

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?

Unfortunately, some elements of the Democratic party have embraced antisemitism and that party has not done enough to stand against it. One negative effect of this seems to be to make support of the U.S.-Israeli relationship a more partisan issue. While there is an increase in white nationalists groups embracing antisemitism, these groups have no basis in conservative ideology or in the Republican party. To address the problem of antisemitism it is important to call it out and stand against it. As it affects U.S.-Israel relations it is also important to emphasize Israel's capacity to bring stability to the Middle East, such as through the recent UAE-Israel peace agreement.

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?

Peace in the region is ultimately dependent on a two-state solution. While the United States can support this effort by ensuring Israel's right to self-defense and encouraging Arab allies to be supportive, success depends on Israel and Palestine taking direct responsibility for the terms of an agreement. Further, for a two-state solution to work, the Palestinians must make clear that Israel has a right to exist. I strongly agree with the Trump Administration's plan to map out the borders of a Palestinian state and maintain the status quo regarding control of Jerusalem.

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 support staying out of the JCPOA. The JCPOA provided too much front-loaded benefits for Iran, with too short a time frame to assure compliance. Further, it failed to provide adequate inspections and did not require Iran to provide a complete declaration of past nuclear activity. I support continuing the Trump Administration's policy of "maximum pressure" on Iran to deprive the current regime of revenue to use on their military, missile development, nuclear program, and support of terrorist groups and proxies. I further believe U.S. military presence in the Middle East provides a deterrent to hostile regimes in the region.

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 U.S. should maintain existing foreign aid to Israel and other Middle East countries. Aid to Israel should be absolute and unequivocal, however, I would support conditioning aid to other countries support in eradicating terrorist networks. As a free nation surrounded by authoritarian regimes, Israel is a stabilizing force in the Middle East and one of our most important allies.