



# **2018 National Public Opinion Survey of Iranian Americans**

*Conducted by*  
Zogby Research Services  
& Zogby Analytics

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# About the Surveys

- ❖ Surveys are conducted by telephone (land and mobile)
- ❖ Representative sample of 400 Iranian American respondents with +/- 4.9% margin of error
- ❖ Weighted variables may include age, race, gender, region, education, and religion
- ❖ Latest survey was conducted by Zogby Research Services (ZRS) between August 27 and September 11th
- ❖ Methodologies approved by the American Association for Public Opinion Research

## PAAIA's Survey Trend on Iranian Americans

- ❑ Well **assimilated** in American society but **maintain** close ties to family in Iran
- ❑ Want to see a **democratic** Iran that respects **human rights**
- ❑ Prefer policies that would **engage** the Iranian people and **support** their democratic aspirations
- ❑ Discrimination on basis of ethnicity is significant concern to the community

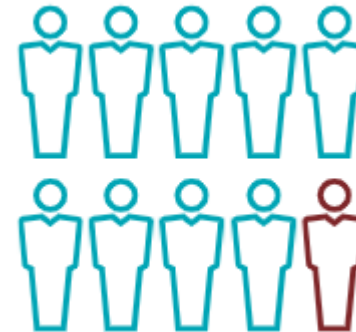
# Connections & Communications with Iran?

75%

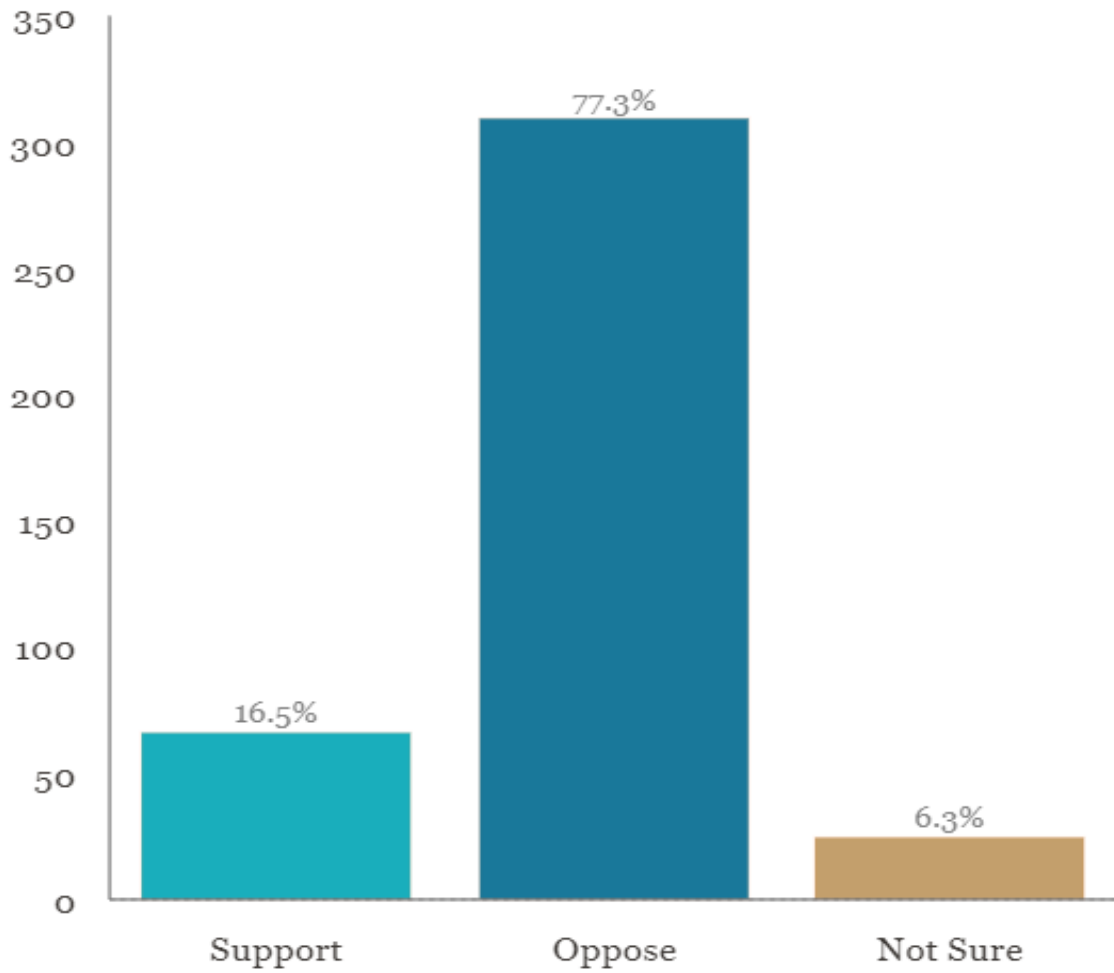
of respondents say they have family and friends who have traveled from Iran to the US in the past decade

