

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?

As much as we wish it were not the case, antisemitism is still a pervasive part of our society. Diversity is our nation's strength, but for far too long, Jewish Americans across our country have been subject to hateful and harmful rhetoric and actions.

Antisemitism has no place in Montana, in America, or anywhere in our world, and as I have in the past, I will continue to call it out publicly and call on our state and our country to do better when these ugly events occur.

We must do better. As a nation, we need to come together to reject hate, discrimination, and antisemitism wherever we see it. I will work with Democrats and Republicans in the Senate to address this problem, and take real steps to promote and create a more inclusive America.

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 believe that a two-state solution is the only realistic, long-term answer to the challenge facing Israel and the Palestinian people, and that such a solution can only be found through the difficult work of direct negotiations, not imposed by third parties. The status quo is not acceptable to Israelis, nor to the Palestinian people.

This includes supporting the right of Israel to defend itself, which must be amplified by America continuing to guarantee Israel's security without condition. It also includes respect for human rights, continuing humanitarian aid to ensure access to electricity and clean water for Palestinians. With that in mind, I support continuing assistance to the Palestinian Authority, which is critical to reducing terror and promoting the conditions that can lead the two sides back to the peace table. Jerusalem, the firmly established capital of Israel, holds vital religious, cultural, and historical importance to Christians, Jews and Arabs alike. Thus, any final status proposal, including the boundaries and future of East Jerusalem, must be negotiated and agreed upon between the two parties.

This is not the time for unilateral actions – whether it be annexation of lands outside a negotiated agreement, or circumventing direct negotiations by seeking outside pressure on Israel through the UN. These actions will only push the parties farther from a final, negotiated settlement.

Peace will require both sides to make compromises and accept the terms of any peace agreement with the United States acting as an honest broker. However, this is not the time for unilateral actions that could undermine a peaceful solution. Israel needs to refrain from extending sovereignty beyond the parameters of a final negotiated agreement and the Palestinians need to come to the table for direct negotiations and stop inciting violence.

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 today is enriching more uranium and at a higher level than at any time in the last five years. That moves it closer to having a nuclear capability than it was in 2015 when Iran's nuclear capabilities were limited by an international agreement. Our national security is more at risk as a result of walking away from this agreement.

I will keep Iran accountable for its actions, not only to prevent it from acquiring a nuclear weapon, but also hold them accountable for supporting terrorism in the region and for trying to expand its ballistic missile program, both of which could harm American troops in the region and our allies. However, unlike too many folks in Washington, I will not support a march to yet another war in the Middle East. Congress must have a say before the president undertakes prolonged military action against Iran or any other country.

In repairing the damage of the last few years, I will work with my new Senate colleagues to develop new mechanisms to keep Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon, and I will call for a new emphasis on reducing Iran's ballistic missile capability. The Iran nuclear agreement was delaying Iran's nuclear breakout time and, for the first time, opening the country up to international inspections. It is critical that we move Iran further away from the time in which they could have a nuclear weapon, and it is equally important that we regain and expand access to Iran's nuclear facilities even beyond the original 10-year window of 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?

America's relationship with Israel is built on generations of assistance – ties that helped Israel develop the ability to protect itself during its early years and ties that have helped grow the economies of both countries.

The U.S.-Israel relationship is strong, multi-faceted and deep. It is a relationship that is based on both shared interests and shared democratic values. Israel is America's

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trusted friend and ally in the Middle East. But Israel lives in a dangerous neighborhood and is facing serious security threats from the rise of Hezbollah to the constant threat of Iran. In the U.S. Senate, I will work to ensure that Israel maintains its military advantage to confront these threats.

But the U.S.-Israel relationship is also much broader. I will also work to strengthen trade, scientific and cultural cooperation between our country and Israel. I saw this first-hand on my trip to Israel during my time as Montana's Attorney General. Through this experience, I personally witnessed how fundamental the U.S.-Israel relationship is to vital American interests. Since becoming Governor, I have helped this relationship grow further. In 2012, before I became Governor, Montana exported roughly \$1.5 million worth of goods to Israel. In 2017, the last year for which complete data is available, Montana exported \$5 million in goods to Israel, an enormous increase reflecting the growing relationship between our state and Israel.

In the Senate, I will continue to promote this enduring relationship. If elected to the U.S. Senate, I will be a friend and advocate for Israel and for peace in the Middle East, and I look forward to traveling to Israel as a Senator to get a first-hand look at how the country and its economic and security posture have changed since my last visit. I will be particularly interested in how Israel is solving a problem that is common to both Montana and Israel: water scarcity. What Israel has done to "make the desert bloom" is fascinating and I would welcome the chance to see where we can learn from each other.