



Jewish United Fund

— EDUCATION —

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CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRES

US HOUSE DISTRICT 2

Election Day: March 17, 2026

In December 2025 and January 2026, JUF met with candidates for US House 2. JUF invited all known candidates with available contact information to complete a questionnaire and to participate in an introductory meeting with JUF. The questionnaire was sent to every candidate who agreed to meet. Responses included in this guide are presented exactly as submitted, without edits or alterations. If you do not see a candidate's questionnaire, they either didn't accept JUF's invitation to schedule a meeting or didn't submit a completed questionnaire.

We hope these questionnaires are valuable resources. JUF does not rate, endorse, or contribute to candidates for elective office.

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Eric France

Security

The federal Nonprofit Security Grant Program is currently funded at \$274.5 million. Do you support increasing it to \$360 million or at least maintaining its current funding level?

I would basically be very supportive, in principle, of supporting increases in additional funding for federal nonprofit security programs and other related programs and resources, designed to aid and assist in the creation and support of effective security programs and efforts to help achieve greater security and defense, against potential attacks, by hostile individuals and groups, on non profit organizations, groups and institutions in the nonprofit sector. I would be open to consider the appropriate amount of increase in funding necessary, after further study.

Antisemitism

Antisemitism is surging across the United States. What will you do to help combat antisemitism and bring different communities together?

My position, of longstanding, is to be both intolerant and against any type or form of discrimination, of any kind, against any person or group, based upon race, religion, national origin, ancestry, color or lifestyle. I have focused my efforts to combat all forms of discrimination, including antisemitism, primarily based on both setting an example in my personal life and by my own behavior. I also sincerely believe that this strategy is ultimately, the most important as well as most effective.

Antisemitism is growing at both ends of the political spectrum. How do you plan to address antisemitism on both sides of the aisle.

My immediate strategy and plan to address this important issue, is to lead through example and constantly encourage and urge my colleagues, associates and other acquaintances to emulate anti-discrimination. I commit to joining with other groups to create educational programs regarding antisemitism and other forms of discrimination to inform not only my colleagues across the aisle but my constituents as well.

Israel

Do you support efforts to boycott, divest from, or sanction Israel, Israeli goods, company's services, academics, academic institutions, and cultural activities? Relatedly, do you support boycotting, divesting from or sanctioning U.S. or other companies that do business in or with Israel?

No. I do not believe that boycotting Israel would serve the needs of the country or of the 2nd district. It would undermine opportunities for dialogue, cooperation and peace. It would reduce academic, economic and cultural opportunities and risks punishing and antagonizing individuals who are working towards collaboration and coexistence. I believe that such a boycott would encourage exclusion, not engagement, which is what is needed.

Do you support continued U.S. military aid to Israel or additional conditions related to that aid?

I do support U.S. providing continued humanitarian and military aid to Israel.

What is your view on the role of Congress in shaping U.S.-Israel relations?

My view on the role of Congress in shaping U.S.-Israeli relations, is that I do believe the Congress does have an important role and responsibility in that regard. Ideally, I believe both the Congress and the President, should work together, to formulate and implement the most effective foreign policy.

Do you support the concept of a two-state solution whereby the Jewish State of Israel exists safely and

securely alongside an independent Palestinian state that doesn't include Hamas or other terrorist organizations?

I have not yet formulated a definitive position on this issue. I do, however, support, in principle, a position that would best achieve and allow for a peaceful coexistence among both Israelis and Palestinians.

Ultimately, my decision for support would necessarily have to depend upon the nature of the specifics outlined and contained in any potential proposed two-state proposal.

Have you been to Israel? If yes, when and with whom? If no, would you be interested in visiting?

I went to Israel as a child in the 1970's with my parents. I would like to make a return trip as an adult.

Health & Human Services

Illinois Medicaid is the largest health insurer in the state, serving approximately 3.4 million people. The recent changes in H.R. 1 will force Illinois to make difficult funding decisions. What steps would you take to prevent reductions in care that could come from states' tightening eligibility requirements, cutting provider reimbursement levels and/or reducing access to medical care, especially for children, the economically disadvantaged, older adults and people with disabilities?

I would be in favor of and encourage support for measures that would place a hold on implementing any new policies that would place additional restraints on eligibility for access to services or reducing reimbursements for receipt of services for medical care, currently covered by Medicare, for children, economically disadvantaged, older adults and people with disabilities.

If elected, will you support and co-sponsor the SSI (Supplemental Security Income) Savings Penalty Elimination Act, which would raise the asset limit for individuals on SSI from \$2,000 to \$10,000 for individuals, and from \$3,000 to \$20,000 for couples?

Yes, I would support and co-sponsor it because it would offer support for those who may be impacted by rising health care costs and potentially removes penalties against disability recipients.

Do you support increasing funding for Home and Community-Based Services, a component of Medicaid that helps people with disabilities and older adults live and thrive in the setting of their choice and avoid institutional care?

I am and will continue to be a strong supporter of programs targeted at providing funding for Home and Community based Services, especially for people with disabilities and the elderly, to allow them to thrive and remain, outside of institutional facilities.

What are your views on the mandatory work requirements included in H.R. 1 to receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits, which is relied upon by nearly 2 million Illinoisans?

My issue with the requirements is that it requires 80 hours a month in work or work related activities, there are no provisions for job training, economic improvement or additional educational activities to provide a pathway for individuals to be removed from the SNAP program. Additionally, the administrative burden would unfairly penalize recipients for lack of resources rather than effort.

What steps do you believe need to be undertaken to reduce gun violence?

I am strongly in favor of and support policies and programs that focus on implementing safeguards from gun violence. In that regard, I would support implementing measures that would require effective background checks for gun purchases, place age limits for gun ownership and possession and would penalize, severely, businesses engaged in the illegal and unauthorized manufacture, sales and distribution of firearms and ammunition. Additionally, I would also support a comprehensive review of current penalties for violation of both gun ownership and gun related violence, including gun related criminal acts, with a view toward strengthening penalties for gun violations, commensurate with what our U.S. Constitution

permits.

Would you have voted to pass the Continuing Appropriations Act of 2026 the law that ended the 2025 government shutdown? Please explain your response.

Because of the vote taken to end the shutdown, ACA healthcare subsidies are no longer guaranteed and places millions of Americans at risk for losing health care coverage. Therefore, I would not have voted for it because I am not in favor of anything that does not protect healthcare. Healthcare should not be a privilege, it is a right and should not be bargained with.

Refugee Services

Do you support the recent Presidential Determination that cut new refugee arrivals from 125,000 to approximately 7,500, with most of the 7,500 slots being held open for White Afrikaners?

No, I do not support this proposed policy.

Despite the cut to new refugee arrivals, refugee support agencies are still supporting tens of thousands of refugees who were lawfully admitted to the United States over the past 5-10 years. What would you do to alleviate the burden that has been placed on refugee support agencies from funding cuts and rescissions as well as from the cut to new arrivals?

I would be in favor of restoring funding for current refugee services to their previous levels to support refugees.

Candidate Priorities

What are some of the key priorities you would like to pursue in Congress?

My key priorities are economic development; housing equity for all; security healthcare benefits, especially for the under insured and uninsured; increased educational support (including not only pre-k through 12 grade and college but also vocational educational assistance).

