



PAAIA

Public Affairs Alliance of Iranian Americans

SURVEY OF IRANIAN

AMERICANS

2017

Zogby

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LLC**

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Executive Summary

From June 6 to June 21, 2017, Zogby Research Services (ZRS) conducted a national telephone survey of Iranian Americans for PAAIA. Overall, 402 randomly selected respondents were interviewed. Because this is the seventh such survey we have conducted for PAAIA, we have been able to compare this year's results with previous findings. While there are some changes in attitudes that can be observed, the results of this year's poll are consistent, in many areas, with those from past years.

1. As we have consistently found since 2009, Iranian Americans remain deeply connected with their family in Iran, with more than one half making contact at least several times a month. Most speak with family or friends by phone, although there is an increasing reliance on Internet services, mobile apps and social media.
2. About one-quarter say they have traveled to Iran in the past few years and about one-third report visits in recent years from friends and family in Iran. While only a few of those who have gone to Iran report having problems with either U.S. or Iranian authorities, three-quarters of all respondents say that new policies put in place by the Trump Administration may deter them from traveling to Iran in the future.
3. More than one-half of Iranian Americans report having personally experienced discrimination because of their ethnicity, with the common forms of that discrimination being in social circumstances or at airports.

Iranian Americans are concerned that this discrimination will grow in the future because of the hostile rhetoric used by some politicians and the negative policies advanced by the Trump Administration.

4. It may be this growing concern that led respondents to choose improving the image of Iranian Americans and protecting Iranian American civil rights as the most important goals that should be advanced by Iranian American organizations.

It is important to note that in previous years, respondents said that the most important goal of Iranian American groups should be to promote human rights and democracy in Iran. The shift to domestic concerns in 2017 is significant.

5. As a result of the Trump Administration's hostile rhetoric, travel ban, and negative approach toward Iran and the Iran Nuclear Deal, more than three-quarters of Iranian Americans have a negative view of President Trump. This stands in marked contrast to the three-quarters of respondents in last year's poll who gave then-President Obama a positive rating.
6. While slightly less than two-thirds of Iranian Americans believe that the nuclear deal with Iran should be kept, only about half say that the agreement has had a positive impact.

Moving beyond the deal, Iranian Americans believe that the United States should make it a priority to push for democracy and greater rights in Iran and should allow Americans to invest in Iran in order to create more employment for Iranians.

7. Iran's President Hassan Rouhani is viewed favorably by 55% of respondents, while the country's Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei is seen favorably by only 6%.

Opinion, however, is divided as to whether Rouhani's election as president actually can make a difference in the future of Iran or in improving U.S.-Iran relations. When asked what type of government they prefer for Iran, the single most favored option is a secular democracy.

Results

I. Connections and Communications with Iran

Do you have family in Iran?				
	2017	2016	2015	2012
Yes	88	84	84	84
No	11	15	15	16
Not sure	1	1	1	-

In the current survey, about nine in 10 respondents say they have family in Iran.

How frequently do you communicate with your family or friends in Iran?					
	2017	2016	2015	2011	2009
Daily	8	6	7	5	6
Several times per week	17	26	21	24	23
Several times per month	30	32	32	33	39
Several times per year	16	17	19	22	21
Less frequently*	16	12	16	15	10
Not at all*	13	9	5	2	1

Percentages may not add up to 100% because of rounding.
 * In the 2009, 2011, and 2015 surveys, these options were “rarely” and “never.”

Among Iranian Americans who have family in Iran, communication with their family and friends in Iran remains frequent, with numbers closely aligned to those in previous surveys. One-quarter are in contact at least several times per week, including 8% who are in contact daily. An additional one-third (30%) communicate several times per month, and 16% say they are in contact several times each year. Sixteen percent (16%) say they rarely communicate with family and friends in Iran, and 13% say they never do.

