

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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JStreetPAC ANNOUNCES LARGEST ROUND OF ENDORSEMENTS

WASHINGTON—JStreetPAC, the first pro-Israel, pro-peace PAC, today announced its endorsement of eight more Members of Congress seeking re-election and two candidates running for Congress for the first time. JStreetPAC has now endorsed a total of 23 candidates, including 14 current Members of Congress.

The PAC today endorsed:

- Rep. Earl Blumenauer (D, OR-03)
- Rep. Keith Ellison (D, MN-05)
- Rep. Bob Filner (D, CA-51)
- Rep. Rush Holt (D, NJ-12)
- Bob Lord (D, AZ-03)
- Rep. Betty McCollum (D, MN-04)
- Chellie Pingree (D, ME-01)
- Rep. David Price (D, NC-04)
- Rep. Jan Schakowsky (D, IL-09)
- Rep. Joe Sestak (D, PA-07)

The PAC intends to endorse 30-40 House candidates in 2008, as well as at least one candidate for the U.S. Senate. Reactions from each candidate to their endorsement follow below.

“The growing roster of JStreetPAC candidates demonstrates the breadth of support in Congress for the moderate pro-Israel, pro-peace positions espoused by JStreetPAC,” said Jeremy Ben-Ami, the PAC’s Executive Director. “We are very excited to be building a sizeable base of support in Congress for serious American leadership to achieve a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and for smart, tough diplomacy in addressing the toughest problems in the Middle East.”

The group of challengers and incumbents includes a three-star Navy Admiral, a leading member of the Jewish caucus, and the first Muslim American to be elected to Congress.

This is the third of at least 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 legally unconnected to J Street, a 501(c)(4) lobby and advocacy organization.

In the four months since its inception, the J Street organizations have built an online movement of nearly 60,000 Americans and amassed more than \$1.4 million in combined political and operational contributions.

Last month, J Street released the results of a comprehensive survey of American Jews, which took the pulse of the Jewish 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 conflicts.

J Street is the political voice of the pro-Israel, pro-peace movement, organizing and mobilizing support for American leadership and diplomacy in resolving conflicts in the Middle East.

More information on JStreet and JStreetPAC is available at www.jstreet.org and www.jstreetpac.org.

FROM THE CANDIDATES ON THEIR ENDORSEMENT

Quote from Congressman Blumenauer:

"I am pleased to accept JStreetPAC's endorsement, and I look forward to working in partnership with JStreetPAC to advance regional diplomacy and peace efforts in the Middle East. It is past time for greater United States involvement to advance the vision for a secure Israel and an independent Palestinian state living side by side through serious negotiations leading towards a final status agreement."

Quote from Congressman Ellison:

"I am very proud to have the endorsement of JStreetPAC. The Bush administration has been derelict of duty in not pursuing a determined effort for Middle East peace. The United States must play an active role in pursuing peace and reconciliation between parties in the Middle East that will achieve a two state solution that reflects and respects the sovereignty of each nation to live in peace and with security. JStreetPAC is an important voice to help us reach peace in the region."

Quote from Congressman Bob Filner:

"I am grateful for the support of JStreetPAC, an organization that believes in both the support of Israel and the need to work towards peace in the Middle East. JStreetPAC is going to play an increasingly important role in future debates on the issues of the Middle East."

Quote from Congressman Rush Holt:

"American's affinity for Israel has roots that are thousands of years old. From the moment of the creation of the state of Israel, the United States has given its steadfast support. The United States has - and will have long into the future - an important role to play in helping to preserve the State of Israel and to fulfill the progressive dreams of Herzl, Ben-Gurion, and Weizmann. I am pleased that JStreetPAC has recognized my efforts in Congress and is offering its support for me to continue my work on this important issue."

Quote from Bob Lord:

"I'm honored to have the endorsement of JStreetPAC." Bob Lord said. "America can be a leader in paving the way toward peace, but only if we have leaders who are willing to work toward that goal. In November of 1995, I traveled to Israel on a mission with the American Technion Society to promote education in science and technology. As a future Member of Congress, I look forward to traveling to Israel again and making sure that the relationship between our countries remains strong and that Israel remains safe."

Quote from Congresswoman McCollum:

“It is an honor to receive JStreetPAC’s endorsement of my re-election to Congress. Finding lasting peace and security for Israel and the Palestinian people takes both commitment and courage. I am proud of my record in Congress in support of Israel’s security, robust diplomatic engagement in the peace process, and respect for the human rights of all Israelis and Palestinians. I am also proud to have JStreetPAC standing with me.”

Quote from Chellie Pingree:

"I'm proud to be supported by an organization that's working for peace in such a volatile part of the world. Now more than ever, following the debacle of the Iraq war, the foreign policy challenges facing the U.S. are critical, and the lessons from our current embattled situation are many. We must take a long-term approach to foreign policy, investing in building relationships that will support regional stability in the Middle East."

Quote from Congressman David Price:

“JStreetPAC is emerging as a leading voice among the pro-Israel, pro-peace movement, and I am honored to have its endorsement. We share the same vision for peace: a two-state solution, facilitated by an assertive U.S. role, which strengthens Israel and brings peace to the region.”

Quote from Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky:

“I am proud to work with JStreetPAC and to have its endorsement. All of us who care about the future of Israel know that its long-term security can only be built on a foundation of peace. The United States can play a more constructive and consistent role in reaching a peace agreement, one that I believe must include a two-state solution and an end to terrorism. That must be our goal.”

Quote from Congressman Joe Sestak:

“As a former Three-Star Admiral, and having led senior military-diplomatic engagements in the Middle East and throughout Southwest Asia, I firmly believe that it is in our nation’s best interest to strengthen our relationship with Israel and ensure to its security while fostering a peaceful Middle East. Therefore, I gladly accept the endorsement from JStreetPAC, an organization focused upon that end. By working together with a myriad of organizations such as JStreetPAC and others, the discussions and engagement necessary to enhance prospects for Israel’s security and Middle East peace and prosperity from a positive U.S. leadership role can result.”