Florida Rep. Bobby DuBose  
Candidate for Florida 20th

1) What is the one policy issue or area that you are most passionate about?

My top three policy priorities are all surrounding healthcare, education, and public safety in CD 20. We are living in a time where there is nothing more important than having quality access to healthcare, funding our public schools, and ensuring people feel safe in their own communities. We must then continue to focus on additional policies regarding economic stability and affordable housing.

2) Which organizations or leaders do you consult with for advice on policy? Are there any whose views particularly align with yours?

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, National Conference of State Legislatures, National Black Caucus of State Legislatures, Florida State Senator Bobby Powell, and U.S. Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz.

3) Recent statistics from the FBI indicate that Jews are the victims of more than half of all religiously motivated hate crimes in the U.S. This uptick in antisemitism coincides with a robust debate about the role of policing in American society, with some arguing for abolishing or defunding the police, while others advocate for limited reforms or preserving the status quo. What is your position on police reform and — in light of that — how do you believe the government should address violent antisemitism?

The alliance of marginalized communities has always been a strength when we work towards a common goal. I am a proud life member of the NAACP and recognize the strong partnership the United States has with Israel and understand the significant support the Jewish community has for the Black community. I am reminded of the founders of the NAACP, the 1909 Freedom Riders, the Civil Rights movement of the 1960’s and supporters of police reform. At every turn our allyship has been noted throughout our shared history. We fundamentally support and recognize marginalized communities and keenly speak out against social injustice. With the rise of anti-Semitism and prejudice in the larger global community we must also be bold with our fight against these injustices and continue to proclaim: Never Again! We must also understand the survival of Israel is important to the survival of Jewish Americans.
Optional: Describe any efforts you’ve made to combat antisemitism within your own party, and how you’ve held your political allies accountable for any instances of antisemitism.

4) Do you believe that Israel’s role and location in the Middle East is a strategic asset to the United States? Why or why not.

There is a saying "Put your money where your mouth is". In 2016, under the leadership of President Barack Obama, the United States did exactly that with our Memorandum of Understanding with Israel. This is the single largest military pledge made in US history. Of the annual $3.8 billion, $500 million goes toward missile defense. It is also noteworthy that the majority of these funds are spent in the United States. These funds help our economy and employ American workers. Israel’s technology also helps our military. Finally, this funding allows Israel to defend themselves by themselves. As a United States Congressman, I will continue to support this historic agreement.

5) On September 23, 2021, the United States House of Representatives voted 420-9, with two members voting present, to provide $1 billion to Israel to replenish the Iron Dome missile defense system. If you were in Congress, how would you have voted and why?

I would have voted to provide $1 billion to Israel to replenish the Iron Dome missile defense system. I support funding the Iron Dome and the ability for Israel to defend themselves. As a United States Congressman, I will continue to support the historic Memorandum of Understanding with Israel.

6) 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 foreign aid based on specific results?

The U.S. should maintain the amount of foreign aid to Israel and other countries in the Middle East. There may not need to be specific results related to the foreign aid but definitely conditions and an understanding with the countries receiving the aid to ensure its use aligns with the interest of the U.S.
7) What is your view of the Abraham Accords, which has brought Arab countries including the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Morocco and Sudan into a warm peace with Israel? Do you believe there will be more peace in the Middle East? If so, what will it take?

The region's religions and roots in Abrahamic faith should support a peaceful coexistence, however extremism threatens this viability. Extremism becomes a cancer that infects everything it comes in to contact with, within the region and threat to democracy in the greater global community. I support and look forward to having additional countries normalize relations with Israel.

As I understand the woven history of my community and the Jewish community, tightly knitted together, I also appreciate the vibrant tapestry of the people of Israel and the region. It is one thing to speak of peace, but as a member of the United States Congress, I will work tirelessly towards the fulfillment of our promise to the country. I also hope to travel to Israel as a member of Congress; there is a freshman trip scheduled in February that I hope to join. Finally, it is important that I acknowledge Congressman Alcee Hastings commitment to Israel. He was unapologetic about his stance on Israel and the unconditional friendship shared by our two nations. Although he will never be replaced, my desire is to have a similar reputation as it relates to being pro-Israel.

8) Do you support or oppose a return to the 2015 nuclear deal with Iran? In your view, what is the role of 'leverage' in these negotiations and is the U.S. using its leverage effectively?

Security within the region requires efforts of our alliance beyond talking points. It was determined by the Congressional Research Service that “Tehran possesses the technological and industrial capacity to produce nuclear weapons. But Iran has not yet mastered all of the necessary technologies.” This is a dangerous development and Iran must not develop nuclear weapons. As a member of the US Congress, I will work alongside our nation’s leaders and the international community towards safety in the region and to ensure that Iran does not develop nuclear weapons. I applaud the current Administration for engaging with Iran to try and create a longer and stronger deal that addresses some of the shortcomings in the original Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) such as ballistic missile testing, human rights violations, and support for instability in the region. In doing so we should not lift sanctions as a gift to open negotiations.
**Circle the one answer you agree with most**

9) Government entities should not have to do business with entities that engage in immoral practices or espouse values that are inconsistent with society’s

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree
- Other

10) I support public efforts to divest from companies that engage in BDS

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree
- Other

11) Anti-Zionism is a form of antisemitism

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree
- Other

12) The United States should use all means available to prevent Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree
- Other