

## Shifting Picture

CONGRESS HAS CHANGED HANDS BUT IS EXPECTED TO REMAIN FIRMLY PRO-ISRAEL

The recent mid-term elections produced dramatic shifts in the partisan makeup of both chambers of Congress, with Democrats taking control of both the Senate and the House for the first time since 1994.

Democrats scored a gain of six Senate seats on election night, giving the upper body a composition of 49 Republicans, 49 Democrats plus two Independents who will caucus with the Democrats, effectively giving that party a majority of 51-49.

In the House of Representatives, the Democrats picked up at least 29 seats, bringing that chamber's current makeup to 232 Democrats and 198 Republicans, with five races remaining to be decided.

Despite the change brought about by Election Night, pro-Israel community leaders expect the incoming 110th Congress to match the outgoing 109th Congress' strong record on the U.S.-Israel relationship.

AIPAC lay leaders and staff have met and established relationships with almost every new member of the House and Senate, and have received position papers on the U.S. Middle East policy from virtually all of the freshmen-to-be.

In those papers, the new members of Congress pledge support for legislation designed to halt Iran's pursuit of nuclear arms, isolate the terrorist-controlled government of the Palestinian Authority and provide Israel with critical aid.

In the Senate, Harry Reid (D-NV) will become majority leader, while Democratic Whip Richard Durbin (D-IL) will ascend to the position of Majority Whip.

On the Republican side, Sen. Mitch McConnell (R-KY) will become Republican Leader. Sen. Trent Lott (R-MS), a former Republican Leader, will be Republican Whip.

In the House of Representatives, Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) will become the first-ever female Speaker of the

# NEAR EAST

## Report

NOVEMBER 20, 2006

AIPAC'S BIWEEKLY ON AMERICAN MIDDLE EAST POLICY

### EDITOR'S COMMENTS

#### Shared Resolve

The wide smiles and heartfelt statements of amity by President Bush and Israeli Prime Minister Olmert following their recent meeting at the White House underscored the strength of the ties between the United States and Israel. The solid partnership between the two nations will be even more essential in the days ahead in order to confront the dangerous challenges on the horizon.

In a news conference following their talks, President Bush said that the two leaders "spent a great deal of time on Iran, and about how we can work together with other nations of the world to convince the Iranians to abandon their nuclear weapons ambitions." With every day that passes without the imposition of serious sanctions, the radical regime in Tehran buys more time to advance its nuclear program.

Before the cameras, President Bush repeated his call for the Iranians to "verifiably suspend their enrichment" of uranium, a critical step toward assembling a nuclear warhead. The next day, radical Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad announced his goal of increasing the number of Iran's centrifuges—used to enrich uranium—from ...see *Editor's Comments cont'd on pg. 86*

House. Reps. Steny Hoyer (D-MD) and John Murtha (D-PA) are competing for the post of Majority Leader, while Rep. James Clyburn (D-SC) appears likely to become Majority Whip.

The future makeup of the House Republican leadership is less certain. Outgoing House Speaker Dennis Hastert, head of the House GOP majority since 1999, has declined to run for Republican Leader. Reps. Joe Barton (R-TX) and Mike Pence (R-IN) are challenging Rep. John Boehner (R-OH) for the post. Rep. Jeff Shadegg (R-AZ) is running against current Republican Whip Roy Blunt (R-MO).

The shift in partisan control of Congress entails major changes in the chairmanships of key committees that regularly deal with issues central to the U.S.-Israel relationship.



Photo by the Associated Press

**Members of the 110th Congress are expected to strongly support the U.S.-Israel relationship.**

In the Senate, Robert Byrd (D-WV) will replace Thad Cochran (R-MS) as chairman of the Appropriations Committee. On the House Appropriations Committee, Rep. David Obey (D-WI) will replace Rep. Jerry Lewis (R-CA).

Sen. Joseph Biden (D-DE) will be the new chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, which was previously headed by Sen. Richard Lugar (R-IN). Rep. Tom Lantos (D-CA) will replace Rep. Henry Hyde (R-IL) as chairman of the House International Relations Committee.

Sen. Carl Levin (D-MI) will replace Sen. John Warner as chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, while Rep. Ike Skelton (D-MO) will take over the House Armed Services panel from Rep. Duncan Hunter (R-CA). •NER•

## INSIDE

ELECTION 2006 SPECIAL FEATURE:

Profiles of New Senate and House Members

## A Snapshot of the Senate Freshmen

WHEN THE 110TH CONGRESS CONVENES NEXT YEAR, AIPAC ACTIVISTS WILL BE WORKING WITH A NUMBER OF NEWLY ELECTED SENATORS. BELOW, *NER* INTRODUCES THE LATEST ADDITIONS TO CONGRESS' UPPER CHAMBER.



### MD—Benjamin Cardin:

Ten-term Rep. Benjamin Cardin (D) triumphed over Lt. Gov. Michael Steele (R) in the race to succeed retiring Sen. Paul Sarbanes (D). Cardin has strong ties to

the Maryland and national pro-Israel communities.

In the House, Cardin supported initiatives such as the Iran Freedom Support Act, the Palestinian Anti-Terrorism Act and resolutions affirming Israel's right to defend itself against terrorism. As Ranking Member of the House Ways and Means Subcommittee on Trade, he helped lead efforts to condition trade pacts with Arab countries on those nations' withdrawal from the Arab League's anti-Israel boycott.