How do you communicate with your family or friends in Iran? (Choose all that apply.)				
	2017	2015	2011	2009
I write letters	5	2	4	7
I send emails	23	44	32	40
I call them	66	89	72	88
Internet telephone and video chat services, such as Skype and Google Hangout	42	49	9	4
Mobile communication applications, such as Viber, Whatsapp, WeChat, etc.	43	52	N/A	N/A
Social media and social networks, such as Facebook, Google Plus, Twitter, etc.	42	51	25	14
Other (specify)	2	1	--	--

For those who communicate with their family and friends in Iran, the most frequent mode of communication is phone calls (66%). The next most commonly used are Internet phone and video chat services (42%), mobile communication apps (43%) and social media (42%). About one-quarter say they email family and friends, (23%) and just 5% say they write letters.

While phone calls are the most frequently utilized mode of communication for all subgroups, mobile communication apps and social media and networks are cited by more than one-half of respondents under age 50 (54% and 56%, respectively)—18-21 points higher than among those 50 and over.

What types of problems, if any, have you encountered when you communicate with family or friends in Iran? (Choose all that apply)

	2017	2015
Poor Internet service in Iran	32	49
Poor phone service in Iran	26	39
Security concerns	N/A	29
Internet censorship and restrictions on access to websites in the country	28	32
Cost of international communications	11	26
I have not experienced any problems	48	27
Other (specify)	1	2

“Security concerns” was not an option in the 2017 survey.

Communication challenges appear to be less of a concern than even two years ago. Almost half of respondents who communicate with family and friends in Iran (48%) say they have not experienced any problems. One-third (32%) note problems related to poor Internet service in Iran, while one-quarter specify poor phone service (26%) and Internet censorship (28%). The cost of international communications is only noted by 11% of these respondents.

During the past decade, how often have you traveled to Iran?

	2017	2016*	2015*	2011*	2009*
Once a year or more often	9	9	9	9	11
Once every 2 or 3 years	15	30	29	23	30
I rarely travel to Iran	26	29	25	29	34
I’ve never been back to Iran since I left	19	22	25	30	N/A
I’ve never been to Iran	31	10	12	8	24

Percentages may not add up to 100% because of rounding.
 * In previous years, the question wording was slightly different: “How often do you travel to Iran?”

When asked about their travel to Iran in the last decade, 9% of survey respondents say they have traveled to Iran at least once a year, and 15% say they go once every two or three years. One-quarter (26%) have rarely traveled to Iran in the last decade. One-half of the respondents say they have either never been back to Iran since they left (18%) or never been to Iran (31%). The question in the current survey specified travel in the last decade for the first time, and the responses demonstrate slightly lower levels of travel to Iran than in previous surveys.

When you have traveled to Iran, have you experienced any problems on entry to Iran, or on your return to the U.S.? (Check all that apply.)

	2017
Yes, I had problems with Iranian authorities on entry to Iran.	4
Yes, I had problems with U.S. Customs and Border Patrol or U.S. immigration on my return to the United States.	9
I have not had any problems.	89

Those who travel to Iran regularly were asked if they have experienced any problems on entry into Iran or on their return to the United States. The overwhelming majority (89%) say that they have not had any problems. Nine percent (9%) report problems when returning to the United States, and just 4% say they have had problems with Iranian authorities upon entry into Iran.

During the past decade, how often have family and friends from Iran come to visit you in the United States?

	2017
Once a year or more often	16
Once every two or three years	15
Family and friends rarely visit from Iran	29
Family and friends have never come to visit from Iran	40

Almost one-third of survey respondents receive family and friends from Iran as visitors at least every two or three years, with 16% having such guests at least once a year and 15% every 2-3 years. Another 29% of respondents say family and friends “rarely visit” from Iran, while 40% have never had family or friends come to visit from Iran.

How concerned are you about new policies that may deter travel to and from Iran?

	2017
Very concerned	58
Somewhat concerned	20
Concerned	78
Not too concerned	11
Not concerned at all	10
Not concerned	21

Percentages may not add up to 100% because of rounding and because responses of “not sure” are not included.

More than three-quarters of respondents are concerned about new policies that may deter travel to and from Iran, with half of all respondents (58%) saying they are “very concerned.” Less than one-quarter are unconcerned by these travel restrictions.

