

# JEWISH INSIDER

**1). Do you believe there is a concerning rise of antisemitism on the [Right or Left], including in your own party? How do you propose to address this issue?**

**Yes. Anti-semitism is not new, but it has been reinvigorated in recent years. Acts of anti-semitism are on the rise here in Massachusetts and there are reports of spikes due to COVID-19 conspiracy theories fueled by an out of control White House occupant. Politicians of both parties must be thoughtful and precise with the words they use in discussing Jewish issues, including Israel. In Congress, I would support legislation such as the Jabara-Heyer NO HATE Act to improve data collection on hate**

**crimes, overhaul state and local crime reporting systems, establish hate crime reporting hotlines, encourage law enforcement policies on identifying, investigating, and reporting hate crimes, and create education programs and community service programs for those convicted of hate crimes.**

**2). Do you think a two-state solution will facilitate peace between Israelis and Palestinians? If so, what are the basic parameters? If not a two-state solution, what do you suggest? What do you agree or disagree with about the Trump peace plan?**

**I believe that the best approach to achieving long-term stability is a two-state solution: a secure, democratic, Jewish state of Israel and an independent, viable, peaceful Palestinian state. Such an outcome is a crucial American interest and the U.S. must play a central role in efforts moving forward.**

**As far off as a two-state reality seems at this moment, it remains a future worth fighting for. Alternative proposals unacceptably threaten either the Jewish or democratic nature of Israel. The United States and Congress must recommit to encouraging Israelis and Palestinians to take the small, difficult steps that will someday lead to peace. At the moment, this may mean simply fighting decisions that imperil the long-term hopes for a two-state solution, like the expansion of Israeli settlements in the West Bank which could facilitate a de-facto annexation of the territory. In the long-term, the United States should work to bring both parties back to the table, playing a facilitating role that recognizes their mutual need for peace, security, and self-determination. In the short term, the U.S. must use its influence to preserve the core elements of a two-state solution to be directly negotiated by the two parties, including borders based on the 1967 lines, with mutually agreed upon swaps, and a shared capital in Jerusalem for both states.**

**I do not think President Trump's so-called "Peace Plan" will achieve peace. It is unacceptable that he acted without broad support from our allies and did not include key stakeholders in the framing of the plan. Furthermore, I am deeply disheartened by the Trump administration's apparent encouragement of unilateral Israeli annexation of**

# JEWISH INSIDER

**parts of the West Bank. These actions do not move us closer to a two-state solution but instead further increase tensions in the region.**

**3). Why would you re-enter or stay out of the JCPOA with Iran? If re-enter, under what conditions or changes? How should the United States deal with the Iranian government on an ongoing basis? Should the U.S. military maintain a presence in the Middle East?**

**The current situation in Iran and Iraq is deeply concerning and I oppose the Trump administration's effort to move the U.S. to a dangerous war footing. As it relates specifically to Israel, however, Iran has openly threatened the state of Israel and is a sponsor of terrorism across the world. The U.S. must work to prevent Iran's acquisition of nuclear weaponry for the sake of Israel, the Palestinians, and the world.**

**I believe that the Trump administration made a dangerous error in pulling out of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). While imperfect, the deal was succeeding in restraining Iranian nuclear development while simultaneously working to counteract the actions of a dangerous, anti-democratic Iranian regime. Furthermore, by abruptly pulling out of the agreement, the Trump administration undermined U.S. credibility around the world. The U.S. cannot possibly become an honest broker in the Middle East by breaking promises aimed at securing peace and stability in the region. I am hopeful that the Iranians will agree to come back to the table to negotiate a new deal.**

**In Congress, I would take any steps available to encourage the U.S. to come back to the underlying principles of the JCPOA and to find a way forward that ensures the international community is working together to reach a better deal. Furthermore, the U.S. should work to safely bring troops home from the Middle East.**

**4). Should the U.S. increase, maintain or decrease the amount of foreign aid to Israel and other countries in the Middle East? Should the U.S. condition its aid for specific results? What does the U.S. benefit from its relationship with Israel?**

**The close relationship between Israel and the United States is the natural result of overlapping strategic interests and moral ideals. The United States is a stronger place when it is living up to its core values and working alongside Israel to promote security, democracy, personal liberty, responsible entrepreneurship, and the rule of law.**

**Israel's existence has been marked by existential military threats coming from many directions and in many different forms. I strongly support continued U.S. aid to Israel both in terms of financial contributions towards Israeli defense and with regards to the**

# JEWISH INSIDER

**exchange of security and military intelligence. A more secure Israel is both a good in itself and a step towards achieving the vital U.S. interest of a two- state solution.**

**I am also committed to preserving U.S. aid to the Palestinian Authority and supporting institutions aimed at producing more stable living conditions among Palestinians in both the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Such efforts are both a demand of human rights and a strategic imperative in the long-term pursuit of mutual peace and security.**

**Of course, efforts must be made to ensure that funding to any country is not used to promote violence, reward those who perpetrate crimes or undermine the ultimate goal of a two-state solution. Additionally, I believe we need to explore funding people-to-people programs and economic development as conflict resolution tools to achieve our goal of a two-state solution.**