

Strong Supporters

THE 111TH CONGRESS HAS PLEDGED
TO INCREASE AID TO ISRAEL

Despite the many changes brought about in the 2008 elections, the incoming 111th Congress is expected to be the most pro-Israel Congress ever. Many of Israel's strongest supporters were reelected.

AIPAC lay leaders and staff have met with and established relationships with every new member of the House and Senate, and have received position papers on U.S. Middle East policy from all of the freshmen-to-be. In those papers, the new members of Congress express their support for a strong U.S.-Israel relationship. Many also emphasize the danger of Iran's nuclear program and other issues important to U.S. policy in the region.

The elections increased the Democratic party's control of Congress. Democrats have gained seven Senate seats as of press time, with the race in Minnesota yet to be determined. Where the tally stands now, the Senate will be comprised of 56 Democrats, 41 Republicans and two Independents. The Independents, Joe Lieberman and Bernie Sanders, will caucus with the Democrats, putting the party just shy of a 60-seat filibuster-proof majority.

In the House, the Democrats picked up at least 21 seats as of press time, bringing that chamber's current makeup to 257 Democrats and 175 Republicans. (Three races are still to be decided.)

The Democratic leadership will remain the same: Harry Reid (D-NV) as Senate majority leader, Dick Durbin (D-IL) as Senate majority whip, Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) as House speaker and Steny Hoyer (D-MD) as House majority leader.

For the Republicans, Mitch McConnell (R-KY) will remain their leader in the Senate, and John Boehner (R-OH) will continue to serve as his party's leader in the House. Eric Cantor (R-VA), the only Jewish Republican in the House, was elected minority whip. •NER•

INSIDE

2008 Elections Special Feature:
Profiles of New Senate and House
Members

NEAR EAST

Report

NOVEMBER 1–DECEMBER 31, 2008
AIPAC'S BIWEEKLY ON AMERICAN
MIDDLE EAST POLICY

EDITOR'S COMMENTS

Startling Progress

Iran has reached a critical milestone in its quest for a nuclear weapons capability.

That's how some experts are interpreting the latest IAEA report, which says that Iran has increased its stockpile of low-enriched uranium by nearly one-third in three months. The IAEA report also says that Iran is now operating 5,000 centrifuges—a fivefold increase from the 1,000 that it was operating just last year. With these increased enrichment capabilities, Iran has drastically reduced the time needed to produce enough highly enriched uranium for a nuclear weapon.

"They clearly have enough material for a bomb," Richard L. Garwin, a top nuclear physicist, told *The New York Times*. "They know how to do the enrichment. Whether they know how to design a bomb, well, that's another matter."

It is indeed another matter, but uranium enrichment is the most difficult step toward developing a nuclear weapon. We should all be worried to discover that Iran has made so much progress on that front. As for the two other components required to build an ...see *Editor's Comments cont'd on pg. 78*

Historic Victory

PRESIDENT-ELECT BARACK OBAMA
HAS STRONG PRO-ISRAEL TIES

In a historic victory, Senator Barack Obama (D-IL) was elected the 44th president of the United States, defeating Sen. John McCain (R-AZ). He will be our first African-American commander-in-chief when he takes the oath of office on January 20.

President-elect Obama has longstanding ties to the U.S. pro-Israel community, dating back to his earliest years in elected office in Illinois. After declaring his candidacy for president, Obama delivered his first major foreign policy address before an AIPAC audience in Chicago. And the morning after Obama became the presumptive Democratic nominee, he gave his



Photo by AIPAC

At AIPAC Policy Conference in June, Barack Obama said he supported a strong U.S.-Israel alliance.

first public remarks at the AIPAC Policy Conference.

"I know that when I visit AIPAC I'm among friends," Obama said before the 7,000 Policy Conference delegates in June, "good friends, friends who share my strong commitment to make sure that the bond between the United States and Israel is unbreakable today, unbreakable tomorrow, unbreakable forever."