From the list below, identify those that concern you:

	2017
That I will be denied reentry to the United States, since I am not yet a U.S. citizen.	8
That it will affect my application for citizenship, since I am not yet a U.S. citizen.	2
That I will be placed on a “no fly” list.	35
That I will come under some sort of surveillance as a result of my travel to Iran.	57
Other	27

Of those who say they are concerned about new policies that may deter travel to and from Iran, more than half (57%) are concerned that they “will come under some sort of surveillance as a result” of their travel to Iran. [This percentage is an increase from the 47% of 2016 survey respondents who said they were concerned that by traveling to Iran they would be subjected to closer scrutiny by U.S. law enforcement.] One-third are concerned that they “will be placed on a ‘no fly’ list.” There is less concern about being denied reentry to the United States (8%) or impacting citizenship applications (2%) for those who are not yet citizens. Of the 27% of concerned respondents who chose “other,” the majority specified that none of the listed options were concerning to them.

II. Iranian American Experience

Have you personally experienced discrimination in the past because of your ethnicity or country of origin?	
	2017
Yes	56
No	44
Not sure	1

Have any Iranian Americans you know experienced discrimination in the past because of their ethnicity or country of origin?	
	2017
Yes	63
No	26
Not sure	11

Have you or another Iranian American you know personally experienced discrimination in the past because of your or their ethnicity or country of origin?			
	2016	2015	2012
Yes	48	43	40
No	49	54	58
Not sure	3	3	3

Percentages may not add up to 100% because of rounding.

In the current survey, over one-half of respondents (56%) say they have personally experienced discrimination because of their ethnicity or country of origin, and even more (63%) say they know other Iranian Americans who have experienced such discrimination.

In past surveys, these two questions were combined (i.e., personal experiences and the reported experiences of other Iranian Americans) and we have seen a slight upward trend in reports of discrimination over time. This trend line continues to climb, with both responses in the current survey elevated from last year's number (48%).

Younger respondents are more likely to report both personal discrimination (under 50: 69% vs. 50 and over: 40%) and knowledge of others' being discriminated against (under 50: 69% vs. 50 and over: 48%).

In which of the following ways have you or another Iranian American you know experienced discrimination? (Choose all that apply.)		
	2017	2008
Employment/business discrimination	39	48
Social discrimination	69	58
By immigration officials	35	42
By federal law enforcement or local law enforcement	24	25
By airlines or airport security	55	58
By racial profiling	48	47
None of the above	3	6
Not sure	1	2

Those who said they either personally have experienced discrimination or know someone who has, were asked about how such discrimination has manifested itself. Social discrimination is the most commonly cited mode of discrimination (69%), a significant increase from 2008 (58%). Those who have been discriminated against or know someone who has, cite discrimination by airlines/airport security (55%) and in employment (39%), though these numbers are slightly lower than they were in 2008. Racial profiling has remained steady since 2008 (48%). One-third of these respondents (35%) note discrimination by immigration officials and 24% say their experience of discrimination was at the hands of federal or local law enforcement; again we find slight declines in these figures compared to 2008.

Are you concerned that there may be increased discrimination against Iranian Americans in the future because of the rhetoric that has been used and policies advanced by the Trump administration regarding immigrants, Muslims, and Iranians?	
	2017
Very concerned	65
Somewhat concerned	17
Concerned	82
Not too concerned	8
Not concerned at all	17
Not concerned	20
Percentages may not add up to 100% because of rounding and because responses of “not sure” are not included.	

Are you concerned that rhetoric used by some presidential candidates against immigrants, Muslims, and Iranians will lead to increased discrimination against Iranian Americans in the future?				
	2016	2015*	2013*	2012*
Yes	68	39	49	55
No	28	53	42	39
Not sure	3	9	10	7
Percentages may not add up to 100% because of rounding. * In 2012 and 2013 we asked: Are you concerned that U.S. hostilities with Iran have the potential for increasing discrimination against Iranian Americans? In 2015 the question was worded slightly differently and more generally: Are you concerned that there may be increased discrimination against Iranian Americans in the future?				

