U.S. GLOBAL LEADERSHIP COALITION

2026 ELECTION ANALYSIS

How foreign policy shaped the election | How the election could shape foreign policy

With the most dramatic shifts in election results in a half century, the war in Iran and tariffs put global issues at the center of the national political debate as voters prioritized affordability in the 2026 midterm elections.

With Democrats now taking control of both chambers of Congress, a new era of divided government will shape the next chapter of U.S. foreign policy.

The Administration and the incoming 120th Congress will face a complex and consequential global inbox – from the wars in Iran and Ukraine to strategic competition with China – alongside critical decisions about America's alliances, diplomacy, and international assistance.

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IMPACT 2026 INITIATIVE

Since 2008, USGLC has led a nationwide initiative to educate and engage candidates across the political spectrum on the importance of America's global leadership in advancing our security, prosperity, and values. Our goal has never been about a "red wave" or a "blue wave," but ensuring an "engaged wave" of bipartisan policymakers who recognize the imperative for America's role in the world.

Throughout the 2026 election cycle, USGLC brought together business leaders, veterans, mayors, farmers, and community and faith-based leaders to engage House and Senate candidates across the country. While some brought extensive international experience, others were exploring these issues for the first time – creating opportunities to connect diplomacy and international assistance to the security and economic interests of their communities.

With one of the largest incoming congressional classes since Watergate and new leadership taking the reins on Capitol Hill, USGLC looks forward to working with the new Congress and the Administration to build a safer world and stronger America.

TOP ELECTION TAKEAWAYS

Read on for USGLC's take on how foreign policy shaped the 2026 elections and how the 2026 elections will shape foreign policy – with fresh insights into the new faces coming to Washington.

1 GLOBAL ISSUES – IRAN WAR AND TARIFFS – DRIVE VOTERS IN AFFORDABILITY ELECTION

While pundits will continue to debate what shaped the 2026 midterms, one thing is clear: global issues hit home with the Iran war and tariffs driving voters' concerns over rising costs in an election dominated by affordability.

- **IT'S THE ECONOMY:** National exit polls found that **89% of voters said that the cost of living** was a crucial or major factor in their voting decisions – an extraordinarily high number.
- **IRAN WAR BACKLASH:** While foreign policy ranked relatively low in exit poll surveys (4%) – as it typically does – **74% of voters said the Iran war was a crucial** (34%) or **major** (40%) **factor in their vote**, and nearly two-thirds (63%) believed the U.S. war against Iran was the wrong decision – likely reinforcing Americans' support for "no more wars" along with the impact on our nation's economy.
- **TARIFFS HIT HOME:** In addition, international trade policy faced a sharp voter rebuke, with roughly **two-thirds believing tariffs hurt the national economy and their own local economy**. Just 14% said tariffs helped their local economy, underscoring widespread frustration with the economic consequences of trade policy.
- **POLITICAL FALLOUT:** Within hours of the election results, even **Vice President JD Vance** blamed the political consequences of the Iran conflict, declaring on X, **"The reason we lost is the war."**

2 CANDIDATES' ATTENTION ON FOREIGN POLICY: UNUSUAL FOR A MIDTERM

While voters overwhelmingly prioritized domestic concerns, foreign policy commanded an unusual level of attention on the 2026 campaign trail, with candidates confronting questions on the Iran war, tariffs, Russia and Ukraine, and America's role in the world.

- **THE DEBATE STAGE:** In a USGLC analysis of 27 televised Senate general election debates, foreign policy topics were the **second most discussed issue on the debate stage** and accounted for **nearly 20% of questions and debate time**, more than immigration and health care combined – unusual during midterm elections.

- **IRAN DOMINATED THE CONVERSATION:** The Iran war emerged in **every Senate debate analyzed**. Tariffs were the next most-discussed international policy issue, particularly their impact on farmers, consumers, and businesses.
    - In an interesting twist, **Canada was the second most-mentioned country after Iran** – ahead of China, Russia, and Israel – reflecting the prominence of trade disputes in competitive Senate races in northern border states.
- **CANDIDATE PLATFORMS:** A separate USGLC review of more than 840 Congressional candidate websites found that **more than 6 in 10 candidates** with published issue platforms featured sections on **foreign policy, national security, defense, or international trade** – including nearly 7 in 10 Senate candidates.
    - **While candidates across both parties addressed global threats and America's alliances**, their emphases often differed, with Republicans focused more on "peace through strength" and China, while Democrats more frequently emphasized diplomacy and ending wars.

MOST MENTIONS	DEMOCRATS	REPUBLICANS
#1	Iran	China
#2	Israel	Iran
#3	Russia	Israel
#4	Ukraine	Russia
#5	China	Ukraine

- **CAMPAIGN TRAIL:** Incoming Senators made a clear connection on how foreign policy hit home:
    - Senator-elect **Adam Hamilton (D-KS):** "Global instability is hurting Kansas, but so have many of our own government's choices – the war in Iran, the trade war, a farm bill three years late."
    - Senator-elect **James Talarico (D-TX):** "For Texans, foreign policy isn't foreign" and the U.S. needs to "restore investments in diplomacy and international development."

3 VOTERS WEIGH IN: WANT U.S. GLOBAL ROLE AND RETURN ON INVESTMENT

Despite an election marked by backlash over the Iran war and tariffs, Americans continue to see value in U.S. leadership in the world. Yet voters want to ensure there is a clear return on our nation's investment.

- **AMERICANS STILL WANT "ACTIVE ROLE":** A June 2026 Reagan Institute survey found **61% of Americans favor greater U.S. engagement and leadership internationally**, compared with 27% who preferred pulling back. Similarly, an October 2026 Chicago Council poll found **58% support an** active **U.S. role in world affairs**, including majorities of Democrats (60%) and Republicans (63%).
- **ALLIANCES STILL MATTER:** In the run-up to the election, a YouGov poll found **75% of Americans believe U.S. alliances benefit the U.S.**, including 85% of Democrats and 73% of Republicans. Notably, Republican support for alliances rose **10 points since 2025**.

- **RETURN ON INVESTMENT MATTERS:** In more than **300 USGLC educational briefings**, USGLC state leaders helped to educate and engage candidates. Across the political spectrum, candidates told us that U.S. global leadership should **reflect our values and advance our interests** – and that effective international assistance should deliver a return for our economic and security interests – such as **"keeping us safe before conflict and diseases reach our shores."**
- **ISSUES OF CONVERGENCE AND DIVERGENCE:** A number of geostrategic issues continue to shift with voters:
  - **The urgency to support Ukraine has gained ground** with Pew polling finding an 11-point increase in Americans saying the U.S. was providing too little support to Ukraine from 2024 to 2026. Meanwhile, a March 2026 YouGov poll **found 62% of Americans favored maintaining or increasing sanctions on Russia**, including majorities of both Democrats and Republicans.
  - **The voter dynamics on Israel reveal sharper divisions**, particularly over security assistance and conditions on U.S. support – differences that cut across party lines – with a pre-election Marquette poll finding **55% believed the U.S. was providing too much military aid to Israel**, including 73% of Democrats and 38% of Republicans.

4 LARGEST FRESHMAN CLASS IN 34 YEARS BRINGS NEW DYNAMICS TO U.S. FOREIGN POLICY

With at least 17 new Senators and 95 new House members amidst a "blue tsunami," the 2026 election is on track to produce the largest congressional turnover since 1992.

- **END OF AN ERA:** Following the passing of **Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC)**, Washington will lose an extraordinary generation of bipartisan foreign policy champions, including **Senators Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH), Susan Collins (R-ME), Dick Durbin (D-IL), Mitch McConnell (R-KY)**, **Amy Klobuchar (D-MN),** and **Thom Tillis (R-NC)** alongside House leaders such as **Nancy Pelosi (D-CA), Steny Hoyer (D-MD), Michael McCaul (R-TX), Don Bacon (R-NE)**, and **Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA)**. Their departures create consequential vacancies in institutional knowledge, relationships, and bipartisan leadership on America's role in the world.
- **A GENERATIONAL SHIFT:** The new Congress will see a **scale of turnover from the past few years that is unprecedented in modern times**, with the large incoming class creating an urgency to educate policymakers on the future of diplomacy and U.S. international assistance. As one point of reference, during President Trump's first term, the BUILD Act that launched the U.S. International Development Finance Corporation (DFC) passed with overwhelming bipartisan support – **75% of the legislators from that vote will not be part of the 120th Congress.**

- **NATIONAL SECURITY LEADERS:** At least **13 veterans newly elected to Congress** will bring their military experience to Capitol Hill, alongside incoming lawmakers with extensive national security backgrounds spanning counterterrorism, intelligence, and international development. With Honor reports that at least **11 women veterans will serve in the 120th Congress – a record high**.
- **PEACE CORPS:** Two former Peace Corps volunteers – **Marni von Wilpert (D-CA)**, who served in Botswana during the HIV/AIDS epidemic, and **Don Leonard (D-OH)**, who volunteered in Bolivia – are headed to Capitol Hill this January.
- **USGLC STATE LEADERS:** USGLC is proud to announce six incoming House members who previously served on USGLC State Advisory Committees or as USGLC State Leaders: **Paige Cognetti (D-PA), Rebecca Cooke (D-WI), Oliver Gilbert (D-FL), Cyril Jefferson (D-NC), Ben McAdams (D-UT),** and **Chris McGowan (R-IA).**

» For more on the incoming 120th Congress and profiles on each new Senator, see the following sections with additional details.

5 NEW LEADERSHIP IN 120TH CONGRESS TAKES THE REINS AT A CRITICAL MOMENT FOR U.S. FOREIGN POLICY

With Democrats taking control of both chambers of Congress, expect some changes in U.S. foreign policy. While President Trump and the Executive Branch retain broad authority over foreign policy decision-making, the incoming Congress will have significant new leverage over spending, oversight, and the future of America's diplomatic and international assistance tools.

- **NEW HANDS ON THE GAVELS:** Democratic majorities will bring new leadership to the committees overseeing foreign policy and international affairs funding. **Senator Patty Murray (D-WA)** is positioned to chair Senate Appropriations, **Senator Chris Coons (D-DE)** is expected to lead Foreign Relations, and **Representative Lois Frankel (D-FL)** is positioned to chair the House panel responsible for State Department and international assistance funding. Even with familiar faces returning, these shifts will bring new priorities to the big geopolitical debates.
- **THE POWER OF THE PURSE:** Perhaps Congress's most consequential leverage will be its authority over federal spending. Trusted wartime foreign policy leader **Ambassador Ryan Crocker** said after the election, "The Democrats taking control of both houses gives them unprecedented leverage – especially using the budget."
- **OVERSIGHT RAMPS UP:** Expect intensified Congressional scrutiny of the Administration's restructuring of international assistance and diplomatic institutions, including decisions on spending, personnel, and the use of executive authority. With Democrats controlling committees in both chambers, hearings, investigations, and funding decisions could become major venues for influencing U.S. foreign policy.