Jesse Jackson, Jr.

Security

The federal Nonprofit Security Grant Program is currently funded at \$274.5 million. Do you support increasing it to \$360 million or at least maintaining its current funding level?

Yes. All nonprofit groups, religious institutions and community-based organizations deserve to be safe and allowed to carry out their mission, free from any and all forms of violence or intimidation.

Antisemitism

Antisemitism is surging across the United States. What will you do to help combat antisemitism and bring different communities together?

We must confront antisemitism across the U.S. and wherever it exists.

I strongly believe that ignorance breeds fear, fear leads to hate and hate often results in violence...both physical and emotional. To combat this scourge requires more education and understanding. We can spend more money on security and pass more laws to address hate, but the only way to sustainably address this evil is to address its root cause.

We need to fund programs that educate people about different races, ethnicities, religions, genders and sexual orientation. We need to create programs that foster understanding and encourage community. I do not believe people are born hating others. Hate is learned and it can be unlearned.

As Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said, "Darkness cannot drive out darkness, only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate, only love can do that."

Antisemitism is growing at both ends of the political spectrum. How do you plan to address antisemitism on both sides of the aisle.

Antisemitism has become a crisis and a scourge within our politics. The left and the right must actively confront and firmly condemn all acts of antisemitism.

As Democrats, we must call out antisemitism in our own ranks and work with all Republicans to immediately condemn antisemitism and foster our shared values like promoting democracy and anti-racism.

It is crucial to respect each other's right to free speech by distinguishing legitimate criticism of Israel's government policies from hateful rhetoric that denies Jewish self-determination, applies collective blame, or promotes harmful and fallacious characterizations.

There are specific actions we can take that both the left and the right could support. We can improve the systems at both the federal, state and local levels to report and collect data on acts of antisemitic and other hate crimes. Both sides also need to support robust funding for activities like the federal Nonprofit Security Grant Program that help all nonprofit organizations and groups. Finally, we need to promote education and civil dialogue and relationship building between the Jewish community and other faith and demographic groups to develop mutual understanding.

Israel

Do you support efforts to boycott, divest from, or sanction Israel, Israeli goods, company's services, academics, academic institutions, and cultural activities? Relatedly, do you support boycotting, divesting from or sanctioning U.S. or other companies that do business in or with Israel?

I do not. Israel is an ally, and I have previously met and worked with Prime Ministers Benjamin Netanyahu

and Ariel Sharon.

Boycotting, divesting or sanctioning (BDS) Israeli goods, company services, academics and academic institution and cultural activities is arbitrary and broad. The current BDS movement could lead to a sense of Israeli isolation and fear among centrist Israelis, effectively empowering right-wing Israeli leaders. The current BDS movement promotes an environment of division rather than dialogue, cooperation and reconciliation necessary for lasting peace.

Do you support continued U.S. military aid to Israel or additional conditions related to that aid?

Yes, I'm a strong believer in treaties like the '79 Camp David Accords which provide military and economic aid to Israel. I believe that military aid should be used for defensive purposes.

What is your view on the role of Congress in shaping U.S.-Israel relations?

Of all the candidates running in the primary to represent Illinois' 2nd Congressional District, I'm the only one who has a verifiable 17-year voting record supporting the State of Israel. To achieve peace, prosperity and self-determination for all parties, Congress must be honest and fair. True friends accept you for who you are but also help you become who you should be.

In addition to the conditioned military assistance mentioned above, I also believe that economic aid should be conditioned. Economic aid should not be used in ways that deprive Palestinians of dignity or hinder the development of a future two-state solution.

Paraphrasing Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., "justice is not the absence of noise, but

the presence of justice." For justice and a two-state solution to prevail, both Israelis and Palestinians need to be made as whole as possible. Israel deserves to be secure, so Palestinians must renounce violence and get rid of the terrorist organizations in their midst. Palestinians deserve freedom and self-determination.

Do you support the concept of a two-state solution whereby the Jewish State of Israel exists safely and securely alongside an independent Palestinian state that doesn't include Hamas or other terrorist organizations?

Yes. I have always supported and will continue to support a negotiated, two-state solution that ensures Israel's security and the right of Palestinians to live in a viable, independent state. For an eventual two-state solution to succeed, Israel must respect and uphold the dignity of Palestinians by curbing the construction of settlements in the West Bank and discontinue the use of its military to deliver collective punishment against innocent civilians. And Palestinians need to recognize and ensure Israel's need for security by denouncing Hamas and all terrorist groups and prohibit terrorists from any role in a future Palestinian government.

Have you been to Israel? If yes, when and with whom? If no, would you be interested in visiting?

August 2003 - American Israel Education Fund/AIPAC August 2005 – Jewish Federation of Chicago

August 2011 – American Israel Education Fund/AIPAC

Health & Human Services

Illinois Medicaid is the largest health insurer in the state, serving approximately 3.4 million people. The recent changes in H.R. 1 will force Illinois to make difficult funding decisions. What steps would you take to prevent reductions in care that could come from states' tightening eligibility requirements, cutting provider reimbursement levels and/or reducing access to medical care, especially for children, the economically disadvantaged, older adults and people with disabilities?

I believe healthcare is a right, not a privilege. So much so that during my previous service in Congress, I introduced H.J. Res. 30, a Constitutional amendment that would enshrine the right to equal, high-quality healthcare for everyone.

However, until that Constitutional amendment is enacted, I will strongly oppose any reduction in federal funding to Medicaid. I support the expansion of Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act in all states that have not yet expanded the program. I will oppose any efforts to privatize or block grant the program or efforts to include work requirements for recipients. To support adequate funding for Medicaid, I would support legislation that raises revenue such as ending the carried interest tax loophole, and legislation that increases the capital gains tax rate, the corporate tax rate, and the top tax rate on high earners as well as establishing a windfall profits tax on the financial, energy and tech sectors.

If elected, will you support and co-sponsor the SSI (Supplemental Security Income) Savings Penalty Elimination Act, which would raise the asset limit for individuals on SSI from \$2,000 to \$10,000 for individuals, and from \$3,000 to \$20,000 for couples?

Yes. The SSI Savings Penalty Elimination Act would remove disincentives for people with disabilities and seniors to save, work and build financial stability. At the very least, beneficiaries should be empowered to plan for emergencies, able to achieve greater independence and stop being forced into poverty.

Do you support increasing funding for Home and Community-Based Services, a component of Medicaid that helps people with disabilities and older adults live and thrive in the setting of their choice and avoid institutional care?

Yes. Home and Community-Based Services enable people with long-term care needs like seniors or those with disabilities to receive support like personal care, meals and transportation in their own home or communities instead of institutions. Programs like this are key to promote independence, community integration and most of all a sense of dignity for the people the program serves.

What are your views on the mandatory work requirements included in H.R. 1 to receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits, which is relied upon by nearly 2 million Illinoisans?

I oppose work requirements for recipients to receive any federal benefit, especially SNAP. Vast research has shown that work requirements do not increase employment or earnings. Most participants who can work are already working, most often in low-wage, unstable jobs with unpredictable schedules.

Perversely, the primary effect of these requirements is reducing program participation and cutting off recipients from the assistance they need to buy food. Work requirements disproportionately impact older adults, women, rural residents, people of color, and the disabled. These are groups who often face greater systemic barriers to stable employment.