- ❖ Most Iranian Americans (90%) still have family in Iran
- ❖ 26% travel to Iran frequently (1- 3 years)
- ❖ 37% had family and friends in Iran come visit them in the U.S. frequently (1-3 years)

9 in 10 Iranian Americans still have family in Iran

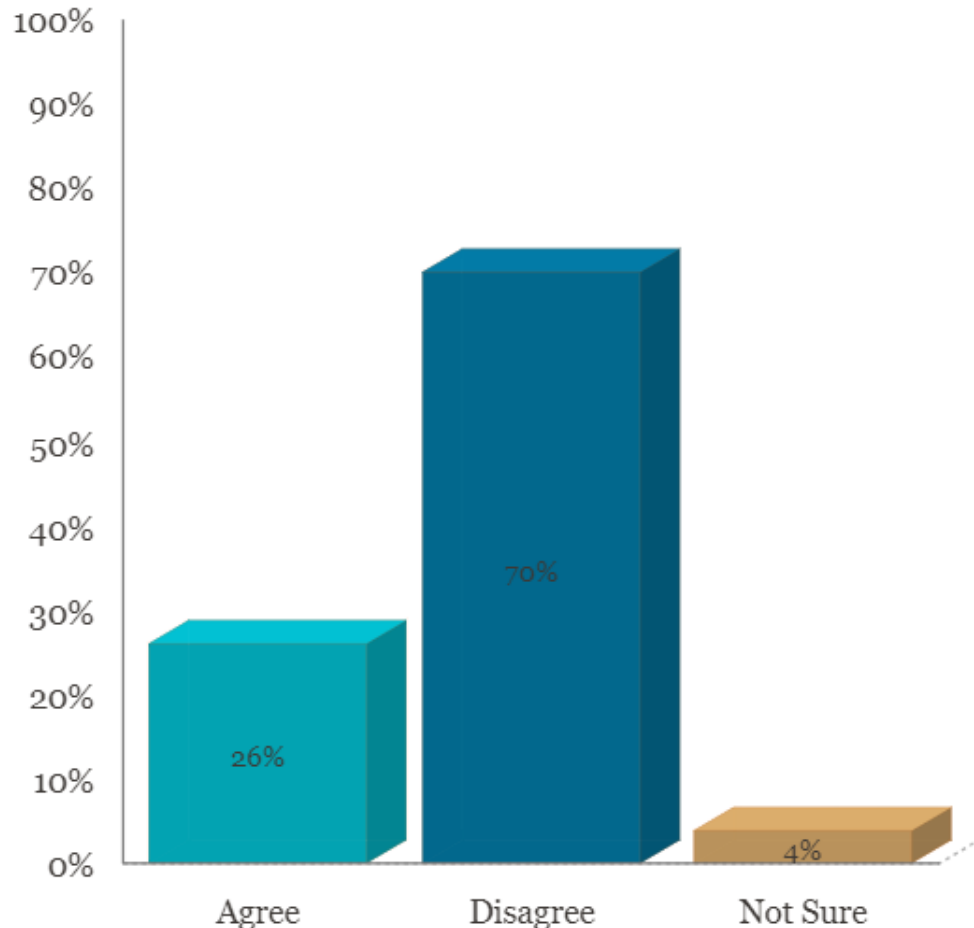


# Do you support or oppose the 'travel ban' established by President Trump's executive order and affirmed by the Supreme Court?