Obama pledged that, if elected president, he would "never compromise when it comes to Israel's security" and that he would do "everything in [his] power to stop Iran" from getting a nuclear weapon. He also promised to implement a critical Memorandum of Understanding that provides \$30 billion in security assistance to Israel over the next 10 years. •NER•

Senate Freshmen Facebook

WHEN THE 111TH CONGRESS CONVENES IN JANUARY, PRO-ISRAEL ACTIVISTS WILL BE WORKING WITH A NUMBER OF NEWLY ELECTED SENATORS. BELOW, *NEAR EAST REPORT* INTRODUCES THE NEW FACES IN CONGRESS' UPPER CHAMBER



Alaska— Mark Begich

Anchorage Mayor Mark Begich (D) narrowly defeated incumbent Sen. Ted Stevens (R), who has served in the Senate since 1968 and is the chamber's senior Republican.

In his position paper on the U.S.-Israel relationship, Begich emphasized that the two countries have shared values and common interests. "As the only democracy in the region, Israel has a special significance to the United States that has spanned generations," he wrote. "Unfortunately, the United States and Israel also share a common threat—global terrorism and radicalism that wants to tear down democracies around the world."



Colorado (open)— Mark Udall

In the race to succeed retiring Sen. Wayne Allard (R), Rep. Mark Udall (D) defeated former Rep. Bob Schaffer (R), earning the right to represent the state of Colorado in the U.S. Senate.

During his tenure in the House of Representatives, Udall has been a vocal supporter of a strong U.S.-Israel bond. "For 60 years, the United States and Israel have shared strong bonds of friendship, common values, and strategic interests," he said on the House floor, in honor of Israel's 60th anniversary. "Our support for the people of Israel has been a fundamental part of American foreign policy and remains so today."



Idaho (open)— Jim Risch

In the race to succeed retiring Sen. Larry Craig (R), Lt. Gov. Jim Risch (R) defeated Larry LaRocco (D) by securing 58 percent of the vote.

Risch has met with AIPAC and wrote a position paper advocating Israel's right to

self-defense. "Israel has every right to defend its citizens and its territory," he wrote. "The ability to deal with Hizballah, Hamas, Al Qaeda, Al Aqsa Martyrs, Islamic Jihad, and others, must be left to Israel and its elected leaders."



North Carolina— Kay Hagan

State Sen. Kay Hagan (D) defeated incumbent Sen. Elizabeth Dole (R) by winning 53 percent of the vote in the Tar Heel State.

Hagan, who traveled to Israel on an interfaith mission, wrote in a position paper that she "came away with a much better understanding of the security issues that Israeli citizens live with day in and day out, in addition to an admiration for the democratic ideals that are embraced throughout the country." She added, "A nuclear Iran would threaten the entire region, and they should be stopped from continuing their nuclear program."



Nebraska (open)— Mike Johanns

In the race to replace retiring Sen. Chuck Hagel (R), former Gov. Mike Johanns (R) defeated Scott Kleeb (D), winning

58 percent of the vote in the Cornhusker State.

Johanns met with AIPAC and authored a position paper in which he discussed the importance of advocating for strong foreign assistance to Israel. "It is essential that we ensure that Israel continues to receive vital military aid and I support the passage of the broader Foreign Aid Bill," he wrote.



New Hampshire— Jeanne Shaheen

Former Gov. Jeanne Shaheen (D) defeated incumbent Sen. John Sununu (R), winning 52 percent of the vote in the Granite State. Shaheen is the only

woman to be elected both governor and U.S. senator.

Shaheen met with AIPAC and authored a position paper offering her support for the new 10-year Memorandum of Understanding between the U.S. and Israel. Shaheen also said the nuclear threat posed by Iran "must be our greatest security concern."



New Mexico (open)— Tom Udall

In the race to succeed retiring Sen. Pete Domenici (R), Rep. Tom Udall (D) won 61 percent of the vote, soundly defeating his challenger, Rep. Steven Pearce (R). Tom's cousin Mark will also be a Senate freshman, representing Colorado.

A staunch supporter of Israel during his tenure in the House, Udall consistently spoke out in support of the Jewish state's right to self-defense. "Like those throughout New Mexico, I have consistently supported Israel's efforts to defend itself against terrorists and others who seek to harm her, and to seek peace with her neighbors," Udall said on the House floor, in celebration of Israel's 60th anniversary."



Oregon— Jeff Merkley

Speaker of the Oregon House Jeff Merkley (D) narrowly defeated incumbent Sen. Gordon Smith (R) by a 49-to-46 percent margin.

