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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?

Yes, tragically antisemitism has been on the rise in the United States, and it's been propagated by both parties. Most notably, this week marks the third year anniversary of Charlottesville, where we witnessed self-identified members of the alt-right marching with torches during the "Unite the Right" rally chanting, "Jews will not replace us! You will not replace us!" The rally resulted in an avowed neo-Nazi killing of a woman and injuring dozens of others by driving into a crowd of counterprotesters.

It was disheartening to see President Trump assign moral equivalence to that fateful day and say that there were "very fine people on both sides" of the scenes that weekend. Here at home, I witnessed the tragedy and mourned with the Jewish community for weeks following the Chabad synagogue (Poway, CA) shooting that claimed the life of Lori Kaye, a devout Jewish member of the congregation. While these are the most violent displays of antisemitism today, hate speech and antisemitism against the Jewish community takes on more common forms in everyday political life from both parties. In 2018, Republicans in Alaska, Washington state, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, and California ran political mailers showing Jewish Democrats with fistfuls of cash. Similarly, Democrats have also launched attacks against Jewish candidates calling them "untrustworthy elitists seeking to control the world," accusing them of dual loyalty to this country and painting them as money interested people with a secret agenda against America. I condemn those tropes that have been levied by some amongst my party.

One of my proposals to address these issues is to educate the American people about the Holocaust and to inform them how the sentiments of antisemitism that claimed the lives of 6 million Jews under Nazi Germany still persists today in our nation. In fact, in my district, a man was driving around town with a large Swastika flag waving over his truck. I immediately condemned this act and many others like it, while my opponent has been silent and reluctant to address some of the other high profile cases of white supremacy that have occurred in our district, including a grocery shopper who donned a KKK hoodie in broad daylight. I believe

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silence in the face of these overt displays of antisemitism is complicity, and I will not condone that dereliction of moral obligation.

I've also worked to educate people on the more concealed forms of antisemitism. Professor Deborah Lipstadt points out that while other forms of discrimination against victimized communities take on the form of "punching down" (i.e., describing a group as lazy, uncultured, unsophisticated or undeserving), anti-Jewish discrimination takes on the form of "punching up" (i.e., looking at the group as holding power over others, conspiring against the masses, one that should be feared and could do harm to the rest).

More than just informally educating people about the different forms of anti-Semitism, following the Poway shooting, I proposed legislation that will root out antisemitism and domestic terrorism-- the [SAFE Act](#). The SAFE Act will protect communities that are targets of domestic terrorism through four key legislative initiatives: 1) Working with tech companies and require them to disable foreign and domestic terrorists from using social media to radicalize and recruit online to spread antisemitic hate. 2) Funding mental health investments in diseases of despair, including additional federal funding to hire more counselors in schools. Our youth are soft targets for antisemitic recruiters, making sure these radical groups do not indoctrinate young impressionable students is critical. 3) Creating a required curriculum for young students to study the holocaust, comparative religious studies, and counter-extremism in early education. 4) Enacting higher penalties and mandatory sentences for committing terrorist acts of violence against places of worship such as synagogues or Jewish temples.

As a Christian of Palestinian descent, I believe that it is imperative to ensure everyone is treated fairly and justly, including the Jewish community who are longest oppressed in history. In Congress, I hope to address this issue by not only protecting Jewish Americans but also advocating for a two-state solution to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

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?

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As I've outlined in my opinion piece from [The Hill](#), I strongly support a two-state solution in order to facilitate peace between Israelis and Palestinians. Regarding the conflict, I have repeatedly said, "There comes a time when you have to let go of your ancestral past to embrace your children's future." This conflict is both the Achilles heel of the region and the crown jewel of diplomatic efforts, the final arrangement will be a solution neither side fully wants but all sides need for peace. In my opinion, the basic parameters of a successful two-state solution would closely resemble President Clinton's peace plan, with adjustments to account for changes on the ground that have taken place since 2000. The Clinton Administration's plan includes a demilitarized Palestinian state in Gaza and approximately 97 percent of the West Bank, control of Islamic and Christian holy sites, and a capital in east Jerusalem. In return, the Palestinians and Arab world would recognize Israel's right to exist as a Jewish-Democratic state, living in peace, security, and prosperity alongside its neighboring Palestinian state.

I believe the window for this peace plan is still open, however narrow it may be. The window is closing, however, and if not resolved soon, the idea of a two-state solution can quickly collapse into a one-state reality that would be unworkable and tarnish the unique national identities of two peoples. Before a two-state solution can be brokered, the Palestinians must unite their government factions between Gaza and the West Bank to speak in one voice with one posture of coexistence toward Israel. This unity government must recognize Israel's existence, and be at peace with the two-state solution. The Palestinians have not held an election since 2007, and I believe an election must be held before a genuine bilateral, lasting agreement can take place with Israel.

President Trump's plan did not include the weigh-in of Palestinian leadership, or even neighboring Arab countries who would need to be consulted with before any final arrangement can proceed so peace can be maintained across the region. That's where I disagree with the administration's approach; I do agree, however, with the President's choice to try and redeem a two-state solution. In Congress, I will continue to push for two states for two peoples, and advocate that the principles of security, self-determination, and equal human rights be afforded to both the Israelis and Palestinians. In the final analysis, the only viable solution to the

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Israeli-Palestinian conflict is one where both sides agree to make concessions toward each other, and where a path of truth and reconciliation is blazed by future generations.

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 believe a nuclear Iranian regime, which is a known state sponsor of terror is a threat to Israeli and American security. When it comes to Iran, we must always maintain a trust but verify posture and understand Iran's leaders have a propensity to shift the costs of crippling sanctions suffering to their own citizens in order to preserve their theocratic power. Nevertheless, we know that the JCPOA — flawed as it was — effectively delayed the threat of a nuclear Iran. A top priority of mine in Congress will be to assure all nuclear capabilities from Iran are blocked, including its ballistic missile capabilities. As such, I would support the United States' rejoining its allies and Iran in an updated deal. I do believe the Iranian people, if given a chance at a fair and free election, would choose a more moderate government that would be willing to work with the United States in a way that was mutually beneficial to both countries. Until then, we must make sure our actions against Iran do not embolden hardliners seeking to advance their anti-American agenda among the Iranian people who are suffering. Whatever deals we make with the existing Iranian regime must be done carefully and in a way that doesn't alienate the people of Iran who are not a reflection of their extremist government.

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?

As someone who worked under the Obama Administration, I saw the investment in the Iron Dome and other defensive capabilities as a deterrent to further offensive actions from both Palestinians and Israelis. I believe the current amount of foreign aid in the region affords us a line of communication that otherwise would not exist. Conversely, the pulling of funding from the

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Palestinians has now resulted in the complete severing of ties. In order for America to remain a respected broker of peace and security in the region, the US must incentivize relationships through foreign aid and cooperation.

The United States enjoys an important relationship with Israel when it comes to military cooperation and intelligence gathering, both within the region and as far-reaching as intel on Russia and other geopolitical opponents. I believe the assurance of funding allows the United States to have tough conversations with our allies in the region, including Saudi Arabia and Israel, on how to pursue peace and prevent further national security risks to the United States emanating from the region.