# U.S. Withdrawal from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA)

## Opinion on US Decision to Withdraw From JCPOA



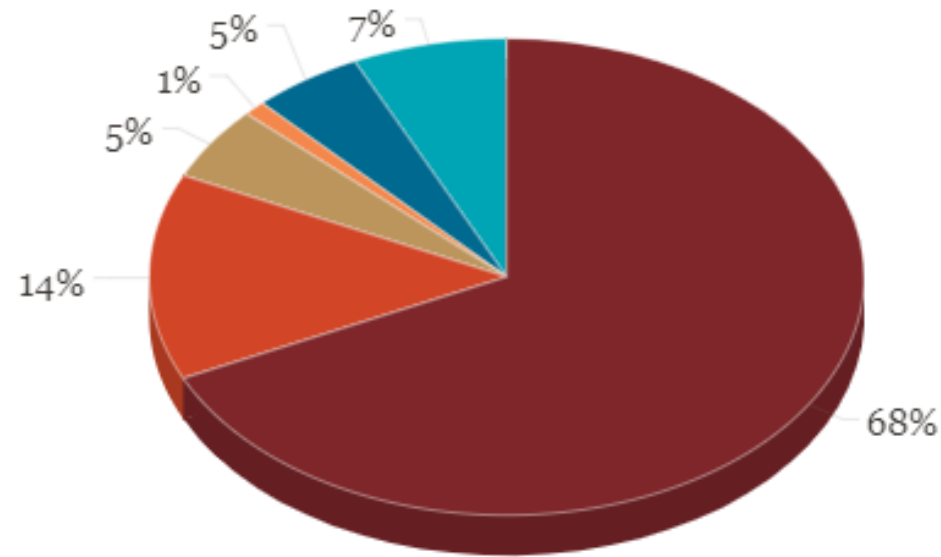
- ❖ 70% of respondents think the Trump administration made a mistake by withdrawing from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA)
- ❖ 53% say that it is unlikely to be effective in getting broader concessions from Iran
- ❖ 67% believe that renewed sanctions will harm Iranian people and increase support for hardliners' anti-American

# When it comes to U.S.-Iran relations, of the following list of issues which two are most important to you? (Choose two.)

	2018	2017	2016
Promotion of human rights and democracy in Iran	74	63	68
Lifting U.S. trade embargo to support economic growth in Iran	44	50	36
Successful negotiation of a new nuclear agreement between the U.S. and Iran*	15	21	21
Limiting Iran's role in supporting terrorist organizations or foreign military involvement	14	15	9
Keeping sanctions in place or tightening sanctions against the government in Iran	7	8	17
Promoting regime change in Iran	37	28	22
Not sure	4	4	17
<i>*In 2016 and 2017, this option was: "Successful implementation of the Iran nuclear agreement between P5+1 and Iran."</i>			