» For more on the new leadership in the 120th Congress and the impact on potential policy, see the following section with additional details.

6 CRITICAL NATIONAL SECURITY INBOX FOR LAME DUCK SESSION

The midterms may have settled who will lead Congress, but not the foreign policy decisions awaiting it. From urgent conflicts abroad to the future of America's international assistance architecture, the lame duck and incoming 120th Congress face a consequential agenda – with major questions on whether deals can be reached at both ends of Pennsylvania Avenue – and on the global stage.

- **IRAN WAR AND MIDDLE EAST:** With the Iran war weighing heavily on the election, expect renewed congressional attention to war powers, resources, and a path toward ending hostilities. On Israel, President Trump's post-election decision to end U.S. assistance by the end of the year has already shifted the dynamics on this issue.
- **UKRAINE AND AMERICA'S ALLIANCES:** As Russian tankers that were headed to the U.S. now change direction following the election, the future of U.S. support for Ukraine, and sanctions on Russia, could be on the docket as part of any must-pass lame duck legislation.
- **TEAM USA IS MIA:** At a time of rising global threats and **intensifying competition with China**, nearly half of America's ambassadorial and senior diplomatic positions are missing in action – 94 of 196 as of October 30, according to the American Foreign Service Association. America needs its top diplomats on the field, not sitting on the sidelines.
- **INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS FUNDING AT A CROSSROADS:** With the current funding measure expiring **December 11**, lawmakers face immediate decisions about FY27 spending – and potentially overlapping FY28 negotiations when the new Congress convenes. Congress could also revisit the Administration's $87.6 billion supplemental request.
- **MORE ON THE CONGRESSIONAL DOCKET:** The annual National Defense Authorization Act and negotiations over the Farm Bill – including the future of Food for Peace and McGovern-Dole international food assistance programs – could see action during the lame duck or carry over into the 120th Congress.

» For more on foreign policy implications for the 120th Congress, see the following section with additional details.

7 THE WORLD IS WATCHING

America's midterms drew attention far beyond Washington as foreign capitals assessed what comes next for U.S. leadership.

- **ALLIES EMPHASIZE CONTINUITY:** While assessing the implications of the election, several Indo-Pacific allies underscored the bipartisan foundations of their relationships with Washington:
  - **Japan:** Chief Cabinet Secretary **Minoru Kihara** reaffirmed that the U.S.-Japan alliance remains "the cornerstone of Japan's foreign and security policy."
  - **South Korea:** Presidential spokesperson **Kang Yu-jung** declared, "We do not believe the outcome of any particular election will affect the South Korea-US alliance."
  - **Taiwan:** The Foreign Ministry emphasized its longstanding approach of "non-partisanship, building broad-based goodwill, and active engagement" in U.S. relations.

- **SHARP HEADLINES FROM RIVAL-STATE MEDIA:** Government-aligned newspapers offered more pointed interpretations of the election:
  - **Russia:** State-run *Rossiyskaya Gazeta* warned: "**Brussels, brace yourself**. After the Republicans' defeat, Trump's wrath will fall on Europe."
  - **Iran:** The government-aligned *Tehran Times* declared **"Operation Midterms Hammer."**
  - **China:** The *South China Morning Post* examined how the Congressional shift **"could squeeze China on AI."**
- **A GLOBAL SURGE AT THE POLLS:** GZERO highlighted striking turnout in recent elections around the world after years of declining worldwide participation (from 65% in 2008 to 55% in 2023):
  - Turnout in Serbia's recent election was the highest since 1992. In Israel, turnout was also the highest in more than two decades, and nearly **3 million additional voters** participated in Brazil's presidential runoff.
  - Young voters are part of the story too: Serbia's student-led movement helped drive its election, while Tufts University estimates 2026 saw America's second-highest youth turnout for a midterm in 30 years.

8 AS 2028 RACE BEGINS, COMPETING VISIONS OF U.S. LEADERSHIP REMAIN UNSETTLED

The 2026 midterms are barely behind us, but the 2028 presidential race is already taking shape. As prospective candidates draw lessons from the election results, inward-looking voices in both parties will remain part of the political debate – even as bipartisan support for America's global leadership continues.

- **THE 2028 OPPORTUNITY:** Reflecting on the midterm results, **CFR's Rebecca Lissner** wrote: "As Washington turns its attention to presidential primaries, prospective candidates will analyze these midterm results in crafting their foreign policy platforms." She added: "There is a clear opportunity for candidates to seize the anti-interventionist lane Trump once occupied but has now abandoned. So too is there an opening to parlay opposition to tariffs into an affirmative international-economic agenda that restores predictability and lowers costs."
- **DEMOCRATS CHART THEIR NEXT CHAPTER:** While fault lines do exist, Democrats are also looking to shape the future of American foreign policy. **Senator Chris Murphy (D-CT)** emphasized in a June 2026 interview: "Yes, we as Democrats want to be in a world of alliances. We want to be a force for good in the world." Meanwhile, **Senator Andy Kim (D-NJ)** outlined a vision of American leadership built around engagement and economic security, calling for partnerships based on "economic and technological growth, not just around geography and security relationships."
- **COMPETING VISIONS ON THE RIGHT:** Just ahead of the election, **Senator Ted Cruz (R-TX)** posed a pointed question about the Republican Party's future: **"**Are we an isolationist party that withdraws from the world, or do we believe in American leadership?" Following the election results, former **CFR President Richard Haass** similarly asked on Substack whether the GOP would return to its center-right traditions and "again become home to those on the center right who believe in a market economy… civic virtue, and U.S. leadership in the world?"

THE 120TH SENATE AND HOUSE

New Dynamics at a Consequential Moment for America's Role in the World

THE 120TH SENATE

>> *See below for detailed profiles of the new Senators-elect*

Democrats secured a Senate majority of at least 54 seats, including Independents who caucus with Democrats—flipping at least seven seats, with races in Alaska and Mississippi still too close to call. The shift will give Democrats control over the chamber's legislative agenda, committees, appropriations, and confirmation process—creating a new dynamic for negotiations with the Trump Administration on foreign policy and national security.

Democratic committee leaders are likely to intensify oversight of the Administration's restructuring of foreign assistance and diplomatic institutions while pressing to restore much greater congressional influence over funding and policy. At the same time, bipartisan concern about China, Russia, Iran, and emerging global threats could provide openings for enhanced cooperation on alliances, global health security, U.S. economic competitiveness, effective international assistance, and more.

Senators will quickly be faced with consequential decisions about America's role in the world. There will be opportunities for new and returning Senators to work across the aisle to strengthen America's civilian tools, demonstrate how strategic international engagement delivers results for Americans, and reshape the future of U.S. diplomatic and international assistance tools.

- **RETURNING FRIENDS.** Senators who were up for reelection that will be returning in the 120th Congress serving in senior roles on key national security and foreign policy committees include **Cory Booker (D-NJ)**, **Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV), Chris Coons (D-DE)**, **Jack Reed (D-RI)**, **Jim Risch (R-ID)**, **Mike Rounds (R-SD)**, and **Mark Warner (D-VA)**, alongside other supporters of America's role in the world whose seats were not on the ballot.
- **HOUSE MEMBERS ASCEND.** The incoming Senate freshman class will include six current House Members: Andy Barr (R-KY), Harriet Hageman (R-WY), Kevin Hern (R-OK), Julia Letlow (R-LA), Barry Moore (R-AL), and Chris Pappas (D-NH). Several bring experience directly relevant to U.S. diplomatic and international assistance tools. Barr serves on the House Foreign Affairs Committee, while Letlow sits on the House Appropriations Subcommittee on National Security, Department of State, and Related Programs. Pappas co-chairs the Congressional Hellenic Caucus that works to strengthen U.S. ties with Greece and Cyprus.
- **OLD FRIENDS AND NEW FACES.** Former **Senator Sherrod Brown (D-OH)** will return to the Senate after winning a special election for the remainder of Vice President JD Vance's term, bringing extensive foreign policy experience shaped by a focus on economic security, American competitiveness, and the interests of U.S. workers. Additionally, with several impressive resumes and a diverse array of backgrounds and experiences – including military and national security service, business, public health, and state government – a new

generation of freshmen will be looking to make their mark on U.S. foreign policy and national security in the 120th Senate, including **Dr. Annie Andrews (D-SC), Rev. Adam Hamilton (D-KS), Roy Cooper (D-NC), James Talarico (D-TX)**, **Peggy Flanagan (D-MN)**, **Dr. Abdul El-Sayed (D-MI)**, and **Juliana Stratton (D-IL).**

LEADERSHIP & KEY COMMITTEES

While there are not expected to be major shakeups in top party leadership for either Democrats or Republicans, key retirements on both sides of the aisle will have significant implications for key committee leadership in the 120th Senate.

- **DEMOCRATIC LEADERSHIP.** The Senate's top Democrat, **Chuck Schumer (D-NY)**, is poised to become Majority Leader. **Senator Dick Durbin's (D-IL)** retirement opens up the Democratic Whip position for the first time in more than two decades, with **Senator Brian Schatz (D-HI)** seeking the post.
- **REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP.** **Senators John Thune (R-SD)** and **John Barrasso (R-WY)** are expected to remain as Republican Leader and Republican Whip, respectively.
- **APPROPRIATIONS.** **Senator Patty Murray (D-WA)**, the committee's top Democrat, is expected to assume the chairmanship. With **Senator Susan Collins (R-ME)** losing her reelection bid, **Senator Lisa Murkowski (R-AK)** – the next most senior Republican on the committee – could replace her as Vice Chair. The chairmanship of the State-Foreign Operations Subcommittee remains to be determined as **Senator Brian Schatz (D-HI)** pursues the role of Majority Whip, while the panel's Republican leadership is also an open question following the death of **Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC)**. The departures of **Senators Susan Collins (R-ME), Dick Durbin (D-IL)**, **Mitch McConnell (R-KY)**, and **Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH)** will also mark a significant loss of foreign policy and national security experience, particularly on the State-Foreign Operations Subcommittee.
- **FOREIGN RELATIONS.** **Senator Jeanne Shaheen's (D-NH)** retirement opens up the committee's top Democratic position, with **Senator Chris Coons (D-DE)** – the next-most-senior Democrat on the committee – widely expected to be tapped as Chair. **Senator Jim Risch (R-ID)** is expected to remain the committee's top Republican.
- **AGRICULTURE.** **Senator Amy Klobuchar's (D-MN)** election as Governor of Minnesota opens the committee's top Democratic position. **Senator Michael Bennet (D-CO)** is the next-most-senior Democrat on the committee, putting him in line for the chairmanship. **Senator John Boozman (R-AR)** is expected to remain the top Republican.
- **ARMED SERVICES.** **Senators Jack Reed (D-RI)** and **Roger Wicker (R-MS)** are expected to remain the committee's top Democrat and Republican, respectively.
- **BUDGET.** Current lead Democrat **Senator Jeff Merkley (D-OR)** could be in line for the chairmanship, with lead Republican **Senator Ron Johnson (R-WI)** expected to become Ranking Member.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU

The close of the 119th Congress will mark the departure of several influential and highly respected Senators who have helped shape America's role on the world stage over many decades and played outsized roles in building the bipartisan legacy of support for diplomacy and effective international assistance. Their leadership, dedication, and impact on U.S. national security and foreign policy will be deeply missed.

