

# Data for Progress

September A 2019 — Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions Module Top



Sample Online sample of 1,006 voters fielded 9/13/19-9/16/19  
Margin of Error ±3.5%

1. Boycotts are a nonviolent activist tactic designed to pressure businesses or governments to change their positions by refusing to do business with them. Supporters say boycotts are an effective, non-violent tactic to make change and are protected under the First Amendment. Opponents say boycotts are hypocritical and unfair since it is impossible to boycott everyone who is doing something objectionable. Do you [agree or disagree] that boycotts are a legitimate form of protest?

Strongly agree	44%
Somewhat agree	32%
Somewhat disagree	9%
Strongly disagree	6%
Not sure	10%

2. In general, would you say you [support or oppose] the use of boycotts?

Strongly support	35%
Somewhat support	37%
Somewhat oppose	12%
Strongly oppose	7%
Not sure	10%

3. Some people advocate for boycotts, divestment, and sanctions of Israel, or "BDS," as a nonviolent protest tactic to pressure Israel into withdrawing their occupation of Palestine. For example, BDS supporters advocate for institutions such as universities to boycott and divest from G4S, a company that provides services and equipment to Israeli prisons. Supporters of BDS say that Israel violates the human rights of Palestinians and that BDS is protected by the First Amendment. Opponents say that BDS delegitimizes the state of Israel and that BDS singles out Israel—rather than other human rights abusers—because of anti-Semitism. Do you [agree or disagree] that BDS is a legitimate form of protest?

Strongly agree	20%
Somewhat agree	16%
Somewhat disagree	8%
Strongly disagree	23%
Not sure	33%

4. And, would you say that you personally [support or oppose] BDS?

Strongly support	14%
Somewhat support	13%
Somewhat oppose	10%
Strongly oppose	25%
Not sure	38%

5. Some states have passed anti-BDS laws, which can prohibit BDS supporters from access to government contracts. For example, a school speech pathologist in Texas lost her job with a school district for refusing to sign a contract with an anti-BDS clause. Supporters say that the US government shouldn't do business with people who weaken our allies, like Israel. Opponents say that anti-BDS laws violate the First Amendment. Do you [support or oppose] anti-BDS laws?

Strongly support	14%
Somewhat support	14%
Somewhat oppose	13%
Strongly oppose	23%
Not sure	36%

6. You might not agree with either of the two statements below. However, which comes closer to your view, even if it is not exactly right?

Governments in the United States should protect Israel from the threat of efforts to boycott, divest from, and sanction it	30%
These BDS laws represent a violation of Constitutionally protected freedom of speech	36%
Not sure	34%

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This survey is based on 1,006 interviews conducted by YouGov on the internet of self-identified registered voters. The sample was weighted according to gender, age, race, education, Census region, and 2016 Presidential vote choice. Respondents were selected from YouGov's panel to be representative of registered voters. The weights range from 0.1 to 5.9 with a mean of 1 and a standard deviation of 0.5.

The *margin of error* (a 95% confidence interval) for a sample percentage  $p$  based upon the entire sample is approximately 3.5%. It is calculated using the formula

$$\hat{p} \pm 100 \times \sqrt{\frac{1 + CV^2}{n}}$$

where CV is the coefficient of variation of the sample weights and  $n$  is the sample size used to compute the proportion. This is a measure of sampling error (the average of all estimates obtained using the same sample selection and weighting procedures repeatedly). The sample estimate should differ from its expected value by less than margin of error in 95 percent of all samples. It does not reflect non-sampling errors, including potential selection bias in panel participation or in response to a particular survey.