### MN—Amy Klobuchar:

In the race to replace Sen. Mark Dayton (D), who did not seek re-election, Hennepin County Attorney Amy Klobuchar (D) defeated Rep. Mark Kennedy (R).

Klobuchar maintains strong ties with members of Minnesota's pro-Israel community and has traveled to Israel, where she met with leaders including then-Prime Minister Ariel Sharon. "On September 11, we Americans woke to the horrifying reality that Israelis have been faced with since the founding of their nation more than 50 years ago," Klobuchar wrote in a position paper. "Our nation's ability to fight terrorism is strengthened by our partnership with Israel."



### MO—Claire McCaskill:

State Auditor Claire McCaskill (D) unseated incumbent Sen. Jim Talent (R) in one of this year's most closely watched Senate races.

McCaskill met with AIPAC staff and authored a position paper that stressed her support for Israel's anti-terrorist security fence, called for the United States to move its embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem and said she would "support a more active role for our nation in stopping Iran's pursuit of nuclear weapons."

"The fates of [the United States and Israel] are inextricably linked, through our shared values of democracy and economic opportunity, as well as our mutual war on terrorism," added McCaskill, who has visited Israel.



### MT—Jon Tester:

State Sen. Jon Tester (D) narrowly defeated incumbent Sen. Conrad Burns (R) in a race that was decided by a smaller margin of votes than any other Senate race

this year.

Tester, who is also a rancher, met with pro-Israel activists and submitted a position paper outlining his views on U.S. Middle East policy. "From promoting democracy in the Middle East to developing the latest software used on computers here in Montana, our alliance with Israel pays strong dividends at home and abroad," he wrote.

Tester said he would back aid to Israel as a senator, along with legislation to isolate Iran and the terrorist-controlled government of the Palestinian Authority.



### OH—Sherrod Brown:

Rep. Sherrod Brown (D) defeated two-term Sen. Mike DeWine (R), one of the six Senate incumbents to lose.

Brown, who has represented the Cleveland metropolitan area in the House of Representatives since 1993, has a long record on issues critical to the U.S.-Israel relationship. Brown has voted to block aid to the Hamas-controlled Palestinian Authority, to provide Israel with critical aid and to affirm Israel's right to defend its citizens from terrorism.

In a position paper, Brown said his support for the Jewish state is rooted in his personal experience as a visitor to Israel. "My travels in Israel remind me that since 1948, the United States and Israel have shared an unbreakable bond," he wrote. "It is a bond solidified by our common democratic values and shared hope for a secure and stable Middle East."



### PA—Bob Casey Jr.:

State Treasurer Bob Casey Jr. (D) won a decisive victory over Sen. Rick Santorum (R), the third-ranking member of the Senate Republican leadership.

Casey has met with AIPAC staff and authored a position paper in which he pledges to support initiatives to prevent Iran from developing nuclear weapons, ensure enforcement of sanctions against Syria and provide Israel with aid to ensure it possesses a qualitative edge over its adversaries.

"The United States not only has a moral obligation to defend its ally," Casey wrote of Israel. "It is in the best interest of the United States that Israel remains strong."



### RI—Sheldon Whitehouse:

Former state Attorney General Sheldon Whitehouse (D) defeated incumbent Sen. Lincoln Chafee (R), a member of the Senate Foreign Relations

Committee.

Whitehouse, who met with AIPAC staff, wrote a position paper in which he pledged to support Israel's right to defend itself against terrorism.

"The unique burdens Israel endures were clearly brought home to me as the child of a U.S. diplomat," he wrote in a position paper. "The extraordinary security which Israeli embassies are obliged to maintain around the world—greater even than our American embassies—is a clear demonstration of what is necessary given those who seek to destroy the very principles upon which Israel was founded. The United States must protect Israel's democratic foundation and maintain the unbreakable bond between our two countries."



### TN—Bob Corker:

Former Chattanooga Mayor Bob Corker (R) defeated Rep. Harold Ford Jr. (D) in the race for the seat vacated by Majority Leader Bill Frist (R), becoming the only new

Republican member of the 110th Congress' upper chamber.

Corker has strong ties to the Tennessee pro-Israel community and met with AIPAC staff during his campaign. He authored a position paper in which he discusses how a recent trip to Israel gave him an up-close perspective on the security challenges facing the Jewish state and of the deep cultural and historical ties between the United States and Israel.

"We must continue to maintain that strong and supportive relationship and to insist on Israel's right to exist in peace and security as a free and democratic nation," he wrote.



**VA— Jim Webb:**

Former Secretary of the Navy Jim Webb (D) defeated Sen. George Allen (R) in one of the nation's closest Senate races.

Webb, a Vietnam veteran, is expected to be especially vocal on issues of foreign policy and national security. He met with AIPAC staff and authored a position paper in which he lauded the United States and Israel's "special relationship founded on common democratic values and ideals."

Webb wrote that "the United States must stand with Israel as she defends herself." He said he favors "engaging nations like Syria" to break them away from their "unnatural alliance" with Iran.



**VT— Bernard Sanders:**

Rep. Bernard Sanders (I) defeated businessman Richard Tarrant (R) to win the seat vacated by the retirement of Sen. James Jeffords (I). Like Jeffords,

Sanders will be listed as an Independent but will caucus with Democrats.

