



Jewish United Fund

— EDUCATION —

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CANDIDATE QUESTIONNAIRES

US HOUSE DISTRICT 8

Election Day: March 17, 2026

In December 2025 and January 2026, JUF met with candidates for US House 8. 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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# Junaid Ahmed

## 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 it so more communities have access to the funds needed to keep them safe in today's environment.

## Antisemitism

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

The first step is education. I have visited my local synagogue in the past to teach them about Islam because I believe that education will help break down barriers. We need to call out hate whenever and wherever we see it, and we must not allow it to become routine. From the Trump Administration's blatant antisemitism to casual day to day conversations, we all play a role in standing up to hate by calling it out.

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

I have many friends on both sides of the aisle, and I plan on working to build relationships with my colleagues from all walks of life. As I work to do that, I will not sacrifice my principles and will ensure I call out hate when I see or hear it.

## 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 support the right of individuals and companies to protest peacefully.

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

I do not support continued military aid to Israel while the current Israeli government violates international law.

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

Congress plays a critical role in shaping U.S.-Israel relations, and that role must reflect our core democratic values: accountability, human rights, and a commitment to lasting peace. The United States has a deep and historic relationship with Israel, but it's Congress's responsibility to ensure that this relationship advances stability and security for Israelis and Palestinians alike.

Congress shouldn't function as a rubber stamp for executive-branch policy or for any foreign government. Instead, it must provide meaningful oversight, especially when U.S. taxpayer dollars and military assistance are involved. That means ensuring our aid is used in ways that are consistent with international law, that do not contribute to civilian harm, and that support a credible path toward a just and lasting resolution to the conflict.

**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 ends the occupation in Gaza and the West Bank, ensuring

equal protection for Palestinians under international law.

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

Yes. I have been to Israel for business purposes in 2014.

## **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 repealing H.R. 1 if we have the ability to. If we cannot do that, I would support amending the bill to remove all cuts to Medicaid and programs that the most vulnerable Illinoisans rely on. Working to dismantle this harmful legislation is part of a broader commitment to strengthening our social safety net, reducing poverty, and ensuring disabled Americans can live with security and independence. This is the direction we should be moving as a country, and I'm proud to champion it.

**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 absolutely support and co-sponsor the SSI Savings Penalty Elimination Act. The current asset limits set at \$2,000 for individuals and \$3,000 for couples are not only outdated; they actively trap people in poverty. These caps haven't been meaningfully updated since the 1980s, and they punish disabled and low-income Americans for trying to save even modest amounts for emergencies, transportation, or basic needs.

Raising the limits to \$10,000 and \$20,000 is a long-overdue, common-sense reform that respects people's dignity and promotes financial stability rather than penalizing it. It gives beneficiaries the breathing room to build a small safety net without risking the loss of essential benefits they rely on to survive.

**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 strongly oppose the mandatory work requirements in H.R. 1 for SNAP benefits. These requirements don't reduce hunger; they make it worse. SNAP is a lifeline for nearly two million people in Illinois, including children, seniors, people with disabilities, low-wage workers, and families who are already doing everything they can to get by.

Work requirements are based on a false premise that people receiving assistance aren't working or don't want to work. In reality, the majority of SNAP recipients who can work already do. What these requirements actually do is create bureaucratic hurdles that cause eligible people to lose benefits because of paperwork errors, irregular work schedules, or lack of access to childcare, transportation, or stable employment, not because they're unwilling to work.

Punishing hungry families does not create jobs. It does not raise wages. It does not address the real barriers that keep people out of the workforce.

SNAP is one of the most effective anti-poverty programs we have, and Congress should be strengthening it, not putting up roadblocks that take food off the tables of Illinois families. Instead of work requirements, we should focus on policies that actually help people succeed: raising the minimum wage, expanding childcare, improving transit access, and creating good-paying union jobs.

Everyone deserves the dignity of reliable access to food, and I will fiercely oppose any effort to undermine that basic principle.

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

1. Pass strong, common-sense gun safety laws.

Universal background checks, closing loopholes, implementing red-flag laws, reinstating an assault weapons ban, and requiring safe storage are proven measures that reduce shootings and save lives.

2. Invest in community violence intervention programs.

Evidence shows that well-funded, community-led initiatives: violence interrupters, trauma support, and youth outreach significantly reduce shootings in the neighborhoods most affected.

3. Treat gun violence as a public health crisis.

Expand research through the CDC and NIH, improve data collection, and scale prevention strategies the same way we address other national health threats.

4. Expand economic opportunity and youth investment.

Stable housing, job training, mental health services, and after-school programs reduce the root causes of violence and provide real alternatives for young people.

5. Strengthen mental and behavioral health care.

Increase access to crisis care, counseling, and support services, while recognizing that mental illness is not the primary driver of gun violence but remains an important part of prevention.

6. Hold the gun industry accountable.

End special legal protections for gun manufacturers and dealers so they face consequences when they act irresponsibly or fuel the flow of illegal guns.

Gun violence is preventable. A combination of smart legislation, community investment, and a public-health framework is the path to making every neighborhood safer.

### **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 end the government shutdown a week after voters so clearly told us they want fighters in Washington to stand up to Donald Trump. I would have fought to ensure our votes came with a policy solution to skyrocketing healthcare costs that Illinoisans are facing.

## **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 recessions as well as from the cut to new arrivals?**

We must work to not only restore funding for refugee support services but also increase it. We cannot let racism and xenophobia guide our humanitarian policies.

## **Candidate Priorities**

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

My priorities in Congress will be addressing affordability, access to healthcare, and standing up to Donald Trump. You can learn more here: <https://junaidforus.com/issues/>

# Yasmeeen Bankole

## 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

## Antisemitism

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

It is crucially important that we address the surge of antisemitism head on and do not give it a home in our community. I know that many of my Jewish friends and neighbors fear for their security in a new way since October 7, and any member of Congress must be prepared to call out antisemitism in all forms and take policy action to stop it.

Jewish Americans are one of the top victims of hate crimes in our community - it is crucial that law enforcement and other first-responders have antisemitism training. In Congress, I would support legislation to require all federal law enforcement responders to participate in this training.

While Title VI in the Civil Rights Act has sometimes been used to apply to religion, I would support legislation to codify religion to shore up protections for Jewish people. And I would support additional action to strengthen the laws on hate crimes including ensuring programs tracking hate crimes have full funding each year.