- First and foremost, a special tribute to the late **Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC)**, who will be remembered as one of the most influential voices shaping America's foreign policy and the role of effective international assistance and diplomacy as tools to advance U.S. interests. As the longtime lead Republican on the State-Foreign Operations Appropriations Subcommittee, he was a forceful champion for what he affectionately called "soft power." From his support for diplomacy, development, and global health as critical tools of national security to his unwavering solidarity with Ukraine, Graham's enduring legacy will be felt for generations.
- A heartfelt thank you to **Senator Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH)** for her decades of public service and her extraordinary commitment to the people of New Hampshire and to strengthening American leadership on the world stage. As Ranking Member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and a senior member of the Appropriations Committee, Senator Shaheen has been a tireless champion for U.S. diplomacy and international assistance – from strengthening our alliances to advancing global health security and elevating the role of women in national security. Her leadership has left an indelible mark on New Hampshire, the Senate, and the world – and her example of principled, bipartisan public service will be sorely missed.
- We appreciate and thank **Senator Susan Collins (R-ME)**, the longest-serving Republican woman in U.S. Senate history and an exceptional champion for America's global leadership. As Chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee, she has worked with Democratic and Republican colleagues to advance strategic, effective diplomatic and international assistance programs. Her commitment to empowering women and girls globally, to America's global health leadership, and to Ukraine have been hallmarks of her nearly three decades in Congress and we are deeply grateful for all that she has done.
- A special thank you to **Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL)** for his decades of public service and for being a powerful champion for America's leadership on the world stage — recognizing that what happens overseas matters directly to the security and well-being of American families. Whether it was leading an annual bipartisan letter calling for a strongly resourced international affairs toolkit, advancing legislation to expand access to clean water and sanitation for millions worldwide, or helping establish the Senate Global AIDS Caucus—his contributions will not be forgotten.
- We also recognize **Senator Mitch McConnell (R-KY)**, the longest-serving Senate party leader in American history whose influence has shaped not only the trajectory of his party but also the role of the United States on the global stage. His belief that America must lead in the world has been a guiding principle throughout his career—from his steadfast support for Ukraine's fight against Russian aggression to his advocacy for robust diplomatic and international assistance resources that strengthen U.S. national security and economic partnerships. His leadership and vision will leave a lasting impact.

Thank you to **Senator Amy Klobuchar (D-MN)**, who has been a steadfast supporter of America's global leadership—connecting international engagement to the interests of Minnesota's farmers, businesses, and communities. Through her leadership on the Senate Agriculture Committee, she has worked to combat global hunger while supporting American agriculture. Her record of strengthening alliances, supporting Ukraine, and addressing global health threats has contributed to a safer world and a stronger America.

- Our sincere gratitude to **Senator Thom Tillis (R-NC)** for his enduring commitment to America's role as a force for good in the world. As co-chair of the Senate NATO Observer Group, he has consistently worked across the aisle to strengthen transatlantic alliances and reinforce America's commitment to NATO. He has also championed U.S. support for Ukraine and worked with bipartisan colleagues to hold Russia accountable for its aggression. He leaves a legacy of principled, bipartisan leadership that won't soon be forgotten.
- We are also grateful to Senators Bill Cassidy (R-LA), John Cornyn (R-TX), Steve Daines (R-MT), Joni Ernst (R-IA), Gary Peters (D-MI), and Tina Smith (D-MN) for their leadership and longstanding support of America's leadership in the world while serving in the Senate.

THE 120TH HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Democrats secured control of the House with at least 254 seats to Republicans' 162, with 19 races still not called, giving Democrats control over both chambers and ushering in a new period of divided government. While votes are still being counted in some races, Democrats flipped more than two dozen Republican-held districts—with expectations that their majority could further expand in the coming days and weeks.

This shift could lead to increased tension between Democrats and Republicans in the House, with the former expected to pursue an aggressive oversight agenda and investigations of the Trump Administration – including in the foreign policy arena. Although a divided government could sharpen conflict over spending and oversight, shared concerns about strategic competition with China, support for key allies, global health threats, and American economic security may create opportunities for targeted bipartisan action. Members of both parties have also expressed interest in shaping the future of U.S. diplomacy and international assistance, offering potential common ground on how to make these tools more strategic, effective, and accountable.

Members of the 120th House will be confronted with important choices about the future of America's global leadership—from the resources devoted to international engagement to the partnerships, personnel, and institutions that sustain American influence in the world.

- **RETURNING FRIENDS.** The leadership of the 120th House is poised to include supporters of America's global engagement: including **Reps. Hakeem Jeffries (D-NY)**, **Katherine Clark (D-MA)**, and **Pete Aguilar (D-CA)** in Democratic leadership. At this time, the House Republican leadership slate remains uncertain, with the potential for an entirely new team to take the helm.
- Many of the foreign policy and national security congressional leaders who made their mark during the 119th Congress will return, although several races are still too close to call. Those returning include:

- Key members of the Appropriations Committee, including lead Democrat Rep. Rosa DeLauro (D-CT) and lead Republican Rep. Tom Cole (R-OK), along with Reps. Madeleine Dean (D-PA), Jake Ellzey (R-TX), Scott Franklin (R-FL), Susie Lee (D-NV), Betty McCollum (D-MN), John Rutherford (R-FL), Jefferson Shreve (R-IN), Lauren Underwood (D-IL) and Debbie Wasserman Schultz (D-FL).
- Friends on the Appropriations Subcommittee on National Security, Department of State, and Related Programs, including lead Democrat **Rep. Lois Frankel (D-FL)** and lead Republican **Rep. Mario Diaz-Balart (R-FL)**, alongside **Reps. Mark Alford (R-MO), Grace Meng (D-NY), John Moolenaar (R-MI), Mike Quigley (D-IL), Guy Reschenthaler (R-PA)** and **Norma Torres (D-CA).**
- Key members of the Foreign Affairs Committee, including current Democratic and Republican leads **Reps. Gregory Meeks (D-NY)** and **Brian Mast (R-FL)**, along with **Reps. Gabe Amo (D-RI), Jim Baird (R-IN), Wesley Bell (D-MO), Ami Bera (D-CA), Joaquin Castro (D-TX), Ronny Jackson (R-TX), Sara Jacobs (D-CA), Sydney Kamlager-Dove (D-CA), Bill Keating (D-MA), Sarah McBride (D-DE), Johnny Olszewski (D-MD), Brad Schneider (D-IL), Greg Stanton (D-AZ),** and **Dina Titus (D-NV).**
- Military veterans and other national security leaders, including **Reps. Sheri Biggs (R-SC), Jason Crow (D-CO), Chrissy Houlahan (D-PA), Jimmy Panetta (D-CA),** and **Adam Smith (D-WA).**
- Many other friends that USGLC has hosted in recent years, including **Reps. Brendan Boyle (D-PA), Sharice Davids (D-KS), Mike Haridopolos (R-FL), Mike Kelly (R-PA), Darin LaHood (R-IL), Greg Landsman (D-OH), Rich McCormick (R-GA), Nathaniel Moran (R-TX),** and **Deborah Ross (D-NC).**

- **FAMILIAR FRESHMAN FACES.** The incoming freshman class includes six Members-elect who previously served on USGLC State Advisory Committees or as USGLC State Leaders – **Paige Cognetti (D-PA)**, **Rebecca Cooke (D-WI)**, **Oliver Gilbert (D-FL)**, **Cyril Jefferson** (D-NC), **Ben McAdams (D-UT)**, and **Chris McGowan (R-IA)**. They join the growing ranks of bipartisan former USGLC State Advisory Committee members who now serve in both chambers of Congress. The new class also includes several former Members of Congress who were leaders on foreign policy and national security during their previous House service, including **Colin Allred (D-TX)**, **Jerry Carl (R-AL)**, and **Elaine Luria (D-VA)**.
- **NEW FACES TO WATCH.** The incoming freshman class also includes several members with backgrounds relevant to America's global engagement, including returned Peace Corps Volunteers **Don Leonard (D-OH)** and **Marni von Wilpert (D-CA)**, Navy Reserve intelligence officer **Luke Bronin (D-CT)**, decorated Army combat veteran **Cait Conley (D-NY)**, and retired three-star Navy admiral **Nancy Lacore (D-SC)**.

LEADERSHIP & COMMITTEES

House Democratic and Republican leadership races will intensify when lawmakers return next week, ahead of party leadership elections during the lame duck session. Committee leadership on both sides of the aisle is expected to remain relatively unchanged, with a few exceptions.

- **DEMOCRATIC LEADERSHIP.** As Democrats reclaim the majority by a wide margin, **Rep. Hakeem Jeffries (D-NY)** will seek the speakership and **Rep. Katherine Clark (D-MA)** will run for Majority Leader. Current Democratic Caucus Chair **Rep. Pete Aguilar (D-CA)** is expected to pursue the Majority Whip position, while **Rep. Joe Neguse (D-CO)** – who served on USGLC's Colorado Advisory Committee prior to his election to Congress – plans to run for Assistant Speaker.

