

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?

● **Sectarianism and racism often increase at moments of great social, economic, and political stress — especially when dangerous political demagogues like Donald Trump deliberately inflame mistrust, resentment, and hatred to gain power. Racism, anti-Semitism, and xenophobia have increased in America as President Trump has deliberately pitted Americans against Americans, stirring up conflict within our society rather than uniting us to move forward together as one people.**

● **I learned about public and political leadership from my mentor, Congressman John Lewis, who taught me to focus on our shared humanity above our racial, religious, and cultural differences. My state, our country, and all humanity will only achieve our full potential and build the Beloved Community by recognizing that we are all in this together, that our interests are aligned, and that hatred, prejudice, and discrimination only hold us back.**

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?

● **A two-state solution, whereby Israel and a sovereign Palestinian state co-exist peacefully, remains the most viable basis for peace — but the will and capacity of Israeli and Palestinian politicians to deliver this solution is in serious doubt.**

● **Any peace deal should protect the political freedom and human rights of all people in the region and ensure Israel's security as a homeland for the Jewish people without threat of terrorism or invasion. The aim of the peace process should be secure and peaceful coexistence, political freedom, and prosperity for people of all faiths and nationalities in the Middle East.**

● **The United States should play a strong and constructive diplomatic role in efforts to secure a lasting political resolution to disputes between Israelis and Palestinians so that all people living in the region may enjoy freedom, security, peace, and prosperity.**

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?

● **Nuclear weapons proliferation is one of the gravest threats to U.S. and world security. I support robust efforts to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons anywhere.**

An Iranian nuclear weapons capability would pose an existential threat to Israel and other U.S. allies and would pose a critical threat to U.S. national security.

● **I support diplomacy with Iran, and I supported the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), which limits Iran's uranium enrichment until 2030. I opposed the Trump Administration's unilateral U.S. withdrawal from the JCPOA. In the Senate, I will support U.S. participation in an agreement that prevents Iran from developing nuclear weapons, whether based on the JCPOA, another multilateral agreement, or a desperately needed new global nuclear arms reduction and nonproliferation treaty.**

● **I support strict international monitoring and enforcement of Iran's compliance with obligations to restrict uranium enrichment and enforcement of Iran's UN-mandated obligations to cease ballistic missile tests. I support strengthened efforts to prevent the flow of arms and money from Iran to Hezbollah. I support U.S. and multilateral naval operations to deter Iran from disrupting and harassing military and commercial ships in critical Middle Eastern waterways.**

● **I oppose U.S. support for the Saudi war in Yemen. I am concerned by the ambiguous, muddled, and open-ended nature of the U.S. deployment in Syria. I believe support for Afghan domestic stability must become a multilateral UN effort with a strong diplomatic component, rather than the responsibility of the U.S. military.**

● **I believe Congress must re-assert its war powers and pass a new Authorization for the Use of Military Force which defines and constrains the use of military force in the Middle East consistent with the will of the American people.**

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?

● **In the Senate I will push for strong, mutually beneficial, and mutually respectful U.S.-Israel relations, whose strength can sustain Congressional support for U.S. foreign assistance that is vital to Israel's security.**

● **I am committed to Israel's security as a homeland for the Jewish people and indeed I have family who live in Israel. Israel is a small country in a volatile region. Israel's national security requires the capacity to prevail in simultaneous, multi-front, protracted military conflict with multiple hostile states and heavily armed non-state adversaries.**

● **I recognize that Israel's security requires the Israel Defense Forces to maintain a Qualitative Military Edge (QME) in the region. U.S. foreign assistance ensures that Israel has the military and intelligence capabilities necessary to maintain that QME, to defend itself against missile and rocket threats, and to prevent terrorist attacks within Israel or targeting Israelis around the world.**

● **The special relationship between the U.S. and Israel is deeply rooted and strategically important to both countries, but it cannot be taken for granted. Security cooperation,**

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trade, and cultural ties enrich and strengthen both countries. The U.S. Congress, with strong bipartisan support, should play an essential role in maintaining and strengthening healthy and open relations between the U.S. and Israel.