



WINFREY

**MOVING MICHIGAN FORWARD**

**Congress – 2022**

## **United States – Israel Relationship**

Janice Winfrey, Democrat for 12<sup>th</sup> MI Congressional District

“The United States and Israel are stronger and safer when we work together. If elected I will work to strengthen this crucial relationship to advance our common goals and values. I’ll be a friend and supporter of Israel in Congress.”

-Janice Winfrey

The Middle East is a region of serious and dangerous geopolitical tension. Radical Islamic extremism suppresses liberty and basic human rights while promoting a culture of anti-American resentment. Repressive anti-democratic governments across the region do little to fight terrorism and promote peace and democracy. Deeply rooted religious differences create further instability, and there is no question that Iran continues to have a serious—and very dangerous—interest in a nuclear program. A nuclear Iran would pose a direct threat to American interest and to the Jewish State. Iran needs to be monitored closely by all countries of the world.

Amidst this turmoil stands Israel – a true friend to America and our best ally in the region. America’s support to Israel should be unwavering, but actions by my opponent repeatedly call into question the strength of this commitment. There is a clear contrast between myself and my Democratic opponent. While she continues to embrace elements that are a danger to Israel and the U.S., if I am

elected I will stand strong with Israel. As a Congresswoman, I will call for a renewed American commitment to our ally. Congress should do the following to strengthen the alliance between our nations and promote stability in the region:

### **Support Israel's Self Defense**

Israel's ability to defend herself from surrounding threats is critical to the continued existence of a free and prosperous Israeli state. Prime Minister Netanyahu has said in no uncertain terms that "The defense of Israel requires an Israeli military presence along the Jordan River." We should embrace Israel's right to defend herself and continue to provide robust military aid.

If I am elected, supporting Israeli self-defense will be a top priority. The United States gives too much money to countries which don't embrace American values. While the hundreds of millions of dollars of annual aid given to the Palestinian Authority is humanitarian in nature, I would support stronger oversight to ensure that these funds aren't improperly used to incite anti-American hatred and condemnation of Israel's right to exist.

### **Supporting Israeli Interests in Peace Talks**

Our relationship with Israel is one between two sovereign nations. We must have confidence in Israel's ability to determine what is best for her own security and well-being. While I support the U.S. conducting Middle East peace talks, the United States should not infringe upon Israel's sovereign right to pursue peace accords best aligned with her national interests. The United States has a role to facilitate in peace talks, but not dictate them.

### **Defeating Terrorism**

Decisions regarding ongoing American involvement in the region should be based upon careful analysis of the best intelligence available. If it is deemed that American involvement is critical to defeat terrorism and protect Israel, we have no choice but to continue our efforts.

Throughout the Middle East anti-Israel attacks are demonstrated by the actions of the United Nations, International Criminal Court and the Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions as their efforts are intended to weaken and delegitimize the Jewish State. These organizations will stop at nothing to compromise the shared Israeli-American values. The United States has an obligation to continue to cut off funding and support for these terrorist organizations and ensure that the world continues to recognize them as terrorist organizations.

Israel is the only bastion of hope and democracy in a region desperately lacking political and economic freedom. And while peace between Israel and Palestinians may appear unrealistic, as a member of congress I will work to promote a safe Israel and a strong America while seeking a renewed commitment to this important alliance.

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