



From: Evan McMullin for Utah, candidate for U.S. Senate

To: Interested parties

Re: The U.S. / Israeli Relationship

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Israel Position Statement

Background: As a sophomore at Brigham Young University in 1999, I was recruited by the Central Intelligence Agency and spent alternating semesters training at CIA headquarters in Virginia and studying in Utah until I graduated. Following the attacks of September 11, 2001, I volunteered to serve undercover in the Middle East where I ran counterterrorism and traditional clandestine operations for most of a decade. Serving in that capacity offered a tremendous opportunity to develop a deep understanding of the Middle East and the importance of our bilateral relationship with Israel, while defending the values and way of life America and Israel share.

After completing my service abroad, I served as a senior advisor to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs and as chief policy director for House Republicans. During that time, the importance of the U.S.-Israeli relationship was further reinforced in my mind: Israel is a critical ally and friend surrounded by adversaries to the cause of human freedom. Progress has been made in recent years, but Israel still faces substantial regional threats while contributing materially on many fronts to shared interests and the global community. As a United States senator, I would advance policies to strengthen our bilateral relationship and support for Israel to promote its secure, democratic future.

Securing Israel to foster Israeli, regional and global stability

The American-Israeli partnership has been a stabilizing force in the Middle East for decades. Washington should maintain and enhance its partnership with Jerusalem, offering needed aid to ensure Israel's qualitative military advantage. This starts by ensuring the United States lives up to its commitments under the 2019 Memorandum of Understanding but ultimately means working with Jerusalem to ensure that Israel remains the region's leading military leader.

Supporting a two-state solution

I support policies that encourage peace for Israel and its neighbors, including a two-state solution that allows for the dignity and security of both Palestinians and Jews. The United States should play a role in this solution through direct negotiations, but ultimately any lasting peace agreement must be driven and accepted by Israel and the Palestinian people.

Expanding counterterrorism cooperation

Iran is the leading state sponsor of terror and continues its efforts to destabilize the region through proxy wars, weapons development, and clandestine activity. We cannot allow Tehran to continue its mostly unchecked backing of various terrorist organizations in Israel, the region, and throughout the world. America should expand its cooperation with Israel to thwart Iran's terrorist activity in the region and elsewhere.

Pursuing a stronger security deal with Iran

The JCPOA had many deficiencies and I opposed it at the time of its establishment, but I was also disappointed in the Trump administration's unilateral decision to pull out of the agreement without an alternative. I support the establishment of a stronger agreement and advocate for the application of continued economic pressure on Tehran and other means of containment in the meantime. A future deal must include measures to prevent Iran's development of nuclear weapons, mid- and long-range missile capacities, and support for terrorist organizations.

Combatting anti-semitism and opposing the BDS movement

America should do more to counter the dangerous rise of white nationalism and anti-semitism in the United States and Europe, while standing with Israel against the BDS movement, which seeks to cripple Israel's economy and make Israel a pariah state. I will work to expand economic cooperation with Israel and improve support at the United Nations.