

Background on the Senator-elect's statements, positions, and record on diplomacy, international assistance, and U.S. international affairs programs.

A seventh-generation Mississippian and three-term district attorney, Scott Colom has framed his approach to foreign policy around Mississippi's interests and a strong national defense. In a July 2026 interview with Magnolia Tribune, he said that America must be prepared "**to defend itself and our allies that are threatened"** while stressing, **"We need to make sure we support our allies, but we have to do so in a way that supports America first."**

Before entering the legal profession, Colom spent 16 months teaching English in a village in Guyana through WorldTeach and later interned with the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda in Tanzania. A Columbus native and a Millsaps College and University of Wisconsin Law School graduate, he was first elected district attorney for Mississippi's 16th Judicial District in 2015.

ON U.S. GLOBAL LEADERSHIP:

- In a podcast interview in May 2026, Colom shared a conversation he had with a friend on economic concerns and why U.S. global leadership matters, saying that his friend argued, "We're talking about sending all this money to Ukraine. We're talking about foreign stuff… My life's not gotten better. Prices are up." Colom then stated, "I was able to convince him that it made sense that we made sure Russia… and Putin didn't… take over Ukraine, but I was a trusted messenger."

ON U.S. NATIONAL SECURITY AND INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE:

- Addressing U.S. international assistance to other countries in a September 2026 Q&A, Colom said he would demand "clear objectives, real oversight, and votes taken in the open by Congress so Mississippians have a voice in those decisions, not just the president."
- On Congressional war powers, he said in September 2026 that he would "absolutely support and vote for a war powers resolution" and work to limit circumstances in which a president could use force without congressional approval. His campaign platform pledges to "require a vote of Congress before America goes to war."
- In a March 2026 interview about the Iran war, Colom said coming of age during the Iraq War "informed a lot of my thinking when it comes to Middle East wars," citing concerns about "not having clear objectives, not clear intelligence, not accurate intelligence." He asked, "what are the objectives?How is it in our interest? And what is the end game?"

ON GLOBAL POVERTY:

- In a 2010 column, Colom wrote on his experience teaching English in Guyana, "I never imagined I would witness poverty at such depths" and described a village "where rain was the main source of water, and

electricity was a commodity for a lucky few." In an August 2026 interview, he said he spent time "not just teaching young people" but also "really learning from their culture, listening."

- Reflecting in a 2010 column in The Dispatch on interning with the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda in Arusha, Tanzania, he wrote, "Conversely, in my worst nightmares I never envisioned I would see children without limbs beg for food, or hear teenagers admit to mass murder."
- Recounting his teaching experience in Guyana, where one of his students lost his mother in childbirth amid poor access to healthcare, Colom told the Mississippi Free Press in October 2026 that "the best way to impact change was locally. So, I moved back to Mississippi to try to make a difference."

ON GLOBAL ECONOMIC ENGAGEMENT:

- Following an October 2025 meeting with Mississippi soybean farmers, Colom said tariffs were "having a devastating impact on farmers and our state." In a subsequent campaign speech, he criticized the loss of soybean exports to China as buyers shifted to Argentina, asking, "And we just gave $40 billion to Argentina. How does that make sense?"
- Colom blamed hundreds of layoffs at a Mississippi business on tariffs and argued that a major corporation "can handle the tariffs better than a small business can."
- In an October 2026 interview with Meet the Press, he criticized U.S. beef imports from Argentina, saying they were "undermining Mississippi cattlemen" and asking, "How is that Mississippi first? That's Argentina first."
- In an October 2026 interview, Colom said tariffs could be justified when they are "about balancing out trade, making sure their partners are also being fair."

ON CONFLICT IN THE MIDDLE EAST:

- Discussing the Iran war in a November 2026 interview on The Breakfast Club, he said, "we've got to get out of war in Iran," arguing that Americans had been promised "no more endless wars" but "we're back in another endless war."
- Following an October 2025 agreement concerning Israeli hostages and Gaza, Colom wrote that he was "very heartened to see the Israeli hostages reunited with their families" and said, "President Trump deserves praise for getting this deal across the finish line." He also hoped that "a peaceful Gaza is rebuilt with dignity and self-government for the Palestinian people."
- The Mississippi Free Press reported that Colom said he "wants to study what is best for Mississippi when it comes to the U.S. sending billions to Israel for defense weapons each year" and that he "would not take a hard stance on Israel at the moment." In the October 2026 interview, Colom stated, "I certainly don't support any war crimes, any abuses of humanitarian rights," and called for "focus on rebuilding the Middle East in a way that respects the dignity of Palestinians, Israelites, Arabs and self-determination for each of them."
- In a July 2026 interview, he described Gaza as "a humanitarian disaster" and criticized Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu as "horrible for foreign policy" and "disastrous for peace in the Middle East," adding, "Israel needs a new prime minister."