

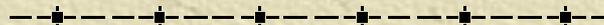
TallahasseeVoices

Not Simply 'Over There' Anymore...

What Tallahassee has to say
about the Middle East



*TallahasseeVoices is a pro bono Internet survey panel sponsored by Kerr & Downs Research and The Tallahassee Democrat. There were 839 responses to the survey sent out on February 3, 2006. Panel results have been weighted to reflect the demographics of Leon County and results are representative of all local residents who have access to the Internet at home, work, or school.



Why this survey now...?

Friday, January 27, 2006—U.S. newspapers announced that Palestinian voters had finally decided on a democratically-elected leadership, just as the Bush administration had been urging...

...unfortunately, rather than choosing the Washington-endorsed, ruling Fatah party, the people chose a sect whose stated goal is to eliminate Israel.

Why this survey now...?

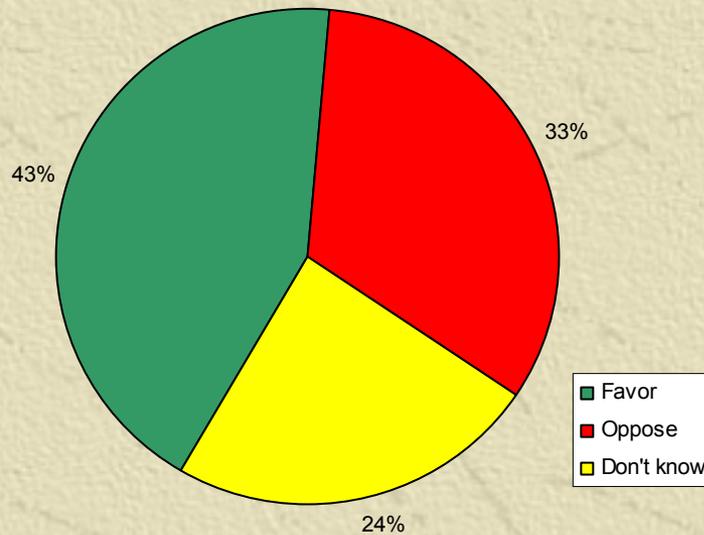
In a baffling upset, the militant Hamas party won the election, and political leaders across the globe are scrambling to determine their next course of action for diplomacy sake—do they sanction a group they disagree with, or do they refuse dealings even though the Palestinians voted, as they were instructed to?

In light of the circumstances, it seemed a good time to ask the city for their opinion.

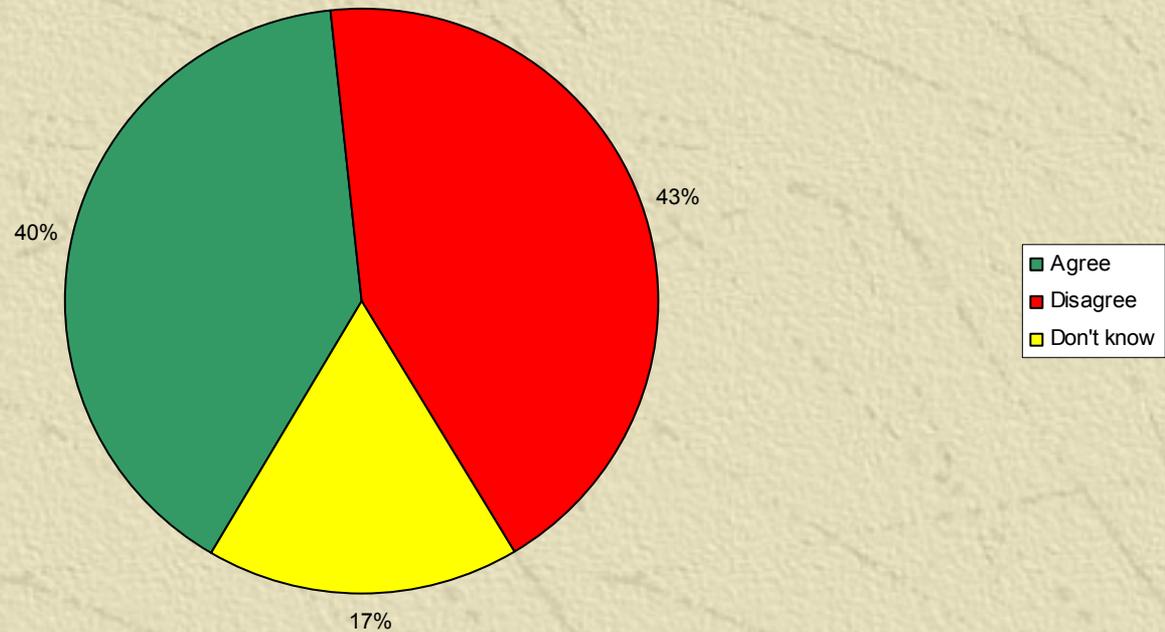
Why this survey now...?

