



Israel / Palestine

As an ongoing advocate for civil rights, I have worked closely with many Jewish and Palestinian Americans on civil rights issues. I have built national, regional, and local coalitions across many issues and have served as a successful bridge-builder frequently.

For those reasons, I am a strong supporter of the Jewish and Palestinian communities in our metropolitan area and I also believe our interactions here can serve as a model for how Israelis and Palestinians can resolve the conflict between them.

As a candidate for Congress, voters have the right to know my position toward the conflict and the role I believe the United States should play in trying to resolve it. I have prepared the following statement of the principles I will follow and the positions I will take as a Representative in Congress with regard to the conflict:

1. I support the aspirations of both the Israeli and Palestinian peoples to be free, self-empowered, prosperous, safe and secure, that are mutually agreed upon by the Israeli and Palestinian peoples. I believe the U.S. should be a part of any coalition designed to support or empower talks between the Israeli and Palestinian people.
2. As a part of any type of government model or solution, I support the right of Israel, as a democratic state, to exist in peace and security within its borders before June 4, 1967. Within the State of Israel, the civil, political, and economic rights of Palestinian citizens of Israel must be protected from all forms of discrimination and be allowed to vote.
3. I also support ongoing aid and resources to both the Israeli and Palestinian peoples. I will support financial aid to both as a member of Congress.
4. As a U.S. Representative, I will oppose all forms of Anti-Semitism and Islamophobia and I will support legislation to secure the rights of Jews and Muslims to live without fear of violence and discrimination both domestically and in Israel and Palestine. I also will support the right of Christians to reside in Israel and Palestine and elsewhere in the Middle East, to practice their religion freely, and to live without fear of violence or discrimination.
5. Equally important to any government solution, I support the creation of an independent, viable, and secure Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza.

6. I oppose the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and the Israeli blockade of Gaza. I also oppose the presence of Israeli settlements and housing on the West Bank and in East Jerusalem which violate international law and undermine the prospect for a just peace.
7. I oppose the use of violence by Israelis and Palestinians as a means for resolving the Israeli/Palestinian conflict because the use of such violence is morally wrong and harmful to the achievement of a just settlement of the conflict.
8. I believe that Palestinian refugees and Palestinians living in the diaspora whose homes in Israel and the Palestinian territories were lost as a result of the conflict have the right to reside in Israel or Palestine and that the resolution of the conflict should include a fair and just resolution of the rights and aspirations of Palestinian refugees and Palestinians in the diaspora in accordance with UN Security Council resolutions.
9. I believe the United States should play an even-handed and unbiased role in the resolution of the Israeli/Palestinian conflict to achieve a permanent solution which honors the national aspirations of both peoples that is agreed to by both peoples, provides both peoples with peace and security, and ensures the democratic, civil, and economic rights of all peoples.
10. I oppose any action by the United States to move its Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem or any U.S. recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital which is not part of a final, mutually-agreed resolution of the Israeli/Palestinian conflict. I believe as part of that resolution that each of Israel and Palestine should have the right to have its respective part of Jerusalem serve as the capital of its state.
11. I support U.S. assistance intended to make both the Israelis and the Palestinians secure and to strengthen their economies and self-governing capacities. To enable it to play the most constructive role possible in the resolution of the conflict, the United States should not provide funding to the Israeli government which supports the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and the Israeli blockade of Gaza. Furthermore, I support [H.R. 4391](#), which prohibits U.S. assistance to Israel from being used to support the military detention, interrogation, or ill treatment of Palestinian children in violation of international humanitarian law or the use against Palestinian children of: (a) torture, inhumane or degrading treatment; (b) physical violence or psychological abuse; (c) incommunicado administrative detention; (d) solitary confinement; (e) denial of parental or legal access during interrogation; or (f) force or coercion to obtain a confession.
12. I support the right of the Palestinian people and their supporters to use non-violent means to oppose the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and the blockade of Gaza, including the First Amendment right to pursue the boycott, divestment, and sanctions campaign, popularly, known as BDS, and I will oppose any federal, state, or local legislation to make it illegal or criminalize their first amendment rights to support boycotts, divestitures or sanctions. However, I believe the best way for the conflict to be resolved is to ultimately come to the discussion table and begin talks.

As a representative in Congress I will be in a position to learn more about the Israeli/Palestinian conflict, how the United States can best contribute to the achievement of a just, equal, and

peaceful solution to the conflict, as well as types of legislation I can support to help the Israelis and Palestinians reach that solution.

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Questions or comments about this policy? Please send us your ideas at info@marienewmanforcongress.com.