



PRESS RELEASE

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AIPAC STATEMENT ON THE 2006 ELECTION RESULTS

Washington D.C. - The American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) congratulates all the members of the 110th Congress on their election victories and congratulates House Democrats on gaining a majority in the House of Representatives. AIPAC looks forward to continuing to work with the leadership and members of both parties in both houses of Congress in support of a strong U.S.-Israel relationship.

Congressional support for the U.S.-Israel relationship has always been, and will remain, overwhelmingly bipartisan with the support of both Democrats and Republicans, and it is that broad support that ensures that the U.S.-Israel relationship will continue to flourish. It is clear that the 110th Congress will 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.

Many of the strongest friends and supporters of the U.S.-Israel relationship were reelected on Tuesday and AIPAC congratulates House Speaker Dennis Hastert, Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi, Republican Leader John Boehner, Democratic Whip Steny Hoyer, and Republican Whip Roy Blunt on their victories.

AIPAC extends its best wishes to those members who served with great distinction during their careers in Congress.

We also welcome the election of six new Jewish members of Congress, Gabrielle Giffords (D-AZ), Ron Klein (D-FL), John Yarmuth (D-KY), Paul Hodes (D-NH), Stephen Cohen (D-TN), and Steve Kagen (D-WI), whose election brings the number of Jewish members of the House to 30 and 13 in the Senate, with the election of Ben Cardin (D-MD) and Bernie Sanders (I-VT).

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Consistently ranked as the most influential foreign policy lobbying organization on Capitol Hill, AIPAC is an American membership organization that seeks to strengthen the relationship between the United States and Israel. For more than 50 years, AIPAC has been working with Congress to build a strong, vibrant relationship between the U.S. and Israel. With more than 100,000 members across the United States, AIPAC works throughout the country to improve and strengthen that relationship by supporting U.S.-Israel military, economic, scientific and cultural cooperation.

**Statements by Members of the House and Senate Democratic and Republican Leadership
on the U.S.-Israel Relationship**

“The United States will stand with Israel now and forever, now and forever.”

House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi (D-CA)

“As the speaker of the House, I'm extremely proud of the role Congress has played in supporting Israel's aspirations as a nation and a people. There's no more loyal institution than the Congress. Members on both sides of the political aisle have stood by Israel with an enduring conviction that honors our institution.”

Speaker of the House Dennis Hastert (R-IL)

“I want to assure you that the special bond that exists between the United States and Israel is strong, growing stronger and will not break. On Capitol Hill, support for Israel and her cause—as you see today, as the world sees today—is bipartisan, deep and unwavering.”

House Democratic Whip Steny Hoyer (D-MD)

“Israel and the United States have a unique friendship based on our mutual commitment to democracy, freedom and peace. And as the new House majority leader, I can assure you that under my leadership, legislation that is in any way perceived as anti-Israel will not be considered in the House of Representatives.”

House Republican Leader John Boehner (R-OH)

“America and Israel are bound together by our Judeo-Christian ethic that seeks peace over strife, and out solidarity on this issue has not and will not wane.”

House Democratic Caucus Chair James Clyburn (D-SC)

“In the Congress, Israel's friends will continue to work to ensure that our commitment to our friend, our ally and our fellow democracy is never diminished in any way. We will also continue to work to ensure that on a military front, Israel always has a qualitative advantage.”

House Republican Whip Roy Blunt (R-MO)

“I stand with the peace-loving people of Israel, and their government, in their efforts to eradicate terrorism and secure their historic homeland.”

House Republican Conference Chair Deborah Pryce (R-OH)

U.S. Senate

“The United States and Israel share a strong relationship, and that relationship must remain strong as the stakes for both people are so very high.”

Senate Republican Leader Bill Frist (R-TN)

“When it comes to the peace and security of Israel, there is no partisan divide. We're united and committed, Democrats and Republicans, to protecting and preserving the securities of the state of Israel and its right to defend itself.”

Senate Democratic Leader Harry Reid (D-NV)

“The U.S.-Israel relationship...remains...the closest bilateral relationship the United States has with any other country in the world, and we're going to keep it that way.”

Senate Republican Whip Mitch McConnell (R-KY)

“We will stand with the government and people of Israel as they defend themselves.”

Senate Democratic Whip Richard Durbin (D-IL)