

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?

I don't belong to a political party, but I do believe there has been a deeply disturbing rise of antisemitism throughout the United States. We have seen this rise manifest itself in tragic fashion through despicable and unconscionable acts of violence perpetrated by twisted and troubled individuals. The difficulty in addressing this issue is that hatred must be rooted out at its source, once it festers it becomes much more difficult to eradicate. I do believe that education will ultimately be the most effective and long-lasting solution. Some people are ignorant about Jews and the Jewish faith as a whole, and this leads to fear and fear quickly contorts to hatred. The solution begins and ends with education.

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 do believe that we will not have lasting peace between Israel and Palestine without a two-state solution. As a Jewish American I thoroughly support the Israeli-American relationship and of course Israel's right to self-determination and a Jewish homeland. However, thus far the unilateral approach to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict taken by both the Trump and Netanyahu administrations has not been conducive to lasting success. The Palestinians must be a part of negotiations. We have no right to be the sole determiners of their fate just as they have no right to determine ours. They must be part of the process. While the United States should never try to impose terms on either party, there has been broad consensus on the outline of what a two-state solution looks like: an agreement based on the 1967 borders with mutually agreed land swaps, a demilitarized Palestinian state, and a final resolution of all claims to right of return by refugees.

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 Trump Administration's decision to unilaterally pull out of the agreement ensured that Iran got all of the front end benefits of the deal, and we gave up our role in long term oversight and accountability. We must do everything in our power to ensure that Iran never gets a nuclear weapon. That is why I have publicly said that all options

should be on the table. And I have no doubt that multilateral diplomacy is the most effective way at ensuring that Iran never gets the bomb.

I would support bringing the United States back into compliance with the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) and immediately work on strengthening its mechanisms of

accountability and oversight. I also support continued efforts by Congress to make clear that the President does not have the authority to engage in military operations against Iran, and that any such operations must be authorized by Congress to be lawful. Further, I think that Congress should clearly define existing authorizations on the use of force to prevent the President from embarking on an irresponsible and dangerous war of choice.

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 support the record level of aid agreed to in the 2016 MOU, which finally ensured consistent support for the Iron Dome and David's Sling programs. This agreement will ensure that Israel is able to maintain its qualitative military edge and shows that the relation between our two nations is stronger than any political disagreements. Regarding foreign aid in general, the total foreign aid budget is a tiny fraction of the total government budget, and yet it is one of the most effective foreign policy and national security tools at our disposal. Whether through intelligence sharing, basing of troops, or use of air space, foreign aid helps our ability to project force abroad and keep America safe at home. This is particularly true of Israel, one of our closest allies, and where that cooperation is among the strongest in the region.