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

I agree that there is a rise in antisemitism at both ends of the political spectrum, including expressed by members of Congress. Americans, including Jewish Americans, deserve to have representatives with the courage to speak out against hate - even when it comes from members of their own party. I am running for Congress because I think we need new leaders with the courage to lead on their values and to speak out against things that are wrong - and I will be ready to do that 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?**

I support accountability and economic justice, which comes in many forms. Clarity on the specific federal legislation/policy that is being referred to would be appreciated.

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

I support a strong US-Israel relationship and for US security assistance to Israel that

adheres to US law and international law. I support maintaining our commitment to provide security assistance for Israel including for the Iron Dome. I do think there should be additional reviews of assistance in extenuating circumstances; for example, I do not support weapons of war provided by the U.S. to be used against civilians or at hospitals.

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

Our Congress has always had a role in shaping U.S.-Israel relations and the importance of that has been underscored with Trump in office. Congress must provide a steady hand in both supporting Israel's ability to

protect itself while also standing up against Netanyahu's actions in Gaza.

**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

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

No. I am a practicing Christian, so yes I am interested in visiting.

## **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?**

Restoring funding to CMS via HHS annual appropriations. I got my healthcare as a kid through Medicaid, so to me, Republicans' attacks on our healthcare are deeply personal. In Congress, I'll fight back as Republicans rip away healthcare from over 300,000 Illinoisans to fund tax breaks for the well-off.

**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?**

Stricter work requirements means that millions of people will likely lose their benefits, which increases food insecurity. In the richest country in the world, this should not be our reality.

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

Funding CVI programs, responsible gun ownership, federal legislation that upholds universal background checks, secure storage laws and bans assault weapons. Additionally, in 2022, after the Highland Park July 4th shooting, I introduced an ordinance in Hanover Park that would ban the sales on assault weapons in Hanover Park

**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. My official statement on this matter: "As a former federal employee who has worked through two shutdowns, I understand how challenging this situation can be. But I believe that this is a bad deal for millions of Americans, including thousands of Illinoisans, who will lose health care because Republicans want to play politics with their lives. Until Democrats learn to fight back with a clear, coordinated strategy against this party hellbent on raising our costs and hurting our communities, American families are the ones who lose. I stepped up in this race to bring a new generation of Illinois leadership to DC. I'm more committed than ever to doing just that by unapologetically fighting for the people of Illinois."

## **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, and I believe that this decision was rooted in xenophobia and racism.

**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?**

Restore funding in future spending bills, and provide congressionally directed spending dollars to those orgs in the meantime.

## **Candidate Priorities**

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

My Priorities can be found on my website here: <https://yasmeenbankole.com/priorities>

# Jennifer Davis

## 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, Funding of these programs are important to security. These programs need to include safeguards to protect every dollar we are investing in on behalf of our taxpayers. As a businesswoman who built a global company with my husband from our kitchen table, I understand the risk that come with investments and know the importance of proper safeguards and audits to ensure these funds can serve as security for communities.

## Antisemitism

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

The beginning of the end of antisemitism comes by being willing to have hard conversations. I will never hide from them. Antisemitism threatens us all; I will work to build bridges with people, communities, and different faiths through open, candid, and action driven dialogue that allows us to celebrate our differences and gain an understanding of each group of people's unique perspective. Leaning on my experience of team building with very culturally diverse groups, I will apply the tools, tricks, and ideas of the business world and apply them to real life scenarios.

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

Extremism needs to be called out on both sides-left-wing delegitimization of Israel and right-wing conspiracy theories, rooting conversations in relevant facts. Tough laws, backed with consequences, school curricula, and community forums will be the centerpiece of my efforts to ensure there is no tolerance for hate. Unity starts with accountability across the aisle.

## 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?**

Absolutely not—I oppose all boycotts, divestment, or sanction efforts against Israel or companies supporting it. As a defender of free enterprise, I'll fight economic attacks on our ally, ensuring fair trade and strong partnerships. Being America First, means taking care of our country and our allies.

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

Yes, I support U.S. military aid to Israel, our longest and most reliable democratic ally in the Middle East. This aid empowers Israel to defend itself and its people against decades-long threats from terrorist organizations and Iran. At the same time, we must actively pursue diplomatic efforts to achieve a lasting peace in the region.

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

I view our role in U.S.-Israel relations as vital to America's security and values. Congress must continue to support Israel—our steadfast, longest and most reliable democratic ally in the middle east—through robust funding for the Iron Dome and other defenses, sanctions on Iran and its terror proxies like Hamas and Hezbollah, and diplomatic pressure to counter threats. I've seen firsthand how strong alliances drive innovation and stability, much like building my tech company; in Washington, I'll fight to ensure Israel never stands alone, because their fight is ours.

**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, a two-state solution—with ironclad security for Israel and no role for Hamas or terrorists. Peace demands demilitarization and recognition of 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 never been to Israel, but has long been on my bucket list. Until now, I did not have the luxury of traveling there, due to the kids still at home. As a new empty-nester, it is now the time to go and bring our adult children.

## **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'll push to fully fund Medicaid, block H.R. 1 cuts, and expand access via telehealth and incentives for providers. I'll do this without raising taxes!

Protecting vulnerable Illinoisans—kids, seniors, disabled—is personal; my family-first values demand no reductions in care. But those who can work and provide must do just that.

We cannot continue to steal the wealth of the next generation by giving it away to people who can and should be contributing. We have to root out the waste, fraud, and abuse in our government programs and ensure they are going to the right people for the right reasons. Rooting out bad actors, while protecting those for whom these types of programs were meant for, would be the goal.

**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'll co-sponsor and fight for the SSI Savings Penalty Elimination Act. Outdated limits trap families in poverty; raising them empowers self-reliance without bureaucracy. Anything we can do to support financial prudence both in government and rewarding it in citizens is what we should do.

**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?**

Absolutely—As my mom's end of life caregiver, I saw firsthand the nearly impossible road so many families face when providing end of life care for their loved ones. I'll support increasing HCBS funding nationally. This has to happen in conjunction with better oversight to ensure that these programs support families in need, not those who abuse/fraud the system for their own benefit. Home-based care saves lives and dollars and puts families first. The best way to empower citizens is to empower families. As an entrepreneur, independence is a smart investment.

**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 support targeted work requirements in H.R. 1 to encourage self-sufficiency, with exemptions for parents, disabled, and rural Illinoisans. SNAP is a lifeline for 2M here—I'll ensure it's temporary aid, not endless dependency.

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

Enforce the laws we currently have on the books, fund mental health/violence interruption programs, and

secure borders to stop illegal gun trafficking. Common-sense fixes: prosecute criminals, support families—ending the cycle through opportunity, not more red tape.

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

Yes, I'd vote to pass it to avert shutdown chaos. Government shutdowns hurt families, seniors, and troops; fiscal responsibility means funding essentials first, cutting waste later through the legislative process.