Nearly a decade ago, few people could correctly identify a Middle Eastern country on a map. Today, however, with images of the turmoil dominating television, print, and even cinema, fewer can avoid formulating an opinion. Attack on the homeland, sacrifice of human lives, cost of oil prices, a pervasiveness of sensitization to the issues, and shifting leadership has cultivated sturdy opinions around Tallahassee.

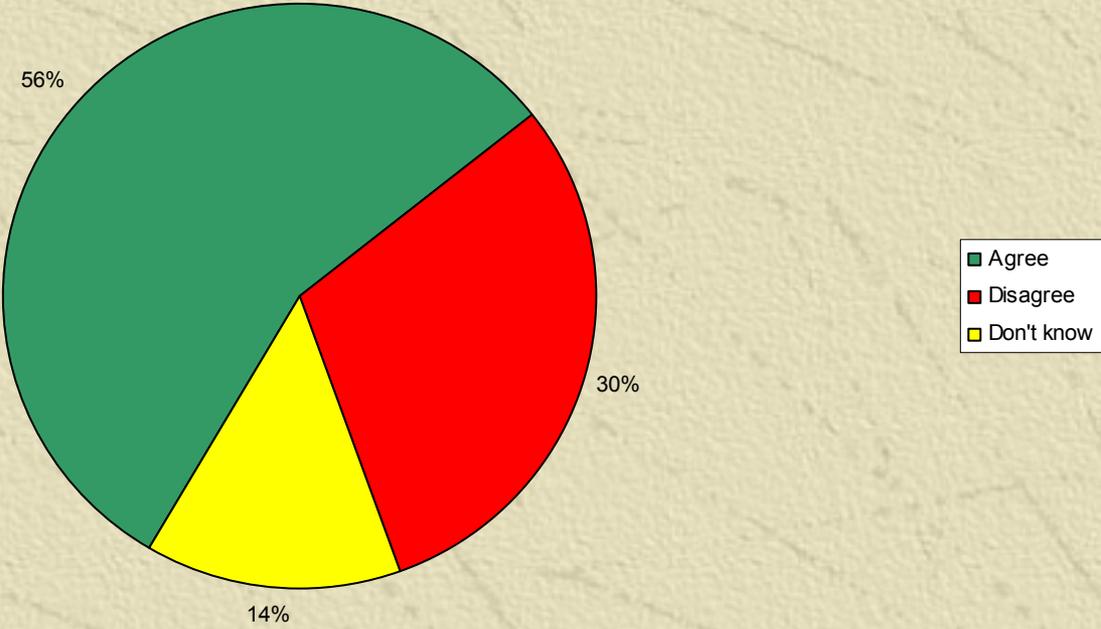
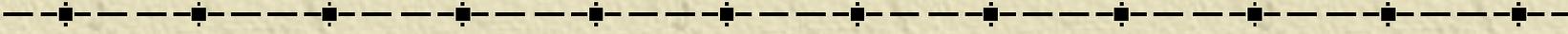
Do you favor or oppose the U.S. establishing formal relations with Hamas, the new Palastinian leadership?



To promote democracy in the Middle East, the Bush administration should establish a formal relationship with Hamas, even though their stated goal is to eliminate Israel.