Work requirements are based on the false assumption that recipients are lazy and trying to avoid work and need to be forced to in order to receive SNAP. This implies that SNAP is a liability rather than a key safety net and a necessary support system.

What steps do you believe need to be undertaken to reduce gun violence?

I believe gun violence reduction and elimination needs to be multifaceted and treated as a public health emergency, especially since deaths for children and teens from gun violence surpassed deaths from motor vehicles in 2000. We need to address both immediate access to firearms and the underlying social and economic conditions that contribute to violence. I strongly believe gun violence is a preventable epidemic and not an inevitable fact of American life.

To address the ease of access to firearms:

- Make background checks universal. No more loopholes for gun shows or private sales.
- Ban assault weapons and high-capacity magazine clips. Assault weapons and high-capacity magazine clips are not necessary for personal protection and instead only contribute to mass casualty events.
- Support Extreme Risk Protection Orders (ERPO). Also known as “red flag” laws, ERPOs are important to prevent certain, unstable people from causing harm to themselves or others.

- Restrict firearm access for those who have been convicted, or have a demonstrated history of, domestic violence. Access to guns is a major risk factor in intimate partner homicides.
- Register all firearms and license all firearms owners. In addition, owners of firearms need to be licensed and required to take regular safety courses, or their license will be invalidated.

To address the underlying social and economic conditions that contribute to gun violence, we must:

- Invest in Community Violence Intervention (CVI) Programs. During my previous Congressional tenure, my office worked with Dr. Gary Slutkin to fund CeaseFire Chicago, his novel approach to preventing gun violence that uses strategies associated with disease control – detecting and interrupting conflicts, identifying and treating the highest-risk individuals and changing social norms.
- Invest in our neglected communities. For too long, under-resourced areas of the 2nd Congressional District have been exposed to gun violence because some people feel desperate and that they have no other options. We must create long-term, sustainable solutions that address social and economic disparities. Investments and resources need to be concentrated on education, affordable housing, healthcare, food security and stable job opportunities.
- Involve state and federal public health agencies in researching gun violence and its causes. Their findings must then be used to refine and improve how we prevent and treat gun violence. Sensible gun safety steps can't be done in a vacuum.

I believe these measures are basic common sense and don't impinge on Americans' Second Amendment rights. In fact, in the Supreme Court's *D.C. vs. Heller* (2008) decision, the late Justice Antonin Scalia, writing for the majority stressed that the Second Amendment isn't unlimited or absolute. *Heller* allows for gun restrictions for felons, in sensitive places and on certain arms.

Would you have voted to pass the Continuing Appropriations Act of 2026 the law that ended the 2025 government shutdown? Please explain your response.

No, I would have not voted to pass the CR that ended the 2025 government shutdown. Preventing the cuts to healthcare were the only leverage Democrats had to force Republicans to the table to negotiate.

Furthermore, President Trump and Congressional Republicans who supported Medicaid cuts and opposed restoring ACA care subsidies were being blamed for the economic hardships caused by the shutdown.

Refugee Services

Do you support the recent Presidential Determination that cut new refugee arrivals from 125,000 to approximately 7,500, with most of the 7,500 slots being held open for White Afrikaners?

No. The president's recent determination that cut refugee arrivals is patently racist. White Afrikaners who produced the apartheid system in South Africa are the antithesis of people who should be served in the refugee resettlement program. His views on refugees mirror his views of immigrants. He has openly stated he would prefer immigration from Europe especial Scandinavian countries while referring to black and brown countries as "shit hole" countries.

Despite the cut to new refugee arrivals, refugee support agencies are still supporting tens of thousands of refugees who were lawfully admitted to the United States over the past 5-10 years. What would you do to alleviate the burden that has been placed on refugee support agencies from funding cuts and recissions as well as from the cut to new arrivals?

During my previous service in Congress, I sat on the Appropriations Subcommittee that funds the US Department of Health and Human Services, specifically the Office of Refugee Resettlement. If the people of the 2nd Congressional District choose to send me back to Congress to represent them, I will work with the Democratic Steering Committee and the House Democratic leadership to get back on the Appropriations Committee to fight to restore and increase funding for the refugee resettlement program. Whichever

committee assignment I receive, I will work tirelessly on behalf refugees and the agencies that serve them.

Our shared humanity dictates that we have a moral obligation to help refugees who are fleeing violence or political persecution. For refugees to succeed, it is paramount “to teach them to fish,” as opposed to just giving them fish. Fully funding ORR isn’t just aid, it’s an investment in human potential and community strength, transitioning newcomers from initial dependence to sustainable self-reliance.

Candidate Priorities

What are some of the key priorities you would like to pursue in Congress?

My top priority is to address economic pain being felt across Illinois’ 2nd Congressional District. My focus will be on the creation of good-paying jobs in Illinois’ 2nd Congressional District, which is urban, suburban, exurban and rural. When I was first elected to Congress in 1995, my most important issue was the construction of a third, Chicago-area airport in suburban Will County, which will create substantial economic growth and job opportunities in the 2nd Congressional District. If reelected to Congress, I will continue working to build the third airport and put the people of the 2nd District in more control of their economic destiny.

These are unprecedented times, and the Trump administration is running roughshod over the U.S. Constitution and the norms and customs of our democracy. If reelected, I plan to vociferously oppose all actions by this administration that threaten the Constitution. But more importantly, we need a vision that cancels MAGA’s Project 2025 and uplifts everyone, not just the well off.

On October 15, 2001, I published my third book, *A More Perfect Union: Advancing New American Rights*. This book is the antidote to the MAGA fueled authoritarianism that is plaguing the nation. My research for the book has guided my policy perspectives and has provided the core principles for my legislative actions. It outlines a progressive framework that helps us fight back. In *A More Perfect Union*, I propose several constitutional amendments like the right to vote, the right to high quality health care, the right to high quality education and the right full employment in order to create the bedrock foundation from which all Americans can succeed and prosper. If reelected, I plan to keep the tenets of *A More Perfect Union* front of mind to guide my work in Congress.

Any additional information you would like to share with us?

Should I be reelected, my door will always be open to the Jewish United Fund/Jewish Federation of Chicago (JUF/JFC). While we might not agree on every issue, I commit that we will always have earnest and respectful discussions.

I would hope the legislative and policy making process will be a two-way street. During my prior tenure in Congress, I met and spoke regularly with 2nd Congressional District constituents who were active in the JUF/JFC, and I would hope that relationship continues.

I would want the JUF/JFC to inform me and my office on a regular basis on any legislative initiatives that may sound innocuous but would have negative impacts on the Jewish community.

Donna Miller

Security

The federal Nonprofit Security Grant Program is currently funded at \$274.5 million. Do you support increasing it to \$360 million or at least maintaining its current funding level?

I support at minimum maintaining the current funding levels or increasing our investment in the Nonprofit Security Grant Program. It is often said “Not if, but when” regarding an attack whether it’s to a business, food supply or people due to race or religion. It is only appropriate that funding is available to coordinate resources and prevent ever evolving forms of terrorism. I am appalled at the current administration’s unilateral decision to withhold funding already allocated for anti-terror and counterterrorism efforts domestically to score political points against cities like Chicago.