Merkley has traveled to Israel on two occasions. In a position paper, he discussed how meeting with Israeli government officials reinforced his "commitment to protecting Israel's right to live within safe and secure borders." Merkley discussed the importance of imposing sanctions on Iran and ensuring continued support for aid to Israel. "The United States must continue to ensure Israel's qualitative military edge,

a pledge I would ensure as a U.S. Senator,” he wrote.



Virginia (open)— Mark Warner

In the race to succeed retiring Sen. John Warner (R), former Virginia Governor Mark Warner (D)—no relation—defeated another former governor, Jim Gilmore (R), by a 65-to-34 percent margin.

Warner met with AIPAC and authored a position paper that called for Iran to halt its pursuit of nuclear weapons. He also said he “strongly supports foreign aid that assures that Israel retains its qualitative military edge (QME), a central part of our military strategy in the Middle East.” •NER•

111th Congress Jewish Members

Senate

Barbara Boxer (D-CA)
Ben Cardin (D-MD)
Norm Coleman (R-MN) or
Al Franken (D-MN)*
Russell Feingold (D-WI)
Dianne Feinstein (D-CA)
Herb Kohl (D-WI)
Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ)
Carl Levin (D-MI)
Joseph Lieberman (I-CT)
Bernie Sanders (I-VT)
Charles Schumer (D-NY)
Arlen Specter (R-PA)
Ron Wyden (D-OR)

*Pending election results

A New House

THESE NEW MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES WILL BE VOTING ON ISSUES AFFECTING THE U.S.-ISRAEL ALLIANCE

AL-02 (Open) Bobby Bright: In the race to succeed retiring Rep. Terry Everett (R), Montgomery Mayor Bobby Bright (D) defeated Jay Love (R) in this southeastern Alabama district.

In a position paper, Bright empathized with Israel’s struggle for peace and security. “We can learn from Israel in their innovations in homeland security and defense,” he wrote. “In Congress, I will urge our local and national officials to learn from Israeli first responders, law enforcement, intelligence officials and military in order to better protect America and Israel.”

AL-05 (Open) Parker Griffith: In the race to succeed retiring Rep. Robert E. “Bud” Cramer (D), oncologist and State Sen. Parker Griffith (D) defeated Wayne Parker (R) in this northern Alabama district.

“The relationship between Israel and the United States is essential for national security because our nations share the common goals of fostering global stability, ensuring human rights, and guaranteeing basic freedom for our citizens,” Griffith wrote in a position paper.

AZ-01 (Open) Ann Kirkpatrick: In the race to succeed retiring Rep. Rick Renzi (R), State Rep. Ann Kirkpatrick (D) defeated Sydney Hay (R) in this rural Arizona district.

“U.S. aid illustrates symbolically and substantively to the world that Israel is and will continue to be recognized as a legitimate state that promotes democracy, freedom, and the common values of the United States,” wrote Kirkpatrick in a position paper on the U.S.-Israel relationship. She added that she is “a strong advocate of cooperation on military operations, intelligence gathering and sharing, homeland security and joint projects, such as the Arrow anti-tactical ballistic missile defense system.”

CA-52 (Open) Duncan D. Hunter: In the race to succeed retiring Rep. Duncan L. Hunter (R), his son, Duncan D. Hunter (R), defeated Mike Lumpkin (D) for the right to represent this San Diego County district. Duncan D. Hunter is a former U.S. Marine who served in Iraq and Afghanistan.

In a position paper on the U.S.-Israel alliance, Hunter said, “Israel is an anathema to her critics in the Middle East because her existence proves that democracy can flourish in a region that is dominated by dictatorships and oppressive monarchies. Make no mistake about it. The preservation of Israel is essential to United States foreign policy.”

CO-02 (Open) Jared Polis: In the race to succeed Rep. Mark Udall (D), who ran for the Senate and won, venture capitalist Jared Polis (D) defeated Scott Starin (R) in this Boulder-based district.

Polis first visited Israel when he was 12 years old and has been back three times since then. He attended his first AIPAC Policy Conference as a student and has remained active ever since. In a position paper, Polis praised the strength of the U.S.-Israel alliance and highlighted the danger of Iran’s nuclear program, calling for stronger sanctions against Tehran.

