

# ANDREW ROMANOFF FOR SENATE

Andrew Romanoff: Middle East  
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## Introduction

The Middle East today continues to be a region of critical importance to the United States, and one that presents a host of challenges and uncertainties. The threat of terrorism at home and abroad; the Trump administration's reckless abandonment of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA); the de facto Israeli annexation of land in the West Bank; and the continued promotion of anti-Israel terrorism by Hamas all pose significant threats to the US and our allies in the region. In such uncertain times, the importance of relationships with our friends in the region, particularly Israel, has become that much more critical. After several journeys to the Middle East, including participation in a bipartisan delegation of American lawmakers to Israel, Egypt, and Jordan in 2009, Andrew Romanoff brings a broad knowledge of the region and a strong commitment to its future.

Andrew has always believed deeply in Israel's right to exist and to defend its sovereignty, and supports a two-state solution to the Israeli/Palestinian conflict that can be achieved through negotiations aided by US leadership, continued US aid to Israel, and respect for Palestinian human rights. Andrew's record of leadership on this issue is long and solid and he will be a tireless advocate for maintaining the strength and integrity of the US/Israeli partnership.

## Partnership with Israel

The State of Israel plays a vital role as the homeland of the Jewish people and as America's most reliable and democratic partner in the Middle East. Yet Israel's very survival continues to face threats from Iran, Syria, Hamas, and instability across the region made worse by the Trump administration's irresponsible approach to diplomacy and national security.

Andrew firmly supports Israel's right to exist and to defend itself, and will advocate for maintaining US military, scientific, and technological aid to Israel in advancement of those goals. Israel's security can be further bolstered by avoiding the intentional degradation of the Palestinian Authority (PA). Economic and humanitarian assistance should be restored not only to the PA, but also to UN agencies working on behalf of Palestinian refugees.

## The Threat from Iran

Iran is a menace to world peace and US interests. Iran is the leading state sponsor of terrorism, serves as Bashir Al-Assad's lifeline in Syria, has supported attacks on US soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan, has built a sophisticated ballistic missile program, and is actively pursuing nuclear weapons capability. Iran's ability to deploy nuclear weapons would pose an existential threat to Israel and a clear danger to the rest of the world. The US must maintain pressure on Iran and continue to seek a diplomatic solution to the nuclear issue. Although Andrew agrees that all options must remain on the table, including military force, to prevent Iran from obtaining nuclear

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weapons, he believes that withdrawal of the US from the JCPOA was a dangerous and short-sighted mistake. Alongside the Israeli security establishment, our allies, and Middle East experts, Andrew understands that the US must return to JCPOA to avoid an unnecessary, unwise, and unauthorized war of choice with Iran.

## The Peace Process

Andrew has long supported a two-state solution through international diplomacy that leads to a democratic, peaceful Palestinian state living side-by-side with a secure Israel. The US and its allies should engage Palestinian leaders and Arab states that renounce violence and accept Israel's right to exist as a Jewish state, free from terrorism. A negotiated agreement with borders based on 1967 lines, appropriate land swaps, and a shared capital in Jerusalem can only be achieved, however, if overdue steps to recognize Palestinian self-determination are undertaken. The ever-increasing expansion of Israeli settlements deep into the West Bank must be halted and forced relocation and demolition of Palestinian communities must stop. An Israeli annexation of the West Bank is incompatible with sustainable peace and the continued health of democracy in Israel.

In the end, lasting peace in the Middle East can come only from the residents of the region themselves. In addition to reengaged US leadership in the peace process, Andrew strongly supports programs that foster mutual respect and friendship among people of different religions and cultures. He has seen such efforts take root among younger generations, upon whose shoulders rest our hopes for a more tranquil world.

## A Record of Leadership

In the Colorado House of Representatives, Andrew co-sponsored resolutions affirming America's support for Israel, for greater democracy in the Middle East, and for "a just, lasting, and secure peace" for all the peoples of the region. As Speaker of the House, Andrew supported the successful bipartisan agreement regarding divestment from Iran. In 2009, the Mizel Museum made him its Tikkun Olam ("Repairing the World") Ambassador. "As speaker," the award noted, Andrew "built bridges of understanding in an atmosphere of strong political differences, performing admirably and providing vision and leadership at a critical time."

Andrew will carry this record into the US Senate, where he will continue to champion democracy and defend human rights.