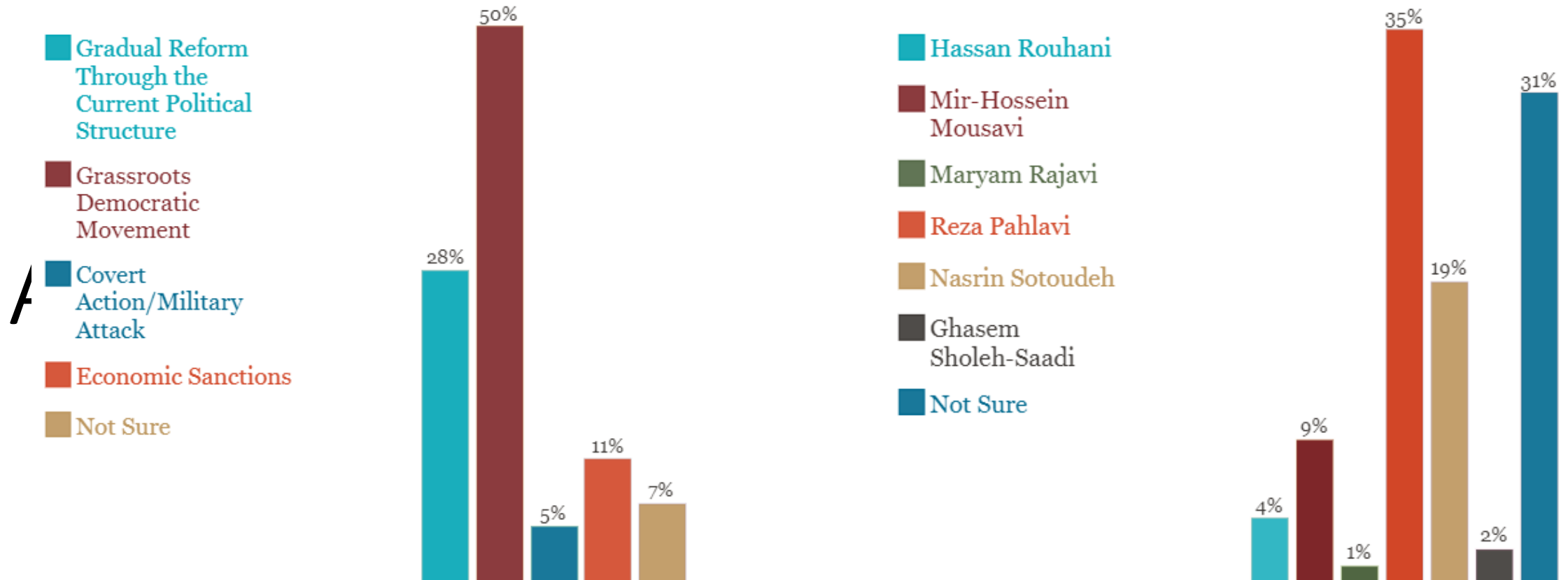
# What type of government do you think would work best in Iran?



● Parliamentary Democracy	68%	● Constitutional Monarchy	14%
● Reformed Islamic Republic	5%	● Islamic Republic	1%
● None of the Above	5%	● Not Sure	7%

