

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?

“Anti-Semitism has no place in society, period. It’s horrifying any time you see hate perpetrated against Jewish People in the United States or anywhere around the world. I’ve been a friend of Israel and the Jewish community since I was very young. Since I got to the U.S. Senate, I’ve made fighting anti-Semitism and all forms of bigotry a top priority. Unfortunately, we saw this issue at the forefront in 2017 after a string of bomb threats at Jewish Community Centers across the country. That was unacceptable, and I worked with national security officials in the Trump Administration to make sure there would be a long-term strategy to protect these JCCs and other places of worship.”

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?

“Obviously there is no simple fix but a two-state solution would be the best outcome for both sides. However, that won’t happen unless the Palestinians are willing to come to the table, negotiate in good faith, and cut ties with terrorist groups like Hamas and Hezbollah. “The Palestinian Authority has to end their practice of providing stipends for known terrorists. It’s ridiculous and the reason I support the Taylor Force Act. We’ve got to make sure the United States isn’t sending foreign aid until these payments end. Israel has made it clear that they are open to living in peace with the Palestinians. You’ve seen a willingness by Israel to begin negotiations. The Palestinians must do the same in order to solve this issue.”

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?

“President Obama’s Iran Deal was an unmitigated disaster. It’s very clear that the Obama-Biden Administration’s weak foreign policy only emboldened Iran and made the world less safe. Trusting Iran to change was not only naive, but it also created a national security risk for our ally Israel. It simply guaranteed Iran a pathway to a nuclear weapons capability. “Since day one of his Administration, President Trump has recognized Iran’s destabilizing behavior and position as the world’s number one state sponsor of terrorism. I supported President Trump’s decision to withdraw from the JCPOA and impose strong sanctions to actually hold Iran accountable. Iran must know that we will not stand for their continued aggression. Last year, after demonstrating restraint to Iran’s persistent attacks, President Trump acted decisively to bring Iranian terrorist Qasem Soleimani to justice. That was a turning point in my view. As an

Iranian general, Soleimani used terrorist proxy groups to wreak havoc throughout the Middle East and was a direct threat to American service members.”

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?

“My first foreign trip as a U.S. Senator and member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee was to Israel. I personally met with Prime Minister Netanyahu and reaffirmed that the United States stands shoulder-to-shoulder with the state of Israel. The U.S.-Israel relationship is both special and strategic. It is special because we share the common values of freedom and democracy, and it’s strategic because Israel is America’s strongest ally in the Middle East. “Unfortunately, there are ongoing efforts here in America to undermine our alliance with Israel. In the U.S. Senate, we’ve taken action to stand against BDS and the anti-Israeli boycott movement. President Trump has shown that Israel is and will continue to be a priority. By moving our U.S. embassy to Jerusalem, the President recognized the historic and modern reality that Jerusalem is the center for the Jewish people and all parts of Israeli government. Jerusalem is unquestionably Israel’s capital.”