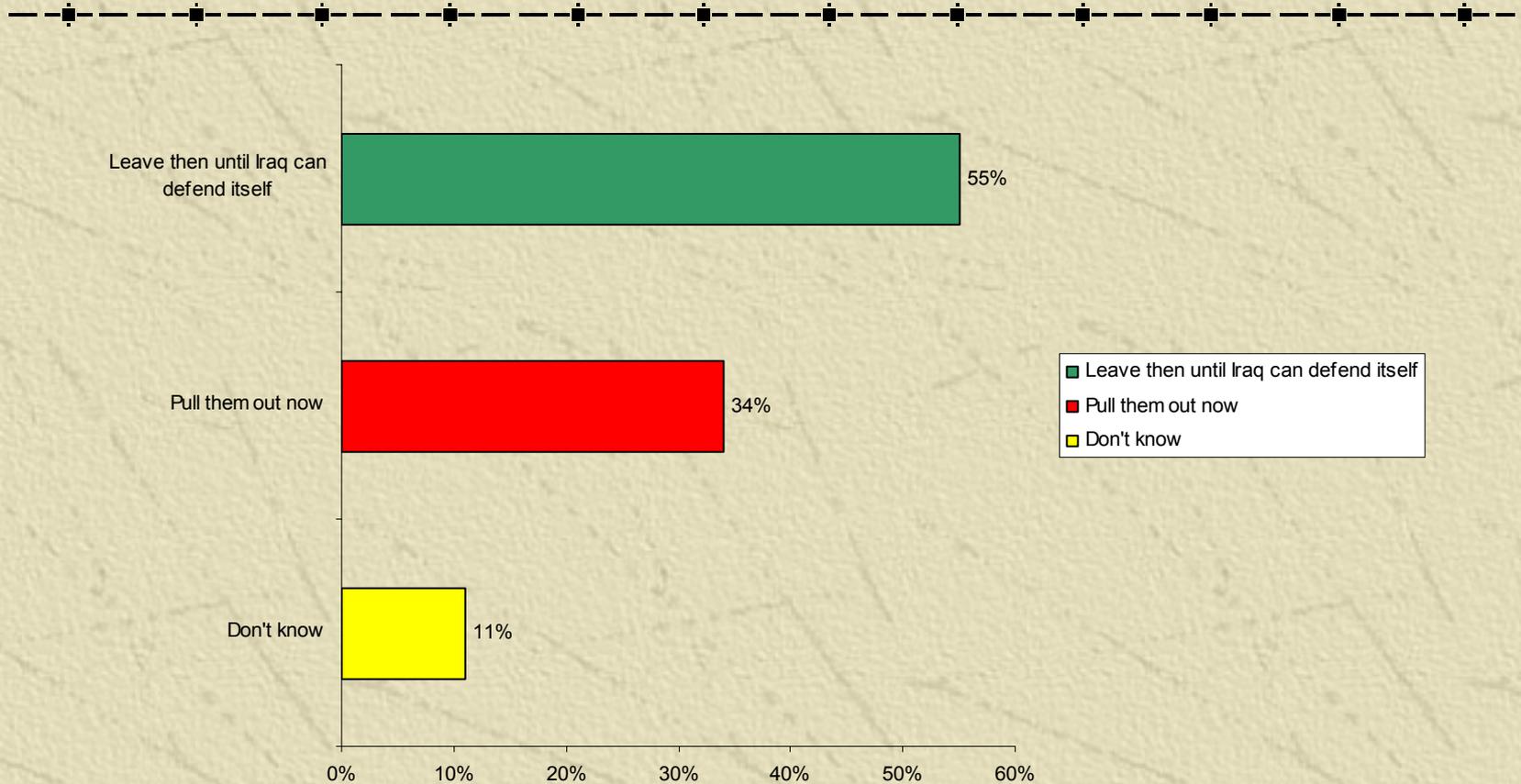


The Bush administration should establish a formal relationship with Hamas only if Hamas recognizes Israel's right to exist.