- **REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP.** As Republicans move into the minority, several Members are weighing leadership bids. Following **Speaker Mike Johnson's (R-LA)** announcement that he will step aside as Republican leader, **Reps. Steve Scalise (R-LA)** and **Jim Jordan (R-OH)** have both announced bids for the Minority Leader post. Republican Study Committee Chair **Rep. August Pfluger (R-TX)** is challenging **Rep. Tom Emmer (R-MN)** for the Minority Whip role while **Reps. Erin Houchin (R-IN)** and **Greg Steube (R-FL)** are taking on House Republican Conference Chair **Lisa McClain (R-MI)** for the third-most-senior position.
- **APPROPRIATIONS. Reps. Rosa DeLauro (D-CT)** and **Tom Cole (R-OK)** are expected to remain the committee's top Democrat and Republican, respectively. On the National Security, Department of State, and Related Programs Subcommittee, **Rep. Lois Frankel (D-FL)** is positioned to take over as Chair, while **Rep. Mario Díaz-Balart (R-FL)** is expected to remain the top Republican.
- **FOREIGN AFFAIRS. Reps. Gregory Meeks (D-NY)** and **Brian Mast (R-FL)** are expected to remain the committee's top Democrat and Republican, respectively.
- **AGRICULTURE. Rep. Angie Craig's (D-MN)** departure opens the top Democrat spot on the committee, with **Rep. Shontel Brown (D-OH)** and **Rep. Jim Costa (D-CA)** vying for the position. While **Rep. Glenn Thompson (R-PA)** is term-limited as the committee's top Republican, he has formally submitted a waiver to remain in the role. **Rep. Austin Scott (R-GA)** has also expressed interest in the top post.
- **ARMED SERVICES. Rep. Adam Smith (D-WA)** is expected to remain the committee's top Democrat. While **Rep. Mike Rogers (R-AL)** is term-limited as the committee's top Republican, he has stated he will pursue a waiver to stay in his role. **Reps. Trent Kelly (R-MS)** and **Ronny Jackson (R-TX)** have also expressed interest in the top post.
- **BUDGET.** Current lead Democrat **Rep. Brendan Boyle (D-PA)** is expected to take the gavel and with **Rep. Jodey Arrington (R-TX)** retiring, Republicans will select a new leader on the committee. Current Vice Chair **Rep. Lloyd Smucker (R-PA)** and **Rep. Blake Moore (R-UT)** are both vying for the position, although Moore is also seeking reelection as Vice Chair of the Republican Conference.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU

As the 119th Congress concludes, USGLC extends its gratitude to departing House Members who have supported America's global engagement:

- A heartfelt thank you to **Speaker Emerita Nancy Pelosi (D-CA)** for her nearly four-decade legacy of championing America's global leadership, including as the lead Democrat on the State-Foreign Operations Appropriations Subcommittee. From her signature work in the global fight against HIV/AIDS to advancing opportunities for women and girls worldwide to standing with Ukraine and America's allies, her dedicated leadership helped shape U.S. foreign policy and will leave a lasting mark.
- Our sincere gratitude to **Rep. Michael McCaul (R-TX)**, one of Congress's leading voices on America's role in the world and its direct connection to our security and economic strength here at home. During his tenure as lead Republican on the Foreign Affairs Committee, he played a critical role advancing international investments that promote stability, prevent conflict, and open markets for American goods. His role in leading bipartisan legislation to combat global hunger, support Ukraine, and prioritize smart development through the Global Fragility Act and the reauthorization of the U.S. International Development Finance Corporation (DFC) has left a legacy that will have a profound impact for the better.

- A special thank you to **Rep. Steny Hoyer (D-MD)**, who has been a steadfast champion for American leadership in the world and the imperative of strategic investments in diplomacy and international assistance. His longtime service on the Appropriations Committee; leadership on the Helsinki Commission advancing security, human rights, and democracy during the Cold War; and steadfast support for America's allies reflect his dedication to a better world and a stronger America.
- We salute **Rep. Don Bacon (R-NE)**, a retired Air Force brigadier general whose nearly three decades of military service shaped his commitment to American leadership on the world stage. As a member of the House Armed Services Committee and co-founder of the bipartisan For Country Caucus, he consistently worked across the aisle to advance U.S. national security and support America's allies. His steadfast support for Ukraine in its fight against Russian aggression will remain a defining part of his congressional legacy.
- Our deep thanks to **Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA)**, who leaves a legacy of bipartisanship and steadfast support for American leadership in the world defined by his work to advance U.S. global health leadership and his enduring commitment to Ukraine. As co-chair of the Congressional Ukraine Caucus, he led bipartisan efforts to secure critical assistance for the Ukrainian people, hold Russia accountable, and reinforce the connection between Ukraine's sovereignty and America's security. His leadership reflected a clear conviction: America is stronger when it stands with its allies and invests in a safer, more stable world.
- We are also grateful to Reps. Mark Amodei (R-NV), Steve Cohen (D-TN), Lloyd Doggett (D-TX), Chuck Edwards (R-NC), Adriano Espaillat (D-NY), Bill Huizenga (R-MI), Darrell Issa (R-CA), Julie Johnson (D-TX), Tom Kean (R-NJ), Robin Kelly (D-IL), Raja Krishnamoorthi (D-IL), Mike Lawler (R-NY), Ryan Mackenzie (R-PA), Mariannette Miller-Meeks (R-IA), Dan Newhouse (R-WA), Zach Nunn (R-IA), Jan Schakowsky (D-IL), and Bonnie Watson Coleman (D-NJ) for their leadership and longstanding support of America's leadership in the world while serving in Congress.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS BUDGET OUTLOOK

CONCLUDING THE 119TH CONGRESS

The 119th Congress returns on November 9th with a pressing to-do list for the lame duck session, including several items that could impact international affairs funding and programs. A top priority will be funding the federal government – including the State Department and our other international affairs agencies – after the current Continuing Resolution (CR) expires on December 11th.

THE FY27 INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS BUDGET

Reaching a bipartisan, bicameral deal on full-year spending bills could be a challenge given significant differences between Republicans and Democrats on topline spending levels as well as specific funding priorities, with prospects for an agreement also likely to be shaped by broader political dynamics and the incoming Democratic majority's strategic calculations.

Administration's Request

The Administration's Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 budget proposed to dramatically cut funding for America's diplomatic and international affairs tools by 32%. This is a significant departure from the bipartisan FY26 spending deal struck by Congress earlier this year, which minimized cuts and protected funding for critical programs.

Congressional Appropriations

This summer, the House passed its FY27 National Security, Department of State, and Related Programs (NSRP) and Agriculture Appropriations bills—which fund the vast majority of the International Affairs Budget. In total, the House approved a 6% (-$3.2 billion) cut compared to the FY26 enacted level. The Senate has yet to release or mark up any of its FY27 appropriations bills.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS BUDGET SNAPSHOT

	FY25 ENACTED*	FY26 ENACTED	FY27 REQUEST**	FY27 HOUSE
Non-Emergency	$58.6 billion	$51.3 billion	$35.1 billion	$48.1 billion
Base Emergency	$2.5 billion	$0	$0	$0
Total	$61.1 billion	$51.3 billion	$35.1 billion	$48.1 billion

**Includes $2.5 billion in base emergency funding which has not been made available since the Administration did not concur with Congress's emergency designation.*

*** Reflects the Administration's request as re-estimated by the Congressional Budget Office*

There are a few scenarios that could play out during the lame duck when it comes to action on FY27 spending bills:

- **OMNIBUS/MINIBUS.** If bipartisan Congressional leaders can reach a deal on topline spending levels, Congress could approve an omnibus package containing all 12 FY27 appropriations bills before the year's end, or several minibus packages containing multiple appropriations bills.
- **CROMNIBUS.** If bipartisan Congressional leaders reach a topline spending deal but are unable to agree on all 12 individual FY27 appropriations bills, they could approve a package that includes some FY27 bills alongside a CR that would fund the remaining bill(s) at FY26 enacted levels for the remainder of the fiscal year.

If these efforts are unsuccessful, the following scenarios could result:

- **SHORT-TERM OR FULL-YEAR CONTINUING RESOLUTION.** Congress could pass another short-term CR and punt negotiations into early 2027 or lawmakers could pass a full-year CR that would maintain FY26 funding levels for the remainder of the fiscal year.
- **GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN.** If Congress is unable to reach a topline spending deal or approve a short-term or full-year CR before the current stopgap measure expires on December 11th, a federal government shutdown could result.

As the appropriations process moves forward, USGLC urges Congress to, at a minimum, sustain funding for the FY27 International Affairs Budget at no less than the FY26 enacted level of $51.3 billion so that America has the tools to counter our rivals, stand with our allies, save lives, and protect our national and economic security.

OTHER NATIONAL SECURITY AND FOREIGN POLICY ITEMS

In the final weeks of the 119th Congress, lawmakers will also have to grapple with several consequential national security and foreign policy agenda items. Action in the lame duck will ultimately come down to prioritization and timing, with unfinished business likely to resurface in the 120th Congress.

- **FY27 NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT (NDAA).** The defense policy bill is typically considered to be one of the few "must-pass" bills Congress considers each year—often serving as a vehicle for bipartisan foreign affairs-related provisions, such as U.S. Foreign Service modernization and other State Department reauthorizations that saw action in the 119th Congress.
- **UKRAINE.** Lawmakers could pursue additional support for Ukraine—either through the FY27 appropriations process, a broader national security supplemental, or Ukraine-related provisions in the NDAA. Congressional attention could also focus on the Administration's implementation of Russia sanctions, the purchase and import of Russian diesel, and disruptions to Ukraine's access to battlefield communications technologies—with unresolved funding and policy debates likely to carry into the 120th Congress.
- **IRAN SUPPLEMENTAL.** Congress could revisit the Administration's $87.6 billion supplemental request, which largely supports military requirements associated with the Iran conflict but also includes $3.4 billion for State Department diplomatic, security, and global health programs. While it remains unclear whether lawmakers will advance a broader supplemental or pursue defense funding through budget reconciliation, the war in Ukraine and worsening Ebola outbreak in Africa will be top of mind as Members evaluate a range of national security funding needs.

- **FARM BILL.** Lawmakers will weigh completing a multi-year Farm Bill against another short-term extension, with implications for international food assistance programs such as Food for Peace and the McGovern-Dole Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program. Beyond reauthorization, negotiations could shape how these programs operate in the future—including proposals to permanently move Food for Peace authorities to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.
- **DEBT CEILING.** Republican and Democratic lawmakers have suggested that Congress could take action to raise the federal borrowing limit during the lame duck—potentially through budget reconciliation or a bipartisan measure. While there is no immediate risk of a U.S. default, debt ceiling negotiations could become intertwined with broader debates over federal spending and compete for limited floor time.
- **NOMINATIONS.** The Senate could use the lame duck period to clear a backlog of diplomatic and foreign policy nominations, potentially through en bloc votes for non-controversial nominees. Pending nominations include ambassadors to several strategically important posts, along with nominees to lead the Millennium Challenge Corporation, Peace Corps, U.S. Agency for Global Media, and State Department global health initiatives.
- **OVERSIGHT.** Congressional scrutiny of international assistance funding and policy could continue during the lame duck, particularly in the context of negotiations on finalizing FY27 spending. Incoming Democratic majorities in both chambers are expected to aggressively pursue oversight and investigations on a range of foreign policy issues—from the impact of changes to U.S. international assistance programs to U.S. operations in Iran to Venezuela policy to alleged corruption and conflicts of interest involving the current Administration. These efforts could accompany renewed attempts to reassert Congress's constitutional authorities over spending, war powers, and trade.