As a member of the House of Representatives for eight terms, Sanders developed a relationship with AIPAC activists and professional staff and has an established record on issues of importance to the U.S.-Israel relationship. He consistently supported aid to Israel.

## House Additions

### THESE NEW MEMBERS WILL VOTE ON ISSUES AFFECTING U.S.-ISRAEL TIES

**AZ-05 Harry Mitchell:** State Sen. Harry Mitchell (D) defeated six-term incumbent Rep. J.D. Hayworth (R) by a margin of 51 to 46 percent in this district encompassing Scottsdale and Tempe.

Mitchell has traveled to Israel and met with AIPAC activists and staff. He submitted a position paper in which he committed himself to supporting aid to Israel and upholding the U.S.-Israel strategic relationship.

**AZ-08 Gabrielle Giffords:** In the race to succeed retiring 11-term Rep. Jim Kolbe (R), former Arizona state Sen. Gabrielle Giffords (D) defeated former state House member Randy Graf (R) in southeastern Arizona's 8th District.

Giffords has met with AIPAC activists and staff. She authored a lengthy position paper on the U.S.-Israel relationship, which said, "Foreign aid is an important tool to promote democracy and freedom across the world and protect our allies. It is necessary that Israel receive this vital aid to meet the needs of our strategic partnership."

**CA-11 Jerry McNerney:** Jerry McNerney (D), a businessman and wind engineer, unseated seven-term incumbent Rep. Richard Pombo (R).

McNerney penned an extensive position paper outlining his views on U.S. Middle East policy, stating his support for aid to Israel, isolating the Hamas-led Palestinian government and thwarting Iran's nuclear ambitions through legislation such as the Iran Freedom Support Act.

**CA-22 Kevin McCarthy:** State Assembly Republican Leader Kevin McCarthy (R) won 71 percent of the vote to defeat Sharon Beery (D) in the race to replace retiring House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Bill Thomas (R).

McCarthy went to Israel with other state officials in 2004 on a trip designed to promote U.S.-Israel homeland security cooperation. He wrote of the trip in a position paper, stating, "I certainly saw the challenges that Israeli citizens face on a day-to-day basis and believe that the United States must continue to support our ally in the Middle East."

**CO-05 Doug Lamborn:** State Sen. Doug Lamborn (R) defeated retired Air Force Col. Jay Fawcett (D) to earn the right to succeed retiring Rep. Joel Hefley (R).

Lamborn has traveled to Israel twice with Jewish groups on visits he called life-changing experiences. "I saw first-hand how small and vulnerable Israel is," he wrote of the visit in a position paper. "I saw the land of milk and honey that Israel has become from a former wilderness....If and when I am elected to Congress, I will do all I can to support our democratic ally in the Middle East, Israel."

**CO-07 Ed Perlmutter:** Former State Sen. Ed Perlmutter (D) defeated civic leader and former state official Rick O'Donnell (R) in the campaign to succeed Rep. Bob Beauprez (R), who vacated this seat representing the Denver suburbs to mount an unsuccessful bid for governor.

Perlmutter has deep ties to Israel—his sister once lived in Kiryat Shmona—and to the Colorado pro-Israel community. "The United States has no better ally in the Middle East than our friend Israel," he wrote in a position paper. "A lifelong supporter of the Jewish state, I will be a strong voice in Congress on behalf of the United States-Israel relationship."

**CT-02 Joe Courtney:** A lawyer in Vernon, Joe Courtney (D) defeated incumbent Rep. Robert Simmons (R) by a razor-thin margin in Connecticut's 2nd District, which encompasses most of the eastern part of the state.

Courtney has met with AIPAC activists and staff and wrote a position paper on the U.S.-Israel relationship. In the paper, he wrote that "in our effort to promote peace and freedom throughout the Middle East, Israel remains our one unflagging ally. It is imperative that the United States Congress support the special bond and relationship between the United States and Israel."

**CT-5 Chris Murphy:** Connecticut state legislator Chris Murphy (D) amassed 56 percent of the vote to defeat 12-term incumbent Rep. Nancy Johnson (R).

Murphy has strong ties to the Connecticut pro-Israel community, met with AIPAC staff and has vowed to support the U.S.-Israel relationship in Congress. "Support for Israel must be non-partisan and unbreakable," he wrote in a position paper. "It must remain a foundational element of

our nation's foreign policy. America's bond to Israel goes beyond political calculations—it is a moral bond.”

**FL-09 Gus Bilirakis:** State Rep. Gus Bilirakis (R) defeated Phyllis Busansky (D) to win the congressional seat vacated by the retirement of his father, incumbent Rep. Michael Bilirakis (R).

Bilirakis met with AIPAC staff and authored a position paper summarizing his views on U.S. Middle East policy. “Without the support of the United States, Israel could not have survived,” he wrote. “As a congressman,

Harris (R) in Florida's 13th District, based in Sarasota.

Buchanan has met with AIPAC activists and staff and authored a position paper on the U.S.-Israel relationship. He wrote, “The values and goals of the United States and Israel have been and will continue to be inextricably linked. Together our nations are leading the global war against terror.”

**FL-16 Tim Mahoney:** Businessman Tim Mahoney (D) narrowly prevailed over state legislator Joe Negron (R) in the race to replace Rep. Mark Foley (R), who resigned

allies who share democratic governments, belief in the rule of law and a commitment to protect the human rights of all people.”