More than three-quarters of survey respondents (82%) are concerned there may be increased discrimination against Iranian Americans because of the rhetoric and policies of the Trump administration regarding immigrants, Muslims, and Iranians; two-thirds (65%) are “very concerned.” This concern has grown significantly in the last couple of years, doubling since 2015 (39%).

It is worth noting that majorities of all religious subgroups are concerned about increased discrimination against Iranian Americans in the future, with slightly higher levels of concern among Muslims (84%) and atheists/agnostics (85%) than among adherents of other faiths (Baha’i/Zoroastrian/Christian/Jewish: 64%).

In order to satisfy the concern that Iranian Americans and other ethnic groups are undercounted in the U.S. Census, the Census Bureau has created a Middle East/North Africa (MENA) category based on ethnicity on the U.S. Census. This will allow Iranian Americans to check Iran as their country of origin or heritage. Do you support or oppose this?	
	2017
Support	59
Oppose	22
Not sure	18

A majority of respondents (59%) support the new Middle East/North Africa category on the U.S. Census, while just 22% oppose it. A significant number (18%) are, however, not sure if they support this change.

Younger respondents are more likely to support the MENA category (68% of respondents under age 50) than older respondents (49% of respondents who are 50 or older).

Do you support or oppose the ‘travel ban’ established by President Trump’s executive order limiting travel from six predominantly Muslim countries including Iran?	
	2017
Support	13
Oppose	83
Not sure	4

More than three-quarters of Iranian American respondents (83%) are opposed to the ‘travel ban’ established by Trump’s executive order limiting travel from six predominantly Muslim countries including Iran. Just 13% support the travel ban.

Support for the travel ban is somewhat higher among those with no college degree (45% vs. 12% of college graduates) and among adherents of non-Muslim faiths (39% vs. 11% of Muslims and 10% of atheists/agnostics).

What in your opinion should be the most important goals of an Iranian American community or civic organization? (Check all that apply.)	
	2017
Improve the image of Iranian Americans	79
Educate Iranian Americans about the U.S. political process and increase the political influence of the Iranian American community	69
Preserve and promote the culture and heritage of the Iranian American community	71
Provide business and social networking opportunities to Iranian Americans	66
Influence U.S. policy toward Iran	59
Promote democracy and human rights in Iran	70
Protecting the civil rights of Iranian Americans	76
Not sure	3

*In 2017, respondents were asked to “check all that apply,” while in previous surveys the question asked respondents to choose two.

Do you consider each of the following among the two most important activities that an Iranian American community or civic organization can undertake?*			
	2013	2011	2009
Improve the image of Iranian Americans	32	25	34
Educate Iranian Americans about the U.S. political process and increase the political influence of the Iranian American community	26	23	24
Preserve and promote the culture and heritage of the Iranian American community	31	20	22
Provide business and social networking opportunities to Iranian Americans	17	24	12
Influence U.S. policy toward Iran	11	21	17
Promote democracy and human rights in Iran	44	47	59
Managing the impact of U.S.-Iran sanctions on the Iranian American community**	16	N/A	N/A
Not sure	N/A	4	4

*Wording varied each year: What in your opinion should be the most important goals of an Iranian American community or civic organization? (2011); What would you expect to be the two main goals of an Iranian American community or civic organization? (2009).
 ** Only asked in 2013.

In past surveys Iranian Americans were asked to select the top two goals or activities they think an Iranian American community or civic organization should pursue. The top choice was always “promoting democracy and human rights in Iran” followed by “improving the image of Iranian Americans.”

In the current survey, respondents were asked a similar question but were permitted to select as many of the goals listed as they would like. The number one choice is “improving the image of Iranian Americans” (79%), followed by an option provided for the first time in the 2017 survey “protecting the civil rights of Iranian Americans” (76%). “Promoting democracy and human rights in Iran” and “preserving and promoting the culture and heritage of the Iranian American community” are similarly valued (70% and 71% respectively). These are closely followed by “educating Iranian Americans about the U.S. political process and increasing the political influence of the Iranian American community” (69%).

