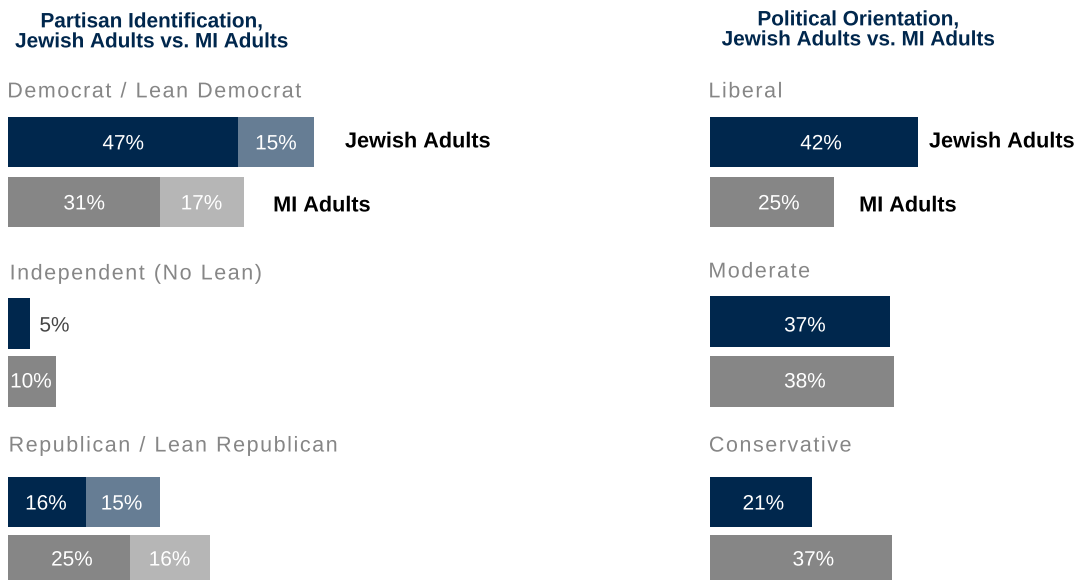 additional 15% identify as Independent who lean toward the Democratic Party. Among all Michigan adults, 31% identify as Democrats, and an additional 17% lean Democratic. Jewish adults are also less likely to identify as or lean Republican (31%) and as Independent (5%) than all Michigan adults (42% and 10%, respectively).

When asked about political ideology, Jewish adults in Michigan are far more likely to identify as liberal (42%) than all adults in Michigan (25%). Jewish adults are also far less likely to identify as conservative (21%) than all adults (37%). Both groups, Jewish adults and the general Michigan population, identify as moderate in approximately equal proportions (37% and 38%, respectively).

**Partisan Identification,
Jewish Adults vs. MI Adults**

Democrat / Lean Democrat

| 47% | 15% | **Jewish Adults** |

| 31% | 17% | **MI Adults** |

Independent (No Lean)

5%

10%

Republican / Lean Republican

| 16% | 15% |

| 25% | 16% |

**Political Orientation,
Jewish Adults vs. MI Adults**

Liberal

| 42% | **Jewish Adults** |

| 25% | **MI Adults** |

Moderate

37%

38%

Conservative

21%

37%

Age of Independents

Within Michigan's Jewish electorate, those in younger age groups are more likely to identify as Independent compared with older adults. Jewish adults ages 18-24 are about 50% more likely to identify as Independent than Jewish adults ages 65 or older (44% vs. 29%, respectively).

% Independent among Michigan Jewish Adults, by Age Group

18-24	44%
25-34	41%
35-44	38%
45-54	35%
55-64	32%
65+	29%
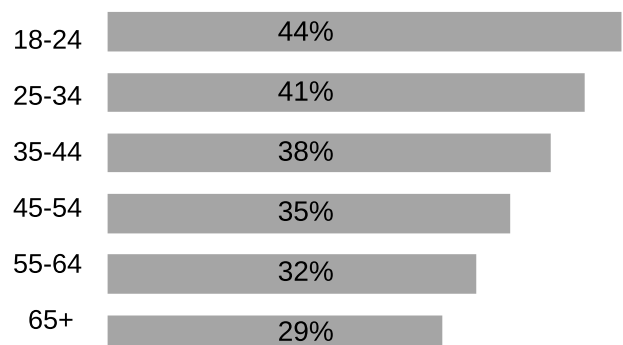
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS

Top Five Congressional Districts

Congressional Districts	Pct. Jewish	Jewish Adults*	Representative
MI-14	5.8	31,000	Brenda Lawrence (D)
MI-9	2.7	15,000	Andy Levin (D)
MI-12	2.8	15,000	Debbie Dingell (D)
MI-11	2.4	14,000	Haley Stevens (D)
MI-8	1.1	6,000	Elissa Slotkin (D)

* Estimates are based on a synthesis of sample surveys and may have a margin of error between +/- 1,000 to 5,000, depending on the estimate.
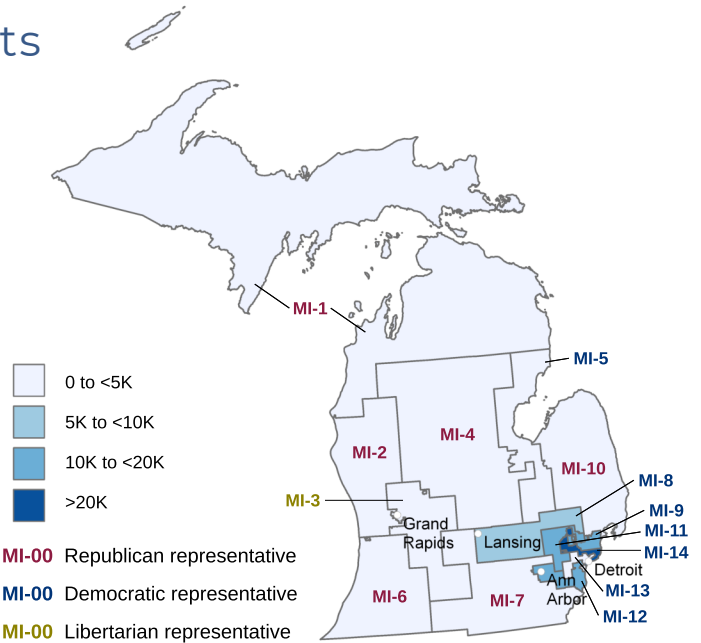
Of Michigan's 14 congressional districts, the top five by Jewish population account for about 77% of the state's total Jewish electorate. All five districts are located in and around Detroit.

Legend:
- 0 to <5K
- 5K to <10K
- 10K to <20K
- >20K

MI-00 Republican representative
MI-00 Democratic representative
MI-00 Libertarian representative

Map labels: MI-1, MI-5, MI-4, MI-2, MI-10, MI-8, MI-3, MI-9, MI-11, MI-14, Grand Rapids, Lansing, Detroit, MI-6, MI-7, Ann Arbor, MI-13, MI-12

The top four districts are represented by Democrats and each is home to significant portion of the Jewish electorate, ranging from 14,000 Jewish adults in MI-11 to 31,000 in MI-14. When asked about political affiliation, Jewish adults in these districts tend to identify with or lean Democratic, ranging from 59% in MI-14 and MI-11 to 82% in MI-12. They are also predominantly liberal in political ideology, with a majority in MI-12 (58%) as well as pluralities in MI-14 (42%) and MI-9 (45%). Among districts with significant Jewish populations, MI-11 is the only one where a plurality of Jewish adults identifies as moderate (38%).