**GA-04 Hank Johnson:** After defeating incumbent Rep. Cynthia McKinney (D) in the Democratic primary, DeKalb County Commissioner Hank Johnson (D) received 71 percent of the vote in the general election to earn the right to represent this Atlanta-area district.

Johnson met with AIPAC staff and strongly endorsed the U.S.-Israel relationship in a position paper he submitted on U.S. Middle East policy. “There can be no equivocation about Israel's right to exist as a nation, nor on the right of her people to live in freedom from fear. Israel mirrors the principles that define America itself and shines as an example of freedom and democracy.”

**HI-02 Mazie Hirono:** Former Lt. Gov. Mazie Hirono (D) received 61 percent of the vote against state Sen. Bob Hogue (R) to succeed Rep. Ed Case (D), a Senate candidate.

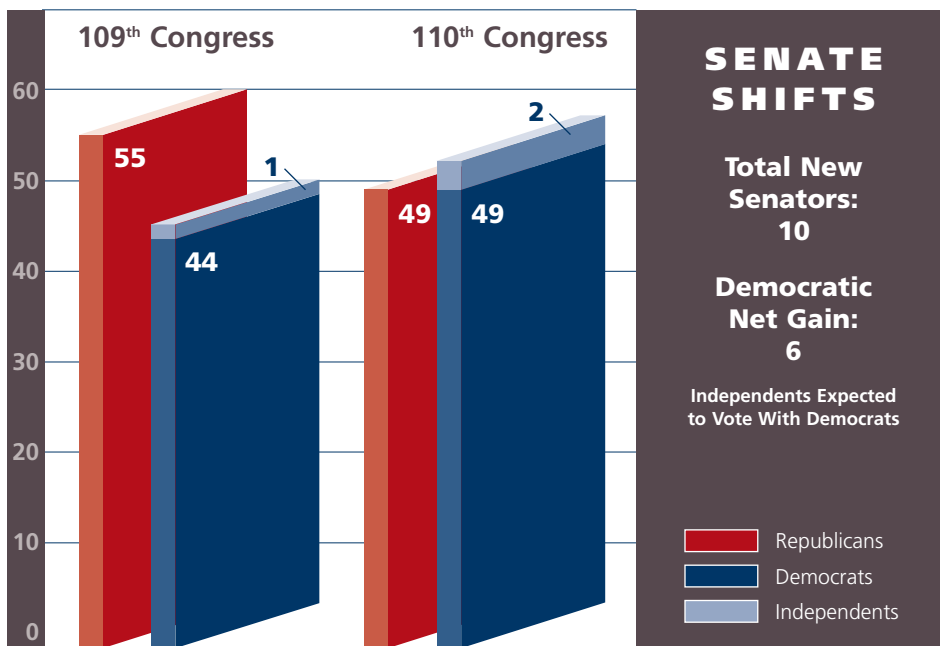
Hirono met with AIPAC professional staff during her campaign. In a position paper, Hirono lauded the U.S.-Israel partnership as “a relationship created by shared values and ideals, nurtured by a mutual commitment to democratic principles and reinforced by common goals and respect for human rights.”

**IA-01 Bruce Braley:** In the race to succeed gubernatorial candidate Rep. Jim Nussle (R), former head of the Iowa Trial Lawyers Association Bruce Braley (D) defeated businessman Mike Whalen (R) in Iowa's 1st District, which covers most of the northeastern part of the state.

Braley has met with AIPAC activists and staff and issued a position paper on the U.S.-Israel relationship. In the paper, Braley said that “the United States has had no better friend in the Middle East than Israel.” He wrote that the relationship between the two countries is “created by shared values and ideals, nurtured by a mutual commitment to democratic principles and reinforced by the common goal of eradicating terrorism.”

**IA-02 Dave Loebsack:** Dave Loebsack(D), a Cornell College political science professor, defeated 15-term incumbent Rep. Jim Leach (R).

Loebsack has been in touch with pro-Israel activists in Iowa and promised to provide a position paper on U.S. Middle East policy.



I will work to enhance and solidify the relationship between the United States and Israel.”

**FL-11 Kathy Castor:** In the race to succeed gubernatorial candidate Rep. Jim Davis (D), Hillsborough County Commission member Kathy Castor (D) easily defeated architect Eddie Adams (R) in Florida's Tampa-based 11th District.

Castor has met with AIPAC activists and staff and authored a position paper on the U.S.-Israel relationship, saying, “I will continue to support Israel and its survival as well as the ability of Israeli citizens to live peacefully and pursue happiness free from threats of terrorism.”

**FL-13 Vern Buchanan:** Auto dealer and self-made millionaire Vern Buchanan (R) defeated Sarasota Bank founder Christine Jennings (D) by a razor-thin margin in the race to succeed senatorial candidate Rep. Katherine

in September.

Mahoney met with AIPAC staff and authored a position paper that strongly backed Israel's right to defend itself against terrorist attacks. He also backed foreign aid to the Jewish state and international efforts to stop Iran's pursuit of nuclear arms. “Today, in the face of militant Islamic extremism, it is more important than ever that the United States supports the only modern democracy in the region,” Mahoney wrote.