A LOOK AHEAD TO THE 120TH CONGRESS

With no shortage of global threats, lawmakers will immediately be faced with important decisions about America's role in the world and the tools needed to ensure America can compete and win when the 120th Congress convenes on January 3rd. Right out of the gate, we will be watching the following:

- **BUDGET & APPROPRIATIONS.** If the 119th Congress defers final decisions on FY27 spending until the new year, the incoming Congress will be tasked with wrapping up FY27 while beginning work on FY28 appropriations—setting up another compressed debate over funding for diplomacy and international assistance.
- **FUTURE OF INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE.** Following significant changes to America's international assistance programs, the next Congress will also have an important opportunity to shape what's next and build on a longstanding bipartisan commitment to strategic, effective, and accountable assistance. With dozens of commissions and reports expected to release new recommendations to shape the future of U.S. international assistance in 2027, USGLC will follow with the release of our signature ***"Report on Reports"*** to identify where the strongest consensus has emerged and elevate the best ideas for what comes next.

USGLC looks forward to engaging with and serving as a resource for the 120th Congress to strengthen U.S. diplomatic and international assistance programs that advance America's security and economic interests and values and deliver results for Americans at home and communities around the world.

KEY DATES

- **November 8-18:** New Member Orientations
- **November 9:** Lame Duck Session Begins
- **November 10:** House Republican Leadership Elections
- **November 18-19:** House Democratic Leadership Elections
- **November 21-30:** Scheduled District Work Period & Thanksgiving
- **November – December**: Senate Leadership Elections
- **December 11:** FY27 Continuing Resolution Expires
- ***January 3, 2027:** Convening and Swearing-In of 120th Congress

expected date unless changed by an act of Congress

NEW FACES IN WASHINGTON

The following profiles offer insights into all new incoming Senators-elect's statements, positions, and records on diplomacy, international assistance, and U.S. international affairs programs.



MONTANA
Kurt Alme (R)
Replacing Senator Steve Daines (R)



SOUTH CAROLINA
Annie Andrews (D)
Replacing Senator Darline Graham Nordone (R)



KENTUCKY
Andy Barr (R)
Replacing Senator Mitch McConnell (R)



OHIO
Sherrod Brown (D)
Replacing Senator Jon Husted (R)



NORTH CAROLINA
Roy Cooper (D)
Replacing Senator Thom Tillis (R)



MICHIGAN
Abdul El-Sayed (D)
Replacing Senator Gary Peters (D)



MINNESOTA
Peggy Flanagan (D)
Replacing Senator Tina Smith (D)



WYOMING
Harriet Hageman (R)
Replacing Senator Cynthia Lummis (R)



KANSAS
Adam Hamilton (D)
Replacing Senator Roger Marshall (R)



OKLAHOMA
Kevin Hern (R)
Replacing Senator Alan Armstrong (R)



MAINE
Troy Jackson (D)
Replacing Senator Susan Collins (R)



LOUISIANA
Julia Letlow (R)
Replacing Senator Bill Cassidy (R)



ALABAMA
Barry Moore (R)
Replacing Senator Tommy Tuberville (R)



NEW HAMPSHIRE
Chris Pappas (D)
Replacing Senator Jeanne Shaheen (D)



ILLINOIS
Juliana Stratton (D)
Replacing Senator Dick Durbin (D)



TEXAS
James Talarico (D)
Replacing Senator John Cornyn (R)



IOWA
Josh Turek (D)
Replacing Senator Joni Ernst (R)



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

A former U.S. Attorney for the District of Montana, Senator-elect Kurt Alme brings experience in federal prosecution and fiscal policy and believes, "**Our foreign policy must always put America first. Our country is most secure when we pursue peace through strength.**"

Alme graduated from the University of Colorado in 1989 and Harvard Law School in 1992. His public service record also includes serving as Montana's Budget Director in 2021 and Director of the Department of Revenue from 2001 to 2003.

ON U.S. GLOBAL LEADERSHIP AND AMERICA'S ROLE IN THE WORLD:

- In an October 2026 candidate interview, Alme said, "We need to look through our foreign policy lens from an American-first perspective. And America has always been safest when we've pursued peace through strength."
- In an October 2026 campaign interview, Alme said that "peace through strength" requires military investment, saying, "We need to ensure our servicemen and our servicewomen have the tools that they need to get the job done and also to stay safe."

ON GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY:

- In an October 2026 interview, Alme said, "I will support our ranch families as they work to rebuild those herds and also to stay profitable... because they're the ones that feed America and feed the world with high-quality beef and affordable beef."

ON GLOBAL ECONOMIC ENGAGEMENT:

- At an October 2026 Senate debate, Alme called for a negotiated trade agreement with Canada, saying, "I want a deal, and I want it soon," adding, "What's not acceptable is for Montana farmers, ranchers, and businesses to be caught in the middle."
- In an October 2026 interview, Alme said, "I had my doubts about tariffs, but Canada has gone with unfair trade for too long. Somebody needed to stand up and push back for a level playing field."

ON GLOBAL COMPETITION WITH CHINA:

- Asked in a May 2026 interview about relations among the United States, China, and Russia, Alme said, "We're all looking for cooperation, stability, and peace."

- Asked at an October debate about China's national-security threat and Montana agriculture, Alme said, "We can't depend on China for our national security. We need to stop China intellectual property theft and cybersecurity threats against this country, and we need to stop allowing them to undermine the United States with meth and fentanyl... We need to support Montana agriculture," and "we need to continue to work with China to open up their market" for Montana wheat, beef, barley, and pulses.

ON ENERGY SECURITY:

- In September 2026, Alme said, "Energy security is national security. We should produce more of the energy we need here at home for affordable, reliable power. With advancing technology, we can increase production while protecting our environment."
- Alme added that the U.S. should "free ourselves from energy dependence on our enemy nations out there," arguing that this would "increase our national security as well as our economic security."

ON CONFLICT IN THE MIDDLE EAST:

- At an October 2026 debate on the Iran war, Alme said, "I'll never support having our sons and daughters' boots on the ground in another forever war. But we can't allow that regime to have nuclear weapons. We need to support the president, our troops, and our diplomats as they work to set back Iran's nuclear program and work to reopen their control of the straits."
- In a March 2026 response to the Montana Free Press election guide, Alme said, "Congress must consistently enforce its constitutional role," while emphasizing that commanders-in-chief must be able to take "quick, decisive action to protect Americans."
- At an October 2026 debate, Alme opposed restricting further U.S. weapons use against Iran, saying, "We would cut our diplomats off at the knees, and we would get a terrible deal."



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

South Carolina pediatrician Senator-elect Dr. Annie Andrews has emphasized diplomacy and congressional oversight of military action, pledging to "**Put diplomacy and accountability first**," end open-ended wars, require congressional approval for the use of military force, and support veterans and military families. On the campaign trail, Dr. Andrews often connects foreign-policy decisions to the costs facing families.

Dr. Andrews has spent her career as a pediatrician and has worked in gun-violence prevention and advocacy. She lives in Charleston with her three children and previously ran for the state's 1st Congressional District. She graduated from the University of Dayton, with a master's from the Medical University of South Carolina, and her MD from the University of Cincinnati.

ON U.S. NATIONAL SECURITY, DIPLOMACY, AND INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE:

- In an October 2026 interview reflecting on the late Senator Lindsey Graham, Andrews identified his past work as "a vocal advocate for the USAID program" among elements of his legacy that offered "a lot to respect."

ON GLOBAL ECONOMIC ENGAGEMENT:

- On trade and affordability, Andrews's campaign policy paper states, "Tariff is a tax." On Congress's role, it adds, "In Congress, I'll fight to reclaim Congress's taxing authority, end chaotic and unilateral tariffs, and bring costs down."
- In a February 2026 video on tariffs, Andrews argued trade uncertainty hurts South Carolina ports, farmers, small businesses, and manufacturers such as BMW and Michelin, saying, "If you don't know what your manufacturing is going to cost because you don't know what these products are going to cost, it's really hard to plan. It's really hard to grow."

ON THE GLOBAL COMPETITION WITH CHINA:

- In a September 2026 interview, Andrews described Taiwan as "a really important democratic ally of the United States" and China as "a national security threat to America and our economy," saying, "just like we need to stand with our allies in the Ukraine, we need to stand with our allies in Taiwan."
- Andrews also warned in the same interview that a conflict over Taiwan would disrupt global supply chains, saying, "so many semiconductors are built in Taiwan and we need to, for that reason, protect this relationship."

ON RUSSIA'S WAR IN UKRAINE:

- Following Russia's full-scale invasion in February 2022, Andrews said in a statement, "Our job now must be to protect freedom and democracy by subjecting Putin and his cronies to paralyzing economic sanctions and expelling the Kremlin from the international community." She also said, "The consequences must be historic and overwhelming."
- In an October 2026 interview with This Week in South Carolina, she said, "I've been unequivocally supportive of Ukraine. We need to stand with our democratic allies in Ukraine."
- Andrews also criticized a proposed U.S.-Russia diesel deal for undermining sanctions in the same interview, saying, "we're now essentially helping Russia fund their war."

ON CONFLICT IN THE MIDDLE EAST:

- Discussing the Iran war, Andrews called it an "irresponsible, illegal, billion-dollar-a-day war," saying, "We never should have gotten into this war in the first place."
- In a September 2026 interview about the Iran war, Andrews said, "I think the Iran nuclear deal was working. They didn't have a nuclear weapon." She questioned entering the war without congressional approval or clarity about "what the ultimate objective was, what the definition of success was, and then most importantly, how we're going to get out of it."
- On Iran, Andrews said during an October debate, "I would not have started or supported a $50 billion war overseas…that American taxpayer dollars could have been invested in our infrastructure, in our public education system, and our healthcare system."
- She linked the Iran war to fuel costs facing South Carolina, connecting decisions overseas to pressures on the state's agricultural economy and household budgets saying, "Let's remember why we are in this war, why diesel prices are at a record high, diesel prices that are crushing our shrimpers and our farmers and our truckers and making everything cost more because we irresponsibly entered this war."
- Asked about U.S. policy toward Israel during the October 2026 debate, she stated, "Israelis deserve a safe place to live and Palestinians also deserve to live in peace." She added, "It is a humanitarian crisis… We must find an expedited path to peace."