CO-04 Betsy Markey: Businesswoman Betsy Markey (D) defeated incumbent Rep. Marilyn Musgrave (R) in this eastern Colorado district.

Markey drafted a position paper on the U.S.-Israel relationship stating that “the people of Israel desire freedom and peace,” and pledging to “be a strong voice in Congress on behalf of the United States-Israel relationship.” Markey added, “Only an end to violence and hate by the Palestinians and Arab world and direct negotiations between Israel and her neighbors can lead to a lasting peace.”

CO-06 (Open) Mike Coffman: In the race to succeed Rep. Tom Tancredo (R), who did not seek reelection, Colorado Secretary of State Mike Coffman (R) defeated Hank Eng (D) in this suburban Denver district.

In his position paper, Coffman described his shock at the horror of Palestinian terror attacks during the Munich Olympics in 1972, and how it shaped his views about the need to secure Israel. “I will support policies that pressure the U.N. Security Council to expand the mandate of the U.N. peacekeepers in

Lebanon,” he wrote, “and hold Iran and Syria accountable for violating Resolution 1701, if it is serious in seeking to curb illegal weapons trafficking by Hizballah into Lebanon.”

CT-04 Jim Himes: In this southwestern Connecticut district, non-profit executive Jim Himes (D) edged out incumbent Rep. Christopher Shays (R) by winning 51 percent of the vote.

“My first visit to Israel was in 1982,” Himes recalled in a position paper. “The physical presence of so much that I knew only from scripture, the confluence of religion and history, and above all, the stunning and improbable achievements of Israel were overwhelming.... As a member of Congress, I will fight for continued military-industrial partnerships and tourism to sustain the nation’s prosperity.”

FL-08 Alan Grayson: Attorney Alan Grayson (D) defeated incumbent Rep. Ric Keller (R) in this central Florida district.

Grayson, a former president of IDT Corporation, wrote a position paper describing his years of work building and investing in Israel’s high-tech sector. He also observed, “As a democracy that respects human rights, Israel thus represents a crucial strategic partner.”

FL-15 (Open) Bill Posey: In the race to fill the seat left open by Rep. Dave Weldon (R), who did not seek reelection, State Sen. Bill Posey (R) defeated Stephen Blythe (D) for the right to represent this central Florida district.

In Posey’s position paper on the U.S.-Israel relationship, he wrote, “It is vital that American support continues as the people of Israel make for themselves the necessary decisions for the security and welfare of their nation.”

FL-16 Tom Rooney: Tom Rooney (R) defeated incumbent Rep. Tim Mahoney (D), winning 60 percent of the vote in this West Palm Beach-based district. Rooney formerly served in the Judge Advocate General’s Corps of the U.S. Army.

“In a region where many nations and leaders outrageously question Israel’s right to exist, the United States must be supportive of its most crucial ally against such

threats,” wrote Rooney in his position paper on the U.S.-Israel relationship.

FL-24 Suzanne Kosmas: In this central Florida district, State Rep. Suzanne Kosmas (D) defeated incumbent Rep. Tom Feeney (R).

In her position paper, Kosmas discussed the threat of Iranian nuclear proliferation: “We must take every diplomatic, political, economic, and security measure possible to prevent Iran’s Ahmadinejad from carrying out his promise to wipe Israel off the map. This threat poses significant security issues for Israel, the United States, and for the entire region.”

IL-11 (Open) Debbie Halvorson: In the race to succeed retiring Rep. Jerry Weller (R), State Sen. Majority Leader Debbie Halvorson (D) defeated Marty Ozinga (R) in this northern Illinois district.

Halvorson authored a position paper on the U.S.-Israel relationship, stating, “We must work to ensure that the Palestinian Authority and other Arab nations recognize Israel’s right to exist as a sovereign nation and abandon the use of violence against Israel.”

IL-18 (Open) Aaron Schock: In the race to claim the seat vacated by Rep. Ray LaHood (R), State Rep. Aaron Schock (R) defeated Colleen Callahan (D) in this Peoria-based central Illinois district.