**FL-22 Ron Klein:** State legislator Ron Klein (D) defeated 13-term incumbent Rep. Clay Shaw (R) in Florida's 22nd District, based in Palm Beach and Broward counties.

Klein has traveled to Israel and promoted increased business ties between Florida and Israel. He has met with AIPAC activists and staff and authored a position paper on the U.S.-Israel relationship. Klein wrote, “The United States and Israel are natural

**ID-01 Bill Sali:** State Rep. Bill Sali (R) won a hard-fought contest against Larry Grant (D) to replace Rep. Butch Otter (R), who vacated the Boise-based seat to run for governor.

Sali has deep ties to his state's pro-Israel community, and he noted in a position paper that "while there are relatively few Jews living in Idaho, support for the Jewish state among citizens in the Gem State is broad, deeply felt and spans the political spectrum." He also met with AIPAC staff.

**IL-06 Peter Roskam:** State Sen. Peter Roskam (R) defeated Tammy Duckworth (D), a disabled veteran of the Iraq war, in the closely watched contest to succeed retiring House International Relations Committee Chairman Henry Hyde (R-IL).

Roskam has traveled to Israel twice, and he said those experiences caused him to "deeply admire Israel's commitment to security in a difficult environment." He met with AIPAC staff and authored a position paper pledging support for aid to Israel, sanctions on Iran and efforts to hold the Palestinians to their obligation to crack down on terrorism.

**IL-17 Phil Hare:** In the race to succeed retiring 12-term Rep. Lane Evans (D), his former District Director Phil Hare (D) defeated former CNN anchor Andrea Zinga (R) in Illinois' 17th District, which covers a swathe of the western part of the state.

Hare has met with AIPAC activists and staff and authored a position paper on the U.S.-Israel relationship. He wrote, "I will strongly support legislation to fund joint counterterrorism efforts required to strengthen Israel's military capabilities, reduce the threat of global terrorism and increase the peace and stability of the region and the world."

**IN-02 Joe Donnelly:** Businessman Joe Donnelly (D) defeated incumbent Rep. Chris Chocola (R) to win the right to represent this northern Indiana district.

"The United States and Israel are the closest of allies, and as a Member of Congress, one of my top priorities will be to strongly support and continue this relationship," Donnelly wrote in a position paper. He also met with AIPAC professional staff during his campaign.

**IN-08 Brad Ellsworth:** Vanderburgh County Sheriff Brad Ellsworth (D) beat incumbent Rep. John Hostettler (R) in this southwestern Indiana district.

Ellsworth met with AIPAC staff and pledged support for efforts to strengthen the U.S.-Israel relationship. "Now more than ever, the United States must maintain a strong bond with Israel in order to promote economic and military security for both nations as we together fight the war on terror," Ellsworth wrote in a position paper on U.S. Middle East policy.

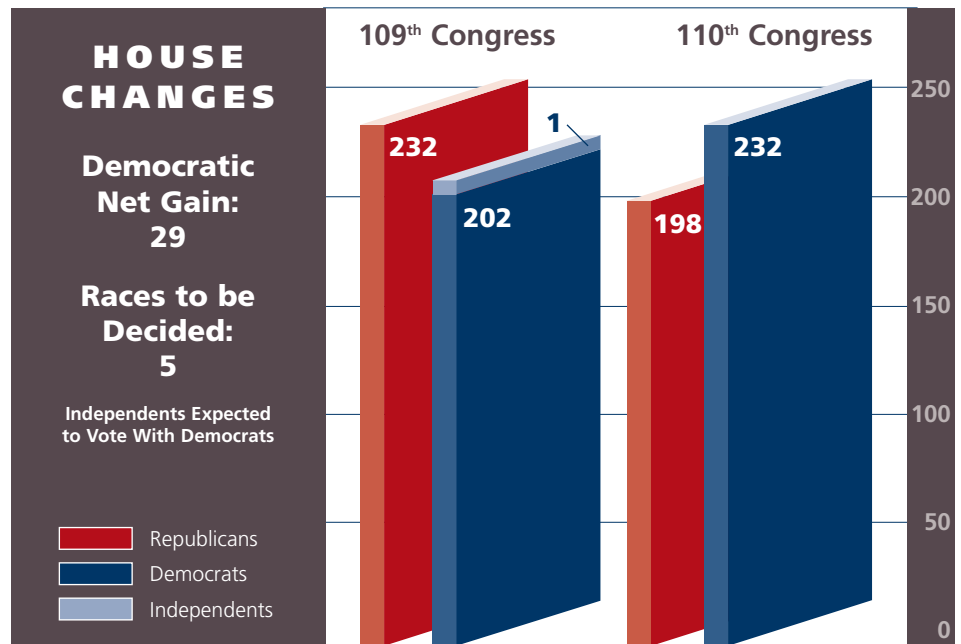
**IN-09 Baron Hill:** Former Rep. Baron Hill (D) reclaimed his old seat in Congress by defeating freshman Rep. Mike Sodrel (R).

Hill maintained a strong pro-Israel voting record from 1998, when he was first

"America's relationship with Israel has consistently proven to be a crucial ally in the volatile Middle East," Yarmuth, who met with AIPAC staff, wrote in a position paper. "The continuation and strengthening of this alliance is necessary and essential."

**MD-03 John Sarbanes:** Attorney John Sarbanes (D) defeated businessman John White (R) to win the seat vacated by Rep. Benjamin Cardin (D), a Senate candidate.