Antisemitism

Antisemitism is surging across the United States. What will you do to help combat antisemitism and bring different communities together?

The worrying rise in antisemitism from radical elements across the political spectrum in the U.S. and abroad is unconscionable. We have seen it in violent acts and through insufficiently veiled language. We see it in our schools and in our communities. It must be called out and stopped.

Equitable treatment and the rights we enjoy in our democracy must extend to every individual regardless of their gender, sexuality, religious affiliation, skin color, ethnicity, or nation of origin. I have always carried these values throughout my personal and professional life. History is important to me to understanding

the oppression, struggles and bigotry that people have faced. That is why I have visited the Holocaust and the Civil Rights Museums with my family. These are guiding principles which will inform my tenure in Congress, and which also inform my support for the state of Israel and the Jewish people.

Antisemitism is growing at both ends of the political spectrum. How do you plan to address antisemitism on both sides of the aisle.

Anti-semitism, like all forms of racism, demands relentless combat on every front, starting with educating our communities. I am proud to have co-sponsored legislation and championed the Cook County United Against Hate campaign, which tackles injustice both online and offline through education, strategic investment, legislation and prosecution. Furthermore, I organized a pivotal community event, “Intersection of Hate,” in collaboration with the Simon Wiesenthal Center. This event aimed to illuminate the roots of antisemitism, racism, and other forms of hate, while exploring avenues to forge a more inclusive and equitable future. My history has been to build coalitions regardless of political ideology based on my core values. Hate and violence have no place in any political discourse regardless of party affiliation. There are good people in the opposing party that agree that all people should live free, safe, and productive lives.

With this spirit, I have been able to work with the adjacent Republican commissioners to benefit our communities. I will continue building coalitions as a member in Congress.

Israel

Do you support efforts to boycott, divest from, or sanction Israel, Israeli goods, company's services, academics, academic institutions, and cultural activities? Relatedly, do you support boycotting, divesting from or sanctioning U.S. or other companies that do business in or with Israel?

No, I do not support these efforts. The partnership between the U.S. and Israel is critical to both nations economically and strategically. I will be a vocal opponent of the BDS movement, which seeks to delegitimize Israel, and I will support efforts to strengthen the US-Israel economic and diplomatic relationship.

Do you support continued U.S. military aid to Israel or additional conditions related to that aid?

Threats to Israel's security are a daily challenge that upend the lives of ordinary citizens and make us all less safe. Security assistance to Israel is critical not only to the safety of the individuals under its protection, but also to the state's capacity to maintain a qualitative military edge (QME) in a region beset by hostile actors. My support for the current Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and the \$3.8 billion the U.S. provides in foreign military assistance to Israel is ironclad. I oppose cuts to or any conditions on this vital aid which would make it more difficult for Israel to defend itself and further destabilize the region. I will oppose efforts to restrict or politicize this critical support.

What is your view on the role of Congress in shaping U.S.-Israel relations?

The strength of the partnership between the U.S. and Israel is a major driver of economic development and job growth in the U.S. Our collaboration in the technology, business, agriculture, medical and energy sectors is mutually beneficial, and further connects and strengthens our countries. In Congress, I will promote policies that continue and expand this arrangement. I will also support increased funding for joint innovation and energy partnerships, including collaborations between Israeli and American companies that advance our security and economic interests.

Do you support the concept of a two-state solution whereby the Jewish State of Israel exists safely and securely alongside an independent Palestinian state that doesn't include Hamas or other terrorist organizations?

The Israeli and Palestinian people both deserve to live safely and securely, free from the terror and oppression of Hamas. I believe a two-state solution will allow Israel to remain both a democracy and the homeland of the Jewish people. The Palestinian aspiration to self-determination and protecting human rights is legitimate and is a key component to attaining lasting peace and regional stability. But a two-state solution can happen only after all of the hostages are freed and Hamas is destroyed. Though this goal feels distant now, dialogue between the two sides can one day result in this long-sought peace. The United States and the international community can play a role in facilitating this outcome, however, any lasting solution must be reached through direct negotiations. And it is critical that the government of the new Palestinian state recognizes Israel's right to exist.

Have you been to Israel? If yes, when and with whom? If no, would you be interested in visiting?

I have not, but would like to in the future. In 2019, I was invited to join Women for Peace, a broad coalition of Israeli and Palestinian women. Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted the group's travel plans. This group does not exist in the same form it did before the events of Oct 7th, 2021 and the war with Hamas. My husband has been to Israel as part of a delegation when he was an Illinois State Representative.

Health & Human Services

Illinois Medicaid is the largest health insurer in the state, serving approximately 3.4 million people. The recent changes in H.R. 1 will force Illinois to make difficult funding decisions. What steps would you take to prevent reductions in care that could come from states' tightening eligibility requirements, cutting provider reimbursement levels and/or reducing access to medical care, especially for children, the economically disadvantaged, older adults and people with disabilities?

I wrote an op-ed in the Chicago Tribune warning about how the cuts would damage our healthcare system. Medicaid provides a vital lifeline for millions of Americans, providing essential healthcare services to children, seniors, individuals with disabilities, and low-income families. Cutting funding would not only jeopardize the health and well-being of our most vulnerable citizens but also strain our healthcare systems and economy.

<https://www.chicagotribune.com/2025/05/01/letters-050125-medicaid/>

As Commissioner, I have addressed health disparities within vulnerable populations. I realize that any cuts disproportionately impact seniors, working poor, people with disabilities and children. I support a permanent ACA tax benefits extension that ensures continued financial relief for working families, promotes stability in health insurance markets, and strengthens our nation's commitment to equitable healthcare access. I also support adding vision, dental, and hearing coverage to Medicare because these benefits would improve health outcomes, reduce long-term healthcare costs, and promote the well-being of Medicare recipients. I would also support establishing out-of-pocket limits, which would provide predictability and financial security, ensuring that healthcare costs do not result in economic hardship for beneficiaries.

If elected, will you support and co-sponsor the SSI (Supplemental Security Income) Savings Penalty Elimination Act, which would raise the asset limit for individuals on SSI from \$2,000 to

\$10,000 for individuals, and from \$3,000 to \$20,000 for couples?

Yes, I will support and co-sponsor the SSI Savings Penalty Elimination Act.

Do you support increasing funding for Home and Community-Based Services, a component of Medicaid that helps people with disabilities and older adults live and thrive in the setting of their choice and avoid institutional care?

Yes, I support increasing funding for Home and Community-Based Services.

What are your views on the mandatory work requirements included in H.R. 1 to receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits, which is relied upon by nearly 2 million Illinoisans?

Mandatory work requirements to receive food assistance is a step backwards for our society. No one should go hungry due to an inability to work or needing to take care of a loved one. SNAP is a core piece of our social safety net to help ensure people can get back on their feet when facing difficult times. These funds are just as important for our nation's stability as defending ourselves from enemies abroad or investing in our nation's infrastructure. Americans deserve protections from economic instability, and should feel secure that their tax dollars go to feeding the hungry and ensuring they will not themselves go without this critical food assistance.

What steps do you believe need to be undertaken to reduce gun violence?

