

AJC NEW ENGLAND

☆ **CONGRESSIONAL** ☆  
**CANDIDATES SURVEY**

MA DISTRICT 4

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# ☆ CONGRESSIONAL ☆ CANDIDATES SURVEY

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American Jewish Committee (AJC) is the leading organization dedicated to Jewish advocacy at home and around the world. Through a global network comprised of 24 domestic regional offices; 12 overseas posts in Asia, Europe, Latin America, and the Middle East; and 37 partnerships with international Jewish communities, AJC engages with political, religious and civic leaders to combat antisemitism and bigotry, support Israel's quest for peace and security, and advance democratic values at home and abroad.

AJC New England recently invited all 11 Republican and Democratic declared candidates for the Congressional seat from the 4th District of Massachusetts to participate in a survey on some matters of import to our community. The unedited views of those who responded appear below.

AJC is a 501(c)(3) non-partisan organization and does not endorse or support any candidate for elected office, whether or not they responded to the survey. We offer this survey to educate the electorate about the views of the candidates for this office.

## DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY CANDIDATES

SURVEY RESPONDENTS ARE MARKED WITH AN ASTERISK

Jake Auchincloss	Natalia Linos*
Dave Cavell*	Jesse Mermell*
Becky Grossman*	Ben Sigel*
Alan Khazei*	Chris Zannetos
Ihssane Leckey	

## REPUBLICAN PRIMARY CANDIDATES

SURVEY RESPONDENTS ARE MARKED WITH AN ASTERISK

Julie Hall\*  
David Rosa\*

AJC NEW ENGLAND

# 2020 Candidate Questionnaire

U.S. House of Representatives, Fourth District of Massachusetts

## RACISM, IMMIGRATION AND HUMAN RIGHTS

1. The murder of George Floyd is prompting a national discussion concerning our nation's failure to fully address historic racial injustice. What is the role of Congress in defining and addressing historic injustices? What measures will you promote as a member of the United States Congress to combat racial injustice? [\(PAGE 5\)](#)
2. There is widespread agreement that our current immigration system is in need of reform consistent with our nation's economic and national security interests and its historic commitment to be a haven for the vulnerable and oppressed around the world. What

do you foresee as the best pathway forward for immigration reform and how would you work across the aisle to achieve these policy goals? [\(PAGE 12\)](#)

3. To what extent should the safeguarding of human rights, including but not limited to preventing genocide and combating racism and religious persecution, inform our nation's international relationships, trade agreements, and diplomatic conduct? [\(PAGE 17\)](#)
4. There is growing concern in the country about financial inequality and its consequences for those lower on the economic ladder. If elected to the United States Congress, describe at least one initiative you will propose to address this concern? [\(PAGE 21\)](#)

## ANTISEMITISM

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5. Antisemitism and violence against Jews are on the rise around the world. According to the FBI's most recent Hate Crimes Statistics report, in 2018 anti-Jewish hate crimes accounted for 57% of all religiously motivated hate crimes. Nearly one third of respondents in a recent [AJC survey](#) of American Jews reported having been afraid to wear something in public that identifies them as Jews. To address this problem, the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance drafted a "Working Definition" of antisemitism, which has been adopted in dozens of countries in Europe (including Germany, France, and the UK) and endorsed by UN Secretary General Gutierrez and the US Department of State. This definition provides a means for assessing when given actions may involve bias against Jews, thereby reducing confusion and providing a basis for constructive action. Will you go on record to endorse the [IHRA Definition of Antisemitism](#)? [\(PAGE 26\)](#)
6. In recent years, advocates for anti-Israel and, at times, anti-Jewish political agendas have demonstrated growing success in their effort to coopt the movement for racial justice. For example, before and since the murder of George Floyd, some proponents of the BDS (Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions) movement have circulated a false and tendentious narrative that holds Israel responsible for law enforcement tactics that brutalize people of color. These claims undermine the fight against the current manifestations of white supremacy (e.g. voter suppression, de facto segregation, over-policing, over-imprisonment and other measures that promote inequality). They also demonstrate how readily false and malicious claims about Jews and Jewish interests can take root and spread. Should you be elected to the United States Congress, how do you propose to ensure that the quest for racial justice remains strong and that those who would undermine it through false and malicious claims are marginalized? [\(PAGE 29\)](#)

## ISRAEL

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7. We are in the midst of another fraught moment in the ongoing struggle for peace between Israel and its Palestinian neighbors. Hamas continues to advocate for Israel's destruction. The Palestinian Authority has refused negotiations for more than 5 years. And, in the absence of a credible peace process, the new Israeli coalition government has stated its desire to apply Israeli law to West Bank settlements (albeit, it appears now, within a much smaller territory than was proposed before the formation of the current government). For decades, a two-state solution has been a pillar of American

foreign policy. Do you support a two-state solution to this conflict that will provide for a Palestinian and an Israeli state? What do you believe the role of the United States should be in resolving this conflict? As a member of Congress, what policies would you advocate for to advance your view of our nation's role? [\(PAGE 33\)](#)

- 8.** Israel is home to nearly half of the world's Jewish population. Israel is a democratic country and its citizens are accustomed to robust debate, at home and abroad, concerning their nation's policies and actions. Regrettably, in the United States and elsewhere, there is mounting support for movements, such as the BDS (Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions) campaign, that purport to promote Palestinian rights but do so by denying Israel's legitimacy, refusing dialogue, and advocating for Israel's destruction. This malicious portrayal of Israel and the reality of its conflict with the Palestinians has prompted notable acts of antisemitism; especially on college campuses. It has also polarized public discourse and dimmed prospects for a negotiated solution to the conflict. If elected to Congress, what, if anything, would you say to those who deny Israel's legitimacy and advocate for an end of the world's only Jewish state? [\(PAGE 38\)](#)

## **INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND THE U.S. ROLE ON THE GLOBAL STAGE** ———

- 9.** Should a new administration come to Washington, a discussion may result concerning a return to the JCPOA. Given new evidence of Iran's secret undeclared nuclear facilities and Iran's: (1) refusal to allow inspection of these facilities, (2) ongoing efforts to destabilize countries across the region, (3) continuing to financing and arming of Hezbollah and other radical actors dedicated to Israel's destruction and (4) repeated bellicose attacks on Western values and interests, are there conditions you would want to attach, beyond those stipulated in the JCPOA, to any proposal to return to the JCPOA? [\(PAGE 42\)](#)
- 10.** A robust Transatlantic relationship between the United States and European democracies (AJC has 5 European offices and three regional representatives) has been a pillar of US foreign policy since the end of World War II. In recent years, this relationship has suffered strains. Some contend that this historic alliance is undergoing a fundamental change. Is it important that we sustain the United States historic post-World War II partnership with Europe or is it time to rethink this relationship? If elected, what policies will you pursue to advance your views? [\(PAGE 46\)](#)

## **GENERAL** —————

- 11.** What experiences qualify you to represent the citizens living in your district? [\(PAGE 50\)](#)
- 12.** What would be your top three priorities if elected? [\(PAGE 55\)](#)



# 1. The murder of George Floyd is prompting a national discussion concerning our nation's failure to fully address historic racial injustice. What is the role of Congress in defining and addressing historic injustices? What measures will you promote as a member of the United States Congress to combat racial injustice?

**DAVE CAVELL:** The George Floyd Act has sparked a movement in this country, and everyone—including candidates for Congress—must be prepared to offer concrete solutions to how we move forward. My Race and Criminal Justice policy calls for a sweeping set of reforms. First, we must reform policing to make it more accountable to the communities that police serve. We do this by passing national use of force laws, community oversight mechanisms, and national data collection on police use of force. In the medium term, we end practices like cash bail, mass incarceration, and for-profit policing. And finally, in the long term, we must realize that our best defense against racial injustice is education. That's why I have called on Congress to pass the George Floyd Education Act, an idea that I will champion from day one if elected.

The George Floyd Education Act calls for the creation of a commission to study black history education in America with the goal of making sure that every public school student engages critically with black history. Groups like Facing History and Ourselves have shown us that the power of education is unmatched in correcting the root causes of bigotry and hatred.

**BECKY GROSSMAN:** George Floyd's murder laid bare what's been true for generation after generation: institutional racism is real, systemic and part of the daily experience of every Black person. This is the reality in every city and town across the Commonwealth and across the country. The systemic racism ingrained in this country and our police forces is something that we need to be honest about and confront head on. As a country, we're facing hard truths about bias, bigotry, racism, police violence, and economic justice. I believe strongly that Black Lives Matter and that institutional racism is real and deadly. As a candidate for Congress, I have a responsibility to amplify the millions who have protested, demonstrated, and stood in solidarity with Black people who have been targeted by law enforcement with stunning frequency. They are crying out for change. They are commanding us to do better.

We're obligated to move forward with a collective commitment to reject the status quo and embrace societal change and racial justice. The problems in our police departments in particular are so significant and so widespread that there can't only be one solution; instead, we need a broad set of reforms. To start, we need a deep and thoughtful examination of how we spend money on our police forces while simultaneously increasing funding for mental health, rehabilitation, and education. Additionally, I'm committed to promoting the demilitarization of police departments, ending qualified immunity for law enforcement, fully banning chokeholds, and creating civilian review boards to investigate police misconduct.

I also recognize that fighting for racial justice goes beyond reforming our police departments—institutional racism is built into a whole range of institutions. Whether it's confronting the legacy of discriminatory redlining practices that results in segregation and scarce affordable housing; or repairing the deep racial inequalities in school district funding; or fighting for equal voting rights since *Shelby County V. Holder* gutted the Voting Rights Act; or closing the racial wealth gap and providing Black entrepreneurs with access to capital, we have so much work to reverse 400 years of racial oppression. I'm committed to being a strong ally and advocate for these causes in Congress.

**JULIE HALL:** Congress has a role when it comes to addressing injustices in law enforcement in many ways. As it is true that state and local governments are responsible to the vast majority of police practices, the federal government can require certain things to be done by states in order to be eligible for law enforcement grants. President Trump issued an executive order when it comes to federal law enforcement reform, and Senator Tim Scott introduced the Justice Act in the Senate, and I believe his proposal makes the most sense. The measure includes incentives for police departments to ban chokeholds, more disclosure requirements about the use of force and no-knock warrants, and penalties for false reports. It also includes emergency grant programs for body cameras, makes lynching a federal hate crime and creates a commission to study the conditions facing black men and boys. Unfortunately Senate Democrats blocked it, and I hope with a Republican House, Senate, and White House, it can become law next year.

**ALAN KHAZEI:** In the face of injustice, a leader needs to do three things: listen, speak out, and act. And that's exactly what Congress needs to be doing at this pivotal moment in our history:

Congress must listen to the passionate outcry from Americans who are heartbroken and outraged at the murder of George Floyd. Of Breonna Taylor. Of Ahmaud Arbery. Their murders are all too familiar to members of the African American community across this country. Even after the groundbreaking achievements of the Civil Rights Era, too many of our Black and Brown people continue to suffer unjustly from racist policing, a biased court system, impediments to their voting rights, and chronic poverty.

And Congress must also speak out clearly. We must affirm that Black Lives Matter. We must make clear that we—as a country—will no longer sit silently by as systemic racism persists.

And then—most importantly—Congress needs to act. Specifically, [I've proposed with Rev. Cornell W. Brooks, former President and CEO of the NAACP, that Congress establish an American Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission, with initial funding appropriated at \\$50 million.](#) This commission would not be meant to delay the demands for change but rather to amplify, intensify and expedite the transformation of those demands into significant legal, policy and cultural change.

The Commission will be composed of a diverse group of leaders who have strong moral authority. That can include leaders from different faith traditions, those with diverse lived experiences, including and especially people living in poverty, those who have experienced the harshest effects of our racist, anti-Black criminal justice system and young people who are at the forefront of calling for change. It will bring together participants from all four sectors of American society, public, private, non-profit and educational. The Commission would be tasked with bringing to light the vast array of America's anti-Black racist structures and their negative impacts.

In addition, the Commission will hold public hearings across the country as well as in our nation's capital. It will take testimony and receive evidence from a wide set of Americans from all backgrounds—rural and urban, North and South, professional, working class and low income. It will also hear from academics and policy experts. Ultimately, it would be charged with delivering a set of sweeping recommendations for transformational change in our criminal justice system, in our education system, including how we pay for public education in America, in our health care and public health system, and in our economic system.

Beyond my proposal for a Truth, Justice, and Reconciliation Commission, I believe Congress must implement comprehensive criminal justice reform. That means ending mandatory minimums, outlawing private prisons, abolishing the death penalty, restoring Pell Grant access to prisoners, restoring voting rights to previously incarcerated individuals, eliminating qualified immunity for law enforcement, and prohibiting the transfer of military weapons from the federal government to state and local law enforcement. These progressive reforms will help overturn the deeply-rooted racism embedded within our criminal justice system, and will help ensure economic security for new generations of Black and Brown Americans for years to come.