Sarbanes met with AIPAC staff during his campaign. In a position paper, he recounted his first trip to Israel, a 1985 visit



elected to Congress, to 2004, when he was defeated by Sodrel. In meetings with pro-Israel activists, he pledged continued support for the U.S.-Israel relationship.

**KS-02 Nancy Boyda:** A former analytical chemist for the Environmental Protection Agency, Nancy Boyda (D) narrowly defeated five-term Rep. Jim Ryun (R) in Kansas' Topeka-based 2nd District.

Boyda has articulated her belief in a strong U.S.-Israel relationship. In a position paper, she said, "America must continue to extend the hand of friendship to Israel, both through financial aid and diplomatic engagement."

**KY-03 John Yarmuth:** Journalist John Yarmuth (D) defeated five-term incumbent Rep. Anne Northup (R) by a margin of 51 to 48 percent to win the right to represent this Louisville-based district.

that he said provided him with an appreciation of the Jewish state's culture and history. "I realized that America's stake in the existence and preservation of Israel was nearly as fundamental as the stake of Israel's own citizens," he wrote.

**MI-07 Tim Walberg:** Former state Rep. Tim Walberg (R) defeated incumbent Rep. Joe Schwarz (R) in the Republican primary and won the seat by defeating organic farmer Sharon Renier (D) in the general election.

"Israel is the only nation of its kind today, and it stands out as America's closest friend," Walberg wrote, adding that "Israel and the United States can provide each other with assistance in handling the very serious threats posed by rogue states, international terrorists and dangerous ideologies." Walberg met with pro-Israel activists during his campaign.

**MN-01 Tim Walz:** High school teacher and football coach Tim Walz (D) defeated six-term incumbent Gil Gutknecht (R).

Walz has written a position paper expressing strong support for the U.S.-Israel relationship.

**MN-05 Keith Ellison:** In the race to succeed retiring Rep. Martin Sabo (D), state Rep. Keith Ellison (D) easily defeated business school lecturer Alan Fine (R) in Minnesota's 5th District, based in Minneapolis.

Ellison, who will be the first Muslim member of Congress, has met with AIPAC activists and staff. He wrote a position paper regarding U.S. policy in the Middle East, saying, "Terrorism is the greatest impediment to peace. At this point the Palestinian Authority has yet to dismantle the terrorist infrastructure in Gaza and the West Bank. The United States cannot support any government that condones or embraces terrorism."

**MN-06 Michele Bachmann:** State Sen. Michele Bachmann (R) defeated child safety advocate Patty Wetterling (D) in the race to succeed senatorial candidate Rep. Mark Kennedy (R) in Minnesota's 6th District, based just north of St. Paul and Minneapolis.

After her high school graduation, Bachmann traveled to Israel and worked on a kibbutz. She has met with AIPAC activists and staff. In a position paper, Bachmann remarked that the United States and Israel "share a bond of friendship based on mutual respect for each individual's human dignity and a desire to promote and preserve liberty against all forms of oppression and tyranny."

**NC-11 Heath Shuler:** Heath Shuler (D), a former NFL quarterback, defeated eight-term incumbent Rep. Charles Taylor (R) to win the right to represent this district in western North Carolina.

Shuler met with AIPAC staff and authored a position paper in which he pledged to be "a staunch supporter of the American-Israeli alliance" in Congress and to "work to strengthen the bond between our nations and citizens."

**NE-3 Adrian Smith:** State legislator Adrian Smith (R) defeated rancher Scott Kleeb (D) to win the House seat vacated by Rep. Tom Osborne (R), who ran for governor.

"The United States has a strengthening symbiotic relationship with Israel," Smith wrote in a position paper. "I support the con-

tinuation of a growing relationship with Israel that promotes a strong independent state that will serve as a leading example of a free democracy among the tyrannical dictatorships of the Middle East." Smith met with AIPAC staff during his campaign.

**NH-01 Carol Shea-Porter:** Democratic activist Carol Shea-Porter (D) defeated incumbent Rep. Jeb Bradley (R) for the right to represent this Manchester-based district.

"Israel has an absolute right to exist and defend itself," Shea-Porter wrote. "The U.S.-Israel relationship is vital and the United States should continue to work closely to achieve peace in the Middle East, including continuing to provide financial support. We must prevent the further proliferation of nuclear weapons in Iran and other countries."

**NH-02 Paul Hodes:** A lawyer as well as a songwriter and musician, Paul Hodes (D) defeated six-term incumbent Rep. Charles Bass in New Hampshire's 2nd District, which covers the western part of the state.

Hodes has met with AIPAC activists and staff and authored a position paper on the U.S.-Israel relationship. He wrote, "Aid to Israel is a visible, reasonable and necessary means to support our bond with Israel and our strategic objectives of achieving stability and a lasting peace."

**NJ-13 Albio Sires:** Albio Sires (D) defeated John Guarini (R) to take the seat vacated by the appointment to the Senate of Robert Menendez (D).

Sires, who met with AIPAC staff during his campaign, authored a position paper that strongly endorsed the U.S.-Israel relationship. "Over the past half-century," he wrote, "American Middle East policy has known one constant: that there is no better strategic partner, no more steadfast ally, than the State of Israel."