Even the two least selected goals garner considerable support from respondents. Two-thirds (66%) think their community or civic organization should “provide business and social networking opportunities to Iranian Americans.” And 59% want their Iranian American organization to “influence U.S. policy toward Iran.”

III. U.S.-Iran Relations

How do you rate...				
	2017		2016	
	The presidency of Donald Trump?	President Trump’s handling of U.S.-Iran relations?	The presidency of Barack Obama	President Obama’s handling of U.S.-Iran relations?
Excellent	7	7	46	41
Good	6	4	29	30
+	13	11	75	71
Fair	6	7	11	13
Poor	72	75	12	15
-	78	82	23	28
Not sure	9	8	2	1

Percentages may not add up to 100% because of rounding.

Overall, just 13% of the respondents rate President Trump’s presidency as either excellent (7%) or good (6%), while three-quarters rate his presidency negatively, including 72% who rate it “poor”.

When asked specifically about Trump’s handling of U.S.-Iran relations, opinions reflect the same views as above, with 11% giving positive ratings (excellent: 7%, good: 4%) and 82% viewing it negatively (fair: 10%, poor: 75%).

These numbers stand in stark contrast to ratings of President Obama and his handling of U.S.-Iran relations in 2016. In that case, about three-quarters rated Obama and his work with Iran positively, while about one-quarter viewed him negatively.

As with support of Trump’s travel ban discussed above, the groups most likely to view Trump’s presidency and his handling of U.S.-Iran relations positively are adherents of non-Muslim faiths (36% and 28%, respectively) and those without college degrees (38% and 39%, respectively).

What action do you think the Trump Administration should take with respect to the P5+1 agreement also known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) with Iran designed to place limits on Iran's nuclear program?

	2017
Keep the deal	60
Renegotiate the deal	19
Scrap the deal	7
Not sure	14
Percentages may not add up to 100% because of rounding.	

When asked what action the Trump Administration should take with respect to the P5+1 agreement, 60% of respondents say “keep the deal.” (This mirrors the approval ratings for the agreement in the 2016 and 2015 surveys, 65% and 64% respectively.) Nineteen percent of Iranian American respondents say the administration should renegotiate the deal, and 7% think the deal should be scrapped.

Has the overall impact of the Iran nuclear agreement (JCPOA) been positive or negative, or has it had no significant impact?

	2017
Positive impact	52
Negative impact	13
No impact at all	21
Not sure	14

A majority of respondents (52%) believe that the overall impact of the Iran nuclear agreement has been positive. The remaining respondents are divided: 21% say it has had no impact, 13% say it has had a negative impact, and 14% are not sure.

In 2015 and 2016, the survey asked about a number of issues potentially impacted by the agreement. With respect to these specific issues (e.g., expanding economic opportunities for the Iranian people, improving Iran’s relations with the West and in its region, and improving civil rights for its citizens), respondents were more likely to see the potential for positive impacts than in the current survey’s more general question about the agreement overall.

Moving beyond the Iran nuclear deal, what should the top two priorities be for the U.S. government in dealing with Iran? (Choose two.)

	2017	2016
Allowing Americans to invest in Iran to improve the economy and create employment opportunities	46	52
Advancing democracy and promoting personal and civil rights	55	56
Seek new areas of cooperation with the Iranian government	26	7
Enhance people to people ties through cultural diplomacy and educational exchanges	37	34
Give greater support to our allies in the Middle East to counter Iran’s regional ambitions	7	5
Support Iranian opposition groups and figures	8	8
Tighten economic sanctions against the Iranian government	8	11
Not sure	4	18

The top two priorities for Iranian American respondents with respect to the U.S. government in dealing with Iran beyond the Iran nuclear deal remain the same in 2017: “advancing democracy and promoting personal and civil rights” (55%) and “allowing Americans to invest in Iran to improve the economy and create employment opportunities” (46%). More than one-third of respondents (37%) identify “enhancing people to people ties through cultural diplomacy and educational exchanges” as a priority. These top three priorities closely track the percentages given in the 2016 survey. One-quarter (26%) believe seeking “new areas of cooperation with the Iranian government” should be a priority for the U.S. government; this is a significant jump from the 7% who cited this as a priority in 2016.