MI-14
31,000
Jewish Adults

59% Democrat & Lean Democrat	4% Independent/ No Lean	33% Republican & Lean Republican
42% Liberal	38% Moderate	20% Conservative

MI-9
15,000
Jewish Adults

61% Democrat & Lean Democrat	8% Independent/ No Lean	29% Republican & Lean Republican
45% Liberal	37% Moderate	18% Conservative

MI-12
15,000
Jewish Adults

82% Democrat & Lean Democrat	<1% Independent/ No Lean	15% Republican & Lean Republican
58% Liberal	29% Moderate	13% Conservative

MI-11
14,000
Jewish Adults

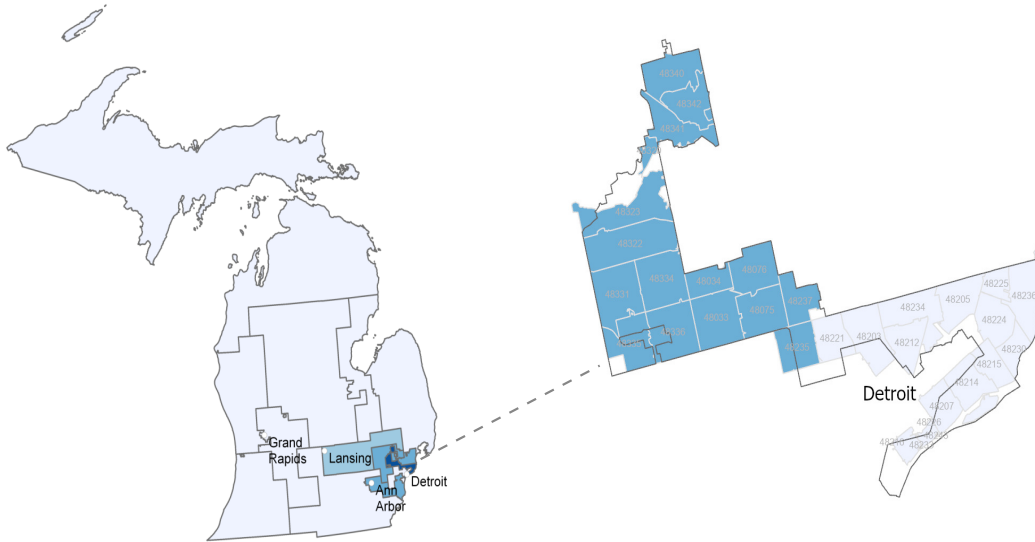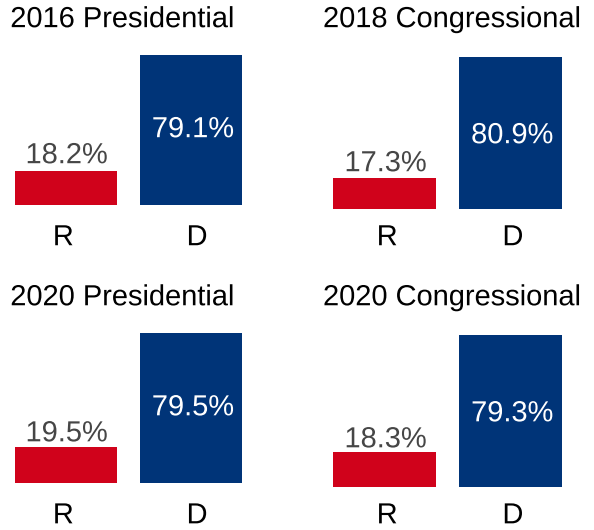| 59% Democrat & Lean Democrat	5% Independent/ No Lean	34% Republican & Lean Republican
37% Liberal	38% Moderate	24% Conservative

MI-14 District Profile

At ~31,000 Jewish adults, the MI-14 Jewish electorate accounts for 5.8% of the district's voting-age adults. Ahead of the 2020 House and presidential elections, MI-14 was considered safe for incumbent Brenda Lawrence (D) and reliable for Joe Biden. A majority of Jewish adults in this district identifies with or leans toward the Democratic Party (59%), less than the proportion of all adults in the district (72%).