To reduce gun violence, we must invest in prevention, strengthen trust within our communities, and pass common-sense laws that keep our country safe. As a Commissioner, I supported \$110 million in American Rescue Plan Act Violence Prevention and Reduction Grants and held quarterly IMPACT meetings to ensure our mayors, police chiefs, the Cook County Justice Advisory Council, and community organizations work together safely and effectively. I've also championed Cook County's first Suburban Restorative Justice Community Court in Sauk Village and brought together police chiefs and mayors across the district to adopt the 10 Shared Principles, a commitment to treat all with dignity and respect while rejecting all forms of discrimination. This works to reinforce trust and accountability between law enforcement and the diverse communities they serve, a major step in reducing gun violence in our communities. In Congress, I will continue to support evidence-based violence prevention strategies, expand mental health care access, strengthen police-community partnerships, and work with anyone willing to take on the gun lobby to pass common-sense gun safety reform.

Would you have voted to pass the Continuing Appropriations Act of 2026 the law that ended the 2025 government shutdown? Please explain your response.

No, I would not have voted to reopen the government without absolute certainty that health insurance subsidies would continue under the Affordable Care Act. Congressional Republicans were holding the American people hostage by illegally leaving SNAP benefits unfunded, furloughing thousands of federal workers, and refusing to negotiate with Democratic leadership. Key elections this past November demonstrated broad support for Democrats and disdain for Republicans' government shutdown. By voting with Republicans to reopen the government, Democrats lost critical leverage to securing continued health insurance subsidies.

Refugee Services

Do you support the recent Presidential Determination that cut new refugee arrivals from 125,000 to approximately 7,500, with most of the 7,500 slots being held open for White Afrikaners?

No, I do not support cutting new refugee arrivals.

Despite the cut to new refugee arrivals, refugee support agencies are still supporting tens of thousands of refugees who were lawfully admitted to the United States over the past 5-10 years. What would you do to alleviate the burden that has been placed on refugee support agencies from funding cuts and recessions as well as from the cut to new arrivals?

I advocate for restored funding to refugee support agencies to administer humanitarian aid internationally, refugee relocation and resettlement assistance for those in our country, and a renewed commitment to our global responsibility to help those in need. The US has always been a leader on the global stage in providing support where it is needed most to prevent unnecessary loss of life, and to provide asylum to those facing injustice. We have a responsibility to reclaim that role and ensure this assistance is inclusive, in particular of the African diaspora which is so often forgotten.

Part of this responsibility is ensuring global stability, so that there is less need for refugee services in the first place.

Investment in climate justice and partnering with our allies could prevent disasters before they happen. The US consistently plays a role as peacekeeper in global conflicts, and we should continue to do so by bringing opposing parties to the negotiation table and promoting diplomatic solutions where possible.

Candidate Priorities

What are some of the key priorities you would like to pursue in Congress?

My priorities are restoring the \$880 billion in cuts to Medicaid that would hamper access to care for patients, stabilizing the economy to lower costs for working families and increase economic opportunities for all Americans, affordable housing, funding for small businesses, ensuring Veterans benefits are not eroded so they receive the care they deserve, and working to restore faith in our institutions and democracy that are being challenged and threaten our livelihoods and security.

As commissioner, I oversee one of the largest public health systems in the country, with a majority of patients on Medicaid. Ensuring that cuts to Medicaid are restored is critical to ensuring our system remains stable and able to serve our population, many from vulnerable communities.

The uncertainty of the economy and rising costs impact many aspects of healthcare and delivery of services. People tend not to access primary care and delay preventive treatment when they have to pay more for food or housing. Ultimately, health conditions worsen due to this delay. Patients sacrifice taking life savings medications when they need to pay for essential items for their families. A growing economy keeps families from having to make these difficult decisions. I will continue my efforts in Congress to grow the economy through workforce development, public private partnerships and lobbying to bring resources back to the district.

As the first woman to chair the Cook County Veterans committee, I've ushered in unprecedented funding for our Veteran Assistance Commission in this role. Starting from a low of a \$400,000 budget, when first elected, I secured funding and additional positions for Veteran Service Officers with funding now almost

\$3.5 million. In Congress, I will work to ensure our veterans receive the benefits they've earned.

Any additional information you would like to share with us?

I am uniquely and well positioned to win this race to become Illinois' 2nd Congressional District Congresswoman.

The makeup of the district is urban, suburban, and rural - from Bronzeville in Chicago on the north, through the south suburbs, into Will and Kankakee counties and down to Danville. I embrace this diversity since my current district is one of the largest geographically, consists of over 300,000 people and has a very similar geographical composition. Demographically, African American women consist of over 50% of the primary voting population. This group aligns naturally with my message, priorities and values.

The majority of primary voters (62%) of the entire 2nd Congressional District live in the Southland where I

have lived over 20 years, raised my family and have represented the area for nearly 8 years. Added to this, my husband was a State Representative for over a decade covering a lot of the same area. Together, the Millers have represented the Southland for nearly 20 years where people have known me and my family.

Due to this, I am recognizable by name and face when casually going through the district. Compared to other elected official candidates, I have represented the greatest percentage of the district for over the longest period of time.

I have held numerous town hall meetings, "Coffee with the Commissioner", meetings with elected officials, sending out newsletters, a monthly email update on matters regarding the Board and community, attended local city meetings and held community events for nearly 8 years as Commissioner. My work in the community has built up connections, reputation, and name recognition in the Southland that other candidates lack.

My advantage over my opponents is that they will have to introduce themselves to the Southland, whereas I have long standing relationships. Based on the sheer number of men running, they will naturally have a more difficult time avoiding "splitting the vote" compared to a more established woman candidate.

The majority of the district is African American women and my work as Commissioner on Black women's

health disparities creates a natural ally and support base. Other candidates will have a more difficult time resonating

with women in the district on the issues they care about - healthcare access and equity, in particular access to reproductive healthcare and maternal healthcare – for which I have advocated. I have been a leader in all of those fields on the County Board and have passed model legislation that is being adopted by counties nationwide.

I won a hotly contested primary in 2018 to become Commissioner, and was reelected. This campaign will be no different. I have the support of elected officials within the district and continue to gain support and listen to the needs of the district.

Robert Peters

Security

The federal Nonprofit Security Grant Program is currently funded at \$274.5 million. Do you support increasing it to \$360 million or at least maintaining its current funding level?

I support increasing funding for the Nonprofit Security Grant Program.

Antisemitism

Antisemitism is surging across the United States. What will you do to help combat antisemitism and bring different communities together?

My deep Jewish faith has led me to despair at the recent spike in antisemitic incidents, including the murders of Israeli embassy staffers in Washington, D.C. earlier this year. My own neighborhood and my synagogue have been targeted with antisemitic graffiti on multiple occasions in the past year, leaving my community feeling unsafe.

I support and will advocate for increasing awareness of antisemitism through education and funding programs that keep Jewish people safe.

Antisemitism is growing at both ends of the political spectrum. How do you plan to address antisemitism on both sides of the aisle.

As a member of the Jewish Caucus in the Illinois legislature, I have urged my colleagues on both sides of

the aisle to speak out against antisemitism, and believe we must double down on our efforts to root out antisemitism and all forms of bigotry and hate. I will continue this advocacy in Congress.

