

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?

We've seen a sharp uptick in antisemitic hate crimes over the past few years - part of a larger increase in white nationalist violence. White nationalist violence, whether directed at Black people or at Jews, is domestic terrorism, plain and simple.

In addition, *political* antisemitism - slogans, stereotypes, conspiracies - has also increased. Some extremely concerning trends include the rise in prominence of antisemitic QAnon conspiracies, attack ads against Jon Ossoff that artificially enlarged the size of his nose, and right here in Wyoming, one of my primary opponents calling me an "Israeli fake jew".

When antisemitism is virulent and explicit, we must immediately condemn it. When it is organized and violent, we must prosecute it. But when it is inadvertent, education and compassion will be more effective.

Jews should also stand in solidarity with other groups facing oppression. We can't fight antisemitism without also fighting other forms of racism - and we can't fight racism without also fighting antisemitism.

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?

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict is highly complex. Past US administrations have made significant efforts to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian dispute, and to negotiate peace agreements between Israel and its neighbors. The current policies of the Israeli government only increase the odds of failure. Expansion of West Bank settlements, unilateral annexation of Palestinian lands, demolitions of houses, forced relocations of Palestinian families, and continued violence contribute to escalation of the conflict. I believe peace can only be achieved if the Palestinian people are treated with dignity, provided with financial assistance to develop a sustainable economy, and their human rights and wishes for self-governance in their own country is guaranteed.

The actions of the current US administration have further degraded the potential for achieving peace in the Middle East, and made support for Israel needlessly partisan. When I am Senator, I will work to re-engage Israel and the Palestinians in a dialogue towards a cessation of hostilities and towards an agreement that will lead to the establishment of two states within defined borders with a shared capital in Jerusalem. The long-term security of both peoples depends on the realization of a two-state

solution, and will require an investment in building mutual trust among Israelis and Palestinians.

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?

The Middle East has been volatile for many years, with several countries vying for dominance in the region and flexing their muscle through oil production and supply. In the aftermath of the Arab Spring, Turkey's democracy collapsed, Egypt's government is more authoritarian than before, and a long and bitter war in Syria has left millions of people dead, injured, and displaced. The humanitarian crises in Syria and Yemen are nothing short of genocide.

The US should join our allies from the European Union to provide humanitarian assistance to Syrian refugees and the people of Yemen, and use every diplomatic option to end these wars as soon as possible.

In addition, the US's withdrawal from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (the Iran Nuclear Deal, JCPOA), the abandonment of the Kurds, and an alliance with an authoritarian and corrupt government in Saudi Arabia have severely eroded our ability to secure stability in the region. I will push for the reinstatement of the US commitment to the JCPOA, accountability for the government of Saudi Arabia for their atrocities in Yemen and the murder of Jamal Khashoggi, and the security of our allies 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?

As the only persistent democracy in the Middle East, Israel has been an essential and close ally of the United States for over seven decades. The strong relationship between our two countries has been fostered by both Democratic and Republican administrations and resulted in fruitful collaborations, scientific discoveries, and technological developments. When I am Senator, I will continue the tradition of promoting cooperation between our two countries, and support continuing US aid to Israel.