MI-14 spans portions of Eastern Detroit, Farmington Hills, and Pontiac. Over 90% of Jewish adults in this district live in 16 inland ZIP Codes that encompass much of Detroit's Northern suburbs.
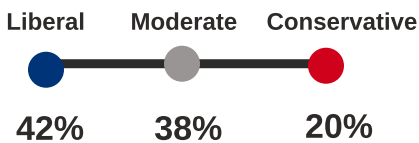
MI-14: Election Results

2016 Presidential
18.2% R | 79.1% D

2018 Congressional
17.3% R | 80.9% D

2020 Presidential
19.5% R | 79.5% D

2020 Congressional
18.3% R | 79.3% D

Detroit

Grand Rapids | Lansing | Detroit | Ann Arbor

5.8%
of the voting-age population is Jewish

31,000
Jewish Adults

94%
of the Jewish electorate lives in 16 ZIP Codes

Political Ideology
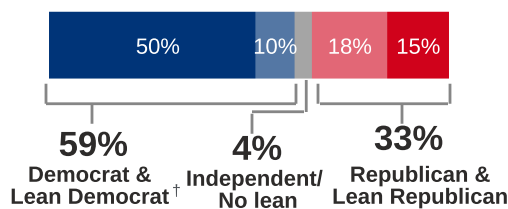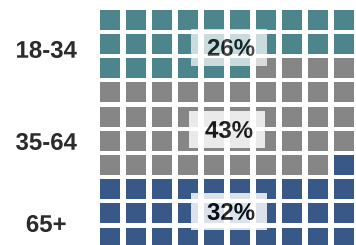
Liberal | Moderate | Conservative

42% | 38% | 20%

Partisan Identification

50% | 10% | 18% | 15%

59%
Democrat & Lean Democrat [†]

4%
Independent/ No lean

33%
Republican & Lean Republican

Age

18-34 — 26%

35-64 — 43%

65+ — 32%

† Interpret data with caution. The coefficient of variation (CV) for the "lean" political estimate is greater than 30%.
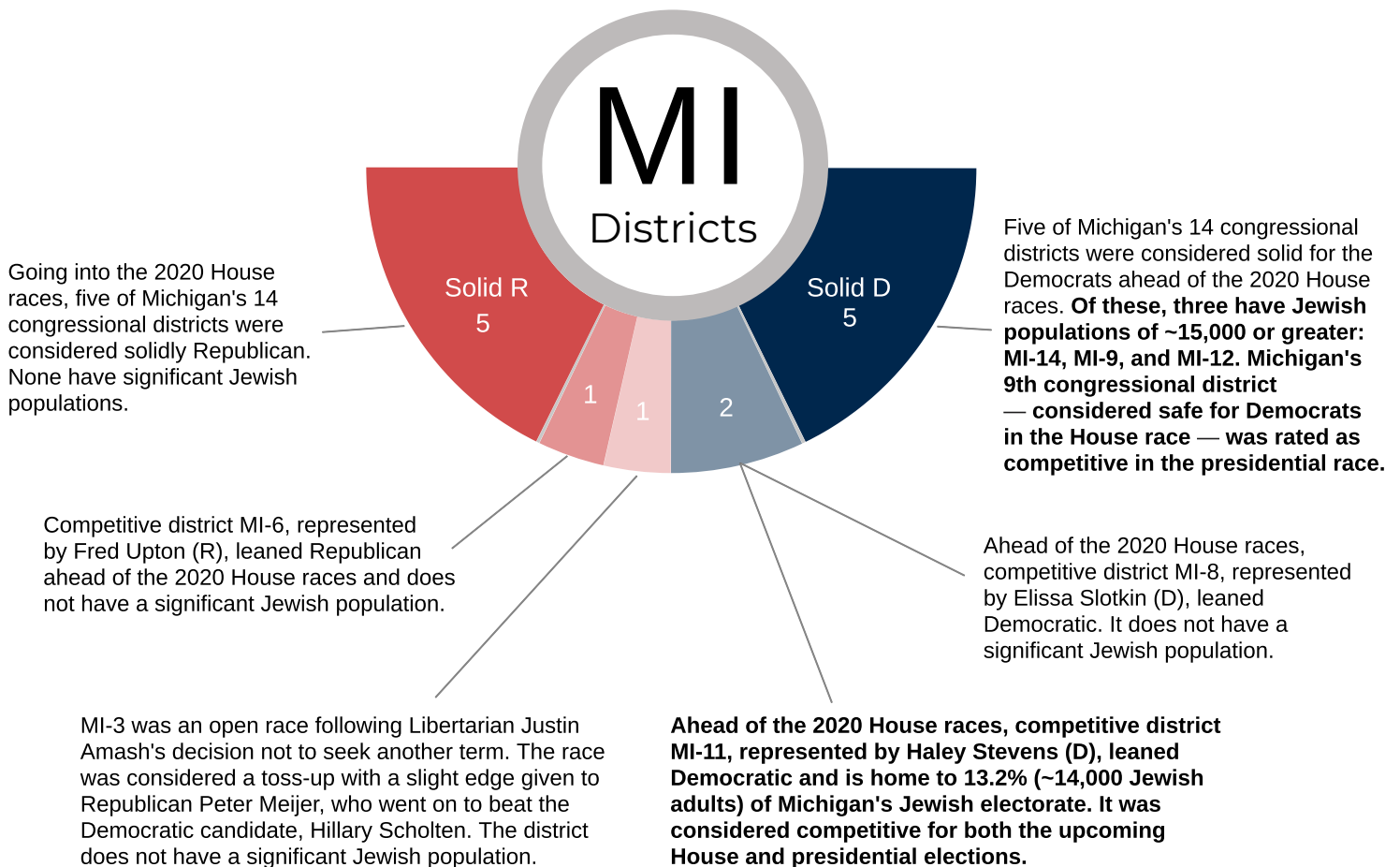
Competitive Districts