Congress must get back to candid open debate and end the back room deals.

## 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 oppose slashing admissions to 7,500 and prioritizing any group—it's discriminatory and weakens our humanitarian leadership. Secure borders, yes, but America must welcome persecuted refugees fairly. Our immigration system is broken, and we need leaders who will take on the challenge to fixing and solving the problems – not just kicking the can down the road for the next person.

**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?**

I'll restore full funding for agencies via targeted appropriations, easing integration burdens. Cutting support abandons those we admit; I'll advocate for efficient aid to honor our commitments and boost local economies. We need to put more checks and safeguards in place to protect American taxpayer monies. Agencies shouldn't get a blank check, but we can't just stop a program without working through problem solving first.

## Candidate Priorities

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

As a mother of 10, grandmother, tech entrepreneur, and businesswoman running for Illinois's 8th District, I'm heartbroken that the America where my husband and I started our company from our kitchen table—with zero outside capital or government handouts—no longer exists for most families, my adult children, or entrepreneurs today. Today the American Dream is slipping away, reserved only for a connected few while crushing regulations, runaway spending, and partisan warfare punish the rest of us. Instead of neighbors lifting each other up, Washington fuels division so one side can “win” at the expense of our children and communities. Our schools have lost focus on basics and parental rights, borders are not secured, and costs are soaring. I'm running to cut the red tape, lower taxes, fix our affordability crisis, secure our nation, restore parents' voices, and bring back an America where hard work—not political favoritism—is all any family needs to succeed. Learn more at [www.votejenniferdavis.com](http://www.votejenniferdavis.com).

# Sanjyot Dunung

## 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?**

Communities across the country, including synagogues, mosques, gurdwaras, temples, cultural centers, and other nonprofit institutions, continue to face rising threats of hate crimes, extremism, and targeted violence. No family should fear for their safety when they gather to worship, celebrate, or seek community support.

As someone who strongly condemns antisemitism and all forms of religious and cultural hate, I believe federal security grants play a critical role in protecting vulnerable communities. These funds help nonprofits strengthen physical congregations and cultural institutions can operate without fear.

Protecting the safety and religious liberty of every community is not optional—it is a fundamental responsibility of our government. I will fight to maintain and expand this program so every community at risk has access to the resources they need to stay safe.

## Antisemitism

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

Combating antisemitism must be a national priority, and I am fully committed to taking action on multiple fronts. The rise in antisemitic incidents. Targeting synagogues, schools, cultural centers, and Jewish Americans across the country, is dangerous and unacceptable.

My professional expertise as a business and social scientist has centered on building bridges between people from different cultures, perspectives, and countries. To be effective, any series of initiatives must integrate legal, structural, and cultural components to address the changes needed.

I will work to:

- 1.) Strengthen federal hate crime enforcement. This will ensure law enforcement has the tools, training, and resources to track, investigate, and prosecute antisemitic crimes—both online and offline.
- 2.) Expand education and prevention efforts by supporting Holocaust education, anti-hate curriculum, and community programs that build understanding and counter misinformation and conspiracy theories.
- 3.) Address online radicalization and extremism by advocating for stronger tools to prevent the spread of online disinformation, including antisemitic content, and extremist recruitment across digital platforms.
- 4.) Increase support for interfaith and community-building initiatives by bringing together Jewish, Muslim, Hindu, Sikh, Christian, and other communities to strengthen religious solidarity and reducing isolation to build trust.

My birth religion is Jainism, and I am honored to be endorsed by Vote Common Good and Hindu American PAC, both of which champion freedom of religion and helping engaging voters from their communities. I have taken the initiative to speak with local Rabbis and members of the Jewish faith in IL and around the country to listen and learn how I can be a better ally.

Antisemitism threatens the safety of Jewish Americans and the democratic, pluralistic values we cherish. I will be a steadfast ally in ensuring that every community can live safely, freely, and with dignity.

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

Antisemitism must be confronted wherever it appears, whether from the far right, the far left, or anywhere in

between. Hate is not a partisan and combatting it requires that we come together to focus on shared values.

- 1.) Call out antisemitism unequivocally across the political spectrum no matter where it comes from, which party or faith they belong to, or what ideology they claim. We all should condemn antisemitic rhetoric without hesitation.
- 2.) Work with leaders from both parties to reaffirm shared democratic values. Antisemitism erodes the foundation of democracy. I will build bipartisan coalitions committed to combating hate, defending civil rights, and reinforcing the norms that keep our communities safe.
- 3.) Address online and offline radicalization with commonsense policies and legislation to ensure that we have structural digital guardrails.

Again, antisemitism is not a left or right problem, it's a threat to ALL our safety. I will always stand up, speak out, and work across the aisle to confront it.

## 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 any efforts to boycott, divest from, or sanction Israel. That includes boycotting or sanctioning Israeli goods, companies, academic institutions, cultural activities, or exchanges. When we promote trade and economic stability between nations, we can rebuild the Middle East, support a two-state solution where both countries can support themselves, and protect citizens. It is proven that trade promotes peace.

Likewise, I do not support boycotting or sanctioning U.S. or international companies that do business with Israel. As a small business owner, I would not stop business with someone without just cause because such measures are counterproductive, harm economic cooperation, and weaken any ability to create long-term partnerships.

I support the Comprehensive Plan to End the Gaza Conflict a multilateral agreement between Israel and Hamas and supported by a majority of nations in the Middle East, the UN Security Council, and the US.

I believe strongly in peace through trade, diplomacy, and dialogue—not isolation. I support strengthening economic and diplomatic ties and building on normalization efforts like the Abraham Accords and other multilateral initiatives. BDS and similar movements move us farther away from peace, not closer to it.

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

Yes, I support continued U.S. military aid to Israel. Israel faces persistent and complex security threats—from Hamas, Hezbollah, Iranian proxies, and regional instability—and U.S. security assistance remains essential to protecting Israeli civilians and maintaining regional stability is in America's national security interest as well. Programs like the Iron Dome have saved countless lives and demonstrated the importance of our longstanding security partnership.

I also believe that all U.S. foreign assistance, including aid to Israel, should continue to operate within U.S. laws, such as the Arms Export Control Act and the Leahy Laws, positions I have affirmed on the campaign trail. These laws provide transparency and accountability to help sustain broad bipartisan support for the U.S.-Israel relationship.

Israel is a vital ally, and our military cooperation should remain strong, consistent, and rooted in shared democratic values, security interests, and the pursuit of long-term peace and stability in the region.