I've made fighting for racial justice, diversity, equity and inclusion, a centerpiece of my professional career. We started City Year with the goal of demonstrating how bringing together young people from all different backgrounds for an intensive year serving side by side in common purpose could turn on young people's "justice nerves" and help complete the Civil Rights movement.

City Year was the very first youth service corps in America to bring together such a very diverse group of young people—low income, middle income and affluent; former gang members and Ivy league graduates, city and suburb, African-American, Asian, Caucasian and Latino, people of different gender identities and sexual orientations, and all different faiths. Because we served as the inspiration and model for AmeriCorps, AmeriCorps is also open to people from all different backgrounds and now more than 1.1 million have served contributing more than 1.7 billion hours of service to our communities and country—fighting poverty, fixing schools, preserving our environment, supporting seniors and veterans and doing disaster relief work.

**NATALIA LINOS:** The murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and too many others, at a time when COVID-19 is disproportionately killing Black Americans, has created an important moment where the U.S. could make real change to address historic and ongoing racial injustice. As a social epidemiologist, I have spent years researching, advocating for, and implementing reforms to end systemic racism and documenting how government policies have resulted in segregation and inequitable outcomes. When I was Science Advisor to the New York City Health Commissioner, we explicitly worked to change the narrative from one purely focused on socio-economic status to one explicitly about racism and health. As a member of the COVID-19 Health Justice Committee for the Poor People's



Campaign, I continue to utilize my expertise to improve health and racial justice. Racism claims lives every day, not only through police violence, but through the disproportionate rates of maternal and neonatal deaths, through environmental racism, and through lower life expectancies of Black Americans.

Congress' role and what I will promote as a Congresswoman is ensuring racial equity and justice are served through all policies by elevating the voices of BIPOC in Congress, in my office, and in the community. Congress needs to be explicit in saying that racism killed George Floyd, racism is killing Black moms and babies at disproportionate rates, and racism is letting a disproportionate number of Black Americans be unemployed and killed by COVID-19. Public health professionals know this, and Congress has a responsibility to start to repair the impact of hundreds of years of racist policies such as slavery, redlining, and excluding agricultural and domestic workers from the 1935 Social Security Act. I am a strong advocate for reparations as the foundational piece of legislation to begin to address systemic racism and close the wealth and opportunity gap.

**JESSE MERMELL:** There is deep, systemic racism in the United States that permeates all of our systems and institutions, especially law enforcement and our criminal justice system. A systemic problem requires systemic reform and that means members of Congress have a responsibility to pass legislation to address these systemic inequities. Every single policy proposed or is being implemented must be scrutinized through the lens of inequity and discrimination.

I will advocate for the reallocation of federal funding from policing and incarceration to education, housing, building open spaces in our community, mental health services, and community-based solutions, especially in Black and Brown communities that have been disproportionately targeted by police brutality, mass incarceration, and crime. I'm one of only a few candidates in the race to sign the Defund Newton Police Department's Refunding Community Safety pledge committing to doing just that.

In addition, I will support a variety of proposals to address our inequitable public safety approach, including:

- Amend the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2005 to end mandatory support for police forces and make restorative justice, youth employment and education programs eligible for grant fundings.

- Discontinue the federal Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) program and divert its more than \$300 million in funding to local and state governments to build out non-law enforcement expertise in responding to calls for service.
- End qualified immunity, immediately.
- Make it a crime to deny medical care to someone in custody.
- Ban chokeholds, tear gas, no-knock warrants, stop-and-frisk, and “broken windows” policing.
- Improve oversight—including data on use of force—and expand independent investigations.
- Reassert the Justice Department’s authority to investigate racial profiling, police brutality, violence, and civil rights violations. Increase funding for the Office of Civil Rights.
- Establish all-civilian review boards for police misconduct and improve data collection on police-involved shootings and ethics violations.
- Expand use of body cameras.

I know that, as a white woman, my efforts at helping end racism must also mean centering the voices of Black and Brown leaders in my own continuing education about race and racism (as there is no finish line in this process). It must also mean amplifying Black and Brown voices, and understanding that there will be times when my role must be to listen and support rather than to speak.

**DAVID ROSA:** Regarding inquiries 1-9, I plan to work with US Government Officials, Institutions and other subject matter experts to work towards addressing these important topics.

**BEN SIGEL:** Systemic racism has had its knee on the throats of our black community for 400 years. We must seize this moment and purge systemic racism in all our systems, and I believe we must eliminate the underlying causes of racism. We need to reform our police, by ending police brutality and excessive use of force, demilitarizing the police, banning facial recognition technology, eliminating racial profiling, enforcing use of body cams, ending qualified police immunity, banning chokeholds, creating federal police certifications and decertifications, implementing national police diversity, bias and cultural competency training, creating national standards for

use and threat of force and reallocating some police resources to education and community engagement. We also need to eliminate the systemic racism in our healthcare, education, housing, transportation, food and criminal justice systems, and in our environment.

But that is not enough. We need to go deeper if we want to truly eliminate the underlying causes of racism. No one is born a racist. No one is born to hate. This behavior is taught. Education and engagement are the antidote to eradicating racism in our country. We must double down on our investment to teach our youth at the earliest of ages that lies, prejudice and stereotypes can turn into hatred and racism and even worse, death.

We also need to elect and select diverse leaders who understand the diverse perspectives of their community, including more diversity in our political leaders, hospitals, police departments, schools, and in the boards and executive suites of our public, private and non-profit companies.

We must also protect the voting rights of all Americans, especially those in historically disenfranchised communities such as the Black and Latino communities. Finally, we must ensure everyone fills out their census questionnaire, as the data from the Census determines both equal representation and equal access to \$800 billion in annual federal funds.

**2. There is widespread agreement that our current immigration system is in need of reform consistent with our nation's economic and national security interests and its historic commitment to be a haven for the vulnerable and oppressed around the world. What do you foresee as the best pathway forward for immigration reform and how would you work across the aisle to achieve these policy goals?**

**DAVE CAVELL:** First, I fully support a pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants, the Dream Act, and the Migrant Justice Platform. Undocumented people are humans that contribute to our society and must be allowed to come out from the shadows and become full, participating members of our society. This makes sense morally, economically, and from a public safety standpoint. For too long, we have allowed our broken immigration system to harm the lives of hundreds of thousands of people and it is time we take action to rectify that harm.

I have worked closely with labor unions throughout my campaign, and they all support these measures as well. They support them because when we have a large undocumented population living in fear, corporations will exploit them, and this hurts *all* workers, regardless of immigration status.

In the long run, we must restore our historical promises and credibility in the world by creating an orderly, fair, and inclusive immigration system. My family came to this country from Eastern Europe where they almost certainly would have been killed had they stayed. For so many people in the world, the United States represented a place of sanctuary and hope. Now, under the current Administration, the United States is, for millions of people around the world and especially in Central and South America, a place of exclusion and even terror. This is an abdication of moral leadership in the world. I believe that we can work across the aisle by appealing to the better angels of our history and tradition. America is at its best when we welcome those throughout the world yearning to breathe free and eager to build lives here as Americans. America is still a beacon of hope in the world, even during these dark times. I think that much is still bipartisan, and we can make progress from that shared belief.

**BECKY GROSSMAN:** Immigration is a deeply personal issue to me. I am able to have the life I have and step forward as a candidate for U.S. Congress because my family managed to escape Poland before the Holocaust and immigrate to this country. I'm horrified and outraged by President Trump's campaign of lies and relentless racial, ethnic, and religious hatred against immigrants, threatening people and tearing apart families who have contributed to our nation for years and demonizing those whose only "crime" is to believe that America means a better future for themselves and their children. Separating families and putting children in cages not only undercuts our values but also doesn't make us any safer. Reversing Trump's cruel immigration agenda must be the first step when the next administration takes office.

Moving forward from there, I will fight to protect immigrants and American values and support long-overdue immigration reform. We need to protect our DREAMers and ensure that DACA is once and for all the law of the land. We need to stop dehumanizing undocumented immigrants and instead treat them with compassion and open a path to citizenship. We also must ensure that America is once again a safe haven for those escaping persecution and abuse, and I will fight to restore our annual refugee quota to the Obama-era levels. Finally, we need to redeploy our federal to focus on real cross-border dangers such as human trafficking, weapons smuggling, and the illicit importation of drugs.

**JULIE HALL:** The administration has been going forward with border security and wall construction in order to stop the massive flow of illegal immigration. That must be completed first, then an overall merit-based immigration system should replace the patchwork system that has been in place but ignored in many respects over the last 50 years. I will work with anyone across the aisle that agrees on these principles: effective border security, a merit-based immigration system with special consideration for those legitimately seeking asylum, the dissolution of sanctuary cities throughout the nation in order to help immigration officials detect and detain dangerous individuals who are here illegally, and a reform of our visa and work permit system that is in the best interests of the American worker. There has to be a system created within the above parameters to effectively deal with the millions of people who are in the United States illegally due to border crossings, overstaying their visas, and the Dreamers. There needs to be a process for these folks to gain legal status but they must go through the process in turn like every other applicant to participate in the naturalization process.

**ALAN KHAZEI:** I am the son of immigrants. My father was an immigrant from Iran, who left a country of dictatorship for a country of freedom, equality of opportunity and justice for all. My grandfather on my Mom's side came from Italy, and my Great-Grandfather also came from Italy and worked in the coal mines of Western, PA—and was inspired by John L. Lewis to fight for the coal miners union. If elected, I would be the first Iranian-American ever elected to the United States Congress. All that is my way of saying I know how vital immigrants are to our economic goals, our political discussions, and our cultural fabric.

I strongly support comprehensive immigration reform. That includes a pathway to citizenship that is far more expeditious and efficient than the system that currently exists. However, I oppose harmful “reforms” such as cuts in family immigration, and strongly oppose efforts, before comprehensive immigration is enacted, to make the flawed E-Verify program mandatory or to force layoffs based on Social Security number mismatches that affect many U.S. citizens and authorized workers.

I also believe in a human-centered immigration and refugee policy. We cannot cage children in inhumane facilities, and we need to reform ICE before more lives are destroyed. America must remain the beacon of hope for people across the world. We need common-sense security measures, instead of blanket bans, to keep our country safe while offering the American Dream to those who need it most.

The United States is a nation of immigrants. I am a son of immigrants. People used to immigrate here through Ellis Island in the thousands. Immigration is our heritage, and it should be our future.

**NATALIA LINOS:** I was born in the U.S. when my parents were here for their medical residencies but moved to Greece when I was a month old and came back to Massachusetts at 17 for college. So while I have always had citizenship, much of my lived experience has been that of an immigrant. I believe immigrants strengthen the U.S. and am appalled by the Trump Administration's treatment of immigrants and refugees. As a public health expert, I have noted how our anti-immigrant sentiment is hindering our COVID-19 response as people are reluctant to get tested or share details with contact tracers if they or their friends and family are undocumented.

We must never again see inhumane child separation and

deportation policies and should put in place a moratorium on the construction of new detention facilities, increase humanitarian aid to the border, and hold the government accountable with a comprehensive investigation into the deaths of children in U.S. custody. I will work to strengthen family reunification and create a more effective naturalization system by eliminating the backlog of millions of families awaiting reunification visas. I will also advocate for Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) and Deferred Action for Parents of Americans and Lawful Permanent Residents (DAPA) and make it easier for those eligible for Citizenship to naturalize. In many cases, those coming from countries such as Honduras and El Salvador would stay in their home country if it were safe. Therefore, providing aid and support to countries of origin is also important. Globally, the U.S. needs to increase its refugee quotas. Having worked with refugees in Pakistan, Lebanon, and Greece, the U.S. not only has the means to support more refugees but is also enhanced by their presence.

**JESSE MERMELL:** The treatment of children and families at our borders has been one of the most offensive and unjust actions of Donald Trump's many racist policies and will forever be a stain on our nation. The Trump administration has attacked immigration at every level, across the board—from refugees and asylum seekers to those holding H1-B visas to meet our workforce needs and, most egregiously, those being inhumanely separated from their families at the border. We need strong, moral leadership to right these wrongs and find a path that is reflective of the values America aspires to embody.

We need to fight back against the policies the Trump administration has set forth on immigration and find a different path more in line with our history and our values. The Fourth Congressional District has a proud history of welcoming people from distant shores—no matter which corner of the planet we all share. Our broken immigration system needs to be overhauled to create a pathway to citizenship for undocumented immigrants— not criminalizing their mere existence in our nation. I support the Dream Act and Migrant Justice Platform. Here in Massachusetts, I have been supportive of the Work and Families Mobility Act (the Driver's License bill).

**DAVID ROSA:** Regarding inquiries 1-9, I plan to work with US Government Officials, Institutions and other subject matter experts to work towards addressing these important topics.

