



## **Mark Burns Position on the State of Israel**

# **ISRAEL'S SECURITY AND SOVEREIGNTY**

**BURNS' POSITION SUMMARY** – Since its founding in 1948, the State of Israel has always been the United States' most dependable ally and friend in the Middle East. Israel is easily one of America's strongest nation-state allies in the world. The continuance and the strengthening of this 70 year plus relationship – which all Americans and Israelis will celebrate – is vital to the national security interests of both the United States and Israel. It is also an international friendship that benefits all peace-loving nations around the world.

U.S. Congressional candidate Mark Burns is – and has always been – pro-Israel in terms of protecting the sovereignty of Israel, enhancing U.S.-Israel trade relations, and supporting and defending the Jewish state and its interests throughout the world against all foreign and domestic enemies opposed to both its existence and the welfare, security, and prosperity of its citizens.

The following points and sub-points speak to Mark Burns' broad support of Israel and U.S.-Israel relations now and in the future.

### IRAN

Iran is the largest state-sponsor of terror in the world today, and is actively supporting numerous Shia terrorist organizations (including Hezbollah) and their affiliates, as well

as Sunni groups including Hamas (though Iran is Shia) and other Jihadist terrorist organizations and individuals, both Sunni and Shia, whenever those groups, organizations and individuals serve Iran's aims against Israel and the U.S.

Iran remains one of the gravest long-term threats to both Israel and the U.S., and it must be prevented from ever acquiring nuclear-weapons capability.

Iran has increased its unacceptably dangerous and wholly provocative activities since the 2015 nuclear deal. Iran has conducted numerous ballistic missile tests in defiance of UN prohibitions. Iran has enhanced its support for terrorist groups, including Hezbollah (perhaps the most-dangerous terrorist army in the world short of ISIS) and Hamas. Iran has deployed substantial forces to Syria in support of the brutal Assad regime. Iran has overtly threatened U.S. warships. Iran has seized and detained American and British sailors in the Persian Gulf.

**ACTION:** The U.S. must support sanctions targeting Iran's ballistic missile program, their continued support of terrorism, illegal arms transfers, and violations of human rights. Moreover, we must increase U.S. Intelligence Community operations as a means of providing information to Israel (to include mutual intelligence sharing with Israel) and generally protecting our greatest ally in the region, Israel. We must also enhance and increase joint military training between U.S. forces and the various land, sea, air, cyber, and special-operations elements of the Israel Defense Force (IDF).

### THE PEACE PROCESS

Israel has demonstrated time-and-again a willingness to make tough sacrifices for peace. Both the U.S. and Israel have a policy to support a two-state solution – a Jewish state of Israel living in peace and security side by side with a demilitarized Palestinian state.

Lasting peace between Israel and the Palestinians can only be reached through direct bilateral negotiations. Israel is the only democracy in the Middle East and is a sovereign nation whose sovereignty must always be respected by all nation-states throughout the world. Palestinian attempts to create outside pressure on Israel and impose terms through international organizations such as the United Nations constitute harmful diversions from direct negotiations. The Palestinian leadership must also refrain from inciting violence and terrorism against Israelis at home and abroad.

**ACTION:** The U.S. must oppose any effort by the international community to force a solution on Israel and U.S. policymakers must urge the U.S. administration to veto any one-sided UN Security Council resolutions. We must also vigorously condemn any state or other member of the international community that does not recognize Israel's sovereignty and sovereign right to exist and thrive within the international community.

### SECURITY ASSISTANCE TO ISRAEL

Security assistance is critical to keeping Israel strong and secure. Israel faces a growing and unprecedented array of threats stemming from the instability and chaos gripping the Middle East. It is essential to all that our greatest ally in the region maintain a qualitative military edge in that most dangerous part of the world where Israeli intelligence and security forces and the IDF are on the frontlines in the global war on terrorism.

Security assistance to Israel must support important cooperative U.S. programs like the Iron Dome missile defense system.

**ACTION:** The U.S. must support annual security assistance to Israel in accordance with the 10-year Memorandum of Understanding. The U.S. must support funding for cooperative missile defense and anti-tunneling programs.

### MOVING THE U.S. EMBASSY TO JERUSALEM

Mark Burns called for moving the U.S Embassy to Jerusalem before the move become popular. This year President Donald Trump made the right move for both nations and all the free peoples of the world.

**ACTION:** Mark Burns will always seek to be proactive in his approaches to strengthening and developing the U.S. and Israel special relationship.

### OPPOSING BDS

Israel has long-been the target of economic warfare designed to weaken the Jewish state and isolate it from international investment and trade. Today's "boycott, divestment and sanctions" (BDS) campaign is the latest iteration of this nefarious effort. This international attempt to isolate, pressure and delegitimize Israel seeks to sanction all those interacting with Israel.

**ACTION:** The U.S. must oppose any attempts by the international community to boycott, divest and sanction Israel. Further, the U.S. must support legislation like the Combatting BDS Act S.170 sponsored by Senators Rubio and Manchin that will protect U.S. states (like South Carolina) which pass their own legislation to fight the boycott of Israel.

– Mark Burns fully supports Israel as expressed in these specific issue-points and all others as regards the security, peace, and prosperity of Israel as well as the ongoing alliance between the U.S. and Israel. The Jewish state must – and will – continue to exist and thrive. And all efforts aimed at opposing its right to exist and prosper must be quashed. Moreover, the U.S. must, not only take the lead in this, but foster a resurgence of support from all members of the international community in terms of accepting, embracing, and protecting the safety and sovereignty of the State of Israel.

####