



Pro-Israel America
Your Portal for Political Action



MARCH PRIMARY GUIDE

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FOUR MARCH PRIMARIES THAT ARE **KEY** TO THE U.S.-ISRAEL RELATIONSHIP

These Congressional Races will be Decided in March

At Pro-Israel America, we work to take the guesswork out of politics and get you the clear, important facts you need about candidates and elections – on both sides of the aisle – that matter for the U.S.-Israel relationship.

This March there are four primaries we believe are critical for the U.S.-Israel relationship. The candidates who win these primaries are mostly guaranteed to win their general elections in November, because their districts lean heavily toward one party and rarely switch. These races are not about which party wins, but rather about whether the candidate with a proven pro-Israel track record will continue to have a voice in Congress.

1. **Congressman Dan Lipinski** (D-IL03), Primary [March 17, 2020](#)
2. **Congressman Henry Cuellar** (D-TX28), Primary [March 3, 2020](#)
3. **Congresswoman Joyce Beatty** (D-OH03), Primary [March 17, 2020](#)
4. **Congresswoman Kay Granger** (R-TX12), Primary [March 3, 2020](#)

These four pro-Israel candidates are being challenged right now by candidates who do not have proven records of supporting the U.S.-Israel relationship. A number of their opponents are backed by PACs and politicians with anti-Israel agendas, like cutting vital security assistance for Israel. In some cases, their opponents have advocated for openly anti-Israel policies, including support for the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement that seeks to isolate and ultimately put an end to the Jewish state.

Join Us

In the next few weeks, we need all our members to help make a difference in these four primary races. The future of the U.S.-Israel relationship could depend on it. [Please sign up here](#) to join Pro-Israel America. We'll send you quick actions you can take to help pro-Israel candidates win.

Pro-Israel America has endorsed 36 candidates, including 15 Republicans and 21 Democrats. Our members work to help elect pro-Israel members of Congress in critical races across the country. If you don't see your party or your candidates represented here, visit our website www.proisraelamerica.org to join and access our candidate portal where you can identify and support pro-Israel candidates of your choice.



DAN LIPINSKI (D-IL03)



Our Take

The primary in Illinois's third district could be one of the most significant in the country for the U.S.-Israel relationship. Congressman Lipinski has been a stalwart champion on our issues, and he has taken political risks to protect our alliance with Israel. Lipinski's two challengers in the upcoming March 17th primary have both taken clear anti-Israel positions. Both have explicitly challenged Rep. Lipinski for his support of Israel. Rush Darwish supports a "one-state solution" that would eliminate the Jewish state of Israel, and he has stated that he wants to advance the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement in Congress. Marie Newman, who came within 2,000 votes of defeating Rep. Lipinski in 2018, says she used to support the BDS movement, but no longer does even though she continues to oppose legislation that would outlaw this anti-Israel movement. Newman also believes that a Palestinian right of return must be part of a two-state solution, which would, ultimately, undermine the existence of a Jewish state in Israel. With recent polls showing that 26% of voters are still undecided, there is a serious threat of electing an anti-Israel candidate to Congress.

The winner of this primary will face Arthur Jones, a former member of the American Nazi Party, in the November general election. Republicans have distanced themselves from Jones because of his blatantly antisemitic views.

In this race the choice for the pro-Israel community is clear. We trust Rep. Lipinski's track record and support for the U.S.-Israel relationship. Both Marie Newman and Rush Darwish would actively undermine our alliance with Israel and make both of our countries less safe. We support Congressman Lipinski's re-election effort.

About Rep. Lipinski

Congressman Dan Lipinski was elected in 2005 to represent Illinois' 3rd Congressional District. He serves on the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

Congressman Lipinski believes in and is committed to an unbreakable U.S.-Israel bond. He cosponsored the U.S.-Israel Cooperation and Enhancement and Regional Security Act which reauthorizes security assistance to Israel. He has also led efforts to recognize the importance of the U.S.-Israel economic relationship and encourage new areas of cooperation. Congressman Lipinski voted against the Iran deal, as he believed the funding provided to Iran under that agreement would embolden the regime's threats against Israel.

"The U.S. and Israel are strong allies and we must strive to maintain this critical relationship."

"Our valuable bilateral relationship with Israel needs and deserves constant reinforcement."