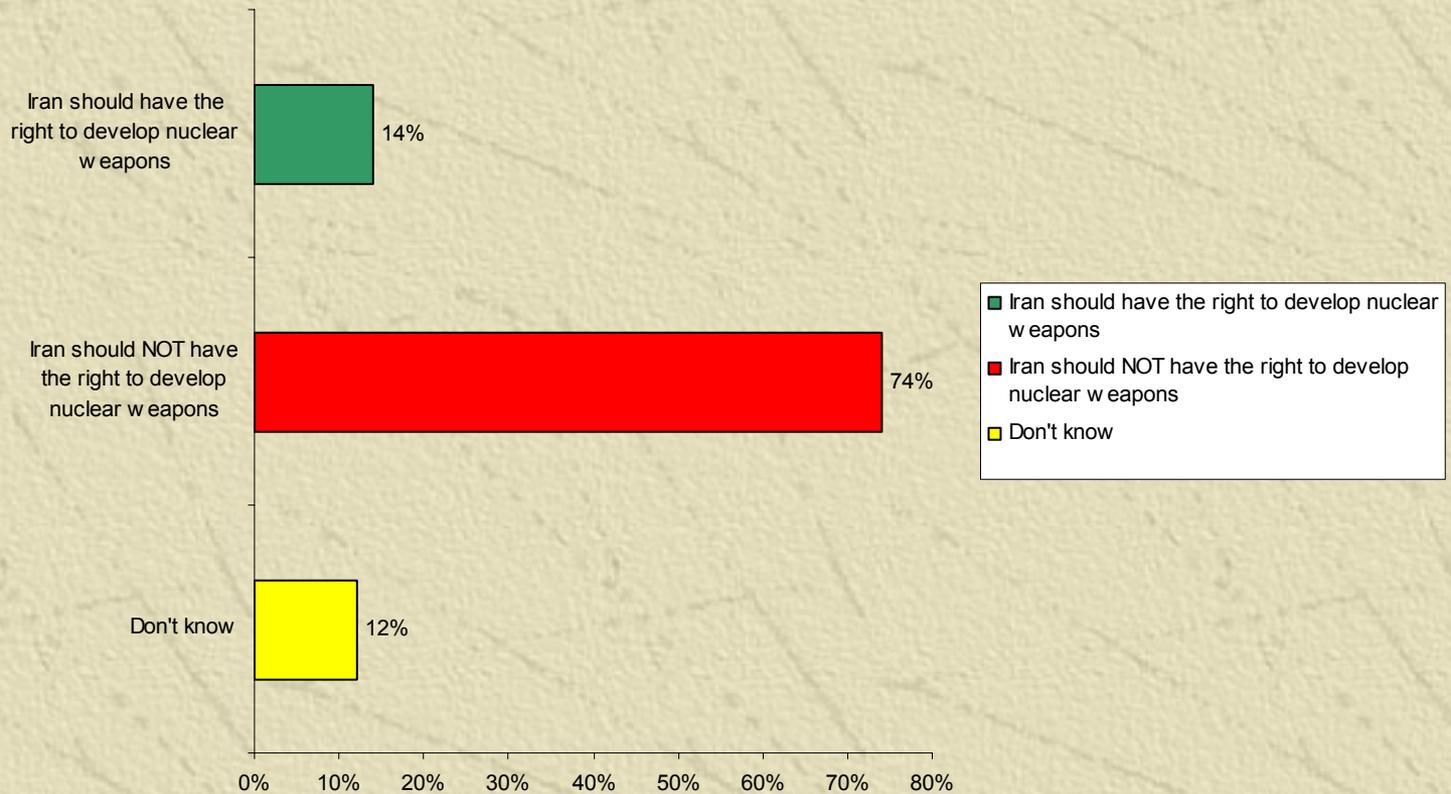


Some people believe the U.S. should pull all of its troops out of Iraq immediately and let the Iraqis defend their own democracy from the insurgencies. Other people

believe we should keep our troops in Iraq. What is your stand?



Some people believe that Iran should have the right to develop nuclear weapons since Israel possesses weapons. Other people believe Iran should not have the right to develop weapons. What is your stand?



Some people believe the U.S. should support hard-line religious Muslims, if democratically elected, in ruling Middle East countries such as Iraq, Iran, Saudia Arabia, etc. no matter what the impact on western countries' ability to buy oil from the Middle East. Other people believe the U.S should support dictators who are willing to sell oil to western countries no matter how they treat residents of their countries. What is your stand?