**BEN SIGEL:** Fixing our immigration system is a moral, ethical, and economic imperative. We need an immigration system and a society that allows EVERYone to thrive, no matter where they came from, how they got here, what they look like, and what language they speak. Creating an inclusive society that EVERYone can participate in, regardless of immigration status, will only strengthen our social, economic and civic life. Our immigration system and by extension our society, should not merely attempt to protect and support our immigrants, but rather seize every opportunity to uplift and celebrate immigrants, while expanding their access to opportunities. We are all interconnected, and we are in this together. Our immigrant neighbors have made our society, commonwealth and country more vibrant and stronger and helped it progress further. They have also made significant social, cultural, civic, scientific, and technological contributions to our neighborhoods and society, and have been a vibrant engine in our economy here in Massachusetts and throughout the country.

I believe we need compassionate and comprehensive immigration reform, with a pathway to citizenship for the 12+ million undocumented immigrants, providing permanent status for recipients of TPS and DACA, decriminalizing unauthorized border crossing, stopping ICE from continuing its xenophobic attacks on our immigrant community, intentionally intimidating, threatening, harassing and striking fear into our immigrant community, ending the public charge rule, ensuring that all of our immigrants, regardless of status receive healthcare coverage, unemployment assistance and the ability to receive their drivers licenses, stopping all zero-tolerance immigration policies at the borders for migrants, removing and destigmatizing the label and image that an undocumented immigrant is a criminal, investing in providing free language classes for English learners, and supporting the Safe Communities Act.



### **3. To what extent should the safeguarding of human rights, including but not limited to preventing genocide and combating racism and religious persecution, inform our nation's international relationships, trade agreements, and diplomatic conduct?**

**DAVE CAVELL:** The United States is still the most powerful country in the world and, in that role, we are still capable of setting the tone globally on issues like human rights. If we make human rights a centerpiece of our foreign policy and diplomacy, the world will follow.

Right now, President Trump has a chaotic foreign policy at best, and an amoral, transactional foreign policy at worst. He befriends dictators either because he is too weak to rebuff them, or because he sees the world in transactional terms and does not care to exercise moral courage or moral leadership.

I still believe that soft power is a stronger weapon than military might. The United States can exercise soft power by making it clear, in our dealings with foreign countries, that we practice what we preach and uphold our values of liberalism and tolerance. Two quotes from Reinhold Neibur come to mind. He said “The sad duty of politics is to establish justice in a sinful world.” The United States is the only nation powerful enough today to practice a politics of justice on the world stage.

The other Neibur quote that I often think about is “Comfort the afflicted, and afflict the comfortable.” Our approach with other nations should be to comfort the afflicted—those persecuted by the powerful, those marginalized, discriminated against, or worse. And in so doing, we should afflict the comfortable—the despots, plutocrats, and mass murderers of the world. Nobody but the United States is in a position to do that.

If not us, who?

**BECKY GROSSMAN:** From Xinjiang, to Crimea, to Myanmar, we've witnessed an assault on human rights globally over the last several years. Rather than conducting a values-based foreign policy that fulfills America's diplomatic, security, moral obligations, President Trump has embraced—even celebrated—authoritarian leaders and regimes engaged in vicious suppression of their people based on ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, and other factors. In January of 2021, the United States must start to reclaim its mantle as a steadfast

supporter of human rights and international norms by repairing and renewing our alliances with other democracies and centering diplomacy as the cornerstone of our foreign policy. Along with our allies, we need to send a clear message to the world that persecution and infringement on human rights will not be tolerated. States who engage in this behavior must understand that they will not benefit from trading privileges or warm diplomatic relations with the U.S. and other democratic countries. These efforts must also go hand-in-hand with a democratic renewal at home, with efforts to root out systemic racism and voter suppression and a return to a humane immigration agenda, among other measures. As I see it, safeguarding human rights globally isn't just a moral obligation—it's also a matter of strategy, as abusers of human rights simply aren't trustworthy partners.

**JULIE HALL:** This is a very sensitive issue, because our world is full of nations who are autocratic and oppress their people in order to perpetuate their regimes. The United States was founded on the principle that the people are sovereign with the God given right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, and our Constitution was created to protect those rights, which were more specifically defined in our Bill of Rights. Our Constitution and Bill of Rights is what unites us, and our ideals have changed the world to benefit millions of people worldwide for almost 244 years. With that said, when conducting foreign policy, we need to take positions that are in our strategic, economic, and in our political interests. Some of the nations we must do business with are lacking or even detrimental to different aspects of the human rights we as Americans expect to be protected. We need to consistently make the case publicly against human rights violations made by all nations, regardless of our relationships and agreements. We can also take certain punitive actions against nations in the form of sanctions and trade deal demands to coerce regimes to respect the rights of their citizens. We need to be pragmatic with our approach in order to protect our overall strategic goals, but I believe a consistent, measured, and aggressive strategy can yield positive results over time.

**ALAN KHAZEI:** The United States has and always will be fundamentally human-rights oriented. I believe our nation's human rights ideals and its strategic concerns are *not* mutually exclusive, rather just the opposite. As my father always reminded me growing up, it is the times that we stray from those ideals of democracy, human rights and justice that we run into wars, conflict, and global challenges. I am strongly dedicated to promoting bilateral and especially multilateral cooperation through our international relationships and trade agreements to increase the spread of human rights and democratic ideals. When we do it alone, we risk skewing the true meaning of democracy and rights in favor of personal or narrower agendas. If elected, I would work with congressional partners and the administration to restore multilateralism and address our security and peace challenges as a coalition.

**NATALIA LINOS:** As the Executive Director for a center of health and human rights, I am deeply committed to safeguarding human rights and see these as foundational to our international relations, trade, and diplomacy. In my 10+ years at the UN, I had the opportunity to see what U.S. leadership can be at its best. The Trump Administration has antagonized our allies while befriending authoritarian leaders and gutted the State Department. We cannot ensure our security or be a true global leader unless we recommit to our alliances with countries that respect human rights and invest more in the State Department. In addition, trade agreements should include provisions to ensure human rights and environmental protections.

**JESSE MERMELL:** I strongly believe in safeguarding human rights and that Congress must use its existing powers of impeachment, subpoena, and the purse to engage in thoughtful and diplomatic foreign policy that reflects our values globally and uses our power to stop genocidal and hateful acts.

**DAVID ROSA:** Regarding inquiries 1-9, I plan to work with US Government Officials, Institutions and other subject matter experts to work towards addressing these important topics.

**BEN SIGEL:** Safeguarding human rights, preventing genocide and combating racism and religious persecution must be at the core of how we approach our international relationships, trade agreements and diplomatic conduct. The United States must continue to be a leader in upholding values of democracy, freedom and justice. As one of the world's only superpowers, the United States not only has a moral and ethical obligation to be a protector of human rights, but also to help lift other countries to join them in celebrating and upholding these standards.

The United States should implement trade policies and conduct its foreign diplomacy in a way that rewards our trading partners and allies when they implement fair labor laws, minimum wage laws, safeguard human rights, combat religious persecution, encourage democratic free trade unions, implement stringent environmental protections, combat racism, and strive to give access to opportunities to all its residents, regardless of race, religion, sexual orientation, gender, sex, socio-economic status, immigration status, abilities or language.

**4. There is growing concern in the country about financial inequality and its consequences for those lower on the economic ladder. If elected to the United States Congress, describe at least one initiative you will propose to address this concern?**

**DAVE CAVELL:** Income inequality is one of the hallmark issues of our time, and it is one of the most dangerous threats to our democracy. All of my policies, directly or indirectly, deal with lessening income inequality—from ending cash bail, to expanding public transit, to lowering healthcare costs. Yet one policy I'd like to focus on here is the estate tax. Currently, the estate tax only kicks in for wealth in excess of \$22 million. It used to be \$7 million, and it's time to return to that previous figure. We need to lower that number to make sure that millionaires are not bypassing the IRS and leaving their kids with small fortunes. That intergenerational transfer of wealth is one massive barrier to lessening income inequality, and it creates the kind of American aristocracy that our Founders were so against. Lowering the estate tax from \$22 million to \$7 million will impact the 14,000 richest families in the country, whereas the tax revenue from this change could provide affordable housing for hundreds of thousands or millions of struggling families.

**BECKY GROSSMAN:** I'm deeply concerned about rising inequality in the United States. Tackling inequality isn't only a matter of economic justice, but also vital to repairing our social fabric and demonstrating to those who have lost faith in our system that government works for them too. In the country at large, wealth is concentrated in the hands of the top 1% and everyone else is treading water. I will work to repeal the Trump tax cuts for the wealthy and big corporations, to provide tax relief for the middle class, and to ensure that the ultra-rich and corporate giants pay their fair share. The current financial crisis is an opportunity to reimagine an economy that works for everyone, and we must start to mobilize our federal resources and invest in working families.

I will also advocate for numerous other measures to reduce inequality in America. First, we should couple the need for bold climate action with the need to put millions of Americans back to work with good-paying jobs through robust investments in green jobs, infrastructure, and public transit. We also need a large infusion of affordable housing across every community. The federal government must increase our housing stock while prioritizing

groups who have been marginalized on the basis of race and sexual orientation because of redlining and outright discrimination. Another issue I'm passionate about is achieving universal pre-K in child care. Compared to other highly-developed economies, the United States has a glaring lack of public policy and infrastructure to support young families. We know that the opportunity gap starts at the very beginning of a child's life. And children who don't have access to quality early childhood care and education grow up with severe, long-term disadvantages. In order to level that playing field, it's become clear that working families in this country desperately need relief. Rebuilding the middle class, providing pathways to opportunity for those struggling to get into the middle class, starting to tackle the racial wealth gap, and recovering equitably from this economic crisis starts with a child care system that is affordable and accessible to all.

**JULIE HALL:** I believe that the best way to alleviate financial inequality is to reform the educational system in the United States with one principal—school choice for those that are stuck in failing school districts. We can reauthorize Title 1 of the Elementary and Secondary Act of 1965 to state simply that parents can get direct grants from Title 1 funding to send their child to another school if their local school district is failing. They can pay tuition to any other accredited public, private, or charter school that will enroll them. It is undeniable that young people with a good education are far more likely to succeed in the workforce than those who have a poor or incomplete education. It is unacceptable to look the other way and let disadvantaged youth be robbed of a good education in the most successful nation in the world, and this one measure will lift millions out of a life of poverty.

**ALAN KHAZEI:** I've spent my entire life trying to address the deeply rooted financial inequality that grips so much of this country through national service—it's been over thirty years since I co-founded City Year with Michael Brown in 1988 in Boston with just 50 young people. Today, City Year enlists more than 3400 young people who serve 29 cities across America as well as three in the UK and one in South Africa. They serve more than 200,000 low income children every day. Since its founding, City Year has given 33,000 young people their first job. I want to emulate City Year's success on a federal level with legislation that authorizes the expansion of AmeriCorps, the national service program City Year helped inspire and I helped save.

I support a goal of at least 1 million members in service annually. I also support changing the Eli Segal Education award to make it available for the American Dream, and increasing it to \$15,000. That way, anyone who is willing to serve our communities and country for two years will be able to graduate college debt free. Especially in light of the COVID-19 crisis and the need for recovery and also to provide jobs for people, I believe that AmeriCorps and other service programs should be grown to one million people in the next two years. I will also fight for fully funding the Edward M. Kennedy Serve America Law in 2021, which authorizes growth to 250,000 AmeriCorps members annually. I led the effort to get this law passed years ago, but fully funding the program—especially because of the current economic crisis—is a vital step towards addressing financial inequality.

I will also propose [Restore the Dream Accounts to end student loan debt and give every single young American a jump start on the American Dream](#). I have proposed that the federal government invest \$15,000 in every single child's Restore the Dream Account when they are born, paid with funds from the Estate Tax. With standard moderate market returns in safe managed funds, that will grow to \$50,000 by their 19th birthday. To unlock those funds, you just have to complete one year of national service by age 28. Families can also contribute to these accounts and any investments that a family makes will go to the child, whether or not they complete a year of service. Funds in a Dream Account can be used to pay for College, job training, for the downpayment on a first home, start up funds to be a small business or social entrepreneur, life-long learning, emergency needs and for retirement. This plan will incentivize Americans to serve their country and community in a meaningful way, while also giving every young person a jumpstart on the American Dream. I see this as a bookend to Social Security.

The expansion of voluntary national service and the implementation of Restore the Dream Accounts will jumpstart national programs on infrastructure, public health, economic development, climate action, and many other critical areas. Each American will enter adulthood with the opportunity to serve for one year and study debt free, as Dream Accounts yield far more than the average student loan debt. These accounts also give young people from low income backgrounds tangible assets to jumpstart their lives that they would not otherwise have, and will help reverse growing financial inequities in communities across the country.