“I strongly support continuing both economic and military foreign aid to Israel,” wrote Schock in a position paper. “Our enduring commitment to providing this essential financial aid is the cornerstone of American policy in the Middle East.” On Iran, Schock added that “there is no better way to pressure Iran and affect Iranian behavior than with increased economic sanctions.”

KS-02 Lynn Jenkins: State Treasurer Lynn Jenkins (R) defeated incumbent Rep. Nancy Boyda (D) in this eastern Kansas district.

Jenkins traveled to Israel in 2007 and highlighted her visit in her position paper. She wrote, “Israel must be allowed to take whatever actions are necessary to protect her population, just as any nation under bombardment would do.”

KY-02 (Open) Brett Guthrie: In the race to succeed retiring Rep. Ron Lewis (R), State Sen. Brett Guthrie (R) defeated David Boswell (D) in this central Kentucky district.

Guthrie’s position paper states that he supports “increased cooperation on a number of fronts—business, energy, military innovation, free trade, etc.” He further wrote, “As a member of Congress, I will have an open door to discuss new and innovative ideas for promoting the U.S.-Israel relationship. I will always be accessible on this issue, and encourage members of AIPAC to keep in regular contact with me as matters of importance emerge in Congress.”

LA-06 Bill Cassidy: Physician and State Sen. Bill Cassidy (R) defeated incumbent Rep. Don Cazayoux (D) in this Baton Rouge-based district.

“Israel must have a qualitative military edge in all arms developed with or bought from the U.S.,” wrote Cassidy in his position paper. “Iran must be prevented from developing nuclear weapons,” he added. “This includes halting the sale of refined petroleum products to the regime.”

MD-01 (Open) Frank Kratovil: In the race to succeed Rep. Wayne Gilchrest (R), who was defeated in the Republican primary, Queen Anne’s County State’s Attorney Frank Kratovil (D) narrowly defeated Andy Harris (R) in this Eastern Shore district.

In his position paper on the U.S.-Israel relationship, Kratovil highlighted the importance of U.S. security assistance to Israel. “As a United States congressman, I will support continued foreign aid to Israel to strengthen its strategic and technological capabilities to defend itself.”

ME-01 (Open) Chellie Pingree: In the race to succeed Rep. Tom Allen (D), who unsuccessfully ran for the Senate, former State Senate Majority Leader Chellie Pingree (D) defeated Charlie Summers (R) in this Portland-based district. Pingree is a past president of the nonpartisan advocacy group Common Cause.

Pingree traveled to Israel during the second Lebanon war to show solidarity with the Jewish state. “I came away from my trip convinced that Israel stands as a

Sen. John Adler (D) defeated Chris Myers (R) to capture this south central New Jersey district.

Adler's position paper on the U.S.-Israel relationship states that he supports American security assistance to Israel because it "helps to ensure that Israel will be able to maintain its qualitative military edge over its adversaries in the region."

NJ-07 (Open) Leonard Lance: In the race to succeed Rep. Mike Ferguson (R), who

did not seek reelection, State Sen. Leonard Lance (R) defeated Linda Stender (D) in this north central New Jersey district.

Lance met with AIPAC and penned a position paper citing his strong support for Israel's right to self-defense: "As long as the forces of terror and destruction continue to rain rockets down on the innocent civilians of Sderot and surrounding areas, or engage in homicide bombings designed to kill and maim innocent individuals, we must provide unconditional support to Israel's efforts to thwart such cowardly acts of violence."

NM-01 (Open) Martin Heinrich: In the race to fill the seat left open by Rep. Heather Wilson (R), who unsuccessfully ran for the Senate, Albuquerque City Council member Martin Heinrich (D) defeated Darren White (R) in this Albuquerque-based district.

Heinrich wrote in a position paper that he would vote in favor of security assistance to Israel, saying that it is essential that "we send a strong message that we will not tolerate any use of terrorism in the Middle East."

NM-02 (Open) Harry Teague: In the race to claim the seat left open by Rep. Steve Pearce (R), who unsuccessfully ran for the Senate, business owner Harry Teague (D) defeated Ed Tinsley (R) in this southern New Mexico district.