The majority of Michigan's congressional districts—10 out of 14—were considered safe for incumbent representatives ahead of the 2020 House races and are split evenly between Democrats and Republicans. The rest, also split evenly between parties, were rated as competitive, with MI-8 and MI-11 leaning Democratic, MI-6 leaning Republican, and MI-3 considered a toss-up for representative Peter Meijer (R). Four of Michigan's 14 districts were also rated as competitive in the presidential race. Of these, three have significant Jewish populations: MI-9, MI-11, and MI-8.[4]

Incumbents won their races in all of Michigan's congressional districts with the exception of MI-3, which was an open race following Libertarian Justin Amash's decision not to seek reelection. Republican candidate Peter Meijer beat democratic candidate Hillary Scholten to win his first term as representative of MI-3. Of the four competitive congressional districts in the 2020 presidential race, Joe Biden won those with significant Jewish populations: MI-9, MI-11, and MI-8.

Michigan 2020 House Races

Four of Michigan's 14 congressional districts were considered competitive House races in 2020.

MI Districts

Solid R 5

Solid D 5

1 1 2

Going into the 2020 House races, five of Michigan's 14 congressional districts were considered solidly Republican. None have significant Jewish populations.

Competitive district MI-6, represented by Fred Upton (R), leaned Republican ahead of the 2020 House races and does not have a significant Jewish population.

MI-3 was an open race following Libertarian Justin Amash's decision not to seek another term. The race was considered a toss-up with a slight edge given to Republican Peter Meijer, who went on to beat the Democratic candidate, Hillary Scholten. The district does not have a significant Jewish population.

Five of Michigan's 14 congressional districts were considered solid for the Democrats ahead of the 2020 House races. **Of these, three have Jewish populations of ~15,000 or greater: MI-14, MI-9, and MI-12. Michigan's 9th congressional district — considered safe for Democrats in the House race — was rated as competitive in the presidential race.**

Ahead of the 2020 House races, competitive district MI-8, represented by Elissa Slotkin (D), leaned Democratic. It does not have a significant Jewish population.

Ahead of the 2020 House races, competitive district MI-11, represented by Haley Stevens (D), leaned Democratic and is home to 13.2% (~14,000 Jewish adults) of Michigan's Jewish electorate. It was considered competitive for both the upcoming House and presidential elections.

MI-11 District Profile

MI-11 has the fourth largest Jewish adult population in the state and is represented by Haley Stevens (D). Considered competitive ahead of the 2020 House and presidential elections, the district was won by President Biden (+4.5%) and by Representative Stevens (+2.4%).

Spanning portions of Wayne and Oakland Counties, MI-11 is home to ~14,000 Jewish adults, accounting for 2.4% of the district's voting-age population. Two thirds of the MI-11 Jewish electorate live in 19 of its Northernmost ZIP Codes, encompassing the cities of Troy, Birmingham, Clawson, and Auburn Hills, as well as the townships of White Lake and Highland.