**NATALIA LINOS:** Progressive tax reform should address spiraling inequality by ensuring that the wealthiest Americans pay their fair share. First, I believe Congress should eliminate loopholes that shield capital gains from taxes. Second, I believe the richest Americans should contribute more in the form of a wealth tax. I would also support legislation to close loopholes that allow income to be earned or wealth to be stored “offshore” in order to avoid taxes. Finally, I believe that corporations should pay their fair share. I support efforts to reverse the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (TCJA), specifically the provision that lowers the tax rate on corporate profits.

**JESSE MERMELL:** Even before the COVID-19 crisis, the people of the Fourth District were experiencing sweeping and systemic economic challenges that were still leaving far too many people and families behind. Now, economic inequality has only been exacerbated. We need to bring this economy back and, unlike now or before, we need a fair economy. This is especially important in a district that’s as economically diverse as the Fourth. And it intersects with many issues that the people of the Fourth District face every day—especially amid this crisis.

An initiative that I would lead on day one is the fight for a national Paid Family and Medical Leave law. The United States is the only industrialized nation without out and our failure to protect our workers is being seen in stark relief during the pandemic. No one should have to choose between earning a paycheck and taking care of a sick loved one.

I was on the eight person team that negotiated the strongest Paid Family and Medical Leave law in the country here in Massachusetts. It is the first state law in the nation to allow for job-protected paid time off for personal health and additional paid time for military caregivers. I will fight to do the same on the federal level.

To build a fair economy, we also must invest in transportation, housing, and infrastructure, enact equal pay, empower SouthCoast communities by providing funding for job training programs and investing in good clean energy jobs, raise the Federal Minimum Wage to \$15 per hour, strengthening labor protections, and addressing the underlying causes of the racial wealth gap. I believe we must pass a wealth tax and close corporate loopholes to level the playing field and I have been a fierce advocate in support of the Fair Share Amendment in Massachusetts to tax the wealthiest among us to make critical investments in education and transportation.



**DAVID ROSA:** Regarding inquiries 1-9, I plan to work with US Government Officials, Institutions and other subject matter experts to work towards addressing these important topics.

**BEN SIGEL:** My platform is based on the premise of “We the 4th” meaning that we are all in this together and we all have the moral obligation to lift those around us, particularly the most vulnerable. It must start with providing relief for our most vulnerable members, creating economic mobility for our workers and ending the systemic racism, including combating environmental injustice and racism.

We know that education is one of the most powerful ways to address the disparities and inequalities in our country. We need to create a 21st century interconnected education system, starting with universal pre-school for 3-5 year olds and expanding Early Head Start. We must invest in our K-12 education by providing more professional development for our teachers, diversifying our teachers, and providing resources to upgrade and modernize school infrastructure. We must also make public higher education more accessible and affordable, by capping any student debt at a small fixed percentage of a student’s income, allowing students to have the friendly interest rates on their school loans as banks have on loans they receive from other banks. Finally, we must provide free adult vocational education so adults may receive the skills and training necessary to achieve a higher living standard. We must also provide free English classes for our immigrants who have the required skills and training for 21st century jobs but do not have the English proficiency.

In addition, we must also enact a Federal Paid Family and Medical Leave policy, as we can’t be the only industrialized country in the world not to have it. We must allow the federal government to negotiate prescription drug prices under Medicare to drive down prescription drug costs. We also must expand the Earned Income Tax Credit, pass a \$15 minimum wage that is indexed, and expand social security benefits.

**5. Antisemitism and violence against Jews are on the rise around the world. According to the FBI's most recent Hate Crimes Statistics report, in 2018 anti-Jewish hate crimes accounted for 57% of all religiously motivated hate crimes. Nearly one third of respondents in a recent [AJC survey](#) of American Jews reported having been afraid to wear something in public that identifies them as Jews. To address this problem, the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance drafted a "Working Definition" of antisemitism, which has been adopted in dozens of countries in Europe (including Germany, France, and the UK) and endorsed by UN Secretary General Gutierrez and the US Department of State. This definition provides a means for assessing when given actions may involve bias against Jews, thereby reducing confusion and providing a basis for constructive action. Will you go on record to endorse the [IHRA Definition of Antisemitism](#)?**

**DAVE CAVELL:** Yes, I will endorse the IHRA Definition of Antisemitism. As an American Jew, I saw antisemitism up close as a kid. And now, we all see it bolstered and enflamed during the Trump Administration, during which cemeteries have been vandalized, Jews have been murdered in synagogues and homes, and the President initially refused to condemn those participating in a neo-Nazi march. This antisemitism and white supremacy is representative of centuries of oppression that Jews have endured and continue to endure. I lost family members in the Holocaust, have family in Israel, including some who have made Aliyah, and visited the country half a dozen times, including to see my father, a university professor, receive an honorary degree at Hebrew University in Jerusalem in 1997.

I have been involved with the Anti-Defamation League for years and also worked in the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office to promote our hate crimes hotline. I also worked with our Civil Rights Division on protecting vulnerable communities, and served as a liaison to Jewish congregations and communities in the aftermath of the Tree of Life mass shooting and the rise of antisemitic incidents in this country. I know how to stand up every single day in Congress against antisemitism. That work begins by adopting the definition proposed by the IHRA. As American Jews, we must always stand up for ourselves and for Jews all around the world.

**BECKY GROSSMAN:** The recent rise of anti-Semitism here at home and around the world is heartbreaking, alarming, and a threat to the safety and well-being of Jews here in America and around the world. We have an obligation to combat and root out anti-Semitism in all forms, and I will use my bully pulpit in Congress to address and forcefully speak out against anti-Semitism. I wholeheartedly endorse the IHRA's definition of anti-Semitism and hope to see more and more countries around the world adopt this definition as well.

**JULIE HALL:** Yes, I endorse the IHRA definition of anti-semitism.

**ALAN KHAZEI:** Absolutely. Antisemitism must be condemned in all its forms, and its concerning reemergence in recent years must be combatted at the local, state, and federal levels. We cannot tolerate discrimination of any kind, and we must take special care to fight the kind of demonization that has unjustly vilified Jewish communities around the world for centuries.

**NATALIA LINOS:** Yes. There is no doubt that the Trump administration has ushered in a moment where hate, including and especially directed towards Jewish people, is on the rise. Supporting the IHRA Definition of Antisemitism is just one step of many we must take to make sure we can reverse this alarming rise in antisemitism and other hate crimes against Jewish people.

**JESSE MERMELL:** Anti-semitism is not new but it has been reinvigorated in recent years with an increase in anti-semitic rhetoric and acts of violence. Acts of anti-semitism are on the rise here in Massachusetts and there are reports of spikes due to COVID-19 conspiracy theories fueled by an out of control White House occupant. Politicians of both parties must be thoughtful and precise with the words they use in discussing Jewish issues, including Israel. In Congress, I would support legislation such as the Jabara-Heyer NO HATE Act to improve data collection on hate crimes, overhaul state and local crime reporting systems, establish hate crime reporting hotlines, encourage law enforcement policies on identifying, investigating, and reporting hate crimes, and create education programs and community service programs for those convicted of hate crimes. The IHRA offers a thoughtful, well-researched definition of anti-Semitism, one that I personally use when thinking about what anti-semitism looks like. I believe it should be an important part of our discussions aimed at understanding and counteracting this unique form of hatred.

**DAVID ROSA:** Regarding inquiries 1-9, I plan to work with US Government Officials, Institutions and other subject matter experts to work towards addressing these important topics.

**BEN SIGEL:** Yes! This is an integral part of my Anti-Semitism platform which you can view at [bensigelforcongress.com/anti-Semitism](https://bensigelforcongress.com/anti-Semitism). I have also met with many members of the Diplomatic Corps and Congress to advocate for countries to adopt the IHRA definition of Anti-Semitism.

**6. In recent years, advocates for anti-Israel and, at times, anti-Jewish political agendas have demonstrated growing success in their effort to coopt the movement for racial justice. For example, before and since the murder of George Floyd, some proponents of the BDS (Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions) movement have circulated a false and tendentious narrative that holds Israel responsible for law enforcement tactics that brutalize people of color. These claims undermine the fight against the current manifestations of white supremacy (e.g. voter suppression, de facto segregation, over-policing, over-imprisonment and other measures that promote inequality). They also demonstrate how readily false and malicious claims about Jews and Jewish interests can take root and spread. Should you be elected to the United States Congress, how do you propose to ensure that the quest for racial justice remains strong and that those who would undermine it through false and malicious claims are marginalized?**

**DAVE CAVELL:** First, as your Congressperson, I would take an active stand against BDS. I believe that this movement is ineffectual and cloaked in antisemitism (sometimes veiled, sometimes troublingly overt). I will also always remind my colleagues and constituents that in a Middle East region that is overwhelmingly hostile to social justice, Israel is our best partner and ally to uphold the liberal values we believe in as Americans. Finally, as your question alludes to, I will always make it clear that our focus should be on white supremacist violence, hatred, and antisemitism. Israeli scientists trying to cure complex diseases at research facilities are not responsible for white supremacist violence against people of color. We need to speak bluntly about this and keep our eye on the ball. What united Jews with people of color is our shared interest in fighting the regressive forces of racial supremacy, hatred and bigotry. That is the root of the problem, and we are all safer and better poised to make progress when we recognize that and work together.

**BECKY GROSSMAN:** I oppose the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement, which is rooted in anti-Semitic sentiment, and I support Black Lives Matter, which is about confronting and ending the daily reality of systemic, pervasive racism against Black people. I will never tolerate

any attempt to shift the blame for American racism, including police violence, onto Israel or anywhere other than where it belongs, which is on our country and society here in America. And I will call out anyone who seeks to poison and pervert the extraordinary movement happening now for racial and social justice in the United States with anti-Semitism and hate.

**JULIE HALL:** The quest for racial justice will remain strong by continuing to be a strong proponent of American values—the right to live your own life, individual liberty, and equal justice under the law. I will also publicly speak out against those who make false and malicious claims and try to make them infamous. I am very concerned about the rise of anti-semitism on our college campuses and within the ranks of many Marxist inspired organizations in the United States. They need to be called out and condemned on a consistent basis, and if our justice system fails to have the tools to root racial injustice and other forms of bigotry that clearly defines our laws and Constitution, Congress should act decisively and strongly.

**ALAN KHAZEI:** I draw my strength and inspiration from the singular example of Congressman John Lewis, who I was privileged to work with several times during the course of my tenure at City Year and after. And as I mourn his passing, I am especially mindful that Congressman Lewis’s passionate advocacy for racial justice was complemented by his fierce determination to combat antisemitism, wherever it reared its head. From bravely speaking out on behalf of Soviet Jewry, to refusing to normalize the bigotry and antisemitism emanating from Louis Farrakhan, Congressman Lewis understood that it is impossible to build a Beloved Community without fighting fervently against antisemitism.

And so too here. An intersectional coalition to fight for racial justice is doomed to fail if it is tainted by antisemitism, and—like Congressman Lewis—I will not hesitate to raise my voice and call out antisemitism. It is particularly important that those of us who are committed to the pursuit of social justice, equity, and antiracism stand up against antisemitism wherever and whenever it rears its ugly head. We must be vigilant not only to fight bigotry when it comes from the other side of the aisle, but to also hold ourselves accountable.

In addition to speaking out, we will also need to do the hard work of building trust between Americans and combating hatred through education. We need to invest in our nation’s teachers,

provide increased and more equitable funding for public schools, and develop curriculums to educate students about antisemitism (and other forms of bigotry) through expanding programs such as Facing History and Ourselves. Building trust through compassion and education is our most effective weapon at our disposal against misinformation and hate. In addition, I would expect that the American Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission I've proposed would have leaders from all faiths on it and fighting Anti-Semitism would be included in its mandate.

**NATALIA LINOS:** This is a historic time for racial justice in America. If elected I intend to strongly support the quest for equity and justice for all. I disagree with the conflation of the BDS movement and protests following the murder of George Floyd. Many groups including white supremacists use disinformation and misinformation to target both Jewish people and people of color. To combat this in all its forms, we must be unafraid to be anti-racist and ensure social media companies have a responsibility to take action to prevent dangerous misinformation and hate from spreading on their platforms.

**JESSE MERMELL:** We must have strong moral leadership to fight back against hateful rhetoric in all forms, and particularly anti-Semitism. As leaders, we need to hold ourselves and others accountable to ensure we are all intentional and thoughtful about the language we use when discussing groups that have been targets of oppression. We must ensure that our allies are educated about long-standing tropes and stereotypes that have been used to advance hate. This is true across all forms of hatred but the unique nature of anti-Semitism forces us to be particularly vigilant in guarding against it.

**DAVID ROSA:** Regarding inquiries 1-9, I plan to work with US Government Officials, Institutions and other subject matter experts to work towards addressing these important topics.