Less frequently cited priorities in both the current and previous survey include “tightening economic sanctions against the Iranian government” (8%), “supporting Iranian opposition groups and figures” (8%), and “giving greater support to our allies in the Middle East to counter Iran’s regional ambitions” (7%).

For Muslim respondents, the top priority for the U.S. government in dealing with Iran is “allowing Americans to invest in Iran to improve the economy and create employment opportunities” (68%), which is less imperative to atheist and agnostic respondents (48%) and adherents of other faiths (28%). For non-Muslim respondents, majorities identify “advancing democracy and promoting personal and civil rights” as the top priority (atheists/agnostics: 53%; Baha’i/Zoroastrian/Christian/Jewish: 57%).

When it comes to U.S.-Iran relations, of the following list of issues which two are most important to you? (Choose two.)		
	2017	2016
Promotion of human rights and democracy in Iran	63	68
Lifting U.S. trade embargo to support economic growth in Iran	50	36
Successful implementation of the Iran nuclear agreement between P5+1 and Iran	21	21
Limiting Iran’s role in supporting terrorist organizations or foreign military involvement	15	9
Keeping sanctions in place or tightening sanctions against the government in Iran	8	17
Promoting regime change in Iran	28	22
Not sure	4	17
In 2016, the question was worded differently: “Of the following list of issues affecting Iranian Americans, which two are most important to you personally?”		

The “promotion of human rights and democracy in Iran” is the most important issue to Iranian Americans in the current survey (63%), as it was in last year’s survey (68%). The second top choice is again “lifting the U.S. trade embargo to support economic growth in Iran,” with a significant jump in the percentage of respondents for whom this is an important issue (from 36% in 2016 to 50% in 2017). It is worth noting that the top choice for Muslim respondents is lifting the trade embargo (67%), which is of less concern to non-Muslims (atheists/agnostics: 48%, adherents of other faiths: 27%). Promoting human rights is the top choice for non-Muslims, but is of significant concern to all three subgroups (Muslims: 58%, atheists/agnostics: 68%, adherents of other faiths: 59%).

“Promoting regime change” (28%) and “successful implementation of the Iran nuclear agreement” (21%) comprise the next tier of important issues for Iranian American respondents.

Of less importance are “limiting Iran’s role in supporting terrorist organizations or foreign military involvement” (15%) and “keeping sanctions in place or tightening sanctions” (8%).

IV. Iran’s Government and Leadership

What type of government do you think would work best in Iran?			
	2017	2014	2011
Islamic republic	1	2	2
Reformed Islamic republic	8	7	4
Secular democracy	55	69	67
Constitutional monarchy	11	N/A	N/A
None of the above	16	15	16
Not sure	9	7	11
Percentages may not add up to 100% because of rounding.			

When asked what type of government would work best in Iran, Iranian American respondents in the 2017 survey are again most likely to choose “secular democracy” (55%). This is a decline from 2014 (69%) and 2011 (67%); however, an additional option was included in this year’s survey which accounts for the difference: “constitutional monarchy” is selected by 11% of respondents. An Islamic republic or a reformed Islamic republic is only the choice of 9% of survey respondents.

There is broad agreement among the three religious subgroups (i.e., Muslims, atheists/agnostics, adherents of other faiths) that secular democracy is the top choice for an Iranian government.

As you may know, Iranians just reelected Hassan Rouhani to a second term as President. In your opinion, does his reelection make you optimistic or pessimistic for the future of Iran, or does it make no difference?	
	2017
Optimistic	47
Pessimistic	7
Makes no difference	46
Percentages may not add up to 100% because of rounding.	