Israel

Do you support efforts to boycott, divest from, or sanction Israel, Israeli goods, company's services, academics, academic institutions, and cultural activities? Relatedly, do you support boycotting, divesting from or sanctioning U.S. or other companies that do business in or with Israel?

The tactic of boycott is a form of protest, and must be protected along with all other protected speech under the First Amendment. As such, I have opposed efforts to criminalize participation in BDS. While I have been outspoken about my opposition and active in protest to the war in Gaza and the Netanyahu administration's agenda in Gaza and the West Bank in general, I personally have not engaged in BDS tactics.

Do you support continued U.S. military aid to Israel or additional conditions related to that aid?

The U.S. has a responsibility to fully implement its existing laws that govern foreign aid for all countries, such as the Leahy Law, by empowering relevant agencies to determine where gross violations of human rights occur. In light of widespread human rights violations in the bombardment of Gaza, including the use of famine as a weapon of war, I supported calls to suspend U.S. aid for offensive weapons to Israel. As Israel faces constant threats of bombardment, I support continued funding for defensive weapons, including the Iron Dome.

We must continue to work toward a peace that keeps Israelis safe, ensures that Palestinians in Gaza have their fundamental rights to food, water, and housing met, and offers Palestinians a government that can care for its people and negotiate in good faith.

What is your view on the role of Congress in shaping U.S.-Israel relations?

Building a just and lasting peace and safety for all people must be the guiding light for U.S. foreign policy. Decades of violence have only made peace more distant and cost countless lives in a vicious cycle. I believe Congress has a responsibility to break from this kind of pain in the spirit of the long struggle for peace and prosperity for all.

Do you support the concept of a two-state solution whereby the Jewish State of Israel exists safely and securely

alongside an independent Palestinian state that doesn't include Hamas or other terrorist organizations?

Yes. Any solution to the current conflict must guarantee Palestinian self-determination and human rights. A just and lasting peace for both Israelis and Palestinians is best achieved by a negotiated two-state solution that affords both a Jewish and a Palestinian homeland. This reality is only feasible with the leadership of the U.S. A two-state agreement must also recognize that Palestinians are entitled to human rights such as food, water, freedom of movement, housing, electricity, and equal treatment under the law. The U.S. must fund both humanitarian and economic aid to the Palestinian people, including to the United Nations, to ensure that these needs are met. To be credible and sustainable, any such agreement must also end the destruction of private homes, settlement expansions, and unilateral annexation of territory in the West Bank.

Have you been to Israel? If yes, when and with whom? If no, would you be interested in visiting?

I have not yet had the opportunity to visit Israel, but hope to do so in the near future.

Health & Human Services

Illinois Medicaid is the largest health insurer in the state, serving approximately 3.4 million people. The recent changes in H.R. 1 will force Illinois to make difficult funding decisions. What steps would you take to prevent reductions in care that could come from states' tightening eligibility requirements, cutting provider reimbursement levels and/or reducing access to medical care, especially for children, the economically disadvantaged, older adults and people with disabilities?

As a candidate for Congress and as a State Senator, I have spoken out about the impacts of the Trump Medicaid cuts. In Congress, I will fight to roll back these cuts, which disproportionately impact my district.

If elected, will you support and co-sponsor the SSI (Supplemental Security Income) Savings Penalty Elimination Act, which would raise the asset limit for individuals on SSI from \$2,000 to \$10,000 for individuals, and from \$3,000 to \$20,000 for couples?

Yes.

Do you support increasing funding for Home and Community-Based Services, a component of Medicaid that helps people with disabilities and older adults live and thrive in the setting of their choice and avoid institutional care?

Yes.

What are your views on the mandatory work requirements included in H.R. 1 to receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits, which is relied upon by nearly 2 million Illinoisans?

I oppose these requirements.

What steps do you believe need to be undertaken to reduce gun violence?

Gun violence is an epidemic in this country, and Congress must pass safety measures like banning assault weapons, ensuring mandatory background checks, and creating a licensing system for owning firearms.

Would you have voted to pass the Continuing Appropriations Act of 2026 the law that ended the 2025 government shutdown? Please explain your response.

No. I believe that Democrats should have held the line to force Republicans to make concessions with regard to their irresponsible cuts to Affordable Care Act tax subsidy extensions.

Refugee Services

Do you support the recent Presidential Determination that cut new refugee arrivals from 125,000 to approximately 7,500, with most of the 7,500 slots being held open for White Afrikaners?

No.

Despite the cut to new refugee arrivals, refugee support agencies are still supporting tens of thousands of refugees who were lawfully admitted to the United States over the past 5-10 years. What would you do to alleviate the burden that has been placed on refugee support agencies from funding cuts and recissions as well as from the cut to new arrivals?

The Trump administration's targeting of refugees and immigrants through these cuts and recissions and through the ICE/CBP invasion of our communities and tearing families apart is un-American, and we need to check Trump's power. I have been an outspoken advocate on behalf of our immigrant and refugee population, and in Congress, I will fight to restore full funding for these agencies.

Candidate Priorities

What are some of the key priorities you would like to pursue in Congress?

The top issue facing all communities in Illinois is the skyrocketing cost of living. First, we have food deserts all across the district and we need a government response to make sure all our communities not

only have full SNAP benefits but also grocery stores where they can actually go and get fresh and healthy food. Second, housing is expensive and property taxes are sky high, so we need a federal response to create tax relief for working people and make it easier for people to buy homes. Lastly, health care costs are out of control, and that's why I support Medicare for All, so no one is denied care because of their income. I also want to mention the deeply unsettling rise of hate crimes and intolerance in our communities. I will always speak out against all forms of hate and use my platform as a Member of Congress to make our communities safe places for everyone.

Any additional information you would like to share with us?

My belief about creating a future where both Israelis and Palestinians can live prosperously and without fear of violence is rooted in my personal story as a Black and Jewish person. I grew up with Jewish neighbors and family friends, including academics and subject-matter experts, who taught me about the history of Israel. My Jewish values and education ground me in knowing that "tikkun olam" means that we have a responsibility to make sure the world never turns its back on its most vulnerable. These values are also fundamental Democratic values, and I celebrate the shared commitment from American, Israeli, and Palestinian citizens alike to ensure that each of our governments live up to their promise to include all its people regardless of ethnicity.

I am also a descendant of people who migrated to Chicago but faced adversity. My biological mom's family escaped Jim Crow Alabama to build a better life in Chicago but were met with racism and abuse. My biological father's ancestors fled pogroms in Ukraine and Eastern Europe. My adoptive father was Irish Catholic, and like so many others, his family came to Chicago to flee repression in Ireland but confronted anti-Irish hate. I am the descendant of people who were not safe in their homelands but built a home in Chicago. My views are grounded in a profound sense of obligation to ensure that both the Palestinian and Israeli peoples can build inter-generational security and prosperity. While I know we may not always see eye to eye on every issue, I am committed to keeping an open line of communication with stakeholders and to doing all I can to keep our community safe.

Willie Preston

Security

The federal Nonprofit Security Grant Program is currently funded at \$274.5 million. Do you support increasing it to \$360 million or at least maintaining its current funding level?

With violent white supremacy on the rise and an administration stoking acts of political violence, it is entirely appropriate to raise funding for nonprofit security. I support raising the support to \$360 million.