**BEN SIGEL:** I intentionally released my full platforms for ending Racism and combating Anti-Semitism on the same day and am the only candidate in this race that has placed both as central tenets of my platform from the beginning. Growing up as a Latino and Jew I have experienced both, having been told "pick up that penny you spic" on occasion. The Friday before my announcement, I was told outside my synagogue that my grandmother should have died in

the Holocaust by a gentleman. This is not new to me, I have spent my adult life building, connecting and strengthening the Jewish and Latino communities, and connecting those communities with other diverse communities. We cannot let these hateful and malicious claims interfere in the efforts to end systemic racism, but we also have to address these claims. Anti-Semitism is on the rise, with a record high number of reported cases in 2019, I believe education and engagement is the key to eliminating the underlying causes of hate and Anti-Semitism. No one is born a racist. No one is born a bigot. No one is born an Anti-Semite. This behavior is taught. We must double down on our investment to teach our youth at the earliest of ages that lies, prejudice and stereotypes can turn into hatred and racism and even worse, death. We must also truly commit ourselves to better educating and training our police, teachers, first responders, and political and civic leaders on cultural competency, diversity, equity & inclusion and explicit and implicit bias. We must also pass tougher Hate Crimes legislation and be tougher on prosecuting hate crimes. We also need to support the NO HATE Act. I will be a champion for combating and eliminating racism and Anti-Semitism in our country.



**7. We are in the midst of another fraught moment in the ongoing struggle for peace between Israel and its Palestinian neighbors. Hamas continues to advocate for Israel's destruction. The Palestinian Authority has refused negotiations for more than 5 years. And, in the absence of a credible peace process, the new Israeli coalition government has stated its desire to apply Israeli law to West Bank settlements (albeit, it appears now, within a much smaller territory than was proposed before the formation of the current government). For decades, a two-state solution has been a pillar of American foreign policy. Do you support a two-state solution to this conflict that will provide for a Palestinian and an Israeli state? What do you believe the role of the United States should be in resolving this conflict? As a member of Congress, what policies would you advocate for to advance your view of our nation's role?**

**DAVE CAVELL:** I believe that a two-state solution is the only long-term path to stability, peace, and a Jewish and democratic Israel. Our shared goal is peace. A permanent two-state end to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict based on the 1967 lines and security guarantees is the only way to guarantee a peaceful, prosperous, and stable future for Israel. That's why I will oppose unilateral actions that obstruct the path toward two states on either side of the conflict, including demanding the Palestinian government abide by its international commitments by recognizing Israel and renouncing violence as a means of achieving its goals, while also opposing the potential Israeli settlement expansion activities on the West Bank that would make peace harder to achieve.

Ultimately, it is up to the Israelis and the Palestinians to make the difficult choices to achieve peace, but leadership and encouragement from the United States will be indispensable to any successful peace plan. To that end, I support efforts like Barack Obama's \$38 billion dollar security aid package to Israel to ensure that Israel is always negotiating from a position of security and strength.

I also support a plan to reduce aid to the Palestinian territories on a one-to-one basis as punishment for Palestinian acts of terror. At the same time, I do support substantial humanitarian aid to Palestine, and I support being explicit about the United States' opposition to

annexation. I believe that when these policies work together, the United States will set up the Israelis and Palestinians to work out the most productive and promising peace deal.

**BECKY GROSSMAN:** To ensure lasting peace and security for Israel, I support finding a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Finding this solution is essential to protecting a permanent home for Jewish people around the world and safeguarding the only liberal Democracy in the Middle East. The United States must return to its role as an honest broker that brings both sides to the negotiating table.

**JULIE HALL:** I do support a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, however it must be predicated on the fact that the Palestinian leadership must reject the advocacy of Israel's destruction. Without that, I do not see an authentic two-state solution at all. The United States should offer to be a third-party interest to help facilitate a peaceful two-state solution, but within our strategic interests that supports freedom, democracy, and free enterprise. I believe a strong Israel living in peace and harmony with a free Palestinian state is in the best interests of the United States, but there are contrary interests led by Iran and their surrogate terror organizations and other terror groups that share Iran's desire to destroy the nation of Israel. In Congress, I will support measures for a two-state solution of the conflict as long as Israel's security is assured. I will also support policies designed to stop Iran's nuclear ambitions and their quest for Israel's destruction.

**ALAN KHAZEI:** My views are aligned with that of Vice President Biden. There is no substitute for a two-state solution, which would result in a Jewish and democratic Israel alongside a free and independent Palestine. And despite recent setbacks, I continue to support and have faith in this two-state solution. It is the only way to address the parties' legitimate needs: from security and self-determination to health and economic flourishing. And ultimately, this simply won't happen unless the parties come to the table and negotiate the parameters for a solution themselves.

Unfortunately, the Trump Administration's so-called "peace proposal" was issued without any consultation with the Palestinians or any concern for their legitimate needs. Consequently, it was dead on arrival. Likewise, the Trump Administration's budget cuts to our

diplomatic capabilities hampers our ability to lead in a meaningful way and help create the conditions that will allow a two-state solution to emerge.

Instead, our experience has taught us that the best way to create the conditions in which negotiations are possible and for a two-state solution to emerge is to be a reliable friend to both Israelis and Palestinians. So, for example, I don't think we should be leveraging or conditioning aid to our allies. The Trump Administration has dramatically weakened our credibility in its willingness to tear up international agreements and hold up foreign assistance. We need our allies to be able to trust the United States, and know that even if we're divided on important issues, we will still stand together.

Likewise, we can also help create the conditions that will allow for the emergence of a two-state solution by proactively investing in the folks on the ground who are working towards a peace and by resuming assistance to the Palestinian people. I will also work to restore and expand the funding for the State Department and USAID.

I'm honored that I've been endorsed by many preeminent leaders in the area of National Security and Foreign Policy, each of whom has stood strongly in support of Israel's security while also advocating for a two-state solution. They include: Former National Security Advisory and UN Ambassador Susan Rice, Four Star General Stan McChrystal, Secretary of Defense Leon Panetta, Former Undersecretary of Defense, Michele Flournoy, Senator Gary Hart, and Ambassador Daniel Benjamin. If elected, I will draw on them and others I know to strongly advocate for Israel's security while also promoting a two state solution.

**NATALIA LINOS:** I support a two-state solution. As the leader of a center for health and human rights, I come at this from a human rights perspective and see that both sides have been harmed by this conflict. I am concerned about rising anti-Semitic views in the U.S. and how the Trump administration has needlessly sidelined and punished the Palestinians, who are a necessary partner in bringing about peace between Israel and Palestine. In Congress, I would advocate for diplomatic outreach to both the Israelis and Palestinians to move past the current status quo and cease hostilities.

**JESSE MERMELL:** I believe that the best approach to achieving long-term stability is a two-state solution: a secure, democratic, Jewish state of Israel and an independent, viable, peaceful Palestinian state. Such an outcome is a crucial American interest and the U.S. must play a central role in efforts moving forward.

As far off as a two-state reality seems at this moment, it remains a future worth fighting for. Alternative proposals unacceptably threaten either the Jewish or democratic nature of Israel. The United States and Congress must recommit to encouraging Israelis and Palestinians to take the small, difficult steps that will someday lead to peace. In the long-term, the United States should work to bring both parties back to the table, playing a facilitating role that recognizes their mutual need for peace, security, and self-determination. In the short term, the U.S. must use its influence to preserve the core elements of a two-state solution to be directly negotiated by the two parties, including borders based on the 1967 lines, with mutually agreed upon swaps, and a shared capital in Jerusalem for both states.

I do not think President Trump's so-called "Peace Plan" will achieve peace. It is unacceptable that he acted without broad support from our allies and did not include key stakeholders in the framing of the plan. Furthermore, I am deeply disheartened by the Trump administration's apparent encouragement of unilateral Israeli annexation of parts of the West Bank. These actions do not move us closer to a two-state solution but instead further increase tensions in the region.

**DAVID ROSA:** Regarding inquiries 1-9, I plan to work with US Government Officials, Institutions and other subject matter experts to work towards addressing these important topics.

**BEN SIGEL:** I strongly believe in a two-state solution, two states for two peoples, existing side by side in peace, security and mutual recognition. Israel deserves to live in peace, safely and securely, free from terror and incitement, in a state that is publicly recognized by the Palestinians and its Arab neighbors. Palestinian leaders must take action to end all forms of violence against Israel and its civilians and acknowledge Israel's right to exist.

I strongly support the United States' recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital and the relocation of the US Embassy to Jerusalem.

The Palestinians must also be permitted to realize their own national aspirations in an independent, demilitarized state, and determine the location of their own capital, once borders have been agreed upon and they become a sovereign member of the UN.

I also oppose unilateral action by any international entity that imposes final status solutions on either Palestine or Israel. The terms of lasting peace between Israel and the Palestinian Authority cannot be imposed by any international entity because peace can only be achieved through diplomacy between the two people. I do believe however, that the United States has an important role to play in helping Israel and the Palestinian Authority achieve two states for two peoples.

Not only do the United States and Israel share common interests and values of democracy, freedom, and justice, but millions of families have loved ones living in both countries, becoming our neighbors, friends and colleagues in the United States and helping strengthen our communities. As a result of Israel's innovative and entrepreneurial spirit, it is in the United States best health, economic, strategic and environmental interest to continue to encourage and promote joint US-Israel programs. Providing security assistance to Israel is also in the United States best security and economic interests. I would not place any additional conditions on US military assistance to Israel.

I also believe we need to fight for continued US aid to the Palestinian Authority, Egypt, and Jordan. These funds are critical to the Palestinian Authority's state-building and security efforts in the West Bank. Without such aid to Egypt and Jordan, those countries might easily become weaker and fall prey to Iran's terrorist proxies or other terrorist groups around the world, which in turn would put the United States' national interests in jeopardy and threaten the very existence of Israel.

**8. Israel is home to nearly half of the world's Jewish population. Israel is a democratic country and its citizens are accustomed to robust debate, at home and abroad, concerning their nation's policies and actions. Regrettably, in the United States and elsewhere, there is mounting support for movements, such as the BDS (Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions) campaign, that purport to promote Palestinian rights but do so by denying Israel's legitimacy, refusing dialogue, and advocating for Israel's destruction. This malicious portrayal of Israel and the reality of its conflict with the Palestinians has prompted notable acts of antisemitism; especially on college campuses. It has also polarized public discourse and dimmed prospects for a negotiated solution to the conflict. If elected to Congress, what, if anything, would you say to those who deny Israel's legitimacy and advocate for an end of the world's only Jewish state?**

**DAVE CAVELL:** As mentioned in previous answers, I believe that it must always remain the explicit position of the United States that Israel has a right to exist as the only Jewish state in the world. This is not a position that we can compromise on or negotiate at the table. It is a sacred precondition, without which no peace plan will ever be accepted by the United States.

BDS is a not-so-subtly antisemitic movement whose goals are misguided and will never bring about peace. The way to counter this is to a) acknowledge this out loud and from positions of power, like the US Congress, and b) to lead by example. Israel is a shining democracy in a Middle East that is overrun by dictators and regimes hostile to basic freedoms and liberties. In Congress, I will recognize this special relationship with the State of Israel and will support it to foster a closer relationship between Israeli and American businesses, universities, and nonprofits. To counter BDS, we must lead by example and support policies that foster a closer integration between our democracies.

**BECKY GROSSMAN:** For me, advocating for lasting peace and security for Israel isn't simply a policy position, it's personal. I grew up in a Conservative Jewish household, with a father who converted to Judaism to marry my mother. When we were kids, my mother would tell us about my great-grandmother who stood up to the Cossacks in Poland,

refusing to cook a nonkosher chicken for soldiers who came to her door demanding she do so. I was raised knowing I would always have a home and a safe haven in Israel. I oppose the dangerous Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) movement which is rooted in anti-Semitic sentiment. I believe that the BDS movement should be called out for what it is—an anti-Semitic attempt to delegitimize Israel and deny her right to exist. One of the BDS movement’s three stated goals is the right of return of Palestinians who have left Israel over the last 70 years to their homes and properties in what is now Israel; such a notion would mean the end of Israel as a democratic Jewish state. BDS further undermines a two-state solution by laying blame singularly on Israel, prioritizing that over lifting up ordinary Palestinians. BDS also puts US jobs at risk, as US exports to Israel support American jobs, and Israeli-owned companies provide jobs to US workers.

**JULIE HALL:** I will say that in the United States we do not deny the legitimacy of free nations, we always should have dialogue with those we disagree with, and that advocating for Israel’s destruction is equivalent to advocating the destruction of the United States—a free nation that embraces democratic principles for all people. I will also support all actions necessary to help Israel defend itself against any efforts by entities that try to destroy them.

**ALAN KHAZEI:** Like the overwhelming majority of the Democratic caucus, I believe that the campaign to boycott, divest, and sanction Israel is counterproductive, discriminatory, and wrong. Efforts to isolate Israel do nothing to advance the cause of peace, and—indeed, make it easier for opponents of a two-state solution to argue that Israelis cannot count on the international community to protect its interests.