**NY-11 Yvette Clarke:** After winning a hard-fought Democratic primary, New York City Council member Yvette Clarke (D) defeated medical doctor Stephen Finger (R) in a landslide victory in the race to succeed retiring 12-term Rep. Major Owens (D) in New York's Brooklyn-based 11th District.

As a member of the New York City Council, Clarke visited Israel to study what New York could learn from Israeli security methods. She met with AIPAC activists and

staff and authored a position paper on the U.S.-Israel relationship, writing, "the United States must demonstrate that it will stand by nations that stand with us in the war on terror. For that reason, the United States should maintain robust foreign aid for Israel."

**NY-19 John Hall (D):** Musician John Hall (D) defeated six-term incumbent Rep. Sue Kelly (R).

Hall met with AIPAC staff and pledged in a position paper to help strengthen the U.S.-Israel relationship: "Israel is an important strategic partner and a strong democracy in an unstable region of the world. But our relationship is more than political. The connection that many Americans feel with Israel

## 110th Congress Jewish Members

### House of Representatives

Gary Ackerman (D-NY)  
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)  
Jane Harman (D-CA)  
Paul Hodes (D-NH)  
Steve Kagen (D-WI)  
Ron Klein (D-FL)  
Steve Israel (D-NY)  
Tom Lantos (D-CA)  
Sander Levin (D-MI)  
Nita Lowey (D-NY)  
Jerrold Nadler (D-NY)  
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)

is based on our long history of pursuing freedom, our shared history of offering the downtrodden an opportunity to thrive and our shared values as humanitarians.”

**NY-20 Kirsten Gillibrand:** Lawyer Kirsten Gillibrand (D) defeated four-term incumbent Rep. John Sweeney (R) in New York’s Hudson Valley-based 20th District.

Gillibrand has met with AIPAC activists and staff. In her position paper on the U.S.-Israel relationship, Gillibrand wrote, “I will be an unwavering supporter of the special friendship that exists between the U.S. and Israel and will continue to assure Israel’s strategic military advantage in the region.”

**NY-24 Mike Arcuri:** In the race to succeed retiring twelve-term Rep. Sherwood Boehlert (R), Oneida County District Attorney Mike Arcuri (D) defeated lawyer Raymond Meier (R) in New York’s Utica-based 24th District.

Arcuri has met with AIPAC activists and staff. In his position paper on the U.S.-Israel relationship, Arcuri said that “Israel cannot be expected to enter into peace negotiations so long as Hamas controls the Palestinian Authority. Israel negotiating with Hamas would be like the U.S. negotiating with al-Qaeda.”

**NV-02 Dean Heller:** In the race to succeed Nevada Gov.-elect Jim Gibbons (R), Nevada Secretary of State Dean Heller (R) defeated former university regent Jill Derby (D) in Nevada’s 2nd District, which includes Reno and covers almost all of the state north of Las Vegas.

Heller has met with AIPAC activists and staff and authored a position paper on the U.S.-Israel relationship. He wrote, “A secure and prosperous Israel is vital to U.S. interests both regionally and globally. America owes a great deal of gratitude towards Israel for its continued friendship. We are a safer and more secure country because of it.”

**OH-04 Jim Jordan:** In the race to replace Rep. Mike Oxley (R), Jim Jordan (R) defeated attorney Richard Siferd (D).

Jordan expressed strong support for the U.S.-Israel relationship and vowed in a position paper to “work to ensure that America remains a true and steadfast friend to Israel—the only democracy in the Middle East.”

**OH-06 Charlie Wilson:** State Sen. Charlie Wilson (D) easily defeated state Rep. Chuck Blasdel (R) in the race to succeed Gov.-elect Ted Strickland (D) in Ohio’s 6th District, which covers a string of counties along the Ohio River.

Wilson has met with AIPAC activists. In his position paper, Wilson wrote, “Based on our mutual commitment to democracy and human rights, our nations stand together—devoted to our common interests of deterring war, defeating terrorism, promoting stability and achieving peace.”

**OH-13 Betty Sutton:** Labor lawyer Betty Sutton (D) defeated Lorain Mayor Craig Foltin (R) to win the seat vacated by Sherrod Brown (D), a Senate candidate.

Sutton met with AIPAC staff during her campaign and penned a pro-Israel position paper. “Israel remains our most important and dependable ally in the Middle East,” Sutton wrote, “and we must maintain this relationship in the interest of world security, freedom and democracy.”

**OH-18 Zack Space:** Attorney Zack Space (D) defeated state Sen. Joy Padgett (R) to win the seat vacated by the resignation of former Rep. Bob Ney (R).

Space met with AIPAC staff and submitted a position paper stating that “Israel is and must remain a powerful ally of the United States. I will work to encourage U.S. policies that provide for a strong and secure Israel.” He also pledged to travel to Israel as a congressman to meet Israeli leaders.

**OK-05 Mary Fallin:** Lt. Gov. Mary Fallin (R) defeated physician David Hunter (D) to win the congressional seat vacated by Rep. Ernest Istook (R), who ran for governor.

Fallin met with AIPAC staff. “If there is a unique historical bond that unites Israel and America—and I believe there is—there is an even more intense one linking those of us in Oklahoma who went through the 1995 terror bombing with Israelis who have confronted so many similar acts in the past,” she wrote in a position paper.