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

Congress plays a central and indispensable role in shaping the U.S.-Israel relationship along with regional and global geo-political relationships. This US- Israel partnership has endured for decades because it is rooted in shared democratic values, mutual security interests, and broad bipartisan support, all which Congress helps to safeguard.

I believe Congress must:

- 1.) Maintain strong bipartisan long-term backing for Israel's security.
- 2.) Provide oversight consistent with U.S. law.
- 3.) Strengthen diplomacy and long-term stability.
- 4.) Combat antisemitism at home and abroad.
- 5.) Play a constructive role in expanding initiatives that foster regional stability, peace, and prosperity in the Middle East.

In short, Congress must serve as a steady, principled partner—protecting Israel's security, upholding democratic values, and supporting policies that advance a peaceful and stable Middle East.

**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 in which a secure and recognized Jewish State of Israel lives safely alongside an independent, demilitarized Palestinian state. However, that state must be led by a credible governing authority and free of Hamas or any terrorist organization.

A two-state solution remains the only visible long-term path to lasting peace, stability, and dignity for both Israelis and Palestinians. Israel deserves a safe, peaceful neighbor and Palestinians deserve a responsible, peace-driven government that represents their best socio-economic interests and safety—and does not nurture religious terrorism.

I believe the United States should continue to play a leadership role, supporting Israel's security, strengthening regional diplomacy, and fostering economic cooperation that can help create the conditions for sustainable peace. A future built on coexistence, security, and opportunity for both peoples is not only possible, but also necessary.

**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 pleasure of visiting Israel and look forward to doing so soon.

## **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?**

Medicaid is a lifeline for millions of Illinois families, and cuts caused by H.R. 1 would be devastating, especially for children, low-income, families, older adults, and people with disabilities. As someone who has cared for disabled and aging parents, I understand first-hand the pressures on our families. I will fight aggressively to prevent any reduction in care. The steps I would take start with opposing federal Medicaid cuts and blocking grant proposals. Medicaid must remain a guaranteed benefit, not a political bargaining chip. In addition, my policy platform includes policy proposals to strengthen the programs so that everyone can live and age with dignity.

As a lifelong champion of programs to support the well-being of children, I will continue to work to ensure that children and vulnerable populations continue to have access to essential programs and resources to care, education, and overall development without disruption or reduction.

My platform advocates that fair reimbursement, so providers don't leave Medicaid, expand access to home and community-based services, and support funding for children's health and early intervention programs.

Lastly, we must continue to combat administrative barriers and red tape. States should not be forced into

churn-style, paperwork-driven disenrollment, or burdensome eligibility verification that strip people of care they are legally entitled to. We must remember that Medicaid protects our most vulnerable and most essentials caregivers.

**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 fully support and co-sponsor the SSI Savings Penalty Elimination Act. The current SSI asset limits, which were set in 1984, push people with disabilities and older adults deeper into poverty by penalizing even modest savings. I am committed to ensuring that all Americans should be able to live and age with dignity. We penalize our middle class by making them ineligible for essential programs and services unless they prove that they are destitute. No one should lose life-sustaining benefits because they saved essential savings for emergencies, medical needs, or basic stability.

Updating these limits to \$10,000 for individuals and \$20,000 for couples and then indexing it to inflation is long overdue. By increasing these thresholds more Americans will

- 1.) Able to ensure that disabled Americans have financial security.
- 2.) Reduce the constant fear of losing benefits.
- 3.) Reflect today's economic realities for our communities.
- 4.) Encourage responsible saving rather penalizing it.

Protecting dignity, stability, and independence for vulnerable Americans is a core priority for me and one of the reasons I am running. I will strongly advocate for modernizing SSI and ensuring it serves the people it was designed to protect.

**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, as a daughter who managed my mother who had a rare form of muscular dystrophy. Neither my mother nor our family wanted to move her to a nursing home facility. I have long been a champion for giving all disabled and elderly Americans the option to age with dignity in their home and with the resources they need. I strongly support increasing funding for Home and Community Based Services (HCBS). These programs are essential for helping older adults and people with disabilities live with dignity, independence, and safety in their own homes. When our neighbors do not qualify for part-time, in-home, subsidized care, they are unable to age with dignity and are forced into more expensive nursing home options. While nursing homes and assisted living are optimal for some seniors, they are not always the preferred option by all seniors. We can give people more options to age with dignity. Expanding HCBS funding would reduce waitlists for life saving services, support family caregivers who are stretched thin, ensure fair wages for home-care workers, lower long-term healthcare costs for states and families, and keep people connected to their support networks.

As someone who has cared for aging and disabled parents and understands firsthand the emotional and financial strain many families face, I believe HCBS must be a national priority. Strengthening Medicaid's home and community-based infrastructure is not only cost-effective, it is humane, family-centered, and essential to aging with dignity.

I will fight to expand, protect, and fully fund HCBS so people can live and age in the setting of their choice.

**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?**

1.) I oppose the revised 2025 changes in mandatory work requirements in H.R. 1 from July 2025 for SNAP. These revised requirements don't cut costs or reduce hunger, they simply cut people off from the food assistance they need to survive. Nearly 2 million Illinoisans relying on SNAP include children, seniors, people with disabilities, low-wage workers, and caregivers. The new changes force reductions in the program. Those most affected will be older adults nearing retirement age, workers with unstable or part-

time hours, residents of rural and/or disinvested communities, and households facing health or verification barriers.

- 2.) The new rules create unnecessary and burdensome processes that may result in qualified individuals and families from being unable to access the essential resources they need.
- 3.) These rules changes punish people who are already working and most SNAP recipients who can work, already do, often in unstable, low-wage jobs with inconsistent hours.
- 4.) The changes hurt older adults and people with chronic health conditions. Work rules often fail to account for hidden disabilities, caregiving responsibilities, and more commonly, health limitations.
- 5.) The 2025 changes in SNAP rules do not address the root causes of hunger. Longer term, I think we need to also address the root causes more aggressively. Why in the richest nation are more than 10% of Americans relying on SNAP? Raising wages, increasing social security payments, expanding job training, improving affordable and reliable transportation, and providing free and subsidized childcare options are some of the more effective ways to address the root causes of poverty.

As a single mother who raised three boys on my own, I understand that many people rely on these benefits to supplement inadequate incomes and the costs of raising a family. SNAP is one of the most successful, efficient anti-hunger programs in the country. Instead of punishing struggling families and seniors, we should be strengthening SNAP to ensure that no child, senior, or caregiver goes hungry.