When asked to consider the reelection of Hassan Rouhani to a second term as President of Iran, survey respondents are split between feeling optimistic about the future of Iran (47%) and thinking that it makes no difference (46%). Just 7% view his reelection as a reason for pessimism about Iran’s future.

In your opinion, does the reelection of Hassan Rouhani make you optimistic or pessimistic about the prospects of improving U.S.-Iran relations? Or will it make no difference at all?	
	2017
Optimistic	43
Pessimistic	8
Makes no difference	50

Respondents’ opinions about the prospects of improving U.S.-Iran relations in light of Rouhani’s reelection mirror their opinions about Iran’s future. Forty-three percent (43%) are optimistic that U.S.-Iran relations will improve, while 50% think it will make no difference. Similarly, 8% are pessimistic about improved relations.

What is your opinion of each of the following?			
	2017		
	Favorable	Unfavorable	I don't have know enough information to form an opinion
Ali Khamenei, Supreme Leader of Iran	6	69	26
Hassan Rouhani, President of Iran	55	22	22
Maryam Rajavi, Leader of the People's Mujahedin of Iran and President Elect of the National Council of Resistance of Iran	7	48	45
Reza Pahlavi, Crown Prince and Leader of the National Council of Iran	37	21	42
Favorable is the aggregation of responses of "very favorable" and "somewhat favorable." Unfavorable is the aggregation of responses of "somewhat unfavorable" and "very unfavorable." Percentages may not add up to 100% because of rounding.			

Rouhani is viewed favorably by a majority of Iranian American respondents (55%), and has significantly higher favorables than other Iranian leaders. He is also the most well-known leader, with only 22% of respondents saying they don't have enough information to form an opinion.

Reza Pahlavi has a 37% favorable rating in the survey, with 21% of respondents holding an unfavorable opinion of him. Another 42% of respondents, however, do not have an opinion on Pahlavi because they do not have enough information.

Both Ali Khamenei and Maryam Rajavi have very low favorable ratings, just 6% and 7% respectively. Over two-thirds of respondents view Khamenei unfavorably (69%), while 48% hold unfavorable opinions of Rajavi. Rajavi is the least known of the leaders, with 45% of respondents citing their unfamiliarity with her as a reason for not having an opinion. One quarter (26%) say the same of Khamenei.

Methodology

Zogby Research Services (ZRS) was commissioned by PAAIA to conduct, in partnership with Zogby Analytics, a live operator telephone survey of 402 Iranian American adults. The survey was conducted between June 6 and June 21, 2017. Samples are randomly drawn from purchased telephone Iranian surname lists. Up to four calls are made to reach a sampled phone number, and respondents that were not available but qualified to respond were allowed to set appointments to be recalled within the time frame of the fieldwork. Weighted variables may include age, race, gender, region, education, and religion. Based on a confidence interval of 95%, the margin of error for 402 is +/- 4.9 percentage points. This means that all other things being equal, the identical survey repeated will have results within the margin of error 95 times out of 100.

Subsets of the data have a larger margin of error than the whole data set. As a rule, we do not rely on the validity of very small subsets of the data, especially sets smaller than 50-75 respondents. At that subset we can make estimations based on the data, but in these cases the data is more qualitative than quantitative. Additional factors can create error, such as question wording and question order.

Demographics

18–29	11%
30–49	36%
50–64	35%
65+	18%
Male	52%
Female	48%
Income <\$50K	19%
Income \$50K–\$100K	23%
Income >\$100K	48%
East	26%
South	23%
Central/Great Lakes	14%
West	38%
Married	59%
Single, never married	29%
Divorced/widowed/separated	11%
Civil union/domestic partnership	1%

Family moved to United States since 2000	13%
Family moved... 1990–1999	13%
Family moved... 1981–1989	25%
Family moved... 1978–1980	23%
Family moved... before 1978	26%
No college degree	14%
College degree/+	86%
Muslim	28%
Baha'i	5%
Jewish	8%
Zoroastrian	1%
Christian	7%
Agnostic	15%
Atheist	16%
Other religion	11%



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