**PA-04 Jason Altmire:** A health care executive and former congressional staffer, Jason Altmire (D) defeated incumbent Rep. Melissa Hart (R) to win this district based north of Pittsburgh.

Altmire met with AIPAC staff and released a statement reading, “A safe and

## 110th Congress Jewish Members

### Senate

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

secure Israel is not only an Israeli interest, but an American interest, too. The US should strive for a secure Israel that is at peace with its neighbors and can best realize its own promise, potential, and mission to be ‘a light unto the nations.’”

**PA-08 Patrick Murphy:** Patrick Murphy (D), an attorney and Army combat veteran, defeated freshman Rep. Mike Fitzpatrick (R) by a narrow margin in this district based in the suburbs of Philadelphia.

Murphy met with AIPAC staff and labeled himself “a proud supporter of Israel” in a position paper on Middle East policy. In the paper, he announced his support for efforts to isolate nuclear-minded Iran and the terrorist-controlled Palestinian Authority.

**PA-07 Joe Sestak:** Joe Sestak (D), a retired Navy vice admiral, defeated 10-term Rep. Curt Weldon (R) in a suburban Philadelphia district.

Sestak said his military experience helped him understand Israel’s obligation to defend itself. “The United States must do its part to guarantee that Israel has the capability of defending itself against those who are determined to see its destruction,” he wrote in a position paper.

**PA-10 Chris Carney:** Chris Carney (D), a Naval reservist, political science professor and former Pentagon adviser, defeated four-term incumbent Rep. Don Sherwood (R).

the current total of 328 to 60,000. Iran is marching toward a nuclear arsenal while providing succor to terrorist groups such as Hizballah and Hamas that have targeted Americans and Israelis.

Iran is not alone in its efforts to undermine Middle East peace and stability. Syria, too, is playing a dangerous game of supporting terrorism and seeking to widen its influence in the region.

In their remarks before the assembled media, President Bush and Prime Minister Olmert both denounced Syria's refusal to curb its support for terrorists. President Bush decried Syria's ongoing meddling in neighboring Lebanon, its harboring of terrorist leaders whose aim is to block peace and destroy Israel and its interference with American efforts to stabilize Iraq.

On a long list of critical issues, Iran and Syria are lining up on the wrong side—diametrically opposing the United States and the international community. They are facilitating terrorism, undercutting democracy, seeking dangerous weaponry and working to undermine stability and peace in the Middle East.

The negative implications of the behavior of these rogue regimes are as multitudinous as they are real. For that reason, the United States and Israel must continue to stand together as they face these challenges, demonstrating shared resolve and holding fast to the common values that form the bedrock of their friendship. •NER•

Carney met with AIPAC staff during his campaign and authored a position paper. "I fully understand the depth and importance of the United States' relationship with Israel," Carney wrote, citing military tours of duty that took him throughout the Middle East. "I am committed to strengthening the relationship between these two democratic nations and working together to end terrorism."

**TN-01 David Davis:** In the race to succeed retiring Rep. Bill Jenkins (R), State Rep. David Davis (R) defeated real estate investor Rick Trent (D) in eastern Tennessee's 1st District.

Davis met with AIPAC activists and staff. He wrote a position paper on the U.S.-Israel relationship in which he discussed his personal commitment to Israel's well-being. Davis wrote that "there can never be peace until the security of Israel is guaranteed."

**TN-09 Steve Cohen:** State Sen. Steve Cohen (D) defeated two candidates to take this Memphis-based seat vacated by Rep. Harold Ford Jr., a Senate candidate.

"America's support for Israel must remain unequivocal and bipartisan, and if elected to the U.S. Congress, I will continue the steadfast support of Israel and of the special relationship between Israel and the United States that I demonstrated throughout my 24 years as a [state] senator in Tennessee," Cohen wrote in a position paper. He also met with AIPAC staff.

**TX-22 Nick Lampson:** In the race to succeed resigned House Majority Leader Tom Delay (R) in Texas' Houston-area 22nd district, former Rep. Nick Lampson (D) defeated write-

in candidate Shelley Sekula Gibbs (R), a former Houston City Council member.

Lampson has met with AIPAC activists and staff. He authored a position paper on U.S.-Israel relations, saying, "I supported foreign aid to Israel because strengthening the military position and economic strength of that country is consistent with U.S. policy in the Middle East."

**VT-At-Large Peter Welch:** State Sen. Peter Welch (D) defeated former state National Guard Adjutant General Martha Rainville (R) to win Vermont's at-large House seat, which Rep. Bernie Sanders (I) vacated to run for the Senate.

Welch met with AIPAC staff and authored a position paper on U.S. Middle East policy that stressed the United States and Israel's common interest in combating terrorism and curbing the proliferation of nuclear weapons. "The partnership between the United States and Israel has never, in our over half-century long relationship, been more critical than today," he wrote.

**WI-08 Steve Kagen:** In the race to succeed gubernatorial candidate Rep. Mark Green (R), Kagen Allergy Clinics founder Steve Kagen (D) narrowly defeated State Assembly Speaker John Gard (R).

Kagen met with AIPAC activists and staff and authored a position paper on the U.S.-Israel relationship. He wrote, "I will not support any American aid to the Palestinian Authority, or further negotiation with them, until Hamas renounces the use of violence and terror, recognizes Israel's right to exist and agrees to abide by all previous agreements and treaties." •NER•

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