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

Reducing gun violence requires a comprehensive, evidence-based approach that protects our communities while respecting responsible gun ownership. As a mom and someone deeply committed to public safety, I believe we must take meaningful action to prevent the unnecessary tragedies that families across America experience far too often.

To reduce gun violence, we must take a multi-step, multi requirement approach. Starting with universal background checks that close loopholes in private sales and online purchases to ensure firearms don't end up in the hands of individuals who pose a danger to themselves or others. Next, we must empower families and law enforcement utilizing Red-flag laws and extreme risk protection orders. This would remove firearms from individuals exhibiting dangerous behavior, with due-process protections.

When a firearm is in a home and is not stored properly—that's how school shootings happen. We must enact safe storage requirements which prevents cycles of violence.

Gun violence is now the leading cause of death for children in America. As a military mom, I firmly believe that every parent has the right to send their child to school without the fear of a school shooting. We all have the right to feel free and safe in our schools, places of worship, hospitals, workplaces, and other public places.

### **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 recognize that there are widely varying perspectives on the shutdown, how it was managed and the eventual end, as a Representative for IL 08, it would be my responsibility to do what's best for my constituents as well as the state and country. I have spoken to many people in our community about the impact on their paychecks, SNAP benefits, and healthcare costs. With millions facing food insecurity as SNAP recipients and federal workers in our district forced to go without wages for over a month, I would have voted to pass the Continuing Appropriations Act of 2026 to end the government shutdown. From the beginning I have said that any effective negotiation requires having multiple demands, not just one (healthcare) from which to negotiate. Democrats made their bad hand worse by not negotiating with more demands. It's essential to also recognize that we have an administration that is willing to crash the 'economic car' along with all Americans in it. Accordingly, it requires a different approach to negotiating – one that does not make food for our children and most vulnerable communities – a political weapon.

Healthcare costs are out of control and burdensome – as a small business owner, I experience that first-hand. Ensuring the continuation of subsidies is essential for 2 years while a more structural changes can be assessed to reduce over healthcare costs.

While many utilized the government shutdown for performative speeches and posts, but used these services to create a larger divide in America and does nothing to actual solve the real problems we face. I strongly believe leading by example as a responsible, commonsense leader who will work to protect working families and our most vulnerable individuals while formulating and delivering practical solutions that can make life better, more affordable, healthier, and safer for all Americans. Having said that our fundamental problem is that Congress has been relying on continuing resolutions year after year, an approach that is not sustainable, nor does it introduce new innovative solutions and efficiencies that can benefit all. Congress must return to a functional appropriations process that plans, invests strategically, and provides stability. As The Congresswoman from IL 08, I would always choose governing responsibly over gridlock and put our people, not politics, first.

## 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 this Presidential Determination. Cutting refugee admissions while reserving most of these slots for White Afrikaners is discriminatory, contrary to our values, and harmful to people fleeing violence, persecution, and humanitarian crises around the world.

The United States has always been strongest when we lead with our values and uphold our international commitments. Refugee resettlement should be based on humanitarian need, not race, ethnicity, or political favoritism.

**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?**

Refugee support agencies play a critical role in helping families rebuild their lives, reunite with loved ones, and integrate into local communities. My platform includes delivering pro-legal immigration reform, including the programs that ensure that refugees and asylum seekers have clear pathways to faster processing of visas, green cards, and eventually citizenship.

To alleviate the burden on refugee support agencies we must restore and stabilize federal funding for the ORR to match the actual number of refugees already here. Similarly, to my answer about the government shutdown, we must create multi-year, predictable funding streams for these agencies and allow for emergency supplemental support.

Refugee resettlement is not only a humanitarian obligation, but also an investment in strong communities, economic growth, and American values. I will fight to ensure agencies have the funding the stability to continue their life-saving work.

## Candidate Priorities

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

- 1.) Opportunity. As someone who has built a business, developed innovative educational products, advocated for new ways for government to better serve workers and small businesses, I understand the connections between business, global affairs, tech, and education and how these factors impact our communities, society, and our country.
- 2.) In congress, I want to make life more affordable and expand the American Dream. We must fight to make smart investment in people, learning, infrastructure, renewable energy, and innovation and champion workers and small businesses as the backbones of our communities. We can implement efficiencies without crashing the economy or creating uncertainty and chaos in our trade policies.
- 3.) Dignity. As someone who juggled raising three boys, managing a small business, and taking care of aging and disabled parents, I understand first-hand the challenges that our families experience. It's essential that we ensure that everyone can live and age with dignity including access to subsidized childcare, disabled care, and elder care. We must improve essential programs like Medicare, Medicaid, and

the ACA.

4.) Security. I will deliver pro-immigration reform to ensure transparent, legal, and faster pathways to visas, green cards, and citizenship.

5.) Shared values. As a bridge-builder, I am already talking to people throughout our community, across the political divide and helping to focus on our shared values.

**Any additional information you would like to share with us?**

No, thank you.

# Kevin Morrison

## 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. I strongly support increasing the Nonprofit Security Grant Program to at least \$360 million, and to providing it with predictable, multi-year funding. Jewish institutions, synagogues, JCCs, schools and other vulnerable nonprofits are facing elevated threats. Security should never depend on whether they can pass the hat one more time. In Cook County, I helped build a relationship between the only synagogue in my district and the Sheriff's office precisely so they could access security support and feel safer gathering for worship and community. As a member of Congress, I will be a consistent advocate for robust, needs-based NSGP funding so that Jewish and other at-risk communities can worship, celebrate and organize without fear.

## Antisemitism

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

Antisemitism is not an abstract concept for me, but a deeply personal one. Two members of my family were murdered in the Holocaust, one for being Jewish and one for being gay. That history has informed my politics and policy, and it is why I will never be silent in the face of antisemitism.

As a Cook County Commissioner, I sponsored the "United Against Hate" initiative, brought law enforcement and the local synagogue together to strengthen security, and publicly defended a law professor who was being doxxed and harassed for speaking honestly about Hamas's October 7th attacks. In Congress, I will support the IHRA working definition of antisemitism and the Antisemitism Awareness

Act, increase resources for tracking and prosecuting hate crimes, and push for robust Nonprofit Security Grant funding. Just as importantly, I will invest in relationships with Jewish, Black, Muslim, Arab, LGBTQ+ and other communities to build practical coalitions against all forms of bigotry. Education, joint programming and shared advocacy on issues from voting rights and free speech to mental health and gun violence can knit communities together and make antisemitism less politically useful to extremists on any side.

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

Antisemitism must be condemned whenever and wherever it appears, whether it comes in the form of the "Great Replacement" conspiracy theories and Holocaust trivialization of the far right, or the demonization and delegitimization of Israel's very existence of the radical left.