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

A born-and-raised Kentuckian and seven-term member of the U.S. House of Representatives, Senator-elect Andy Barr has frequently framed U.S. leadership through the principle of peace through strength, stating that "**America must lead from a position of strength**."

During his time in the House, Barr engaged with different aspects of foreign policy through his service on the House Foreign Affairs and Financial Services Committees, as well as the Select Committee on the Strategic Competition Between the United States and the Chinese Communist Party. From official travel to places like Taiwan, Japan, and the Middle East to his role as Republican Co-Chair of the Congressional Taiwan Caucus, Senator-elect Barr's work has focused on strategic competition with China, strengthening U.S. partnerships in the Indo-Pacific and protecting U.S. economic and national security interests abroad.

Prior to his election to Congress in 2012, Barr worked as an attorney in Lexington. He also served in several positions under Governor Ernie Fletcher's Administration in Kentucky, including Deputy General Counsel, General Counsel, and Special Assistant to the Governor. He graduated from the University of Kentucky College of Law in 2001 and the University of Virginia in 1996.

ON U.S. GLOBAL LEADERSHIP AND AMERICA'S ROLE IN THE WORLD:

- At a May 2025 Foreign Affairs Committee hearing, Barr said, "America First is not America alone."
- At a June 2021 House Financial Services Subcommittee hearing, Barr said, "American leadership is not disengagement. It's not retreat. But it is also not subordinating the interests of the United States to other nations, the United Nations or international organizations."
- In September 2021 Barr called the Peace Corps "one of America's best diplomatic and humanitarian programs."

ON U.S. INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE:

- As a member of the Congressional Caucus for Effective Foreign Assistance, Barr has supported strategic, targeted, and accountable international assistance over the years.
- Nonetheless, he voted in favor of last year's rescissions package to claw back almost $8 billion in international assistance, saying, "We saved taxpayers almost $10B by ending the left-wing slush fund at USAID."
- Barr has been actively engaged in reforming international affairs agencies to make them more aligned with U.S. economic interests, including in the critical minerals space. In February 2026, he introduced the Millennium Challenge Corporation Strategic Modernization Act, noting that MCC is "well-suited to addressing constraints in critical mineral supply chains."
- In congressional testimony on locally led development in September 2021, Barr said, "the goal of our foreign assistance and development programs should be to put ourselves, USAID, and the international development community out of a job."

ON GLOBAL HEALTH:

- At a March 2021 Foreign Affairs hearing, Barr said, "We cannot truly bring an end to this pandemic here at home without fighting the pandemic overseas. And I support funding for global efforts to combat COVID-19." Later that year, he lifted up his work to lead a "successful bipartisan push with over 60 of my colleagues to deliver life-saving COVID-19 vaccines from the United States to Taiwan."

ON AMERICA'S ALLIANCES:

- After voting for the 2024 national security supplemental to support Ukraine, Israel, and Indo-Pacific partners, Barr emphasized the importance of U.S. alliances and partnerships in an op-ed, writing that "the supplemental funding is more than a financial decision—it's a strategic investment in our core principles, in the security that shields us, and in a global order that has fostered decades of peace and prosperity."
- After a 2024 congressional delegation to Taiwan, he noted that "we want to be clear in our support for a democratic Taiwan and condemn any CCP aggression or military encirclement of the island. The United States stands with Taiwan."
- Barr's record on Ukraine has been supportive but not uniform. He voted in favor of emergency supplemental assistance in 2022 and 2024 but opposed the 2026 Ukraine Support Act, which would provide additional security funding to the country. He later joined the bipartisan 2026 Lindsey O. Graham Sanctioning Russia and Iran Act, stating that "harnessing America's full strength—from our financial system to our military—is essential to deterring aggression, defending our allies, and advancing peace."

ON GLOBAL COMPETITION WITH CHINA:

- Just before the House passed Barr's Countering the PRC Malign Influence Fund Authorization Act of 2023, he said, "We need to invest in the tools of diplomacy that we have to counter PRC malign influence in the world. We need to support… the Export-Import Bank… the Development Finance Corporation… Peace Corps."
- Barr also helped lead successful bipartisan legislation to establish U.S. embassies in Vanuatu, Kiribati, and Tonga, saying that "strengthening relationships in the Pacific will help counter the Chinese Communist Party's belt and road initiative in the region and greatly advantage the United States in its ongoing competition with the CCP."
- At an April 2024 Foreign Affairs Committee hearing on U.S.-made water purification systems in Africa, Barr said, "there's a strategic value in providing that soft power overture to places in Africa where Belt and Road is alive and well and where we can counter with U.S. aid efforts."

ON GLOBAL ECONOMIC ENGAGEMENT:

- Consistently advocating for U.S. global economic leadership, Barr believes that "from trade and manufacturing to U.S. investment, we need to strengthen Kentucky businesses through opening markets to maintain America's economic dominance."
- Barr has recognized the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) role in "promoting international macroeconomic stability" while arguing that the IMF and World Bank should focus on their core missions and face stronger oversight and accountability.

ON CONFLICT IN THE MIDDLE EAST:

- At the time of a March 2026 Senate debate on the Iran war, Barr said, "The president has the legal authority as commander-in-chief to defend the country, and Congress has the power to declare war, but Congress does not have the power to prevent the president from advancing our national security."



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

A former seven-term member of the U.S. House of Representatives and three-term U.S. Senator from Ohio, Senator-elect Sherrod Brown returns to Congress with a long record supporting U.S. engagement in the world. Senator Brown has argued that "**we [must] use our economic toolkit to advance the breadth of issues that impact our U.S. national security and foreign policy**."

USGLC has been proud to host Brown in Cleveland and Washington, DC, where he has spoken out on the importance of U.S. international assistance and diplomacy programs, strategic competition with China, partnerships with NATO, Israel, and Ukraine, and securing global supply chains that protect American industry -- saying from our stage in 2019, "When we fail to support workers abroad, or invest in global health and education, it hurts America's economy and it hurts our national security.... We don't have to choose between supporting workers at home or supporting development abroad—they go hand in hand."

As the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Banking, Senator Brown engaged on a host of U.S. national security issues through an economic lens – from supporting sanctions against Russia and countering threats from China, to promoting American industry – saying "you can't separate the economy and our national security."

Before entering Congress, Brown served as Ohio's Secretary of State and as a member of the Ohio House of Representatives. He has a bachelor's in Russian studies from Yale University and graduate degrees from Ohio State University.

ON U.S. INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE AND GLOBAL HEALTH:

- In 2004 testimony on the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, Brown emphasized that "the more that we put in, the more we can encourage philanthropists and other governments to put in," urging broader participation in the fund.
- At a June 2013 hearing on CDC funding, Brown said, "Due to globalization, it matters a great deal how other countries respond to health threats, and the CDC plays an essential role in helping their international partners react to these threats."
- In 2023, Brown joined lawmakers in reintroducing the Dr. Paul Farmer Memorial Resolution, which called for increasing annual global health aid to $125 billion to advance a 21st-century global health strategy and reduce preventable deaths.
- Recounting his visit to a school feeding program in Haiti in a 2013 interview, Brown said he saw "how McGovern-Dole is feeding kids" and helping encourage families to send girls to school.

ON RUSSIA'S WAR IN UKRAINE:

- Brown has characterized Russia's invasion as an attack not only on Ukraine but a global assault, stating, "Putin wanted to jeopardize the future of a sovereign democracy, and in the process, to threaten the world order," and that, "the United States and the West must continue to hold the lawless Russian regime accountable. We must use every tool to protect U.S. national security and stand with our allies."
- In an October 2023 letter seeking continued Ukraine funding, Brown and fellow senators wrote, "Now is not the time to slow our aid to Ukraine. Russian forces continue to bomb civilian populations – targeting hospitals, schools, churches and apartment buildings."

ON GLOBAL COMPETITION WITH CHINA:

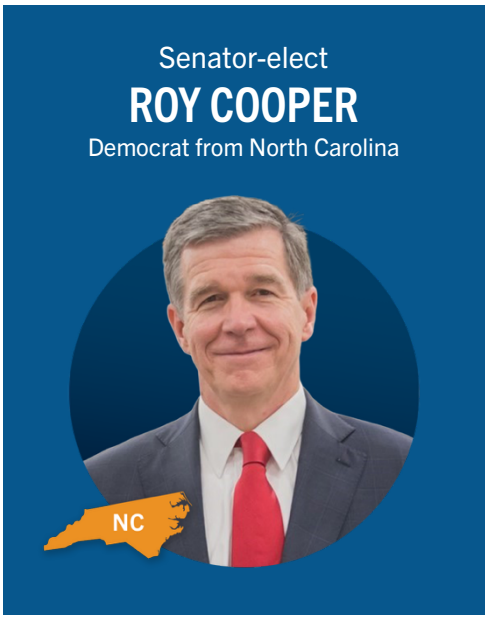
- U.S. competition with China is an issue that hits close to home for him, noting that "corporations in search of even bigger profits shut down manufacturing in Ohio and across the U.S. [and] moved production to China."
- At a 2024 Senate Banking Committee hearing on the threats from illicit fentanyl, CCP-aligned control of U.S. military technology and U.S. farmland, Brown said, "Addressing these threats from the Chinese government, and improving our domestic capability to compete with China have been a top priority."

ON GLOBAL ECONOMIC ENGAGEMENT:

- In April 2012 remarks, Brown said the Export-Import Bank is "one of the most important resources to help small business and mid-size manufacturers boost their exports," warning that failing to reauthorize it would be like "unilaterally disarming" against foreign competitors.
- In a May 2025 interview, Brown explained his approach to tariffs, saying, "I've seen tariffs can work if they're well thought through, they're aimed at countries that cheat. You don't need tariffs on Canada, you don't need tariffs on France or Germany."

ON CONFLICT IN THE MIDDLE EAST:

- In a March 2026 interview about the Iran war, Brown criticized the administration for failing to set clear objectives, saying, "the White House, the government has not explained why we're there, has not explained any plan to get out."
- Following the October 7 Hamas attacks, Brown stated, "I want to be clear: Israel has the right to exist and the right to self-defense. I will keep working in a bipartisan way to ensure that Israel has the resources to defend itself and that the United States is doing everything we can to support our ally."
- In an October 2024 statement on the Israel-Gaza war, Brown said, "Israel and Hamas must agree to a ceasefire that ends the war, frees the hostages, and delivers desperately needed humanitarian aid to Gaza."