Furthermore, BDS’s defenders often cross the line from legitimate foreign policy criticism, to outright bigotry. College campuses, in particular, are becoming places where Jewish students feel targeted and unwelcome. There can be no justification for professors withholding letters of recommendation from a student simply because she wishes to study abroad in Israel. There can be no justification for ejecting passengers from a taxi simply because they are speaking Hebrew. At a time when anti-Semitism is on the rise, we must clearly demonstrate that there is no room for such hatred.

**NATALIA LINOS:** I fully support Israel's right to exist and if elected to Congress I will fight hard through my platform of justice and equity against those who seek to delegitimize Israel. The promotion of Palestinian rights is not antithetical to Israel's existence and legitimacy. As noted in my previous answer, I will not stand for antisemitism or any other forms of bigotry or hate speech.

**JESSE MERMELL:** I oppose the global BDS Movement because, first and foremost, it does not support a two-state solution or the vital need for a Jewish state. I strongly oppose any anti-Semitic rhetoric coming from this movement and will forcefully do so whenever I see it—as we all should. I believe that BDS is misguided and not the most effective approach to the pursuit of peace or security for Israelis or Palestinians.

I am very much opposed to BDS as a movement and would support anti-BDS legislation like HR - 246. I do, however, firmly believe in civil liberties and the First Amendment, which guarantees the right to free speech. As Americans, we have the right to offer political opinions and to perform acts of political expression. As such, I am also opposed to efforts to curtail free speech aimed at BDS proponents. I believe in informed democratic debate and the thoughtful exchange of ideas and I do not believe that Israel's defense requires the silencing of its critics.

**DAVID ROSA:** Regarding inquiries 1-9, I plan to work with US Government Officials, Institutions and other subject matter experts to work towards addressing these important topics.

**BEN SIGEL:** I strongly condemn the boycott, divestment, and sanctions (BDS) movement against Israel. As someone who has visited the West Bank, and has personally spoken to Palestinians living in the West Bank, I know and have seen first-hand that BDS actually hurts the Palestinian people more that it helps them, because it closes the door to jobs and economic opportunities that could raise their standard of living. The very creation of the BDS movement was meant as a way to economically wipe Israel off the face of the earth, when it became apparent that terrorist groups could not attain their goal militarily.



While many members of the BDS movement today sincerely want peace, they have been the victims of lies themselves by the BDS leadership who seek nothing less than the elimination of Israel as a Jewish state. The goals of the BDS movement are antithetical to United States values. The movement's single-minded focus on Israel raises serious questions about its motivations and intentions, when fundamental rights are being trampled and human rights abuses and atrocities are being committed routinely in other parts of the world, but they instead choose to only focus on the sole democracy in the Middle East and sole Jewish State in the world.

The BDS movement also makes a two-state solution and lasting peace far more difficult by demonizing, delegitimizing and isolating Israel, by suggesting that economic and political pressure on Israel can replace real bilateral negotiations.

I will also fight efforts to isolate, stigmatize or delegitimize Israel in international forums, including at the United Nations, where Israel is the frequent target of prejudice, bias, and hatred. Although the UN Charter calls for all member states to be treated equally, Israel has been unfairly singled out and targeted more than any other country by the UN Human Rights Council and UN General Assembly.

**9. Should a new administration come to Washington, a discussion may result concerning a return to the JCPOA. Given new evidence of Iran’s secret undeclared nuclear facilities and Iran’s: (1) refusal to allow inspection of these facilities, (2) ongoing efforts to destabilize countries across the region, (3) continuing to financing and arming of Hezbollah and other radical actors dedicated to Israel’s destruction and (4) repeated bellicose attacks on Western values and interests, are there conditions you would want to attach, beyond those stipulated in the JCPOA, to any proposal to return to the JCPOA?**

**DAVE CAVELL:** I believe a nuclear-armed Iran remains the single biggest existential threat to Israel and the stability of the Middle East. I support the complete and unobstructed implementation of the JCPOA to block Iran’s path to a nuclear weapon. I believe President Trump’s abandonment of the JCPOA—with no alternative and no apparent strategy to prevent Iran from restarting their nuclear program—was a terrible miscalculation and betrayal of our own allies and members of the Israeli security establishment. We must prioritize diplomatic re-engagement with Iran and ensure that both the US and Iran come back into compliance with the deal. In addition, we might consider the following additions to the JCPOA: restrictions on the development of ballistic missile technology, international inspections to ensure compliance with these restrictions, and explicit language to curb Iran’s foreign military adventurism (e.g., aid to the Syrian regime, Hezbollah, Houthis in Yemen), within the scope of the JCPOA.

I am honored that Ben Rhodes and other experienced national security leaders have endorsed me in this race. With so many lives on the line, we cannot afford anything but informed and educated action.

**BECKY GROSSMAN:** A nuclear-armed Iran presents the greatest threat to Israel and the region. It is in our national security interest and in the interest of Israel to never allow Iran to obtain a nuclear weapon. Undoubtedly, the Trump Administration’s impulsive decision to abandon the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), with no credible plan to attain a better alternative, has hurt that goal, regardless of one’s belief if the JCPOA was the best way forward. When the JCPOA was intact, observers found that Iran was complying with the terms; Trump’s withdrawal freed Iran to take steps toward development of

nuclear weapons and isolated us from our European allies. President Trump's reckless action has hurt the United States' standing with our allies around the world and has taken us backwards in our goal of peace and security for Israel. I worry now without any agreement in place that Iran is building up its enrichment infrastructure.

**JULIE HALL:** I will do everything I possibly can to stop a return to JCPOA, because it will only empower the Iranian regime dedicated first to the destruction of Israel and then the destruction of the United States. The one condition I would insist upon in regime change through a truly free and democratic election, because the current regime has not honored the stipulations of any deal.

**ALAN KHAZEI:** As the son of an immigrant from Iran who left a country of dictatorship for a country of freedom, I take very seriously Iran's human rights abuses at home, its egregious record of state-sponsored terrorism, and the threat it poses to the Middle East—Israel, in particular. Iran undermines regional security not only by pursuing nuclear weapons proliferation, but by assisting the Assad regime in a genocidal war against his own subjects, and by funding and supporting organizations like Hezbollah. All promise for peace could be lost if Iran acquires nuclear weapons, threatening Israel's existence, destabilizing the entire region, and posing a massive security challenge to the West.

Unfortunately, the Trump Administration is clearly not up to the task of confronting Iran strategically and with a united front from our strongest allies. In spite of its limitations, the Iran deal united the P5+1 countries to curtail the regime's uranium enrichment and institute an inspections regime. It also sent a message to the 70 percent of Iranians who are under 30 and those that oppose the regime, that the United States and our Allies, while insisting that Iran not be allowed to have nuclear weapons, were open to using strong diplomacy backed up by a strong military to resolve our disputes. By unilaterally and impulsively withdrawing from this agreement—without any coordination or consultation with our allies—the Trump Administration damaged the credibility of the United States, further alienated our strongest allies, isolated America and increased the likelihood of Iran attaining nuclear capabilities. And President Trump's failed negotiations with the totalitarian regime that controls North Korea leaves no confidence that he is capable of negotiating a better alternative to the JCPOA.

Ultimately, there is no substitute for rigorous diplomacy. And it is

best for the U.S. to pursue a coordinated strategy with our lead allies to try and build off of the JCPOA to achieve a diplomatic solution which denies the Iranian regime nuclear weapons. If Vice President Biden takes office, I would support efforts to reenter the JCPOA understanding that conditions have changed since Trump has been in office. I would work with President Biden and leaders in his administration, many who I know and are likely to be in senior positions on what a new JCPOA should look like. In addition to constraining Iran's nuclear program, we must look to limit its sponsorship of terrorism, and limit its campaign to destabilize the Middle East. We must also encourage the people in Iran who want freedom and democracy. Seventy percent of the Iranian people are under the age of thirty, and were not even born when the 1979 revolution happened. Many Iranians love Americans and, as protests going back to the Green Revolution of 2009 and more recent anti-regime protests clearly showed, want freedom and democracy. The right comprehensive strategy, using all of the tools we have available to us, can yield productive results for the U.S., the region, and the world.

**NATALIA LINOS:** The Trump administration's decision to abandon the JCPOA was one of the worst foreign policy blunders of this administration. Unfortunately, the administration's decision to pull out of the agreement will fuel distrust of future American commitments not only from Iran but from our allies as well. To begin to rebuild trust America's global commitments and eventually address some of the shortcomings of the deal, I support measures to bring the US back into compliance with the JCPOA and diplomatically engage Iran. Such engagement will not bear fruit immediately, but it will begin the process of re-engagement with Iran, rebuilding global trust in US commitments, and addressing challenges that were not fully addressed by the JCPOA.

**JESSE MERMELL:** The current situation in Iran and Iraq is deeply concerning and I oppose the Trump administration's effort to move the U.S. to a dangerous war footing. As it relates specifically to Israel, however, Iran has openly threatened the state of Israel and is a sponsor of terrorism across the world. The U.S. must work to prevent Iran's acquisition of nuclear weaponry for the sake of Israel, the Palestinians, and the world.

I believe that the Trump administration made a dangerous error in pulling out of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). While imperfect, the deal was succeeding in restraining Iranian

nuclear development while simultaneously working to counteract the actions of a dangerous, anti-democratic Iranian regime. Furthermore, by abruptly pulling out of the agreement, the Trump administration undermined U.S. credibility around the world. The U.S. cannot possibly become an honest broker in the Middle East by breaking promises aimed at securing peace and stability in the region. I am hopeful that the Iranians will agree to come back to the table to negotiate a new deal. I am particularly hopeful that a negotiation in the future will address the full scope of Iranian malfeasance, including their support of terrorism.

In Congress, I would take any steps available to encourage the U.S. to come back to the underlying principles of the JCPOA and to find a way forward that ensures the international community is working together to reach a better deal.

**DAVID ROSA:** Regarding inquiries 1-9, I plan to work with US Government Officials, Institutions and other subject matter experts to work towards addressing these important topics.

**BEN SIGEL:** I strongly support limiting Iranian influence in the region, especially in Syria and Lebanon, and will fight to ensure Iran never has nuclear capabilities. Iran is the world's leading state sponsor of terrorism. Iran continues to test ballistic missiles, abuse human rights, and provide weapons, including rockets and missiles to its terrorist proxies all over the region—in places such as Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, Gaza, and Yemen—in order to attack Israel, destabilize the Middle East and bring chaos around the world. Iran has called for the extinction of Israel and the destruction of the United States.

Until Iran stops sponsoring terrorism, I will fight to ensure that it is never able to import or export any advance weapons. As the leading disruptor of Middle East peace and stability, I will fight to make sure that the United States Arms embargo against Iran is not lifted. A lifting of the embargo would likely increase an arms race in the Middle East, which would only benefit its terrorist proxies, especially Hamas and Hezbollah. I also support encouraging our international friends to follow in the footsteps of the United States and designate Hezbollah for what it is—a terrorist organization.

Regardless of whether the United States is part of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) or any future agreement with Iran, the United States must hold Iran accountable for its human rights abuses, threats against our allies and attempts to destroy Israel and destabilize the region.

**10. A robust Transatlantic relationship between the United States and European democracies (AJC has 5 European offices and three regional representatives) has been a pillar of US foreign policy since the end of World War II. In recent years, this relationship has suffered strains. Some contend that this historic alliance is undergoing a fundamental change. Is it important that we sustain the United States historic post-World War II partnership with Europe or is it time to rethink this relationship? If elected, what policies will you pursue to advance your views?**

**DAVE CAVELL:** Our NATO alliances have maintained a historic peace in Europe and seen an unprecedented increase in wealth and living standards. I remain 100% committed to our alliance system, especially in Europe. NATO is our best shot at defending against the rising illiberal regimes of Russia and China, both of which are clear about their desire to achieve global hegemony. NATO, as an alliance of democratic, liberal states, is the best bulwark against that.

I would go further than saying these relationships have merely suffered strains recently. Our current President has actively and gleefully damaged these relationships to the point of breaking. It is unclear if he is doing this intentionally to help Russia, or if he is doing it because he lacks the impulse control and attention span to engage in thoughtful, constructive diplomacy. In either case, the result is that the most powerful, stable alliance of military power in the world is waning, and there are illiberal forces in the world waiting with bated breath for its final decline. As your member of Congress, I will frustrate these illiberal forces to no end. We have sacrificed too much during World War II to get to this place. NATO is not going anywhere under my watch.

To strengthen and reform NATO, I would support the United States exerting more pressure on our allies to increase their military spending to 2 percent of their respective GDPs. I would also support the United States exerting more pressure on some of our NATO allies, like Turkey. Turkey, by purchasing Russian anti-aircraft systems and collaborating with Russia in Syria and Libya, is not behaving like a good NATO ally, and we must put pressure on that country to return to more liberal norms and practices.