Previous Election Results: MI-11

2016 Presidential
49.4% R | 47.0% D

2018 Congressional
45.2% R | 51.8% D

2020 Presidential
47.1% R | 51.6% D

2020 Congressional
47.8% R | 50.2% D

The majority of the MI-11 Jewish electorate identifies with the Democratic Party (59%), and a plurality identifies as politically moderate (38%).
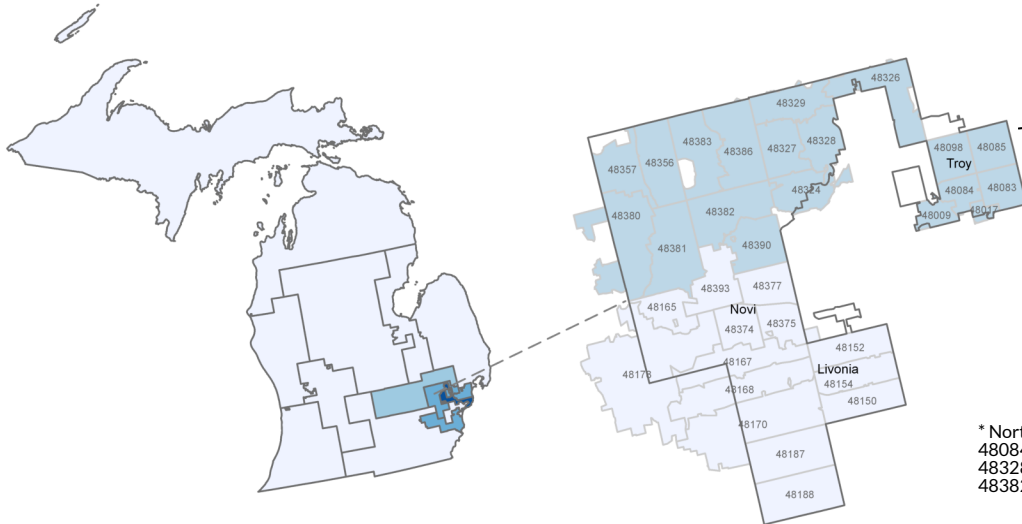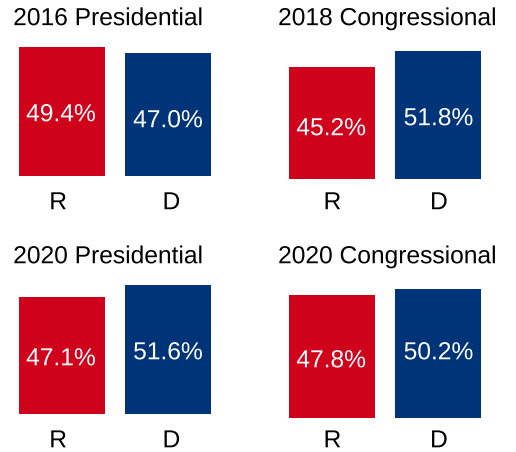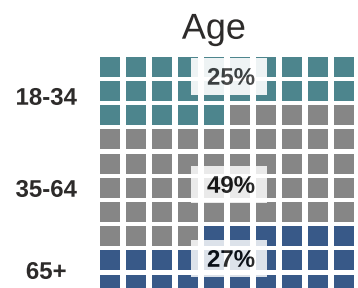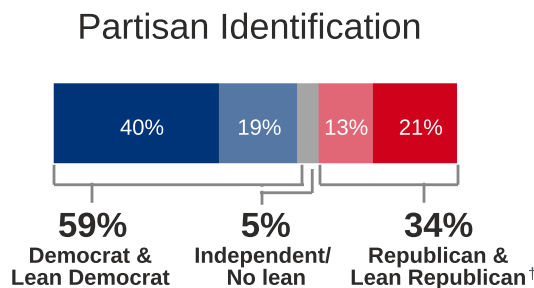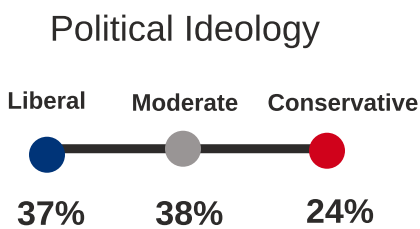

~66% of Jewish adults in MI-11 live in 19 northern ZIP Codes* and account for about 2.4% of the district's total electorate.