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

A North Carolina native and two-term governor, Roy Cooper connects international engagement to North Carolina's economy and communities. His 2024 Global Engagement Day proclamation said the state's well-being depends on "effectively engaging the rest of the world." Drawing on USGLC's North Carolina fact-sheet data, it highlighted 1.2 million trade-supported jobs and more than 23,000 international students, illustrating the reach of those ties across the state.

Before serving two terms as governor, Cooper served four terms as North Carolina attorney general and in both chambers of the state legislature, including as Senate majority leader.

ON U.S. GLOBAL LEADERSHIP AND DIPLOMACY:

- At a July 2020 World Affairs Council of Charlotte event with German Ambassador Emily Haber, Cooper said, "If ever, ever there was a time for work on international cooperation and collaboration, it is now."

ON GLOBAL HEALTH AND HUMANITARIAN ENGAGEMENT:

- On Global Engagement Day in 2021, Cooper stated that "global partnerships and trust are key to ending the spread and impact of COVID-19." It placed international cooperation within the state's response to a health threat affecting communities at home and abroad.
- Marking Refugees Welcome Week in 2024, Cooper said "welcoming the oppressed and persecuted has long been a core American value." He recognized nearly 2,000 Afghan newcomers who had supported U.S. troops and nearly 2,000 Ukrainians, alongside the faith groups and nonprofits helping refugees resettle in North Carolina.
- In a November 2020 interview, Cooper described North Carolina as "a place that the world looks to help to manufacture life-saving medicines, run clinical trials, do research."
- On World AIDS Day in 2024, Cooper stated that North Carolina would "stand with an estimated 39 million people living with HIV/AIDS worldwide, fight this devastating pandemic through education and vaccine research, and renew our commitment to preventing the spread of this virus."

ON GLOBAL ECONOMIC ENGAGEMENT:

- Before a 2024 investment trip to Europe, Cooper said, "We know our strategy of recruiting foreign direct investment from companies around the world creates great paying jobs and puts money in the pockets of North Carolina families." His administration also signed a 2022 memorandum with the United Kingdom covering trade, investment, and the clean-energy transition.
- During a 2026 tobacco-farm tour, he criticized tariffs and called for a senator who would "work with anybody to make life more affordable."
- Governor Cooper's global economic vision connects through western North Carolina's Advanced Superabrasives, a manufacturer in Mars Hill, and a 2020 Governor's Export Award recipient.

- Recognizing the exporters, Cooper said, "Today, we honor these companies for the way their exports promote the North Carolina economy." The company has used Export-Import Bank credit insurance, and its President, Jonathan Szucs, serves on USGLC's North Carolina Advisory Committee—linking local manufacturing experience to the coalition's international-engagement work.
- As governor, he personally participated in economic-development missions to **Japan in 2017 and 2023** and led a **2024 investment mission to France, Germany, and Switzerland**. His administration and the Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina also pursued investment recruitment, official economic delegations, and overseas trade-show participation in **Canada, China, Denmark, Italy, Poland, the United Arab Emirates, and the United Kingdom**.
- During a July 2026 interview, Cooper urged Congress to reclaim its authority over trade policy, saying, "Taking them back on trade and tariffs. We've got to roll back these chaotic tariffs."
- In a campaign discussion of Canadian trade, Cooper asked, "Why are we fighting with Canada? Canada is North Carolina's number one foreign export country," noting the toll on small businesses and farmers.

ON RUSSIA'S WAR IN UKRAINE:

- In April 2022, Cooper announced that North Carolina National Guard equipment would support Ukraine at the Defense Department's request, saying, "North Carolina stands with the people of Ukraine and is ready to support their fight for democracy and freedom." His administration also directed state agencies to review contracts and end arrangements directly benefiting Russian entities.
- Announcing sanctions in February 2022**,** Cooper said his executive order would help ensure "no public dollars or operations from North Carolina will benefit Russia and its unjustified aggression." The order directed covered state agencies to review contracts and operations and take reasonable steps to terminate those directly benefiting Russian entities.
- Following a 2022 call with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, Cooper said Zelensky "appreciated the continued support from the United States and how critical it was." Cooper also described North Carolina military training and nonprofit support for Ukrainians.
- During an October 2026 interview with The Bulwark, Cooper called Russia "an enemy" and said relaxing pressure on Moscow "gives them more money to drop more bombs on Ukraine."

ON CONFLICT IN THE MIDDLE EAST:

- On the Iran war, he called for a clear strategy in a March 2026 interview, stating, "There must be an exit strategy here. We cannot afford another forever war, particularly when we do not know what the consequences are."
- Following Hamas's October 7, 2023 attack, Cooper said, "I stand with Israel and its right to defend itself from barbaric violence," and called on Congress to fund assistance requested by President Biden.
- In a January 2024 interview, Cooper called for the United States to press Israel "to limit the loss of civilian life as much as possible" and "to work toward a two-state solution."
- Cooper also urged for a ceasefire, humanitarian aid for Gaza, hostage releases, and Arab countries' participation in pursuing a two-state solution In a March 2024 interview.



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

A Michigan physician and epidemiologist who has led Detroit's health department and Wayne County's health services, Senator-elect Abdul El-Sayed has connected America's role in the world and foreign policy to U.S. interests here at home, stating, "**Foreign policy isn't just about what we do abroad, it's about how what we do abroad affects us at home**" describing an approach that puts "**peace and diplomacy first**."

El-Sayed is a University of Michigan graduate and Rhodes Scholar. His public-service record includes working on rebuilding Detroit's health department after the city's bankruptcy and overseeing health services in Wayne County, home to roughly 1.8 million residents.

ON U.S. GLOBAL LEADERSHIP AND AMERICA'S ROLE IN THE WORLD:

- In a candidate forum in September 2026, El-Sayed stated, "When we think about our role in the world, we have turned ourselves into the world's policemen. And I think what we all want, what we all need, is more democracy, more freedom in the world, but also an understanding of what we actually can and should do with respect to that."
- He said in an October 2026 debate, "If we are willing to be the chief among equals to enforce international law we will have a more peaceful world and we will be able to actually address some of the challenges that we face."
- In his campaign platform, he states his support for a multilateral approach to foreign affairs, "I believe in international cooperation to take on our most dire global threats, such as global pandemics and climate change."
- In a Morning Joe interview after winning his election, El-Sayed said, "I believe in USAID because if you can stop disease from spreading and get people food, it ends up solving problems for you too."

ON U.S. NATIONAL SECURITY:

- In accepting an endorsement from the group Peace Action, El-Sayed stated, "In the U.S. Senate, I will fight for an end to endless militarism and invest the money wasted by war profiteers on our schools and infrastructure here at home."
- In a May 2026 interview, he expressed his opposition to unconditional U.S. military assistance – especially to America's allies in the Middle East – stating, "My solution has always been that our tax dollars should not be used to fund foreign militaries. And I say that about Israel. I say that about Egypt, where my family immigrated from. I say that about Jordan. I say it about Saudi Arabia. I'm pretty consistent. And if we're not funding foreign militaries, that includes offensive, defensive, or nuclear weapons of all sorts."

ON GLOBAL HEALTH:

- As a physician and epidemiologist, he has stated in his campaign platform, "I understand that global threats can quickly become local threats… when we fail to tackle health and humanitarian threats where they present themselves abroad, they can land in our neighborhoods." He added that "helping to diminish deprivation and disease abroad isn't just charity, it's important for our own safety and prosperity."

- In his campaign platform, El-Sayed stated that he "supports reinvestment in foreign aid, including to UNRWA, and meaningful U.S. engagement in the WHO, the Conference of the Parties, and the Paris Agreement on global health and climate threats."
- In a July 2026 interview, he said on epidemics, "If you stop them where they are, you can prevent them coming to you. And I think it's a smart use of our tax dollars to fight epidemics elsewhere so they don't become epidemics in New York City or Detroit or Grand Rapids or Lansing" adding that "we have an opportunity to be taking on big challenges that are going to end up at our doorstep."
- In a 2020 podcast discussing the Ebola response, he said, "We really ought to build institutions all over the world to be able to identify, detect and respond to early outbreaks."
- As a 24-year-old University of Michigan student, he led a medical mission to Peru and conducted health studies in Guatemala.

ON GLOBAL ECONOMIC ENGAGEMENT:

- In an October 2026 interview with Meet the Press, he called for a "smart targeted tariff approach" and "clear industrial policy that's about investing in high growth capacity job creating industries" followed by "targeted tariffs around those particular high growth areas, because, of course, a tariff is a tax that we pay to protect the jobs in an industry that we're tariffing on."
- In another October 2026 interview, he reinforced his views on trade and tariffs, "The era of free trade has sold us short, so we need to be thinking about smart tariff policies, not these ridiculous policies that we've got with trade war or Canada, but smart tariff policies that are protecting our jobs, growing more jobs, and then releasing our industrial might on the rest of the world."

ON RUSSIA'S WAR IN UKRAINE:

- Writing after Russia's 2022 invasion, El-Sayed argued that "in supporting Ukraine against Russian invasion – we find ourselves on the right side of justice" and described the conflict as "a war between democracy and autocracy, between self-government and fascism."
- In a Michigan Senate primary debate, he stated why U.S. assistance to Ukraine meets his high bar for intervention: "I believe in international law. I believe we ought to be the chief among equals in upholding international law… When it comes to a situation like Ukraine, where you have a… dictator who wants… more land and violates the sovereignty of a foreign nation in their neighbor, I believe that that is justifiable intervention."

ON THE GLOBAL COMPETITION WITH CHINA:

- In his campaign platform, El-Sayed wrote, "Our competition with China is not fated toward kinetic war. Where we compete, it should be with our research, development, and economic power, building solutions to the problems of the future."
- His platform added that the U.S. must insist "that China play by the rules when it comes to trade and intellectual property" and that "we must also recognize that our shared futures are better when we cooperate with each other for the benefit of all of our people, rather than compete in a zero-sum arms race that makes all of us less safe."

ON CONFLICT IN THE MIDDLE EAST:

- On the Iran war, El-Sayed has expressed his strong opposition to the U.S. military campaign stating, "I believe in diplomacy. In fact, diplomacy is what the Obama administration had used to negotiate a scenario in Iran where we did not have proliferation of nuclear material… I do think that we can end the war and we can actually, by peaceful means, diplomatically address this challenge."
- On the conflict between Israel and Hamas, he has been a consistent critic of the Government of Israel and foreign assistance to Israel stating, "I believe that we ought to be the principal enforcer of the international law system that we helped to architect after World War II… What that means to me is that when you have a rogue state, like the state of Israel."