DAN LIPINSKI (D-IL03)



About the Primary

Primary Date: March 17th, 2020

Primary Status: Highly Competitive

Pro-Israel America Endorsed Candidate: Dan Lipinski

Primary Challengers:

Rush Darwish, businessman and former broadcaster.

- Has come out publicly in support of the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement that has a goal of ending Israel's existence.
- Supports a one-state solution that would eliminate Israel as a Jewish state.
- Raised \$100,000 in his first 10 days.

Marie Newman, businesswoman and former candidate for Illinois 3rd Congressional District

- Previously supported the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement that has a goal of ending Israel's existence.
- Continues to oppose legislation that would ban compliance with the BDS movement.
- Believes that a Palestinian "right of return" must be part of a two-state solution, which would put an end to the Jewish State of Israel.
- Endorsed by groups that are not supportive of the U.S.-Israel relationship, including a group that endorses Rep. Ilhan Omar, Rashida Tlaib and whose platform calls to stop sending military assistance to Israel.
- Endorsed by Bernie Sanders, who advocates for anti-Israel policies that would undermine the US-Israel relationship, including cutting aid to Israel.
- Outraised Lipinski, bringing in over \$1 million this cycle.

About the District

Illinois's third district encompasses parts of southwestern Chicago and much of its southwestern suburbs. The district is solidly Democratic. In 2018, after a close primary battle, Rep. Lipinski went on to win the general election with 73% of the vote. This year, the winner of the Democratic primary is again almost guaranteed to win the general election.



HENRY CUELLAR (D-TX28)

Our Take

The primary in Texas's twenty-eighth district will be crucial for the U.S.-Israel relationship. Congressman Cuellar has been a steadfast supporter of the U.S.-Israel relationship. Rep. Cuellar's primary opponent, Jessica Cisneros, has not been public about her views on our alliance with Israel. Worse, Cisneros is backed by a PAC that has brought forward some of the most anti-Israel members of Congress – including Rep. Tlaib and Rep. Omar and calls for cutting military assistance for Israel in its platform. Cisneros is also endorsed by Senator Bernie Sanders, who recently affirmed he would seek to cut U.S. aid to Israel if elected President. We trust Rep. Cuellar's record of support for our alliance with Israel and support his re-election in the March 3, 2020 primary.

About Rep. Cuellar

Henry Cuellar was elected in 2004 to represent Texas's twenty-eighth district. He serves on the Appropriations Committee and is the Vice Chair of its Subcommittee on Homeland Security. He also serves on the Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense. Congressman Cuellar was selected to be a Chief Deputy Whip for the current 116th Congress.

Congressman Cuellar has been an outspoken supporter of the U.S.-Israel relationship throughout his time in Congress. As a member on the powerful Appropriations Committee, he has voted in favor of providing security assistance to Israel. He has co-sponsored legislation that takes a stand against the BDS movement and backed US involvement in first-responder training in Israel.

"I am a friend of Israel; I always have been and I always will be."

About the Primary

Primary Date: March 3rd, 2020

Primary Status: Highly Competitive

Pro-Israel America Endorsed Candidate: Henry Cuellar

Primary Challengers:

Jessica Cisneros, immigration and human rights attorney.

- No known public stance on the U.S.-Israel relationship.
- Endorsed by groups that are not supportive of the U.S.-Israel Relationship, including a group that endorses Rep. Ilhan Omar, Rashida Tlaib and whose platform calls to stop sending military assistance to Israel.
- Endorsed by Bernie Sanders, who advocates for anti-Israel policies that would undermine the U.S.-Israel relationship, including cutting aid to Israel.

About the District

Texas's 28th district stretches from south of San Antonio all the way to the U.S.-Mexico border. This is a heavily Democratic district and has never been represented by a Republican. Cuellar won with 66% of the vote in the 2016 general election.



JOYCE BEATTY (D-OH03)

Our Take

The primary in Ohio's third district is a critical race for the strength of the U.S.-Israel relationship in Congress. Congresswoman Beatty has been a leader who works to advance the alliance between the U.S. and Israel. Her primary opponent, Morgan Harper, has not been public about her views on our alliance with Israel and is backed by a PAC that supports some of the most anti-Israel members of Congress. This group calls for cutting security assistance to Israel in its platform. We trust Rep. Beatty's record of support for our alliance with Israel and support her re-election in the March 17, 2020 primary.