I will call out antisemitic rhetoric and conspiracy theories within my own party and across the aisle, and I will urge leadership to treat antisemitism as incompatible with any serious role in public life. We should expect our representatives in Congress, at a bare minimum, to condemn chants and slogans that deny Israel's right to exist as a Jewish, democratic state and to decry any and all attempts to launder antisemitic tropes under the guise of "anti-Zionism."

At the same time, I will keep showing up in diverse spaces including synagogues, mosques, churches, community centers and gathering places of all faiths and creeds. And I will consistently and boldly argue that Jews should never be asked to make the false "choice" between safety and solidarity. Our politics should be built on mutual respect, not on erasing Jewish identity or security concerns. In Congress, I will be a relentless foe to anyone who would seek to weaponize antisemitism, even if it means I have to confront members of my own party.

## 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 oppose the BDS movement and do not support efforts to boycott, divest from or sanction Israel or Israeli institutions. BDS singles out the world's only Jewish state for isolation, often seeks to delegitimize Israel's existence rather than change specific policies and contributes to a hostile climate for Jewish students and communities here at home.

Additionally, I do not support targeting companies simply because they do business with Israel. I support Illinois' approach, through the Illinois Investment Policy Board, to ensure public investments do not support BDS. In Congress, I will back policies that deepen, not diminish, the economic, academic and cultural ties between the United States, Illinois and Israel.

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

Yes, I support robust, long-term security assistance to Israel consistent with the current Memorandum of Understanding, including key defensive systems like Iron Dome and David's Sling, and I support extending that framework beyond 2028. I believe maintaining Israel's qualitative military edge is essential to deterring aggressors such as Iran, Hezbollah and Hamas and to preventing wider regional war. This is a vital national security priority for the United States. That is why I do not support (and will oppose in Congress) any new, politically motivated conditions that would undermine Israel's ability to defend itself against terrorist organizations sworn to its destruction.

At the same time, I am committed to ensuring that all U.S. security assistance complies with existing U.S. law, including the Leahy Law, and I will support ongoing oversight to ensure aid is used consistent with our shared values and national interests. In Congress, I will champion the U.S.-Israel military partnership and will defend it against critics who would seek to damage one of the vital pillars of our international security order.

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

Congress is the anchor of the bipartisan U.S.-Israel relationship. It has the critical role of authorizing and funding security assistance, maintaining Israel's qualitative military edge, shaping sanctions and diplomacy toward Iran, defending against efforts to delegitimize Israel in international forums and combating BDS and antisemitism here at home.

As a member of Congress, I will work across the aisle to ensure that support for Israel remains bipartisan, durable and rooted in our shared democratic values. That means championing security assistance and expanding cooperation in areas like clean energy and innovation, as well as backing the implementation of the Abraham Accords and other international agreements that help isolate Iran and integrate Israel regionally. I will also support efforts toward a credible diplomatic path to a two-state solution.

**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 believe the only path to a durable peace is a negotiated two-state solution that enshrines an Israel that is safe, secure and permanently recognized as the democratic homeland of the Jewish people alongside a demilitarized Palestinian state free of Hamas and other terrorist groups. Palestinians deserve self-determination, safety and economic opportunity. At the same time, Israelis deserve to live without fear of rocket attacks and terrorist violence. Palestinian leaders must reject violence. And they must commit to investing in good governance and prosperity rather than in continuing a destructive conflict. I support the Taylor Force Act and strong U.S. engagement to help build the political and economic conditions necessary for a viable, peaceful Palestinian state and lasting security for Israel.

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

Yes. I visited Israel in 2013 for a close friend's wedding in Old Jaffa. I walked the streets of Jerusalem and experienced both Israel's extraordinary warmth and its security challenges firsthand. I was blessed to receive the simple kindness of a stranger who literally took me by the arm and walked me to my destination when I was lost — an experience I have had nowhere else on earth. That visit deepened my commitment to

Israel's security and my desire to see peace so that more people can safely experience the country's beauty and diversity. I would be honored to return as a member of Congress to listen, learn and strengthen the bond between our nations.

## **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?**

Medicaid is the backbone of health care for children, older adults, people with disabilities and low-income families. Our goal should be to strengthen Medicaid, not hollow it out, so that providers can afford to serve vulnerable patients and families receive comprehensive care close to home. I oppose any and all efforts that shift costs to states, tighten eligibility or push people off coverage, including those in H.R. 1. In Congress, I will oppose Medicaid block grants and per-capita caps that force Illinois to ration care. I will support enhanced federal matching funds for states that maintain or expand eligibility, especially for children with special needs, older adults and people with disabilities. And I will champion strong funding for mental and behavioral health, building on my work helping create Cook County's Department of Behavioral Health to expand access to care.

**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 current SSI asset limits are a poverty trap that punish people with disabilities and older adults for saving even modest amounts for emergencies. Raising the limits is plain common sense and long overdue. In Congress, I will proudly support and will seek to co-sponsor the SSI Savings Penalty Elimination Act and work to modernize other outdated eligibility rules so that disabled individuals and seniors can build a small measure of financial security without losing the benefits they rely on.

**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, absolutely. HCBS reflects good values and good fiscal sense by allowing older adults and people with disabilities to live with dignity in their homes and communities often at lower cost than institutional care. In Congress, I will support significantly increased federal funding for HCBS, incentives for states to reduce waiting lists and strong support for the direct care workforce through better wages, training and benefits.

**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 any and all punitive work requirements that function primarily as a regressive tool to cut people off SNAP rather than help them find good jobs. Millions of Illinoisans rely on SNAP to keep food on the table, including working families, seniors and people with disabilities. In Congress, I will fight tooth and nail for investment in job training, education and childcare. And I will vehemently oppose any effort to take away food from people who are already struggling or caught in low-wage, unstable work. I will oppose efforts like those in H.R. 1 and support policies that treat nutrition assistance as basic rights, not bargaining chips.

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

Gun violence is a public health crisis in Illinois and across the country. We know what works, but Congress has largely failed to act. Reducing gun violence is about both smart regulation and sustained investment in the communities that have borne the brunt of this crisis for far too long, and I will pursue policies in Congress that deliver for the people. I believe in universal background checks and closing loopholes for gun shows and online sales. I support a federal ban on assault weapons and high-capacity magazines, as well as strong "red flag" laws and safe-storage requirements to keep guns away from those who pose a

danger to themselves or others. Robust funding for community-based violence interruption, trauma-informed mental health services and youth employment programs are also essential components of a sane gun regulation policy.