**BECKY GROSSMAN:** It's vitally important that the United States sustains and renews our historic post-World War II partnership with Europe. President Trump has deliberately torn down international institutions and values which America spent decades cultivating, quitting the Paris Climate Accord, gutting our diplomatic corps, and cozying up to dictators while alienating true friends and allies. In order to regain Europe's trust, the next administration and Congress should immediately pursue dialogue and policies that demonstrate our commitment to the United States' and Europe's shared values and interests. We must partner together to counter rising illiberalism and authoritarianism as well as weaponized disinformation, and we must revitalize a global coalition to combat climate change, elevate human rights, and defend democracy.

**JULIE HALL:** It is very important to sustain our partnership with Europe, and the rethinking has begun. The U.S. shares with Europe a strong commitment to the rule of law, human rights, free markets, and democracy. NATO was created over 70 years ago to protect those ideals over an aggressive Soviet Russia, and that organization now must return to basics, with territorial defense as its mission. NATO has spread itself all over the world over the years, but it must remain capable of defending its members' territorial integrity. In addition, Russia poses a significant threat to Europe's stability, so the original premise of creating NATO is needed more than ever. I will support policies that continue to strengthen NATO—supporting member nations to pay their agreed allocations and being very careful on any future increases in membership in order to effectively counter Russian threats to the continent.

**ALAN KHAZEI:** I have travelled to more than 40 countries in Asia, Africa, The Middle East, Europe and North and South America and seen firsthand how important American leadership and building strong partnerships with our Allies is to our security and the ability of the world to deal with a number of issues that require global cooperation including: Climate Change, Pandemics, Terrorism, Extreme Poverty, Nuclear Proliferation and the rise of Authoritarian regimes. The last four years have been disastrous to America's global standing and have seriously harmed our credibility on the international stage. The Trump Administration's so-called "America First" foreign policy (a phrase which originated with Nazi sympathizers in the 1930s that President Trump adopted in spite of objections from the Jewish community) is an incoherent mess, which fluctuates between bellicose adventurism and selfish

isolationism. If elected, I will advocate for a foreign policy that would see the United States honor its commitments to its allies and have a thoughtful, strategic, foreign and national security policy that protects the vital interests of the United States and our close allies.

We cannot afford to compromise our long-standing relationships with Europe by withdrawing from global partnerships like the Paris Climate Agreement or World Health Organization. Given that we live in an increasingly interconnected and globalized society (as underscored by the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic), the United States should be forming new cooperative partnerships in Europe and elsewhere that can endure for generations to come. This means refunding the State Department, expanding USAID, rejoining the WHO and Paris Climate Agreement, and creating my proposed Global Pandemic Council to counter future challenges.

Additionally, I will affirm our Article 5 Commitment to our European allies and partners and take steps to strengthen the Nato Alliance. The United States' commitment to NATO is single handedly one of the most critical and threatened pillars of American foreign policy today. The Alliance was founded as a bastion of defense, and Russia—and increasingly, China—have capitalized on its fractious relationship to annex territory, engage in cyber attacks, and bolster their proxies internationally. If elected, I will actively support the U.S strengthening its relationship with its European partners and Canada, in order to restore the deterrent on dangerous Russian and Chinese activities.

**NATALIA LINOS:** Having grown up in Greece and with my parents still living there, the US and European relationship is personal for me. The Trump administration has diminished the strength of the NATO alliance, but we must maintain our common defense against authoritarian regimes and maintain diplomatic relations with our allies. If elected, I would support increased investment in the State Department to rebuild this critical relationship.

**JESSE MERMELL:** Trump has no foreign policy—he legislates by Tweet based on what he watches on Fox News. First and foremost, we need to restore our standing in the world and reinvest in diplomacy and our alliances, including in Europe. We need to end endless wars, repeal the Authorization for Use of Military Force and bring troops home while remaining vigilant for continuing threats. Additionally, this is important to me on a personal level, as the daughter of a Dutch immigrant with strong family ties in the Netherlands.



**DAVID ROSA:** European Democracies or nations historical behaviors (WWI and WWII, recent examples) suggest caution in any proposed collaborative venture. At this moment in time President Trump's position that foreign powers pay their "fair share" of defense seems at least reasonable, if not long over due. Going forward I would review current policies, practices and seek out experts in areas of concern.

**BEN SIGEL:** We must reestablish our leadership in the world and reestablish our alliances across the world, particularly in Europe. COVID-19 has shown that we are all interconnected, and we need our allies and friends to work with us to recover from this pandemic and protect each other in the case of any future pandemic. Combating climate change is another crisis that requires global action. We lost that leadership under the current administration and it's vital to our future that we re-enter the Paris Climate Agreement and reestablish our leadership on combating the climate crisis. With our economy now being truly global, our small and large businesses need to have the ability to participate in the global economy for many of them to be successful. This is good for business, for employees and their families, for communities and for the economy. We can only do that if we repair our relationships around the world. We need our allies for security and for exchanging vital intelligence and preventing cyber warfare to protect us and them. We have seen the destabilizing effects of the current administration, where our allies are treated like enemies, and our adversaries are treated as friends. This must stop. Our upcoming election is once again in danger of interference from Russia and other bad actors, far right leaders have gained more power worldwide and the world is a more dangerous place because of the destabilization of our traditional relationships.

We must go from being nationalistic and practicing isolationism, to one that engages in the world. Our national security, economy, health and environment depend on it.

## 11. What experiences qualify you to represent the citizens living in your district?

**DAVE CAVELL:** I was born and raised in Brookline and met my wife at Tufts University nearby. My mom, Cathleen Cavell, has been involved in Brookline politics her whole adult life and founded Progressive Democrats of Massachusetts. In my career, I have worked with the best young leaders of our party—Governor Deval Patrick, Barack and Michelle Obama in the White House, and most recently, Attorney General Maura Healey. I saw firsthand how these leaders built diverse coalitions and teams around them. When I'm in office, I'm going to implement a "traveling office" to bring this Congressional seat to people everywhere in the District. Currently, there are only two district offices, one in Newton and one in Attleboro. I think we can do better.

**BECKY GROSSMAN:** I'm currently an At-Large member of the Newton City Council and Chair of the Council's Finance Committee, representing residents of one of the district's largest cities, with a particular focus on improving school building facilities, addressing the city's infrastructure and transportation challenges, and supporting local efforts to combat the climate change crisis. But the job I cherish most is being mom to my two kids—Madeleine, who just turned 9, and Jack, who just turned 6. I'm running for Congress with the fierce urgency of a mom who is fed up by what's going on in Washington and determined to make change. Out of 435 members of Congress, there are only 25 moms of school-aged children. I believe that if elect more moms of young kids, we can start to finally move the conversation forward on urgent issues like gun control, climate change, and affordable healthcare and child care. We won't be able to tackle our most urgent issues until we start sending new and different types of leaders to Washington who aren't afraid to stand up to powerful special interests. This is a perspective that I believe is sorely missing and needed in Washington, and one that I'm proud to be offering.

Before joining the Council, I served as an Assistant District Attorney for Middlesex County and an Associate at the law firm of Goodwin Procter. I also served as Director of Operations on my father-in-law's (Steve Grossman) successful statewide campaign for Treasurer in Massachusetts. I received my undergraduate degree in economics at Cornell University and earned a J.D. and M.B.A. from Harvard Law School and Harvard Business School.

**JULIE HALL:** I am a leader who understands there are two types of people who serve in government—those that believe in the power of big government and those who believe in the power of people. I believe in We the People, and I will defend law and order, freedom, and prosperity for all people.

As I did as an officer in the United States Air Force, I will bring the skills I developed and American values to Congress. I served as the Medical Chief Operating Officer for small clinics, large medical centers, and as the Senior Healthcare Executive of a multi-facility healthcare system in Washington DC. I served our nation for over 30 years, and as a Colonel I have proven my ability to successfully lead and deliver results. I am prepared to serve the Massachusetts 4th Congressional District in Washington, DC.

**ALAN KHAZEI:** I've been a non-profit entrepreneur, organization builder, movement leader, bridge builder and democracy activist my entire career. I've been on the outside, building coalitions to get big things done in our nation including creating City Year, the model for AmeriCorps and worked closely with Senator Kennedy, President Clinton, Senator McCain and President Obama among others to build the coalitions to help pass three major pieces of Federal legislation. Now I want to get on the inside, break open the doors of Congress and bring this new movement energy in, to break the logjam in DC.

I'm a service person at my core. Serving in Congress would be an extraordinary opportunity to make a tangible and daily difference in people's lives. People go to their Congressperson for help with their Medicaid and Medicare benefits, veterans' benefits, student loans and education grants, appointments to the service Academies, help with immigration, to join workers on strike on the picket lines and more. I'm excited to be able to make a difference in people's lives from the Fourth District every single day.

As a citizen leader, I've built the coalitions and resultant outside pressure and support to help pass three major pieces of federal legislation and I successfully led the effort to Save AmeriCorps in 2003 when Tom Delay tried to kill it. This was at a time when Republicans led the House, Senate and White House. We won because I helped organize a coalition and grassroots movement that led to bipartisan support. That important work saved the Corporation for National and Community Service, a billion-dollar agency that went from an 80% funding cut to a 50% budget increase. And I led the coalition that defeated Mitch McConnell in the first hundred days of the Obama administration when he

opposed the Serve America Act—we got all of the Democratic Senators to vote for it and a majority of the Republican Senators, in spite of McConnell’s opposition, to vote for it as well. I know how to put people before politics, leverage movement energy and coalitions to get big things done. As a result, more than 1.1 million people have served through AmeriCorps. I’ve worked with every Governor of Massachusetts since Governor Mike Dukakis and every President since George H. W. Bush, and worked especially closely with President Clinton’s administration and President Obama’s. I’ve been appointed to two bipartisan federal commissions on service. Thanks to all this experience, I know how to get Washington to work and have demonstrated the ability to make a significant impact as an everyday citizen, even in the face of government reluctance and partisan opposition. I want to utilize that experience to secure big results on behalf of the people of the 4th district and for progressive causes I’ve been fighting for my whole life.

**NATALIA LINOS:** Driven by a deep desire to fight injustice and inequality, I have worked for fifteen years in public service at the intersection of research and policy. I began my career at the United Nations, working first in Lebanon and then in New York advising governments across the globe to move the needle on key global priorities from poverty alleviation to ending gender-based violence and safeguarding global health. Following my doctoral training in epidemiology at Harvard University, I led the UNDP’s work at the intersection of health and climate change, bringing together youth advocates and urging governments to take more ambitious action on climate change to meet their commitments under the Paris Agreement and fight air pollution.

During the Ebola epidemic, I worked as Science Advisor to the New York City Health Commissioner and continued my work to advance equity at a more local scale. I helped shape strategy around several key initiatives, including *ThriveNYC*, the Mayor’s \$800 million citywide mental health initiative to tackle issues like opioid overdose, depression, and suicide, and *Cure Violence* to end gun violence. I also contributed to launching new community health profiles for each of the 59 districts, showing how structural racism, poverty, environmental injustice and residential segregation was shaping the health of neighborhoods, and giving people information and data to advocate for greater investment in their communities.

In my current role as the Executive Director of the Harvard’s FXB Center for Health and Human Rights and serving on the Poor

People's Campaign COVID-19 Health Justice Advisory Committee, I continue to bring a vision that has been influenced by my firsthand experience "on the ground" and is supported with my public health and policy expertise.

**JESSE MERMELL:** I've built a 20-year career as a progressive fighter on issues that are critical to voters in the Fourth Congressional District. My professional experience working at Planned Parenthood League of Massachusetts during the height of the fight to include reproductive health care in the Affordable Care Act, serving on the Brookline Select Board for six years where I partnered with community activists to tackle climate change by banning plastic bags and styrofoam at the local level, running point on the Strong Women Strong Families Initiative during my time in Governor Patrick's administration, and leading the state's progressive business community as President of the Alliance for Business Leadership, where I was one of eight voices at the table with legislative leaders negotiating what is now the strongest paid family and medical leave law in the nation, makes me uniquely qualified to go to Washington to fight for residents of the Fourth District.

**DAVID ROSA:** I am a third generation American. I am a retired US Officer like my father, and two of my brothers served as Artillery Officers. My family history is an influencing factor regarding my loyalties. My professional career put me in direct contact/involvement with the "Military Industrial Complex". This gave me significant insight into the complexities of our nation's economy and the far-reaching effects of large scale programs and government spending. A bit of "how the world works" if you will. Additionally, I have some understanding of the great struggle between Marxism and the world of Free Enterprise that operates within our Republic. I know what a communist sounds like, a talent which many seem to struggle with today. Perhaps of some interest to AJC, I was deployed for Operation Iraqi Freedom which brought me into direct contact with the "Moslem" world. My sense of the differences between "our world" and theirs may be a bit more refined than that of the other candidates.