Teague met with AIPAC and authored a position paper on the U.S.-Israel relationship. "Israel continues to be one of our staunchest allies in the fight against terrorism, experiencing this since their existence and on a daily basis," he wrote. "As Congressman, I will pledge to ensure that Israel be given the support and resources needed to protect its citizens and to ensure that it maintains safe and defensible borders."

NM-03 (Open) Ben Ray Luján: In the race to claim the seat vacated by Rep. Tom Udall (D), who successfully ran for the Senate, Public Regulation Commissioner Ben Ray Luján (D) defeated Daniel East (R) in this Santa Fe-based district.

Luján has met with AIPAC and expressed his support for the U.S.-Israel relationship in a position paper. "The U.S. and Israeli people are bound together by

shared democratic values, a belief in freedom and equality, and the desire to live in a peaceful society where they can raise their families," he wrote. "The U.S. has stood alongside Israel since its founding sixty years ago as a friend and ally, and we will continue to do so in the future."

NV-03 Dina Titus: State Sen. Dina Titus (D) defeated incumbent Rep. Jon Porter (R) in this southern Nevada district.

Titus reached out to AIPAC and authored a pro-Israel position paper. "For decades, the U.S. has been a staunch supporter of Israel, a mainstay of democracy in the Middle East and our strongest ally," she wrote. "Now, more than ever, Israel needs our help because of a host of mounting threats."

NY-13 (Open) Michael McMahon: In the race to succeed Rep. Vito Fossella (R), who did not seek reelection, New York City Council member Michael McMahon (D) defeated Robert Straniere (R) in this Staten Island district.

"The bonds of our two great nations have forever been strengthened through our shared experience in the fight against those that want to destroy democracy and freedom," McMahon wrote in a position paper. "As two beacons of democratic hope and achievement we are kindred spirits in the ideals of freedom and justice."

NY-21 (Open) Paul Tonko: In the race to succeed retiring Rep. Michael McNulty (D), former State Rep. Paul Tonko (D) defeated James Buhrmaster (R) in this Albany-based district.

Tonko met with AIPAC and wrote a position paper on the U.S.-Israel relationship. "The United States stands behind Israel because we all admire Israel's vigorous defense of freedom and democracy, and it is because of this record of achievement in defense of democracy and freedom that I support Israel as a member of the United States Congress," he wrote.

NY-25 (Open) Dan Maffei: In the race to succeed retiring Rep. James Walsh (R), former journalist and legislative aid Dan Maffei (D) defeated Dale Sweetland (R) in this Syracuse-based district.

Maffei connected with AIPAC and

111th Congress Jewish Members

House of Representatives

Gary Ackerman (D-NY)
John Adler (D-NJ)
Shelley Berkley (D-NV)
Howard Berman (D-CA)
Eric Cantor (R-VA)
Steve Cohen (D-TN)
Susan Davis (D-CA)
Rahm Emanuel (D-IL)*
Eliot Engel (D-NY)
Bob Filner (D-CA)
Barney Frank (D-MA)
Gabrielle Giffords (D-AZ)
Alan Grayson (D-FL)
Jane Harman (D-CA)
Paul Hodes (D-NH)
Steve Israel (D-NY)
Steve Kagen (D-WI)
Ron Klein (D-FL)
Sander Levin (D-MI)
Nita Lowey (D-NY)
Jerrold Nadler (D-NY)
Jared Polis (D-CO)
Steve Rothman (D-NJ)
Jan Schakowsky (D-IL)
Adam Schiff (D-CA)
Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-FL)
Allyson Schwartz (D-PA)
Brad Sherman (D-CA)
Henry Waxman (D-CA)
Anthony Weiner (D-NY)
Robert Wexler (D-FL)
John Yarmuth (D-KY)

*Resigning to serve as White House chief of staff

said in a position paper, “[I] would do whatever I could to protect the strong relationship between the United States and Israel.” He added, “As recent events have shown, we need to have a strong ally in the Middle East and we have no better friend than Israel.”

NY-26 (Open) Christopher Lee: In the race to succeed retiring Rep. Thomas Reynolds (R), business executive Christopher Lee (R) defeated Alice Kryzan (D) in this suburban Buffalo and Rochester-based district.

In a position paper on the U.S.-Israel relationship, Lee noted that he “believes we must continue America’s long tradition of staunch support for a strong, safe and secure Israel and an abiding relationship between the United States and our most reliable ally in the Middle East.”