* Northern ZIP Codes: 48009 ,48017, 48083, 48084, 48085, 48098, 48324, 48326, 48327, 48328, 48329, 48356, 48357, 48380, 48381, 48382, 48383, 48386, 48390.

2.4%
of the voting-age population is Jewish

14,000
Jewish Adults

66%
of the Jewish electorate lives in 19 ZIP Codes

Political Ideology

Liberal   **Moderate**   **Conservative**

37%   **38%**   **24%**

Partisan Identification

40% | 19% | 13% | 21%

59%
Democrat & Lean Democrat

5%
Independent/ No lean

34%
Republican & Lean Republican[†]

Age

18-34   25%

35-64   49%

65+   27%

† Interpret data with caution. The coefficient of variation (CV) for the "lean" political estimate is greater than 30%.
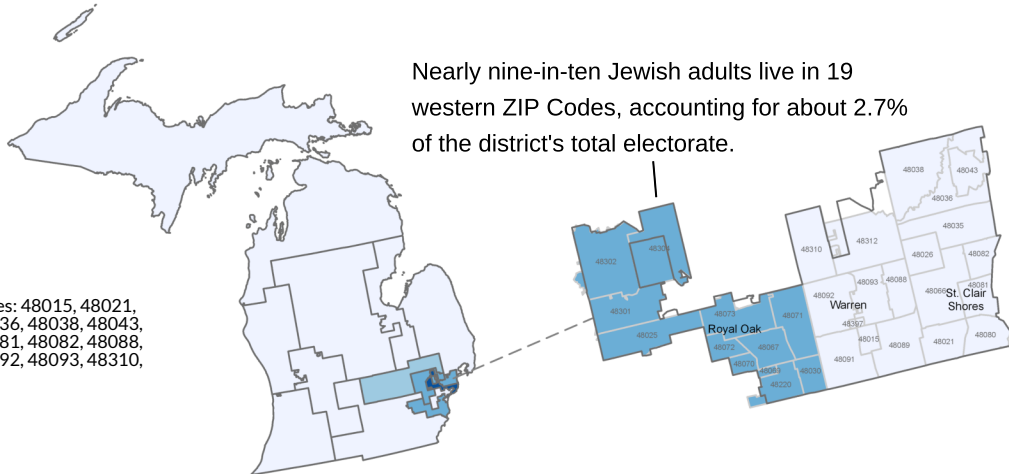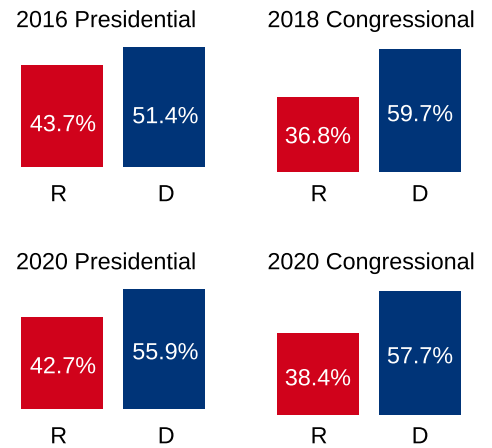
MI-9 District Profile

MI-9 has the second largest Jewish adult population in the state. Though considered safe for Representative Andy Levin (D), and despite Clinton's win here (+7.7%) in 2016, this district was considered competitive ahead of the 2020 presidential election. President Biden went on to win MI-9 by a comfortable margin (+13.2%) and, as anticipated, the district went for Levin by an overwhelming share of the vote (+19.3%).

Spanning portions of Oakland and Macomb Counties, MI-9 is home to ~15,000 Jewish adults, accounting for 2.7% of the district's voting-age population. A large majority of the MI-9 Jewish electorate (88%) lives in 19 of its westernmost ZIP Codes,* encompassing the cities of Warren, Center Line, Eastpointe, Fraser, Mount Clemens, Roseville, St. Clair Shores, and Sterling Heights.