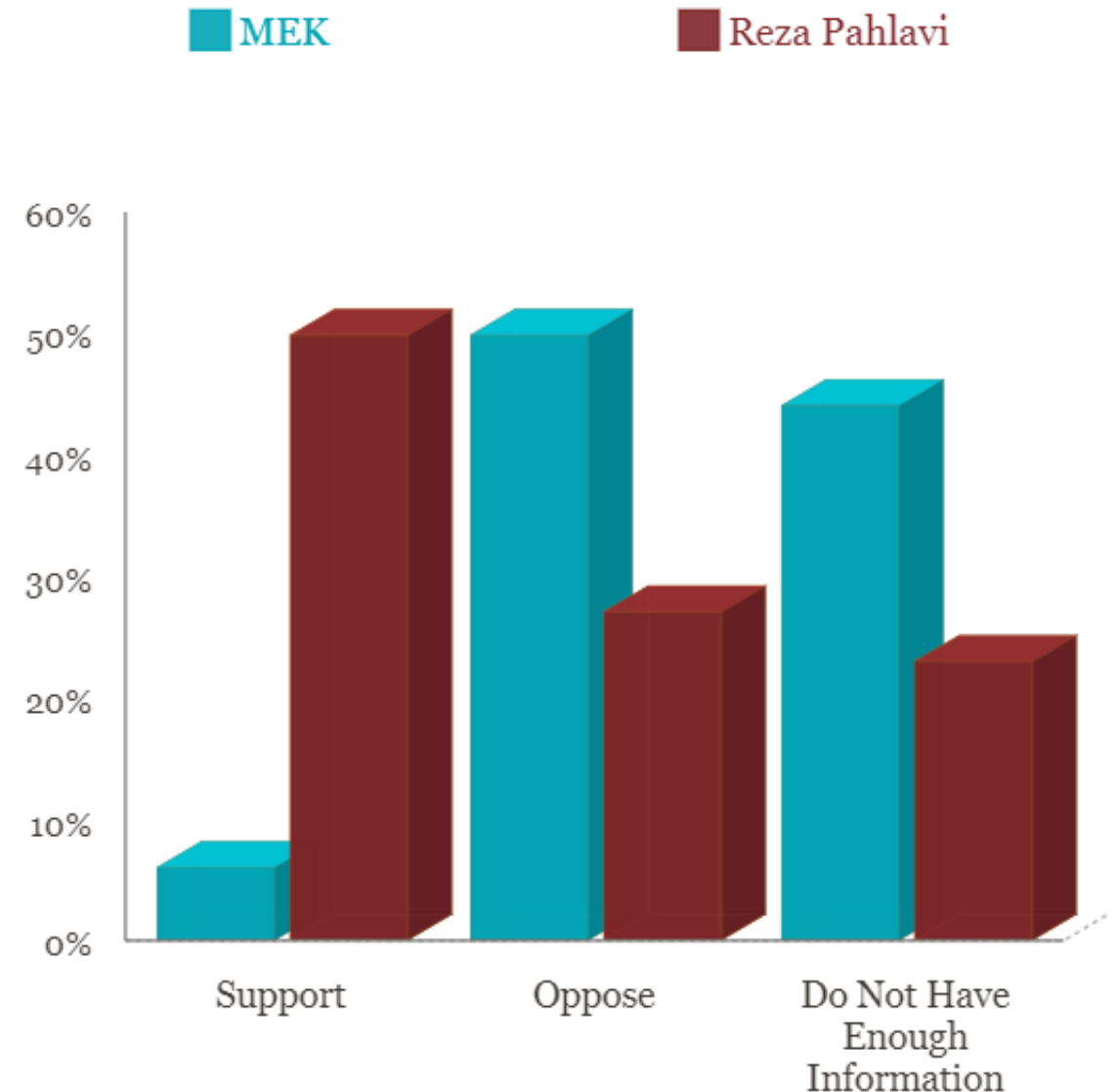
# Approaches and leaders most likely to move Iran toward a democratic society?

- ❖ One-half believe that grassroots democratic movement is best approach
- ❖ 15% combined think economic sanctions or covert/military action is best approach
- ❖ 35% choose Reza Pahlavi and 19% choose Nasrin Sotoudeh as leaders most likely to move Iran towards democracy



# Support or oppose U.S. Backing the MEK or Reza Pahlavi?

- ❖ By an **8:1 margin**, Iranian Americans oppose the U.S. backing the MEK (People's Mojahedin Organization of Iran or the Mojahedin-e Khalq) as a legitimate opposition force in Iran
- ❖ By a **2:1 margin** they support the U.S. backing Reza Pahlavi as the opposition
- ❖ Significant percentages say they do not have enough information to determine whether the U.S. should back the MEK (**44%**) or Pahlavi (**23%**)



# Conclusions

- I. Results reflect trend data from previous surveys but also show divergence of opinion within the Iranian American community reflective of the divisions in society
- II. Concern Travel Ban and other policies impact over Family reunification
- III. Concern U.S. withdrawal on JCPOA may not lead to desired results
- IV. Iranian Americans believe grassroots democratic movement is the approach most likely to move Iran toward a democratic society