**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 for the Continuing Appropriations Act of 2026 as it was ultimately negotiated. I oppose government shutdowns in general, and I reject using people's paychecks and basic services as a bargaining chip for cheap political gains. But when the majority party is driving an agenda that would do lasting damage to our democracy and to core priorities like Medicaid, SNAP, refugee resettlement and

security for vulnerable nonprofits, the minority party has a responsibility to use every tool available to force a better outcome.

In this case, Republican leadership pushed a package that locked in harmful funding levels and opened the door to far-reaching policy changes, while offering Democrats only vague future "commitments" in return. Rather than holding the line and insisting on real protections for the most vulnerable, our leadership agreed to a deal that ended the shutdown but failed to meaningfully defend the people and programs most at risk.

I would have preferred a different strategy: make clear that Democrats are ready to reopen the government immediately, but only on terms that do not enshrine damaging cuts or extremist policy riders. I would have voted "no" on this bill, not because I welcome shutdowns, but because I believe we cannot keep surrendering our strongest leverage when the stakes are this high for working families, our institutions and our most vulnerable neighbors.

## **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 strongly oppose this drastic and discriminatory cut to refugee admissions. It betrays America's values, undermines our global leadership and echoes the worst moments in our history when refugees were turned away to their deaths. Refugee policy must be grounded in need, vulnerability, and our obligations under international and moral law. It must not indulge in racial favoritism or political symbolism. I support restoring and expanding the refugee ceiling and ensuring that persecuted minorities of all backgrounds, including Jews and other religious minorities, can find safety here.

**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?**

Refugees strengthen our communities. Resettlement agencies, including many in JUF's network, have been asked to do more with less for years. We should treat resettlement infrastructure as a national asset, not an afterthought. In Congress, I will support robust, multi-year funding for the Office of Refugee Resettlement and related programs so that agencies can plan staffing and services with stability. I will also work to reverse harmful rescissions and ensure that funding formulas reflect the ongoing needs of refugees already here, not just new arrivals. And I will advocate for policies that make it easier for refugees to access health care, mental health services, language access and job training.

## **Candidate Priorities**

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

First, defending democracy and fighting extremism. That means protecting voting rights, reducing the influence of big money in politics, and standing up to antisemitism, white nationalism and all forms of hate. I will champion legislation like the Freedom to Vote Act and the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act, and I will continue the work I began with the "United Against Hate" initiative in Cook County.

Second, strengthening health care and mental health. Building on my work creating a Department of Behavioral Health at the county level, I will fight to protect and expand Medicaid, improve parity for mental health and substance use treatment, and support home- and community-based services so that older adults and people with disabilities can live with dignity.

Third, advancing a justice-centered climate and economic agenda. I will support bold climate action, investments in clean energy and resilient infrastructure and policies that prioritize frontline communities while creating good union jobs.

Fourth, securing our national interests on the international stage, including support for Israel and prevention of a nuclear-armed Iran. I will back robust security assistance for our allies and support the use of every diplomatic and strategic tools to prevent our global adversaries — state and non-state actors alike

— from harming American interests and those of our allies.

**Any additional information you would like to share with us?**

I am deeply grateful for the role JUF and its affiliates play in Chicago and across Illinois, while also safeguarding the Jewish community and strengthening the U.S.–Israel alliance. As the grandson of Italian immigrants who built a small family restaurant, an openly LGBTQ+ elected official and a member of a family that lost loved ones in the Shoah, I carry a profound sense of responsibility to stand with the Jewish community against antisemitism, to support a secure and thriving Israel and to build a more just and compassionate country for everyone.

If elected to Congress, I would welcome the opportunity to work closely with JUF and JCRC on security, social services, immigration and refugee policy and the shared priority of ensuring that Israel remains safe, strong and at peace, now and for all time.

# Mark Rice

## 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. I support increasing it even more than \$360M. As a Jewish American I am involved in security for Jewish synagogues, spaces and events. We need more help.

## Antisemitism

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

As a proud Zionist American Jew I will be a strong proponent for combatting antisemitism. This is too important and large of an issue that discuss in a short survey. But obviously there are many different areas. I have been actively involved here. Education, promotion, trips to Israel - I was on the board of Project Interchange... law enforcement efforts. Security... I was on the Wenger JCC board, Camp Chai Apache, and a few others.

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

There is only one side. Anti-Semitism is wrong. Period.

We must punish those who engage in it. And educate everyone to know the truth and warning signs.

## 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?**

Of course not. And we should pass legislation to make those anti-Semitic acts illegal in and of themselves.

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

Support all aid. Zero conditions.

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

We should support our ally. Period. Not impose our politics onto Haaretz.

**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?**

No.

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

30 times or more. Family there...

## 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 support cutting waste, fraud and corruption. We will need to evaluate once that is done.

**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 am not familiar with that act. Will study it first. Sorry.

**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?**

Again the large amount of waste fraud and corruption along with all the illegals will and is being addressed. After that is done we will evaluate.

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

I support the 2A. We need friendlier gun laws for legal gun ownership.

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

Yes. It simply kicks the can and would have avoided the pain and expense of 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?**

Yes

**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?**

Continue the admins policies

## **Candidate Priorities**

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

Affordability. Crime.

Education

Border. Israel

**Any additional information you would like to share with us?**

No.

# Dan Tully

## 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 levels for the Nonprofit Security Grant Program. Without the program, many nonprofit organizations—including religious institutions—that are at high risk of terrorist or other violent attacks would not be able to procure essential physical security enhancements.

## Antisemitism

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

The U.S. has seen a dramatic increase in antisemitic incidents in the past decade. The Anti-Defamation League reports that these incidents have increased by nearly 900% with a very troubling concentration on college campuses. There is no place for bigotry in this country, and one of the moral imperatives of those of us seeking to enter public life is to confront it head on. Congress can combat the rise of antisemitism by pursuing a national "whole-of-society" strategy through legislation, funding for security and education, promoting awareness, and holding institutions and online platforms accountable. Additionally, members of Congress should set the example by publicly and unequivocally condemning antisemitism whenever it occurs, hosting town halls to understand community concerns, and using their platforms to share resources.

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

While antisemitism is growing at both ends of the political spectrum, creating an environment that is safe and nurturing for everyone remains essential to individual and community well-being. I would start by finding common ground that has no partisan claim of exclusivity. For example, I would emphasize support for popular policy commitments, such as human rights, voting access, and anti-hate crime legislation.

Although most Americans support these policy commitments, certain branding terms cause some Americans on the right to view the policies with distrust. Accordingly, elected leaders must lead the work of better understanding the underlying concerns and finding a way to build wider coalitions toward more widespread support.