NY-29 Eric Massa: Former Navy officer Eric Massa (D) defeated incumbent Rep. John R. “Randy” Kuhl, Jr. (R) in this upstate New York district.

Massa met with AIPAC and authored a position paper summarizing his views on the U.S.-Israel relationship. “The bond between the United States and Israel spans the history of the modern Jewish state and cuts to the very root of American support for democracy,” he wrote. “Israel stands alone as a true democracy in the Middle East and the only steadfast ally of the United States in the region.”

OH-01 Steve Driehaus: State Rep. Steve Driehaus (D) defeated incumbent Rep. Steve Chabot (R) in this metropolitan Cincinnati district.

“There is perhaps no stronger bilateral relationship in the arena of global politics than that of the United States and Israel,” Driehaus wrote in a position paper on the U.S.-Israel alliance. “The shared cultural values and historic ties as well as the deep-rooted respect for individual freedoms and liberty have cemented relations that cross oceans and span generations.”

OH-07 (Open) Steve Austria: In the race to succeed retiring Rep. David Hobson (R), Ohio Senate Majority Whip Steve Austria (R) defeated Sharen Neuhardt (D) in this central Ohio district.

Austria drafted a position paper outlining his thoughts on the U.S.-Israel alliance. “My views on the State of Israel have never wavered,” he wrote. “In the post 9/11 world in which we live, we must continue our efforts to achieve peace in the Middle East by maintaining the longstanding friendship between the United States and Israel.”

OH-11 (Open) Marcia Fudge: In the race to succeed Rep. Stephanie Tubbs Jones (D), who died of a brain aneurysm in August, Warrensville Heights Mayor Marcia Fudge (D) defeated Thomas Pekarek (R), winning the right to represent this Cleveland district.

Fudge recently traveled to Israel on a trip sponsored by the American Israel Education Foundation, the charitable organization affiliated with AIPAC. In a statement after the trip, Fudge said, “I gained firsthand knowledge of the daily issues confronting the country and its people....Further, as Israel is the only democracy in the region, our nation must know that we are linked with Israel and must assist Israel in maintaining its standing as an example of what we call freedom.”

OH-16 (Open) John Bocchieri: In the race to succeed retiring Rep. Ralph Regula (R), State Sen. John Bocchieri (D) defeated Kirk Schuring (R) in this northeastern Ohio district.

In a position paper, Bocchieri stressed his support for American security assistance to Israel. “Financial support of Israel is a tangible indication that the United States supports the Jewish state and will protect its investment in Israel’s military viability,” he wrote. “It also is a visible indicator to Israel’s enemies that the United States is a reliable ally.”

OR-05 (Open) Kurt Schrader: In the race to replace Rep. Darlene Hooley (D), who did not seek reelection, State Sen. Kurt Schrader (D) defeated Mike Erickson (R) in this western Oregon district.

“Iran must not be permitted to acquire nuclear weapons,” Schrader wrote in a position paper on the U.S.-Israel relationship. “The international community needs to pursue tougher sanctions toward Iran. We must work with the international com-

munity to form a united front against Iran’s nuclear ambitions.”

PA-03 Kathy Dahlkemper: Arboretum director Kathy Dahlkemper (D) defeated incumbent Rep. Phil English (R) in this northwestern Pennsylvania district.

In a position paper on the U.S.-Israel relationship, Dahlkemper wrote, “As the only stable democracy in the Middle East, Israel is a beacon of hope in this region; we must work to support our ally in her quest for peace and security through maintaining our foreign aid support.”

PA-05 (Open) Glenn Thompson: In the race to succeed retiring Rep. John Peterson (R), rehabilitation therapist Glenn Thompson (R) defeated Mark McCracken (D) in this rural Pennsylvania district.

“As friends and allies, the United States and Israel stand together in facing the world’s most serious threats,” Thompson wrote in a position paper. “The U.S. cannot prevail against these threats unless our strongest ally, Israel, enjoys our full support and can participate in combating radical Islam and the peace process.”

TN-01 (Open) Phil Roe: Physician and mayor Phil Roe (R), who defeated incumbent Rep. David Davis (R) in the Republican primary, bested Rob Russell (D) in the general election in this northeastern Tennessee district.

