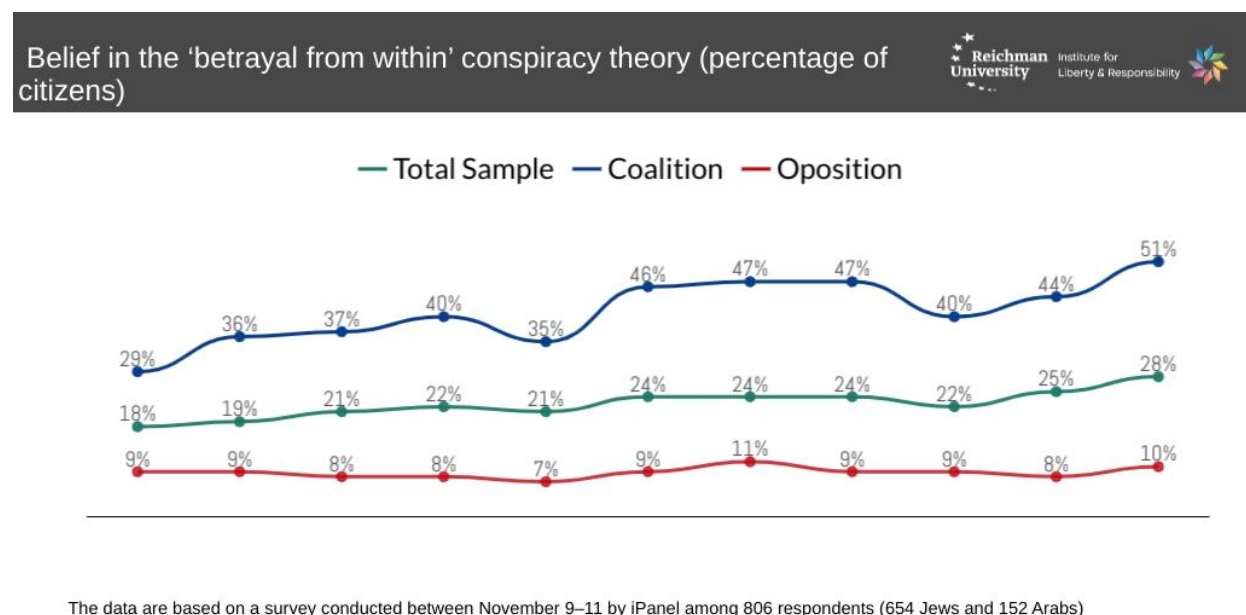




Political Polarization in the Belief in the Conspiracy “Betrayal from Within” on October 7

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In a survey we conducted in December 2025, we found record levels of belief in the “betrayal from within” conspiracy theory on October 7 among coalition voters – about 50% of whom reported believing it. In comparison, only about 10% of opposition voters believed in this conspiracy theory (see the attached graph). In fact, the gap in belief in a “betrayal from within” between coalition voters and opposition voters has doubled since our first measurement, in November 2023, when the gap was 20 percentage points – compared to 40 percentage points in the last survey.



Against this background, it is worth mentioning that the dissemination of conspiracy theories concerning partisan politics (such as "betrayal from within") often has a [strategic, group logic](#). They are disseminated, among other things, to remove blame from the group and the leader for failures or improper actions, to prevent defections of group members, and to accuse opponents of malicious actions. In the current case, it is possible that the strengthening over time of belief in a "betrayal from within" among coalition

voters indicates an increased difference between the rival political camps regarding the question of responsibility for October 7, as well as regarding the manner in which the failures related to October 7 should be investigated and corrected, and regarding the question of who should lead the State of Israel in the future.

In addition, there are substantial differences in belief in a "betrayal from within" by Jewish respondents' level of religiosity. In the December 2025 survey, only 15% of secular respondents believed in this conspiracy theory. However, among traditional respondents, this figure was 38%, and among religious and ultra-Orthodox respondents, it was 44% and 45%, respectively. Smaller differences were found in this survey between Jewish and Arab respondents (30% and 16%, respectively). And the differences between women and men in the sample were minimal (29% and 26%, respectively).



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