**BEN SIGEL:** The 4th Congressional District is a diverse district and needs representation that can relate to the diverse perspectives of the District. That is why when I announced my intention to run for this

seat, the very first thing I did was embark on a listening tour of the district starting in Fall River, being the first and only candidate to visit all 34 cities and towns in the District.

I have deep connections throughout the District. I grew up in a working class, middle-class family in Braintree, which is similar to many towns in the district. My dad spent his life in public service, working for HUD overseeing and auditing the public housing authorities in Fall River and Taunton. My brother lives in Franklin, my cousins grew up in Sharon and live in Medway, and my kids went to school in Newton and now in Brookline.

I will become the first Latino ever elected to Congress from Massachusetts. I am also Jewish and have spent decades helping to strengthen the Jewish community. I have also worked in the government, non-profit and private sectors. In order for the change we need to be addressed, we need all three sectors working together. I have worked in Washington DC for the Democratic Caucus to help promote a national democratic agenda, been on the boards and committees of over a dozen non-profits in the Jewish and Latino community, including AJC for over a decade, helping to strengthen those communities and creating relationships and partnerships, and I am currently the President of the Hispanic National Bar Association for New England and have spent the past 15+ years working as an attorney at law firms, serving most recently as National Director of Client and Community Relations of a AMLaw100 firm.

As a Latino and Shomer Shabbat Jew, my personal experience growing up in a middle-class family in the suburbs of Boston and now raising 4 young children will help me better understand the perspectives of the residents in the 4th District.

## 12. What would be your top three priorities if elected?

**DAVE CAVELL:** Given the times we are in, my first priority is to get massive and immediate covid-19 relief to states, cities, and towns. I have spoken to so many people who are food insecure and uncertain about what the next weeks and months will hold for them. I have also spoken to teachers and parents who are horrified by the prospect of returning to school in unsafe conditions. I think the answer is simple here: we need massive federal relief to keep teachers on the payroll, to keep small businesses open, and to get the PPE we need to open schools safely. So, my top priority in Congress is to pass a multi trillion-dollar covid-19 package to get these things done.

A second priority is to face the greatest existential threat to humanity we have ever faced: Climate Change. In Congress I will be a fearless and tireless advocate for the Green New Deal. The Green New Deal is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to take the bold steps we need to combat the climate crisis, build more equitable, resilient, and sustainable communities, and put people back to work. As we face 25%, or even 30% unemployment because of covid, I envision a massive public works program that will restore livable wages to our workers while building the clean infrastructure we need to become climate leaders in the 21st century.

My third priority will be to end the opioid crisis. When I was Assistant Attorney General and Senior Advisor to Maura Healey, I met families whose lives had been ruined by this crisis. I made a promise to them that I would go to Congress and get them the compassionate and comprehensive resources they deserve. I also made a promise that no pharmaceutical companies would ever take advantage of people in real pain the way the opioid companies had. My comprehensive “Opioid National Emergency (ONE) Plan” on my website details how I will create more centralized, better funded, and easier to access resources and treatment for families in need.

**BECKY GROSSMAN:** • Taking on the NRA and finally tackling gun violence in this country. When my son Jack started kindergarten this year, like so many parents, I had to fumble my way to find the words to tell him how to run in a zig-zag pattern or find a quiet place to hide if a scary person with a gun were to show up at his school. That is not a conversation that any parent should need to have with their child or a fear that any child should have going to school. Gun violence has torn too many families and communities apart—

and disproportionately communities of color—for too long and the NRA continues to threaten our kids’ safety. While I’ve been heartened by the progress and reforms achieved at the state level spurred by groups like Moms Demand Action, it’s way past time for us to enact reasonable gun measures on the federal level—measures that have popular support from the vast majority of voters in this country. We deserve to live in a country free from fear of gun violence, and I will fight every day in Congress to make that a reality.

- Fighting for an ambitious climate agenda in the vein of the value-proposition of the Green New Deal. We’re hurtling toward a future where the everyday realities of climate change overshadow everything. The climate crisis has already arrived, and this pandemic in particular has exposed that low-income communities and communities of color bear the brunt of the effects. I believe that we must leverage our federal resources and investment to reach carbon neutrality by 2050, to overhaul our transportation and infrastructure systems, and to uplift millions of Americans with good-paying jobs—all while prioritizing environmental justice for frontline, low-income, and minority communities. We must also revitalize a global coalition to tackle the climate emergency, because we are all in this together and the world needs U.S. global leadership.
- Getting money out of politics. In Washington, special interests run the show. Instead of working for families, the Trump Administration and Republicans work to cut taxes and line the pockets of their corporate interest donors. Whether it’s Big Pharma indiscriminately jacking up prescription drug prices or Big Oil persuading the Trump Administration to roll back environmental regulations, we see a direct link between money and legislative outcomes that favor those who can buy influence—especially since Citizens United opened the floodgates for dark money and corporate money. That’s why I support enacting H.R. 1, cracking down on the revolving door between public office and lobbying, and a constitutional amendment to overturn Citizens United.

**JULIE HALL:** I will demand law and order be reinstated with increased funding to police to retrain them in more modern and humane ways of policing that integrate social service and community support personnel into the Community Safety and Policing Team, stimulate the economy by supporting small businesses with lower taxes and removing



cumbersome inefficient regulations, to ensure there is excellent healthcare and benefits programs for our veterans and strengthen our military by ensuring they have fully funded state of the art equipment and training needed to successfully and safely perform the missions required by our country.

**ALAN KHAZEI:** The unprecedented coronavirus public health and economic crisis has exposed and exacerbated the deep inequities in our society. Similar to the Great Depression, this new, coronavirus crisis requires an unprecedented response. We need a New Deal for our time, and thanks to the tremendous awakening that is happening in our country, we have the potential for this new, New Deal moment to enact transformational change that will provide affordable health care to all, put people back to work, tackle climate change and gun safety, cut childhood poverty in half, and tackle the COVID pandemic.

In this context of opportunity for transformational change in the face of crisis, the three issues which I believe are the most important to our campaign are 1) Restoring the American Dream, 2) Democracy Reform, and 3) Taking on the NRA and fighting the scourge of gun violence across our society. These issues matter deeply to voters in the Fourth District and to the country as a whole.

Systemic injustice has prevented many from accessing the American Dream at all, and over the last few decades, it has become increasingly inaccessible with growing income inequality and the high cost of childcare, education, housing and health care. Student debt, no wage growth, and many other factors have all contributed to this situation, but my career in service has given me the experience necessary to address these factors. We need an unprecedented investment in today and tomorrow's youth by investing in children at birth through "Restore the Dream Accounts," much like 529 accounts, with a \$15,000 initial investment from the federal government paid for by the estate tax. The money accrues and by the time that child is 19 it is worth \$50,000. The child gets that funding upon doing one year of community service through AmeriCorps, the Peace Corps, a new Climate Action Corps etc. It can be used for the American Dream, to buy a home, pay for school, learn a trade, do life-long learning, save for retirement and have a nest egg that can be tapped for emergencies, such as is happening right now with COVID-19. Instead of saddling students in debt, we need to be investing in them, and we can do that by having youth serve a year in volunteer service to access these assets.

America is also in urgent need of structural democratic reform. The United States government was meant to be of the people, by the people, and for the people. But today it too often resembles one favoring elites or corporations. That is why I believe we need to get money out of politics once and for all. I specifically will work to undo the effects of Citizens United by amending the Constitution, insisting on total transparency in political donations (including from 501(c)(4) and 527 organizations), and fighting for publicly financed elections. I am a strong supporter of HR 1 and have put forward a [comprehensive plan to Fix our Democracy](#) that has been endorsed by leading reform champion Professor Larry Lessig. My proposal includes a 21st century voting rights act to protect and strengthen the right to vote by easing and opening the voting process, eliminating the electoral college, putting term limits on the Supreme Court, reforming lobbying and gerrymandering, and utilizing voluntary national service to help youth use their energy to tackle these pressing societal challenges and others.

Finally, we need to stand up to the NRA once and for all, at the legislative level. I've stood alongside amazing March For Our Lives advocates and helped build the sibling march network to unify all of the smaller local marches on this issue and many others. Those marches and that activism can translate into federal action. [That is why I'm committed to taking those marches to Congress and standing alongside my colleagues to get comprehensive, substantive gun reform in this country, and start to address the consequences of decades of violence in our communities.](#)

**NATALIA LINOS:** As a social epidemiologist, I have been warning that this COVID-19 health crisis is amplifying the deep inequities in our country. I have authored and been cited in a number of academic and news articles detailing how [public health calls for solidarity, not warfare](#). My perspective of how [COVID-19 could hit the U.S. harder](#) than other wealthy countries because of the current political climate highlights the vulnerabilities of disadvantaged communities. I see this as a moment to re-imagine what kind of society we want to live in and re-build our economy and our country with one guiding principle: it must work for everyone.

My three main priorities are:

1. **Building healthy communities** and using science-based policies to improve the health and well-being of all;
2. **Ensuring shared prosperity** by advocating for policies that

meet the needs of all families and protect workers, because for too long the United States has allowed **poverty**, inequality, and **structural racism** to go unchecked; and,

3. **Protecting the environment** and ensuring that we leave behind a healthy planet for our children by fighting for environmental justice and climate action today.

These priorities support my overall vision of bringing science-backed leadership to tackle public health and science concerns, along with the underlying structural issues that leave marginalized communities more vulnerable to these concerns. I will support legislation that makes progress on these key issues and ushers in a new, progressive era of greater equality.

AJC members can learn more at [www.nataliaforcongress.com](http://www.nataliaforcongress.com).

**JESSE MERMELL:** My top priority if elected is leading an equitable response to COVID-19 that creates a fair economy that works for everyone, including:

- Fixing our broken health care system. We need Medicare for All—right now—more than ever. The pandemic underscores the deep flaws of our current system, with millions of Americans losing their access to health care in the middle of a pandemic just because they lost their jobs.
- Fighting like our reproductive rights might be stripped away—because they might be. That includes access to abortion, which is an essential, time-sensitive medical procedure, not something that can be denied during a crisis to further a radical, anti-choice agenda. That’s why I was the first candidate in the race to put out a comprehensive plan to protect and expand reproductive rights.
- Enacting paid leave at the national level to protect workers who get sick or need to take care of sick loved ones. I was one of eight people who negotiated what is now the strongest paid family and medical leave policy in the country in Massachusetts.
- Passing a Green New Deal to address our climate crisis and to create good jobs, with particular attention to making desperately needed improvements to our failing transportation system to foster equitable economic growth and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

**DAVID ROSA:** Top three priorities—the needs and interests of the constituents of the 4th Congressional District, the needs and interests of the people of Massachusetts and the needs and interests of the United States of America.

- BEN SIGEL:**
1. Healthcare—Enacting Federal Paid Family and Medical Leave, so families no longer have to choose between their work and their family. My wife did not receive one day of paid leave when giving birth to two of our children and was forced with this exact immoral choice. We can no longer be the only industrialized country without Paid Family and Medical Leave. We must also tackle the cost of healthcare. I will also fight immediately for the federal government to be able to negotiate prescription drug prices under Medicare. Finally, I will fight for universal access to affordable, high-quality health care for everyone, including our undocumented immigrants, by strengthening the ACA, providing a public option, and lowering the age of Medicare eligibility to 50 years old.
  2. Response to COVID19—COVID-19 has devastated families and communities. People are dying and our economy is reeling. COVID-19 has impacted all of our daily lives. I will work on equitable recovery from COVID-19 that centers on the most vulnerable in the community, including fighting for:
    - Investment in Free Testing and Contact Tracing
    - Science over Politics
    - Emergency Paid Family and Medical Leave
    - Investment in the Production and Distribution of a Vaccine
    - Funds for Language Based Resources
    - Personal Protection Equipment Standardized Federal Guidelines on Data Collection
    - Safely Reopening Schools
    - Protecting our Childcare and Healthcare Facilities
    - Passing the HEROES Act
    - Extending \$600 weekly boost for unemployment benefits through 2020
    - Investing More Resources into Small Businesses

- National Temporary Moratorium on Foreclosures and Evictions
  - Broader Consumer Protections
  - Supporting Childcare Services, Facilities and Workers
  - Provide substantial federal aid to local governments to use for education purposes Provide significant resources to ensure all students and their families have internet and have a device in which they can learn remotely if necessary.
  - Providing Relief for Student Debt
  - Supporting and Protecting Our Undocumented Community
  - Properly Funding the United States Postal Service
  - Increasing Support to Fight Food Insecurity
  - Vigorous and Independent Oversight & Accountability
3. Eliminating Racism—See my answer to Question 1 above and our entire plan that is on our website at <https://bensigelforcongress.com/racism/>

**AJC** New England



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