Antisemitism

Antisemitism is surging across the United States. What will you do to help combat antisemitism and bring different communities together?

The rise of antisemitism flows from violent and unchecked rhetoric on the right that has a haven in the Republican Party - though there is no doubt there are corners of the far left where it thrives as well. To combat antisemitism, we need to call it out and rely on joint education - where leaders and people listen to each other, interrogate beliefs and assume good intentions. This means asking more of our faith leaders - and of our elected officials. Silence is not an option.

Antisemitism is growing at both ends of the political spectrum. How do you plan to address antisemitism on both sides of the aisle.

Antisemitism is an old and ancient thing and it thrives in ignorance and among those who feel ignored by the political system. I will do everything in my power to educate, to engage in dialogue and, where necessary, to write laws to give our society the democratic tools it needs to isolate and confront this cancer.

Israel

Do you support efforts to boycott, divest from, or sanction Israel, Israeli goods, company's services, academics, academic institutions, and cultural activities? Relatedly, do you support boycotting, divesting from or sanctioning U.S. or other companies that do business in or with Israel?

Israel is a democracy and our Number One ally in the Middle East. I do not support any so-called "BDS" activities against Israel or lawful Israeli interests. I do not support boycotting, divesting from or sanctioning U.S. companies that do business with Israel.

Do you support continued U.S. military aid to Israel or additional conditions related to that aid?

Israel has a right to defend itself. I support continued military aid.

What is your view on the role of Congress in shaping U.S.-Israel relations?

Congress has ceded too much of its oversight role to the executive branch. It should be more involved in overseeing U.S. - Israel relations.

Do you support the concept of a two-state solution whereby the Jewish State of Israel exists safely and securely alongside an independent Palestinian state that doesn't include Hamas or other terrorist organizations?

I support the concept of a two-state solution that excludes Hamas or groups like it from governance.

Health & Human Services

Illinois Medicaid is the largest health insurer in the state, serving approximately 3.4 million people. The recent changes in H.R. 1 will force Illinois to make difficult funding decisions. What steps would you take to prevent reductions in care that could come from states' tightening eligibility requirements, cutting provider reimbursement levels and/or reducing access to medical care, especially for children, the economically disadvantaged, older adults and people with disabilities?

I would support the full roll-back of the cuts and onerous new requirements included in H.R. 1. The wellbeing of Americans was subordinated to the financial interests of the super-rich and corporations. We should be INCREASING our investments in healthcare and the social safety net.

If elected, will you support and co-sponsor the SSI (Supplemental Security Income) Savings Penalty Elimination Act, which would raise the asset limit for individuals on SSI from \$2,000 to \$10,000 for individuals, and from \$3,000 to \$20,000 for couples?

I applaud the work of authors like Congressman Danny Davis and would most certainly support the SSI Savings Penalty Elimination Act, which corrects the penalization of responsible SSI recipients.

Do you support increasing funding for Home and Community-Based Services, a component of Medicaid that helps people with disabilities and older adults live and thrive in the setting of their choice and avoid institutional care?

As a lifelong champion of home healthcare, I know that people with disabilities and older adults who are able to stay in their homes with assistance should be allowed to. I support increased funding for Home and Community-Based Services.

What are your views on the mandatory work requirements included in H.R. 1 to receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits, which is relied upon by nearly 2 million Illinoisans?

As a former SNAP recipient myself, I see the new mandatory work requirements in H.R. 1 as nothing more than an effort to cut benefits to people who need it. We all oppose waste, fraud and abuse - but let's start

with the super-rich and corporations. Especially in a slowing economy where working families, seniors and people with disabilities can't afford groceries to begin with.

What steps do you believe need to be undertaken to reduce gun violence?

As someone who has experienced gun violence and lost family and friends to it, we need an all-hands approach to confronting gun violence. This includes resources for proven programs that disrupt violence (Target Area here in Chicago is one such example); banning automatic weapons and high-capacity magazines; more investments in law enforcement to get illegal guns off the street; and fully funding mental health programs. We also must ask more of our parents and we must condemn a culture, often driven by social media, that glorifies gun violence.

Would you have voted to pass the Continuing Appropriations Act of 2026 the law that ended the 2025 government shutdown? Please explain your response.

I would not have voted to end the shutdown. It was a tough call, but I believe Democrats caved too early and had enough momentum to win bigger concessions from ruling Republicans in restoring funding to Medicaid and ACA supports.

Refugee Services

Do you support the recent Presidential Determination that cut new refugee arrivals from 125,000 to approximately 7,500, with most of the 7,500 slots being held open for White Afrikaners?

I do not support the new limits on refugee entries into the United States. And I sure as hell don't support giving White Afrikaners privileged status. America has a special responsibility to welcome refugees - while caring for all our vulnerable.

Despite the cut to new refugee arrivals, refugee support agencies are still supporting tens of thousands of refugees who were lawfully admitted to the United States over the past 5-10 years. What would you do to alleviate the burden that has been placed on refugee support agencies from funding cuts and recessions as well as from the cut to new arrivals?

We must win the public debate over refugees - and counter any hateful stigmatizing that comes from racist and anti-immigrant groups. We must show the value to our communities that refugees bring. And we must find new sources of revenue, including making sure that the super-rich and corporations pay their fair share, to ensure adequate funding of refugee services. America's honor is at stake here.

Candidate Priorities

What are some of the key priorities you would like to pursue in Congress?

The physical and economic security of the South Side, Southland and Central Illinois are all in peril by an economy with growing inequality and a politics that has favored corporations and the super-rich over working families. We're in a recession, whether anyone wants to admit it or not, and we have to do everything we can to fight to protect healthcare, education and the social safety net while supporting good, union-paying jobs. Likewise, scarcity always leads to more violence and with more guns than ever in our country, we have to break the cycle of gun violence that is causing our nation to bleed out.

Any additional information you would like to share with us?

I'm not like many candidates for higher office, having lived extremes of poverty and violence - and having worked as a union janitor, butcher and union carpenter, with six kids. There are too many millionaires and politicians who come from the political class in Congress right now. I fought for everything I have and that allows me to better listen to - and advocate for - the people whose struggles I've lived.³¹

Adal Regis

Security

The federal Nonprofit Security Grant Program is currently funded at \$274.5 million. Do you support increasing it to \$360 million or at least maintaining its current funding level?

I support maintaining funding at its current level, and I am open to increasing it if the data demonstrate a clear need. The late Nita Lowey championed this funding allocation during her tenure as Chair of the Appropriations Committee. As Ms. Lowey's former Grant Coordinator, I was responsible for ensuring that community organizations and houses of worship were well-prepared to apply for these funds. Given the rise in antisemitism and the increasing violence being directed toward marginalized groups under the current administration, it is likely that we will need to make a strong case for sustaining and potentially expanding this support.

Antisemitism

Antisemitism is surging across the United States. What will you do to help combat antisemitism and bring different communities together?

I believe antisemitism is rising in this country partly because of a lack of understanding of Jewish culture and history, as well as a declining ability to engage in nuanced discussions about current events. In my view, one of the most effective ways to confront this trend is through education and by creating safe spaces that encourage healthy dialogue between the Jewish community and other ethnic and cultural groups.

