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## **JSTREETPAC ENDORSES THREE MEMBERS OF CONGRESS, THREE CANDIDATES**

### *Pro-Israel, Pro- Peace PAC's Second Round Of Endorsements Includes Reps. Wexler, Capps, Davis, Two Challengers and An Open Seat Candidate*

WASHINGTON— Three senior members of Congress who support strong US diplomatic leadership in the effort to resolve conflicts in the Middle East were endorsed today by JStreetPAC, the country's first and only pro-Israel, pro-peace Political Action Committee. Representatives Robert Wexler (D-FL-19), Lois Capps (D-CA-23) and Susan Davis (D-CA-53) received the endorsement along with three other Democratic Congressional candidates.

JStreetPAC, which aims to broaden and strengthen support for meaningful American leadership to end the Arab-Israeli and Palestinian-Israeli conflicts peacefully and diplomatically, also endorsed:

- Sam Bennett (Candidate, D-PA-15)
- Ashwin Madia (Candidate, D-MN-03)
- Tom Perriello (Candidate, D-VA-05)

Responses from each candidate to their endorsement follow below.

“JStreetPAC is so pleased to provide political support for six more Members of Congress and candidates who are models of courage and leadership when it comes to the Middle East,” said Jeremy Ben-Ami, Executive Director of JStreetPAC. “The interests of both the United States and Israel depend on American leaders summoning the political will to pursue active diplomacy and peacemaking in the Middle East. JStreetPAC is here to provide strong political support for those willing to demonstrate that leadership.”

The group of both challengers and incumbents includes an Iraq War veteran, a pioneer in faith-driven and online social justice campaigns, a seasoned community activist, and three long-time champions on Capitol Hill of a negotiated, two-state resolution to the Israeli Palestinian conflict among them.

This is the second of four rounds of endorsements JStreetPAC plans to make in the 2008 election cycle. The PAC provides political and financial support to candidates for federal office from Americans who believe a new direction in American policy will advance U.S. interests in the Middle East and promote real peace and security for Israel and the region. The PAC is a legally unconnected to J Street, a 501(c)(4) lobby and advocacy organization.

In the three months since its inception, the J Street organizations have built a netroots movement of nearly 55,000 Americans and amassed more than \$1.3 million in combined political and operational contributions. Just this month, J Street released the results of a comprehensive survey of American Jews, which gauges the pulse of the community on issues and dynamics central to the debate over America's Middle East policy. Instead of holding the hawkish, hard-line positions expressed by many established Jewish organizations and leaders, the poll found that American Jews actually overwhelmingly support assertive peace efforts and an active U.S. role in helping Israelis and Arabs to resolve their conflict.

In its most recent campaign, launched in partnership with Democracy for America, J Street exposed Pastor John Hagee's extremism and the danger it poses to Israel, demanding that Senator Joe Lieberman sever all ties with the pastor and his apocalyptic vision for Israel's future. As part of the "Don't Go Joe" campaign, J Street delivered 42,000 letters from Americans to Senator Lieberman last week, urging him to cancel his appearance at Pastor Hagee's Christians United for Israel conference in Washington.

More information on JStreet and JStreetPAC is available at [www.jstreet.org](http://www.jstreet.org).

## **FROM THE CANDIDATES ON THEIR ENDORSEMENT**

### **Sam Bennett (D-PA-15)**

"I am pleased to have the support of JStreetPAC. I believe the United States can continue to stand side by side with Israel and fight to protect her security while also playing a pivotal leadership role in brokering peace in the Middle East. We must fight terrorism at every level across the globe, but we can only fight terrorists when we have allies. Diplomacy is essential. Through renewed diplomacy by the United States, I believe we can help create a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict."

### **Rep. Lois Capps (D-CA-23)**

"I am very proud to have the endorsement of JStreetPAC, and I am excited to have such a knowledgeable and focused partner that can help educate my colleagues about the depth of support for finding peace between Israel and her neighbors. I am convinced that with JStreetPAC's intense involvement we can continue building our pro-peace coalition on Capitol Hill. Working for peace in the Middle East is something I care deeply about and have focused on during my entire career. It's clear to me that the U.S. can and should be an indispensable partner to Israel and the Palestinians as they work through these very difficult issues. We have lost precious time over the last 7 1/2 years in the effort to reach a two-state solution, an achievement that would greatly enhance the security of both Israel and the U.S. I look forward to working with a new Administration to reengage the U.S. in this noble effort."

### **Rep. Susan Davis (D-CA-53)**

"It means a lot to me to receive the endorsement of JStreetPAC. We share a common vision of Middle East peace and I look forward to working together to achieve this goal. A world where Israel, Palestine and their neighbors live side by side in peace and security is obtainable."

### **Ashwin Madia (D- MN-03)**

"I have served our country as a Marine Corps Captain and as an Iraq War veteran. When I talk about the Middle East, it's not because I read about it in a book. It's because I lived it. Through a continued alliance between the United States and Israel and aggressive diplomacy in the region, we can achieve true and lasting peace for all people in Israel."

**Tom Perriello (D-VA-05)**

"As a national security consultant with experience in conflict resolution, I understand the importance of rededicating the U.S. to solutions in the Middle East that will ensure security for America and for our great partner, Israel. I also strongly believe that our foreign policy should reflect the traditional Jewish doctrine of *tikkun olam* – repairing the world – by working to stop genocide and establish justice around the world. I welcome the efforts of JStreetPAC and all those working to strengthen American diplomacy in achieving a two-state solution for Israel and the Palestinians, looking for comprehensive regional solutions, and achieving a global community that reflects the rule of law and the highest ideals of these two great nations."

**Robert Wexler (D-FL-19)**

"Since being elected to Congress, Rep. Wexler has been one of the staunchest advocates for American-Israeli relations and Israel's security in Washington. He is a strong supporter of a comprehensive peace agreement between Israelis and Palestinians based on security and a two-state solution. As a senior member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, he favors a smart and tough American policy towards Iran rooted in diplomacy and strong sanctions, and supports active American diplomatic engagement with Iran. JStreetPAC is proud to endorse him," said Ben-Ami of Rep. Wexler.