In a position paper on the U.S.-Israel relationship, Roe said he believes “Congress should continue to prioritize the military defense and support of Israel....The Middle East continues to be a volatile and dangerous place and Israel has the absolute right to defend itself against attack.”

TX-22 Pete Olson: In a closely watched contest, Pete Olson (R), Sen. John Cornyn’s (R) former chief of staff, defeated incumbent Rep. Nick Lampson (D) in this Sugar Land-based district.

Olson drafted a position paper in which he vowed to “work for congressional approval of the new security MOU, support the critical weapons development systems that ensure Israel’s security, and work to enhance Israel’s strategic and tactical qualitative edge.”

atomic bomb, Iran has experimented with weaponization in the past, and it already has the long-range missiles it needs to deliver a nuclear warhead.

What can the United States still do to stop Iran from achieving a nuclear weapons capability? A lot, actually. The U.S. government could sanction foreign banks that carry out transactions for Iran in Euros, pounds or yen—a move that would cripple Iran's ability to conduct international business. The administration could also sanction any foreign entity continuing to do business with the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps or the Islamic Republic of Iran Shipping Lines.

In addition, the United States could lead an international diplomatic effort to encourage a ban on the sale of refined petroleum products to Iran—an initiative that President-elect Obama backed during his campaign. With Iran forced to import 40 percent of its gasoline, such a move would have an immediate economic effect.

And sometimes, a new law isn't even needed. There is a law already on the books that requires the United States to sanction foreign energy companies investing more than \$20 million in Iran's energy sector. It has not once been enforced.

There is still time to prevent Iran from going nuclear. But not much. The next Congress and administration must act quickly to ensure that stopping Iran's nuclear program remains a top policy priority. •NER•

UT-03 (Open) Jason Chaffetz: Marketing executive Jason Chaffetz (R), who defeated incumbent Rep. Chris Cannon (R) in the Republican primary, bested Bennion Spencer (D) in the general election in this central Utah district.

"It is morally imperative for the United States of America and Israel to continue to strengthen the multitude of bonds that tie the two nations together," Chaffetz wrote in a position paper. "Economically, militarily, religiously, socially and strategically, the relationship between the two nations should continue to be reinforced on all levels."

VA-02 Glenn Nye: Former Foreign Service Officer Glenn Nye (D) defeated incumbent Rep. Thelma Drake (R) in this Virginia Beach district.

In a position paper, Nye said his years as a Foreign Service officer bolstered his desire to support Israel. "I am committed to a strong U.S.-Israel relationship that ensures Israeli security and serves as a foundation for peace in the region," he said. "By nurturing this important relationship we will maintain a strong friend and partner and build off the strong ties between Israel and people across Virginia's second congressional district."

VA-05 Tom Perriello: Attorney Tom Perriello (D) defeated incumbent Rep. Virgil Goode (R) in this central Virginia district.

Perriello wrote a position paper in which he expressed his support for the U.S.-Israel alliance. He called the

prospect of a nuclear -armed Iran "one of the most severe we face" and said that the United States should encourage strong sanctions to be imposed against the Islamic Republic.

VA-11 (Open) Gerry Connolly: In the race to fill the seat vacated by Rep. Tom Davis III (R), who did not seek reelection, Board of Supervisors Chairman Gerry Connolly (D) defeated Keith Fimian (R).

"As old threats persist and new ones emerge, we must constantly reaffirm our absolute commitment to Israel's continued existence and security," Connolly wrote in a position paper on the U.S.-Israel relationship. "The bond between the United States and Israel is strengthened by our common values, shared histories and mutual dedication to democracy, human rights and free expression."

WY-AL (Open) Cynthia Lummis: In the race to succeed retiring Rep. Barbara Cubin (R), State Treasurer Cynthia Lummis (R) defeated Gary Trauner (D) in this statewide district.

In a position paper, Lummis expressed her support for close U.S.-Israel ties. "The U.S.-Israel strategic relationship has assured Israel's military edge to uphold its ability to defend itself against terrorists and rogue states that seek to destroy it," she wrote. "As a member of the House, I will support legislation to continue this special relationship." •NER•

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