Additionally, it is essential to foster strong collaboration between Jewish leaders and organizations and their counterparts in other communities to address the human rights violations currently occurring in the country. A house divided cannot stand, and American history demonstrates the impact of such partnerships, seen, for example, in the creation of the NAACP and the Jewish community's participation in the civil rights movement.

I would be eager to champion similar efforts today to bring communities together in these divisive times and to help prevent any group, including the Jewish community, from being scapegoated for the broader challenges we currently face.

Antisemitism is growing at both ends of the political spectrum. How do you plan to address antisemitism on both sides of the aisle.

I recognize that antisemitism is growing on both ends of the political spectrum. The white supremacist rally in Charlottesville serves as a reminder of how these flames are fanned on the right, while the challenges some zealous leaders on the left face in effectively articulating issues in the Middle East demonstrate how it can also emerge from the left.

As your next Congressman, I plan to serve as a bridge-builder, reminding leaders in both parties of our shared values and of the consequences we risk if we fail to learn from history. For, I believe that if we are not vigilant, history can repeat itself.

Israel

Do you support efforts to boycott, divest from, or sanction Israel, Israeli goods, company's services, academics, academic institutions, and cultural activities? Relatedly, do you support boycotting, divesting from or sanctioning U.S. or other companies that do business in or with Israel?

No.

Do you support continued U.S. military aid to Israel or additional conditions related to that aid?

Yes.

What is your view on the role of Congress in shaping U.S.-Israel relations?

Modern Israel has been one of the United States' most reliable allies in the Middle East since its founding. I believe Congress should continue to help sustain that relationship, just as it does with other U.S. allies. However, as with any nation with which the United States maintains diplomatic ties, Congress must take a measured and balanced approach when addressing issues in the region, particularly as the U.S. continues to navigate its relationship with Israel.

Do you support the concept of a two-state solution whereby the Jewish State of Israel exists safely and securely alongside an independent Palestinian state that doesn't include Hamas or other terrorist organizations?

Yes, I support a two-state solution. However, I also recognize that achieving it is a herculean task, one that may take generations to unfold, given the longstanding tension and lingering resentment between Israelis and Palestinians. Nevertheless, I'm committed to being a part of the solution.

Have you been to Israel? If yes, when and with whom? If no, would you be interested in visiting?

I have never been to Israel. Yes, I'm interested in visiting the land.

Health & Human Services

Illinois Medicaid is the largest health insurer in the state, serving approximately 3.4 million people. The recent changes in H.R. 1 will force Illinois to make difficult funding decisions. What steps would you take to prevent reductions in care that could come from states' tightening eligibility requirements, cutting provider reimbursement levels and/or reducing access to medical care, especially for children, the economically disadvantaged, older adults and people with disabilities?

First, the unfortunate reality is that the so-called "Big Beautiful Bill" risks causing 17 million people across the country to lose their health insurance, including 40,000 residents in the Second Congressional District. Cuts to Medicaid and Medicare would inevitably reduce revenue for community health centers and hospitals. This, in turn, could lead to lower-quality services, potential closures of these facilities, and life-or-death consequences for many families who already struggle to afford healthcare.

The first step in addressing this crisis is to stop the bleeding. We must restore funding to ensure that families continue to have access to health coverage. But we also need to think long-term and begin championing Medicare for All. I believe healthcare is a human right, and a healthy society is a productive one.

If elected, will you support and co-sponsor the SSI (Supplemental Security Income) Savings Penalty Elimination Act, which would raise the asset limit for individuals on SSI from \$2,000 to \$10,000 for individuals, and from \$3,000 to \$20,000 for couples?

Naturally, I support the Savings Penalty Elimination Act. The wealth inequity gap in this country is likely to widen as a result of the "Big Beautiful Bill," placing seniors and families with a disabled member among the most vulnerable. Moreover, with the cost of living continuing to rise, \$2,000 per month is insufficient to sustain an individual.

Do you support increasing funding for Home and Community-Based Services, a component of Medicaid that helps people with disabilities and older adults live and thrive in the setting of their choice and avoid institutional care?

Yes, I do.

What are your views on the mandatory work requirements included in H.R. 1 to receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits, which is relied upon by nearly 2 million Illinoisans?

If the government is imposing mandatory work requirements for families who rely on SNAP benefits, it must also be prepared to raise the minimum wage to a livable level and facilitate upward mobility for these families. The recent requirements included in H.R. 1 also place an undue burden on seniors and homeless veterans, who have long been neglected by the current bureaucratic system. My overall view is that these requirements, along with certain provisions or lack thereof in the budget, reflect a callous mindset that treats vulnerable communities as expendable.

What steps do you believe need to be undertaken to reduce gun violence?

To reduce gun violence, we need a multifaceted approach.

First, economic security is crucial. The Pullman neighborhoods demonstrate that with targeted investment and

employment opportunities offering good benefits, poverty—and ultimately crime—can be reduced. Any effort to address gun violence that does not factor in job creation and livable wages is likely to fail, as people must provide for their families and may take desperate measures otherwise.

Second, we must focus on funding de-escalation programs. Research conducted by my former professor, Dr. Jen Ludwig, shows that a significant portion of gun violence stems from the failure to de-escalate conflicts during altercations involving multiple parties. By fostering a culture of de-escalation in communities most affected by gun violence—through programs in schools and community centers—we can make meaningful progress in addressing this issue.

Third, we need to strengthen our gun laws, including limiting access to assault rifles. Reform must be comprehensive, taking into account thorough background checks and mental health history, to ensure that firearms do not end up in the wrong hands.

Would you have voted to pass the Continuing Appropriations Act of 2026 the law that ended the 2025 government shutdown? Please explain your response.

No, because I believe the Democratic Party made numerous concessions that yielded minimal, if any, meaningful returns.

Refugee Services

Do you support the recent Presidential Determination that cut new refugee arrivals from 125,000 to approximately 7,500, with most of the 7,500 slots being held open for White Afrikaners?

No, I do not. It is clear that the current administration's refugee policies and restrictions are primarily motivated by racism. Look no further than the list of countries that made it on the travel ban list.

Despite the cut to new refugee arrivals, refugee support agencies are still supporting tens of thousands of refugees who were lawfully admitted to the United States over the past 5-10 years. What would you do to alleviate the burden that has been placed on refugee support agencies from funding cuts and recissions as well as from the cut to new arrivals?

The current system for supporting refugees is deeply flawed. Unfortunately, we cannot address refugee policy without also reforming our foreign policy, which has, in many cases, contributed to the conditions overseas that force families to flee to the United States.

While I am ready to advocate for funding to sustain refugee support agencies, it is equally important to consider a "Marshall Plan"-style approach that targets countries adversely affected by U.S. foreign policies over the decades. By fostering relationships based on mutual collaboration rather than exploitation, we can address the root causes of displacement while alleviating the burden on agencies supporting tens of thousands of lawfully admitted refugees.

Candidate Priorities

What are some of the key priorities you would like to pursue in Congress?

Economic Development to reduce the wealth gap, which will be further exacerbated by the "Big Beautiful Bill," and champion policies like Medicare for All.

Criminal Justice Reform to promote a fair and equitable justice system.

Renewable Energy Investment to expand sustainable energy initiatives to create jobs and combat climate change.

AI Regulation to ensure responsible development and deployment of artificial intelligence technologies.