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JStreetPAC Announces Latest of 41 Endorsements

New Round Includes 3 Senate, 15 House Candidates

WASHINGTON—JStreetPAC, the country's first and only pro-Israel, pro-peace political action committee, today announced its single largest round of endorsements to date, which includes 15 House and three senatorial candidates, bringing the total number of those endorsed by the PAC in its first election cycle to 41.

This, the final round of endorsements JStreetPAC will make before next Tuesday's elections, includes 10 incumbents and eight challengers. Today's endorsements include:

Candidates for the Senate

- Rep. Thomas Allen (D, Maine)
- Jim Martin (D, Georgia)
- Jeff Merkley (D, Oregon)

Candidates for the House

- Ethan Berkowitz (D, AK-At-Large)
- Rep. Bill Delahunt (D, MA-10)
- Rep. Michael Capuano (D, MA-08)
- Rep. Geoff Davis (R, KY-04)
- Rep. Barney Frank (D, MA-04)
- Rep. Maurice Hinchey (D, NY-22)
- Dan Maffei (D, NY-25)
- Eric Massa (D, NY-29)
- Rep. George Miller (D, CA-07)
- Gary Peters (D, MI-09)
- Jared Polis (D, CO-02)
- Rep. Charles Rangel (D, NY-15)
- Rep. Adam Schiff (D, CA-29)
- Rep. Hilda Solis (D, CA-32)
- Rep. John Yarmuth (D, KY-03)

Among them are three Committee Chairmen (Reps. Rangel (*Ways and Means*), Frank (*Financial Services*) and Miller (*Education and Labor*)), senior Members of the House Foreign Affairs Committee (Rep. Delahunt) and the House Appropriations Committee (Reps. Schiff and Hinchey), leading Members of the Hispanic (Rep. Solis) and Black (Rep. Rangel) Caucuses, two retired naval commanders (Mr. Massa and Mr. Peters) and a former member of the multinational Sinai peacekeeping force (Rep. Davis).

Reactions to the endorsement from each candidate follows below.

“In just our first election cycle, JStreetPAC has identified dozens of distinguished leaders and future leaders who will work to make tough, smart diplomacy to resolve conflicts in the Middle East a cornerstone of U.S. foreign policy,” said Jeremy Ben-Ami, executive director of JStreetPAC.

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

In the six months since its inception, the J Street organizations have built a netroots movement of more than 85,000 Americans and amassed more than \$1.7 million in combined political and operational contributions. This summer, 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.

More information on J Street and JStreetPAC is available at www.jstreet.org.

FROM THE CANDIDATES ON THEIR ENDORSEMENT

Rep. Thomas Allen (D, Maine)

“I am deeply honored to have the endorsement of JStreetPAC, an organization with which I share a commitment to peace and security for Israel and the Middle East. America has no more stalwart and trusted ally than Israel. In Congress I have a record of steadfast support for Israel, and I am committed to building upon that record in the Senate. I support a two state solution providing for a self-governing Palestinian state with a separate national identity. However, the Palestinian government must first recognize the State of Israel and act to deter acts of terror and punish those who engage in terrorist activity. The U.S. and the international community must play a leadership role in diplomatic efforts toward a lasting, secure peace in the Middle East.”

Ethan Berkowitz (D, AK-AL)

“I am honored to receive the support of JStreetPAC and look forward to working with all who are committed to a just and lasting peace in the Middle East and who believe that America's foreign policy should reflect the best of American traditions and values.”

Rep. Michael Capuano (D, MA-08)

“I am honored to have earned the endorsement of the JStreetPAC. The group has impressed me with its commitment to a negotiated peace in the Middle East. JStreetPAC affirms United States support for Israel as a democratic Jewish state. It also supports robust diplomacy to secure a

two-state resolution of one of the world's most intractable conflicts. This goal will not be easily attained, but it must be our goal."

Rep. Geoff Davis (R, KY-04)

"Having served in the Middle East, I have a deep understanding for the need of thoughtful policies that will promote stability in the region. The JStreetPAC has been a partner in the continued effort to secure a lasting peace in the Middle East and I am honored to accept their endorsement."

Rep. Bill Delahunt (D, MA-10)

"I'm honored to have the support of JStreetPAC," said Congressman Bill Delahunt, Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on International Organizations, Human Rights, and Oversight. Securing a just and lasting peace for Israel and its neighbors requires sustained, dynamic, and creative efforts. JStreetPAC is the right organization at the right time to advance this goal, and I look forward to being a part of their team."

Rep. Barney Frank (D, MA-04)

"I am proud to be endorsed by JStreetPAC. I believe it is very important that all Americans understand the case for the steps that are needed to reach a genuine two state solution, because that is the best way to truly guarantee Israel's security as a Jewish democratic state. I look forward to working with JStreetPAC in the effort to achieve that goal."