## 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?**

While I support freedom of speech within limits, I oppose the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement's efforts to delegitimize the State of Israel and isolate the Jewish people on the world stage. In Congress, I will follow the lead of bipartisan leadership in the State of Illinois that pushed back against BDS and ensures taxpayer dollars are never used to support discriminatory or antisemitic campaigns.

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

In Congress, I will support current U.S. policy on Israel military aid and vote to make sure Israel maintains its qualitative military edge. This includes the \$3.8 billion annual commitment laid out in the U.S.-Israel Memorandum of Understanding. These programs and weapons systems protect Israel civilian lives, support the U.S. economy, and enhance our mutual national security. At the same time, I would support U.S. assistance to help Israel fully comply with its obligations under international humanitarian law.

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

I believe that Congress should play a role in promoting peace in the region through economic programs, support for diplomatic agreements, and cultivation of academic, business, investment, and cultural connections. This, coupled with Israeli efforts such as the Abraham Accords, can lead to a lasting stability and further normalization agreements that build bridges between Israel and its regional neighbors.

**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 remain convinced that the most realistic path forward is a two-state solution in which Israelis and Palestinians are safe, secure, and able to govern themselves, each in a sovereign and viable state. This future must be conditioned upon Hamas being prohibited from having any role, reforms to the Palestinian Authority, and support from the United States and international community to incentivize those reforms should the new Palestinian leadership choose peace.

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

I've never been to Israel, but I would be interested in visiting. I'll also note that my approach to Israel is rooted in my experience as a Law Fellow in a program called Fellowships at Auschwitz for the Study of Professional Ethics (FASPE). During my last year of law school, FASPE taught me about the contributory and facilitatory roles that lawyers and the legal profession played during the rise of the Third Reich and the subsequent enactment of the Nazi regime's agenda. The culmination of the program was spending two weeks split between Berlin, Germany and Oświęcim, Poland, including visits to both Auschwitz I and Auschwitz II-Birkenau. Seeing the gas chambers, incinerators, and rooms full of shoes, suitcases, and human hair imprinted in my memory an indelible glimpse into the trauma that the Jewish people suffered during the Holocaust.

## **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?**

Many of the changes in H.R. 1 were deliberately designed to not take effect until after the 2026 midterm elections. Thus, the next Congress, of which I hope to be a member, will be in place when the American people begin to feel the full pain of this legislation. It will be up to elected leaders to create political and public will to sustain Medicaid. Members of Congress should launch public awareness campaigns on the value of Medicaid for families, the economy, and community health, empower stakeholders to speak with legislators who oppose restoring Medicaid, and use storytelling and data to demonstrate the consequences of cuts. Only via widespread public pressure on legislators can the American people reverse these cuts.

**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 would support and co-sponsor this act to raise the SSI asset limits. The current asset limits trap people in poverty by penalizing efforts to save money. Rather than having a simple cap, I would be open to exploring ways of adding gradation to SSI eligibility. In other words, those who have less should get more support, and as asset values increase, the SSI amounts provided decrease (rather than simply disappear).

**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 support increasing funding for Home and Community-Based Services for people with disabilities and older adults. I also fully support increasing funding for Programs of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) to provide comprehensive medical and social services to community-dwelling elderly individuals.

**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 am opposed to the mandatory work requirements. Most SNAP recipients are unable to work, which is why they need SNAP benefits. Placing a requirement on eligibility does not infuse recipients with enhanced capacity. Rather, the work requirement is a cruel way of removing our society's most vulnerable from a program they desperately need.

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

Having carried an assault rifle overseas as a member of the U.S. Army, I believe weapons of war have no place on American streets. We have to regulate dangerous weapons to protect our children in their schools, our neighbors in their communities, and our most vulnerable from organized crime. I enthusiastically support an integrated approach to gun violence as well as stricter gun control policies, including background checks and red flag laws. Furthermore, we need to take an interagency approach to combating the rising prevalence of 3D-printed and ghost guns.

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

While I am a firm supporter of keeping the government running in general, I would have voted against the Continuing Appropriations Act of 2026. For the first time in the Trump presidency, Democrats in Congress had some leverage that they were deploying to ensure that the Affordable Care Act subsidies would be extended. Unfortunately, a small group of Democrat Senators decided to trade that leverage for a promise by one chamber's leader to hold a future vote on whether to extend the subsidies. Now in 2026, many Americans will face tripled insurance premiums, and Democrats now have no tools to address the financial devastation.

## **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 Presidential Determination. The identity of America is rooted in receiving people from around the world. Descended from immigrants, I know that immigration is the lifeblood of this country, and I will always stand up for immigrants' rights under the U.S. Constitution.

### **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 desperately need comprehensive reform to our immigration systems. While we do need to know who is coming in and out of this country, security must be improved in a humane way that puts safety, ethics, and compassion first. This includes creating a path to citizenship for those already here that doesn't take years to achieve. We need similar pathways to allow DACA recipients and Dreamers access to citizenship. Similarly, we should have a pathway to citizenship for refugees. Such a policy would alleviate the burdens on refugee support agencies, as citizenship status would allow refugees to integrate into American society and find permanent employment.

## **Candidate Priorities**

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

1. Uphold Our Constitution & Restore the Rule of Law: Our Democracy is under attack by Donald Trump and his cronies in Washington. I will work to end the politicization of the military, the abuses of power being carried out by the president, his cabinet officials, and ICE. I will use my platform and position to fiercely promote fair and free elections across the country to ensure that the rule of law is upheld and protect fair representation in Congress.

2. Make the American Dream More Accessible: The Trump administration has rolled back progress on nearly every front – from our economy to trade agreements – leaving working Americans to shoulder the

burden. Harmful tariffs have strained our international relationships and driven up the cost of living. Meanwhile, federal benefits and vital programs were suspended during government shutdowns, leaving countless families in limbo. While the wealthiest continue to thrive, everyday Americans are being priced out of the basic promise of the American Dream. I will fight to expand trade education and union membership, put money back into our schools, and support an equitable tax rate for the wealthiest in our country to pay their fair share.

3. **Promote Our Health & Safety:** Healthcare is a human right. We need to have a robust universal healthcare system so no one has to worry about whether they can see a doctor or not. In Congress I will vote to enshrine women's reproductive rights and expanded community health systems so we can address long-standing systemic inequities.

**Any additional information you would like to share with us?**

If I were to receive the JUF endorsement, I would seek to establish a partnership with open lines of communication and a free flow of policy ideas and feedback. I would hope the JUF would collaborate with me as I navigate complex legislative and policy frameworks, as well as in the design of creative solutions to the challenges that we face.