Broward County Commissioner Barbara Sharief
Candidate for Florida 20th

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

Healthcare for all. I am a Doctor of Nursing Practice with 28 years of experience as a healthcare practitioner. As a member of the National Association of Counties and Past Chair of their Health Steering Committee, I have been to Washington numerous times lobbying on important issues like expanding Medicare and quality affordable health insurance. I support improving the Affordable Care Act and making recent expansions permanent. I support expanding Medicare coverage, including adding long term care coverage for seniors and lowering prescription drug costs by negotiating directly with manufacturers and other countries. I support creating a Medicaid II program that the federal government will administer directly - bypassing intransigent governors at the state level and ensuring all residents receive the healthcare they need. I also want to restore funding for HIV and AIDS support programs in Florida.

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

Regarding Israel and the Jewish community, I consult with Congresswoman Lois Frankel and former Broward County Commissioner Ilene Lieberman, both of whom are supporting my campaign for U.S. Congress.

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?

I do not support defunding the police. Regarding police reform, I support the George Floyd Justice in Policing Act, holding police officers accountable for their actions and combating racial bias. Regarding antisemitism, I support Senator Chuck Schumer's proposal to increase funding for the Nonprofit Security Grant Program that provides funding to non-profit institutions at risk for terrorism like synagogues, religious schools, and Jewish community centers. The federal government must do a better job
tracking hate groups. It also must have an official and consistent policy of condemning hate and antisemitism and guaranteeing more timely, expedient justice.

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.

I have been an outspoken leader against antisemitism. As a Broward County Commissioner, I supported some of the most expansive human rights legislation in the country – legislation that makes discrimination in housing, employment and public accommodations based on religion illegal. As a candidate for Congress, I have spoken out against the BDS movement, which has its foundation in antisemitism. Whenever any of my opponents have attempted to justify their support for BDS or placing conditions on continued military or financial assistance to Israel, I have called them out.

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.

Absolutely! I have been to Israel and spent nine days there at the invitation of AIPAC, seeing, firsthand, the struggles the Jewish people face every day defending their borders. Israel is the one true Democracy in the area and a stabilizing force for the region. Israel is key to our economic interests in the region and is a key trading partner with the U.S. It is in our best interests as much as Israel’s best interests to maintain peace and a foothold for Democracy in the region.

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?

If I were in Congress, I would have voted, unconditionally, to provide Israel the additional $1 billion dollars in funding to replenish the Iron Dome missile defense system.

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?
Unlike several of my opponents, I would vote to increase the amount of foreign aid to Israel, unconditionally. The U.S. should use its considerable clout and ability to provide aid to other countries as leverage to bring peace to the region.

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?

I support the Abraham Accords and will work with Israel and other countries to reach similar agreements and expand peace in the region. I also support a two-state solution for Israel and the Palestinian people. However, before that can be achieved, Palestinians must recognize Israel's right to exist and defend itself.

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?

I support negotiating a new nuclear deal with Iran. The U.S. must do everything in its power to keep Iran from developing nuclear weapons. To date, the U.S. has mostly used the threat of sanctions to keep Iran in line; however, we need to look at other options. Clearly, Iran has an interest in becoming a member in good standing in the world community and we should take full advantage of their desire to achieve respectability.

**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