Rep. Maurice Hinchey (D, NY-22)

"I'm honored to have the endorsement of an organization that has committed itself to real and lasting peace in the Middle East. I am confident that JStreetPAC will be a positive voice in advocating for American policy that leads to stability and helps protect the right of all people to live in peace. For too long American leadership has been absent on peaceful and diplomatic solutions for an end to the Arab-Israeli and Palestinian-Israeli conflicts. I look forward to working with JStreetPAC in order to ensure long-term Israeli and regional security."

Dan Maffei (D, NY-25)

"I am excited to receive support from JStreetPAC because at this time when American needs to reestablish itself in the diplomatic corps it helps to work with diverse groups with diverse opinions. Today, now more than ever there is a need for America to join with its partners in the Middle East to work towards a greater peace for the entire region."

Jim Martin (D, Georgia)

"I have been honored to have so much support from my friends in Georgia who, like me, care deeply about a strong U.S.-Israel relationship and supporting Israel in her search for peace and security. I am also honored to have the support of JStreetPAC, one of the country's largest pro-Israel PACs, and share its vision of a two-state solution that will bring peace and prosperity to the region. As a United States Senator I will look forward to doing all I can to make sure that the United States does all it can to help bring about peace to Israel, her neighbors, and the entire Middle East."

Eric Massa (D, NY-29)

“It's an honor and a privilege to be endorsed by JStreetPAC. Their mission to steadfastly and unequivocally support our ally Israel and to support those who believe that peace in the Middle East is achievable in our lifetimes is critical. It is only on the broad shoulders of American diplomatic engagement that this can take place, and JStreetPAC recognizes the importance of responsible, even handed, and open diplomacy. I stand with them in their belief that the US has a critical, key role and an international responsibility to work toward a lasting peace.”

Jeff Merkley (D, Oregon)

“I am honored to have the endorsement of JStreetPAC,” Jeff Merkley said. “Gordon Smith and the Bush Administration have taken America down a dangerous foreign policy path. It's past time to end the war we never should have started and bring our troops home. We need to restore our integrity and standing in the world by rejecting torture practices and respecting the Geneva Conventions. As a U.S. Senator, I'll fight to repair our reputation and make America work for working families again.”

Rep. George Miller (D, CA-07)

"I am honored to be endorsed by JStreetPAC. JStreetPAC's support for me and other members of Congress strengthens the critical effort to build a lasting peace in the Middle East that will be in the best interest of Israel, the United States and the Palestinian people. JStreetPAC brings a new and refreshing voice to the debate over U.S. policy in the Middle East and I welcome their support and look forward to their participation."

Gary Peters (D, MI-09)

“As a steadfast supporter of Israel, I am honored to receive the endorsement of JStreetPAC. Israel is one of our strongest allies and closest friends, and it is in our national interest to ensure that she remains secure, stable, prosperous, and free. In Congress, I will work to use all of the tools at our disposal not just military force, but diplomatic and economic leverage as well to promote stability and democracy across the broader Middle East.”

Jared Polis (D, CO-02)

“I'm honored to have the support of JStreetPAC. JStreetPAC adds a needed voice to the debate about how to reach lasting peace in the Middle East and secure the safety of Israel. The U.S. absolutely must play a leadership role in helping the parties to the conflicts in the Middle East reach a comprehensive peace. I look forward to working with JStreetPAC to promote their important agenda."

Rep. Charles Rangel (D, NY-15)

“Thank you to the members of the JStreetPAC community for your endorsement. I am honored to stand with those who seek to engage more Americans and Israelis in a constructive dialogue about how we can achieve a lasting peace in the region.”

Rep. Adam Schiff (D, CA-29)

“I am honored to be endorsed for re-election by JStreetPAC and welcome this new organization to the pro-Israel community. A secure Israel at peace with its neighbors has been the dream of the Israeli people and their friends overseas since the founding of the state in 1948. After decades of war, terrorism and suffering, and at a time when Iran poses the greatest existential threat to

Israel since the spring of 1967, the quest for peace between Israel, the Palestinians and the Arab world must remain a central pillar of our national security policy. While the parties must be the architects of that peace, without strong and sustained American leadership, it will continue to be an elusive dream. A two state solution, with a strong, safe and secure Israel and a viable and prosperous Palestinian neighbor must become a reality.”

Rep. Hilda Solis (D, CA-32)

"I am proud to have received the endorsement of JStreetPAC. As the U.S.'s democratic ally in the region, I strongly support Israel and its people, and a two-state solution for the Israel-Palestinian conflict. Through a strong commitment to diplomacy, we can achieve real, lasting peace and security in the Middle East."

JStreetPAC Executive Director Jeremy Ben-Ami on the endorsement of Rep. John Yarmuth (D, KY-03)

“JStreetPAC is proud to endorse Rep. Yarmuth,” said JStreetPAC Executive Director Jeremy Ben-Ami. “Congressman Yarmuth understands that we need to chart a new direction in the Middle East and he strongly supports peace between Israel and the Palestinians. In addition, he believes that our presence in Iraq has caused a quagmire that has made our nation less secure and lowered our respect around the world. He believes that war should always be America’s last resort, and we are proud to support him in his efforts to encourage strong diplomacy to ensure that unnecessary conflict with Iran is avoided.”