

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?

Sadly, there is an element of antisemitism on the fringe of both the political left and the political right. Far left elements of the Democratic party, including some Members of Congress, have made antisemitic remarks and posts on social media. Likewise, the extreme right white supremacy groups embrace Nazi symbolism and perpetuate hateful stereotypes.

In light of these groups, I don't believe anti-Semitism is "rising" in either party. However, polarization of our political system is increasing, and this polarization legitimizes fringe elements of both parties which creates the appearance of increasing antisemitism on both sides of the political aisle.

I believe the vast majority of Americans and the Representatives they elect to serve our country are good people. Accordingly, elected officials must start working across the aisle to find bipartisan compromise rather than retreating to our partisan corners because the latter only serves to embolden the fringe.

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?

Any plan for the Middle East must recognize Israel's right to exist, provide the Palestinian people with the right to self determination and ensure access to the holy sites of Jerusalem.

I also understand the Trump peace plan – or any realistic peace proposal - requires the State of Israel to make significant territorial compromises from land that was captured in a defensive war. This is not a small concession on behalf of the Israeli government, and one that must be recognized by the Palestinians. I also believe that peace should not demand the uprooting of people – Arab or Jew – from their homes.

Further, a lasting and peaceful two-state solution requires economic opportunity and prosperity for the people of Palestine. I support the Trump plan to provide economic investment in Palestine and connect Gaza with key trading partners so that any new state of Palestine can establish a vibrant economy. We always support Israel as they are our most important allies, but also must recognize that they are a sovereign nation that should self-determine its borders and agreements.

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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?

Iran has shown a history of noncompliance in its pursuit of nuclear weapons. International Atomic Energy Agency has routinely cited Iran for failing to

cooperate with international inspectors and UN resolutions. The JCPOA only served to reward Iran for this bad behavior and did nothing to prevent Iran from continuing to ignore sanctions, disregard inspectors and continue to develop nuclear weapons. Further, the sunset provisions of the JCPOA allow Iran to restart uranium enrichment and plutonium reprocessing after 10-15 years. As a result, Iran only needs to wait out the JCPOA to begin industrial scale nuclear material production.

The United States' strategy of containment of the Iranian regime has been ineffective for 40 years. Peaceful regime change in Iran through the empowerment of its people. The American government must encourage and provide support for pro-democracy activities in Iran.

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 United States must ensure that Israel remains a strong, democratic ally in the region. To that end, we should support Israel through direct aid, military support and trade. The majority of US aid to Israel today is in the form of Foreign Military Financing grants which provides Israeli access to key defense technologies and provides jobs to Americans. A 10-year Memorandum of Understanding between the United States and Israel provides \$38 billion in military aid (\$33 billion in Foreign Military Financing grants plus \$5 billion in missile defense appropriations). These sorts of agreements are beneficial to

both parties by providing Israel with essential defense systems and supporting American jobs.

US aid to Israel should not be conditioned on anything other than a commitment to the free elections and democracy in Israel.