About Rep. Beatty

Since 2013, Beatty has represented Ohio's Third Congressional District in Congress. She previously served as a member in the Ohio House of Representatives, where she rose to become the first female Democratic House Leader in Ohio's history.

Beatty has been a long-time champion of the U.S.-Israel relationship. She is first Vice Chair of the Black-Jewish Caucus, where she works to build new relationships across black and Jewish communities to address racism and antisemitism. Congresswoman Beatty cosponsored the United States-Israel Cooperation Enhancement and Regional Security Act, which would strengthen the security of both the U.S. and Israel, and voted earlier this year to oppose the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement that seeks to isolate and weaken Israel.

"As a strong supporter of Israel, I reject anti-semitism in all its forms and will continue to use my voice to speak out against it."

About the Primary

Primary Date: March 17th, 2020

Primary Status: Highly Competitive

Pro-Israel America Endorsed Candidate: Joyce Beatty

Primary Challengers:

Morgan Harper, former senior adviser at the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau

- No known public stance on the U.S.-Israel relationship.
- Endorsed by groups that are not supportive of the U.S.-Israel relationship, including a group that endorses Rep. Ilhan Omar, Rashida Tlaib and whose platform calls to stop sending military assistance to Israel.
- Raised over \$550,000

About the District

Ohio's third district includes most of the City of Columbus and includes one of the higher Jewish populations in the state. This is a heavily Democratic district, so whoever wins the Democratic primary is likely to win in the general election – which makes the primary race so important. Beatty won with over 70% of the vote in 2018.

KAY GRANGER (R-TX12)



Our Take

The primary in Texas's twelfth district is vitally important for the U.S.-Israel relationship. Congresswoman Granger has been a long-time, unwavering champion of the U.S.-Israel relationship. As the Ranking Member and Republican Leader of the House Appropriations Committee, she has played an indispensable role to ensure crucial security funding for Israel, including life-saving missile defense systems like Iron Dome. Her primary opponent, Chris Putnam, has no record of support for the U.S.-Israel alliance and is campaigning on a platform of significantly reducing all spending, which could include security assistance programs. We trust Rep. Granger's record of support for our alliance with Israel and support her re-election in the March 3, 2020 primary.

About Rep. Granger

Congresswoman Kay Granger was elected to represent Texas's 12th Congressional District in 1996. She is the Ranking Member of the House Appropriations Committee. She previously served as the Chair of the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee and as the Chair of the State and Foreign Operations Subcommittee.

Congresswoman Granger has been a strong and unwavering supporter of the U.S.-Israel relationship in Congress. Through her leadership on the Appropriations Committee, she has worked to provide critical funding for Israel's security and defense needs. These include vital missile defense programs, anti-tunnel systems, and the state-of-the-art F-35 fighter jet. Granger has also led the charge to fight back against efforts to delegitimize Israel. Rep. Granger has been endorsed by President Trump.

"Our countries [Israel and the U.S.] share an enduring friendship and democratic values. We also face common adversaries. The bond between our two countries is strong and unbreakable."

About the Primary

Primary Date: March 3rd, 2020

Primary Status: Highly Competitive

Pro-Israel America Endorsed Candidate: Kay Granger

Primary Challengers:

Chris Putnam, businessman and former Colleyville city councilman.

- No known public stance on the U.S.-Israel relationship.
- Campaigning on reducing all spending programs, which could include military assistance.

About the District

Texas' 12th Congressional District includes Parker County and parts of Tarrant and Wise counties, in the Fort Worth area. This is a solidly Republican district, and the winner of the March Republican primary is likely to win the general election in November 2020. Granger won the general election in 2018 with 64% of the vote.

OTHER MARCH PRIMARIES TO WATCH

These Pro-Israel America endorsed candidates also face primary challengers in March. These races are considered safer, and our endorsed candidates are likely to win. But we can't take anything for granted. Our members are still working to help solidify the advantage here and ensure victories.



Brad Schneider (D-IL10)
[Primary Date: March 17, 2020](#)



David Scott (D-GA13)
[Primary Date: March 24, 2020](#)



Brad Sherman (D-CA30)
[Primary Date: March 3, 2020](#)