

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?

Anti-semitism is a centuries old belief that's had pernicious consequences throughout the years. Unfortunately, this hate filled belief has been revived by President Trump and his administration who has continuously used anti-semitic and racist rhetoric to embolden white nationalists and extremists.

Throughout his 4 years in office, Trump has regularly used anti-semitic tropes to spread an agenda of hate and division, but anti-semitism is not specific to the right or the left. It exists on all sides of the political spectrum and has been used by different people at different levels of government throughout the country. What's important to remember here is who is spreading an anti-semitic message while also holding a position of power. In the United States, that person is President Trump and his administration.

I remember growing up, and my grandmother speaking very candidly about her anti-semitic experiences. The stories she shared with me are some that I will always remember, but what I will always remember is how proud she was to be Jewish. From a young age it was instilled in me that Judaism was something that was part of me and part of my family and today I could not be prouder.

Now, as a congressional candidate I know that to address anti-semitism we must take anti-semitic speech and the violence that accompanies it seriously. We must underpin the hate from where it flourishes and educate those who continue to spread this hate. We need to restore the funding that President Trump cut to combat the extremism that exists in this country, particularly white nationalism.

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 support the rights of Israelis and Palestinians to live with security, freedom, and dignity. I also support a two-state solution. As a Jew, I understand the long struggle for a Jewish homeland. With that said, I also won't let my Jewish identity be used to silence Palestinians' cries for freedom and dignity. I firmly believe that Israel will never fully live up to my Jewish values until the occupation ends and Palestinians are allowed the full freedom of self-determination.

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I believe Israel faces genuine security threats and support continued American aid to face those threats. But Israel's national security should not be used as an excuse to perpetuate the occupation and embark on annexation. I do not believe our taxpayer dollars should go toward any activities that further entrench the occupation of the Palestinian people.

The Trump Peace Plan, like many of Trump's policies, is not a proposal for peace. It's a plan that prioritizing Jewish interests over Palestinian ones by rewarding and even incentivizing settlements and the further dispossession of Palestinians.

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?

I believe that the United States should re-enter the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) with Iran because engaging with Iran diplomatically will always be better than engaging with them through war. President Trump's decision to pull the country out of the "Iran Deal" was a baseless and unprovoked decision that put the U.S. in a compromising position. The US should rejoin JCPOA in exchange for Iran returning to full compliance with the accord, and should seek to build on the deal with further negotiations.

Moving forward the United States should commit themselves to dealing with the Iranian government with diplomacy, not aggression. For decades, our country's international relations have been based on the idea that we shouldn't talk to adversaries who disagree with us. That is an antiquated and outdated guideline that has clearly proven ineffective time and time again. To ensure sustainable progress we must embrace multilateral international agreements like the JCPOA.

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?

I believe that our foreign policy, including any foreign aid that we as a country administer, must be grounded in our values. We should not be providing aid toward Saudi Arabia's war with Yemen as they continue to bomb civilians. It is our responsibility as a nation to ensure that the support our country is giving to Israel is being used to address security concerns and provide humanitarian aid, not perpetuate occupation or abuses toward the human rights of Palestinians. The United States should condition our aid to Israel if the government keeps moving forward activities that entrench the occupation or move us toward annexation. Our tax dollars should not be used to subsidize the expansion of settlements, the destruction of Palestinian homes, or the detention of Palestinian children. Aligning our aid with our values has been done

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by presidents across the aisle including President Carter, Reagan, Ford, and Bush Sr. It's not a radical notion to place conditions for its aid, to the contrary it's radical that we continue giving black checks to the Israeli government -- or any government -- with virtually no oversight or accountability.