Jewish adults in MI-9 are more likely to identify with the Democratic Party (61%) and as politically liberal (45%) than all adults in the district (50% and 27%, respectively).
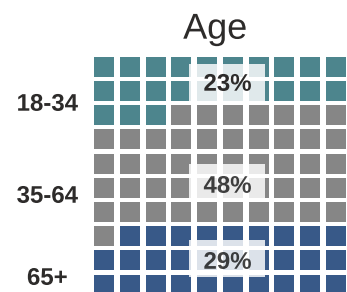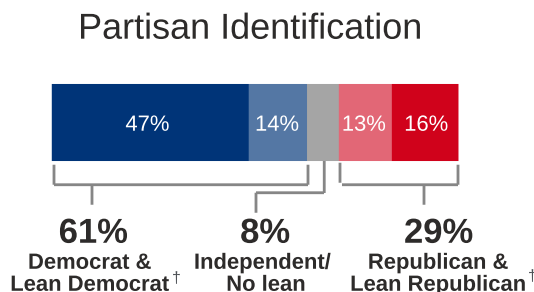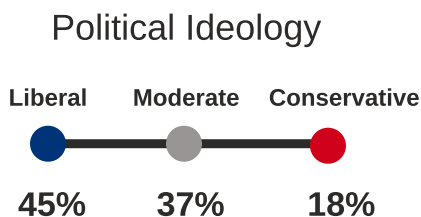
Previous Election Results: MI-9

2016 Presidential
43.7% R | 51.4% D

2018 Congressional
36.8% R | 59.7% D

2020 Presidential
42.7% R | 55.9% D

2020 Congressional
38.4% R | 57.7% D

Nearly nine-in-ten Jewish adults live in 19 western ZIP Codes, accounting for about 2.7% of the district's total electorate.

* Western ZIP Codes: 48015, 48021, 48026, 48035, 48036, 48038, 48043, 48066, 48080, 48081, 48082, 48088, 48089, 48091, 48092, 48093, 48310, 48312, 48397.

2.7%
of the voting-age population is Jewish

15,000
Jewish Adults

88%
of the Jewish electorate lives in 19 ZIP Codes

Political Ideology

Liberal | Moderate | Conservative

45% | 37% | 18%

Partisan Identification

47% | 14% | | 13% | 16%

61% **Democrat & Lean Democrat**[†] | 8% **Independent/ No lean** | 29% **Republican & Lean Republican**[†]

Age

18-34: 23%

35-64: 48%

65+: 29%

† Interpret data with caution. The coefficient of variation (CV) for the "lean" political estimates is greater than 30%.

NOTES

[1] Methodology: Individual-level data from all surveys were combined using Bayesian multilevel modeling with poststratification. Poststratification included geographic distributions of respondents by ZIP Codes within congressional districts, and demographic characteristics of age, educational attainment, race/ethnicity, population density, as well as interactions of age by educational attainment, population density by age, and population density by educational attainment. Modeling is based to Jewish adults who self-identify as Jewish when asked about their religion. Estimates of "Total Jewish Adults" are obtained by adding to the model-based estimate, independent estimates of the percentage of Jewish adults who do not identify religiously as Jewish. This percentage can range from a low of 10% to a high of 30% depending on the region.

[2] State-level Jewish adult totals are estimated from AJPP 2020 models and adjustments for Jewish adults who do not identify religiously as Jewish.

[3] Partisan lean of Independents was estimated using a design-based pooled analysis method in which each survey's original survey weights were adjusted for survey specific designs and sample sizes. This method is not as sensitive to estimation of rare populations as the Bayesian methods used for the main Jewish population estimates but provides an initial ballpark estimate of the groups of interest. Follow-up studies will compare these estimates to those derived from more fully developed Bayesian model-based estimates.

[4] Congressional district competitive scores from Cook Political Report House Race Ratings (Nov 2, 2020) and FiveThirtyEight's Partisan Lean (Oct 19, 2020); data accessed January 2021.