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

A native Minnesotan and member of the White Earth Band of Ojibwe, Senator-elect Peggy Flanagan has served as Lieutenant Governor of Minnesota since 2019, connecting foreign policy to U.S. national security and economic opportunity at home, saying, "The United States has a responsibility to keep Americans secure, expand economic opportunities, and promote democratic values around the world."

Flanagan graduated from the University of Minnesota, served in the Minnesota House, led Children's Defense Fund–Minnesota, and sat on the Minneapolis Board of Education. In 2023, Flanagan attended the 53rd Midwest U.S. Japan Association Conference. The following year, she joined a U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) trade mission to Canada focused on Indigenous producers and agricultural communities.

ON U.S. INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE:

- In a public statement shared by Peace Action, Flanagan said, "the gutting of our non-military foreign affairs capabilities is a large issue that we should work to reverse" and that "the United States's role in promoting public health, education, and democracy is not just essential to maintaining a stable global order, it aids in our safety, and promotes quality of life around the globe."
- In June 2024, Flanagan said, "Women farmers feed our state and the world," highlighting U.S. efforts at the United Nations to designate 2026 the International Year of the Woman Farmer.

ON GLOBAL ECONOMIC ENGAGEMENT:

- During her 2023 visit to Japan, Flanagan said, "Minnesota's economy benefits when we strengthen economic ties across the globe." She added, "By meeting with our partners in Japan and promoting Minnesota businesses, we are elevating Minnesota on the global stage and creating economic opportunities for all Minnesotans."
- As part of the first USDA trade mission devoted solely to Indigenous products, Flanagan said, "I am proud to lift up Native agriculture as a standard part of our Minnesota trade missions," and that she looked forward to "connecting with more Native farmers and producers and showcasing the products that Minnesota has to offer to our global partners."
- Flanagan supports eliminating tariffs that harm Minnesota farmers while maintaining protections for industries such as iron mining. She has said, "Tariffs and trade deals need to prioritize Minnesota workers, businesses and farmers."
- In a May 2025 MSNBC interview, Flanagan warned that Minnesota soybean producers were losing sales to Brazil, adding, "that could potentially be permanent" as tariffs were hurting farmers and small businesses.

- In an October 2026 Senate debate, she warned that tariffs had cost Minnesota growers "entire markets, potentially for generations," and argued, "tariffs are under the control of Congress."
- During the June 2024 Indigenous trade mission to Canada, Flanagan highlighted, "Indigenous producers have long been underrepresented in international trade markets," describing discussions with producers about export barriers and ways to help them access those markets.

ON RUSSIA'S WAR IN UKRAINE:

- Flanagan's platform states she supports rebuilding ties with NATO allies and backing Ukraine against Russia's invasion. On the second anniversary of the full-scale invasion, she said, "Our message continues to be very clear:
  We proudly stand with Ukraine and the Ukrainian community here in Minnesota."
- She reaffirmed her support for Ukraine in an October 2026 debate, saying, "I think Ukraine is our ally and needs to be treated as such."
- During an October 2026 Senate debate, Flanagan criticized proposed diesel purchases from Russia, saying, "this president has been cozying up to Vladimir Putin. It is wrong. And I think we need to make sure that the work that we do on behalf of this country is not done with dictators."

ON CONFLICT IN THE MIDDLE EAST:

- In a September 2026 interview, Flanagan said that Congress must exercise its war powers over Iran, saying that "we are fighting a war that is based on a whim" and that Congress is supposed to determine whether or not the U.S. goes to war.
- In an October 2026 Senate debate, Flanagan opposed further funding for the Iran war, saying, "Iran should not have a nuclear weapon... But in this moment, I would not support any additional funding to go to this war in Iran."
- In an October 2025 statement on the Israel Hamas war, Flanagan said, "We must bring all the hostages home, reach a ceasefire deal, stop the suffering, and start on the path towards peace."
- During an October 2026 Senate debate, she called for a two-state solution, stating, "Of course, we need a two-state solution, and one of those states should absolutely be Israel."
- In a July 2025 statement, Flanagan urged U.S. and Israeli leaders "to get food and basic aid to the children and families starving in Gaza immediately."
- Flanagan supports using U.S. international assistance to advance a peaceful future for Israelis and Palestinians saying in a 2026 debate, "we need to use the tools in our toolbox to allow humanitarian aid to get into Gaza." She also said she "would not support additional offensive weapons or military aid to Israel under Benjamin Netanyahu."

Senator-elect

HARRIET HAGEMAN

Republican from Wyoming



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

A fourth-generation Wyomingite and two-term member of the U.S. House of Representatives, Senator-elect Harriet Hageman has argued that America's strength is central to global security, saying "**a weak America makes for a very dangerous world, a strong America makes for a safer world**," adding, "**I am not a globalist, but I'm also not an isolationist**."

Congresswoman Hageman joins the U.S. Senate after representing Wyoming's at-large congressional district for four years. In the House, she serves on the Judiciary and Natural Resources Committees and as a member of the Natural Resources Committee's bipartisan Indo-Pacific Task Force. She has traveled overseas on Congressional Delegations to Israel, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Palau, Micronesia, and the Marshall Islands. Before being elected to Congress, Hageman worked as a trial and natural resource attorney for over 30 years and graduated from the University of Wyoming College of Law and the University of Wyoming.

ON DIPLOMACY AND U.S. NATIONAL SECURITY:

- In a March 2023 statement, Hageman supported withdrawing U.S. troops from Syria, saying that the country had been there for nearly nine years with "no Congressional authorization, no plan for withdrawal, and no vision for what winning looks like."
- In a March 2026 interview, Hageman said she opposed a proposed war-powers effort to constrain the Iran operation, saying, "we have to trust our commander-in-chief for this particular operation."

ON U.S. INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE:

- Voting in favor of the House FY27 National Security and State Department bill, she stated that it includes "cuts to wasteful foreign aid that does not serve U.S. interests."
- On supplemental funding packages for Ukraine, Israel, and the Indo-Pacific in 2024, she voted in favor of funding for Israel but against packages for Ukraine and the Indo-Pacific. On the Ukraine supplemental funding package, she cited concerns about the cost of the assistance, Ukraine's strategy for ending the war, and what she described as "minimal accounting and oversight" of previously provided funding.
- In a February 2025 interview, she called for a pause in USAID funding "until we can get a better understanding of what kind of programs they have been supporting out there… and whether there should be an entirely different approach."
- In a March 2025 interview, she said she had voted to abolish USAID, calling it "essentially a money laundering organization for really bad ideas around the world, including overthrowing governments."
- In a March 2025 town hall, she said that "about 17%" of international assistance was "good," adding that those programs had been moved to the State Department.

- At a House Natural Resources Committee hearing in October 2023, she supported renewed Compacts of Free Association with Palau, Micronesia and the Marshall Islands, saying that U.S. economic assistance helps keep those countries "economically resilient" and able to "push back against PRC influence for the next 20 years."
- In an August 2024 interview, Hageman supported expanding energy access on the African continent, despite her perception that development advocates opposed this approach, saying, "I want to help them to build the infrastructure that they need so that they can have reliable energy for their schools and their hospitals and their industries."

ON THE GLOBAL COMPETITION WITH CHINA:

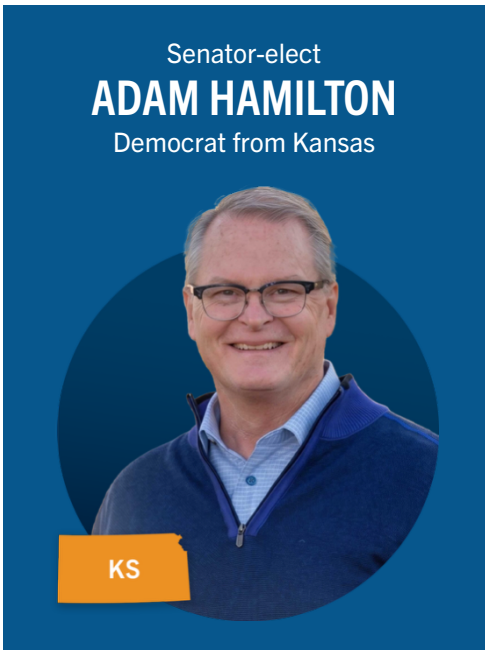
- As Chair of the Indian and Insular Affairs Subcommittee, Hageman led congressional oversight of China's efforts to expand its political and economic influence in the Pacific, highlighting that "America is renewed in our determination to restore a stable international order in the region that respects the integrity of democratic self-government for all island peoples."
- Hageman added that China is "aggressively threatening political stability" in the Indo-Pacific to "challenge U.S. influence, interests, and values in the region," and emphasized that the "U.S. will not stand idly by in the face of PRC political provocation."

ON RUSSIA'S WAR IN UKRAINE:

- In an August 2025 interview discussing the U.S.-Russia Summit, she said, "Russia was the aggressor. Russia did the wrong thing. It never should have happened," while also arguing that talks about Ukraine joining NATO contributed to the invasion.
- In a June 2023 interview, she urged negotiations to halt the fighting, saying, "We've got to find a way to stop the horror that we're seeing in the Ukraine."

ON ALLIANCES:

- Hageman has called Israel "our most important ally" and supported providing the country with supplemental funding in 2024, arguing that "Israel is a strong ally and a key partner in fighting against terrorism in the Middle East. Their presence in the region makes the United States safer by exposing threats that could ultimately lead to terror attacks in our country."
- With the Indo-Pacific at the center of her foreign policy priorities, she has emphasized that Pacific partners play an "outsized role in detecting and deterring Chinese escalatory action and gray zone tactics."



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

A fifth-generation Kansan and founding senior pastor of the United Methodist Church of the Resurrection, Senator-elect Adam Hamilton has spoken about the importance of America's moral leadership and regularly stresses a centrist and bipartisan approach to policymaking. Drawing on more than three decades as a pastor, he has spoken of his commitment to **"Leading and moving people to serve their community to make the world a better place."**

Hamilton co-founded the Church of the Resurrection in Leawood, Kansas, in 1990, from which it grew to become one of the largest United Methodist congregations in the U.S. with roughly 24,000 members.

ON U.S. GLOBAL LEADERSHIP AND AMERICA'S ROLE IN THE WORLD:

- Hamilton stated in his campaign platform that "global instability is hurting Kansas but so have many of our own government's choices – the war in Iran, the trade war, a farm bill three years late, and an inadequate response to animal-health crises like Avian Influenza and the New World Screwworm."
- On bipartisanship and global leadership, he has called for "lowering the partisan temperature, bringing Republicans and Democrats together, and showing a unified face to a global economy that looks to America for leadership."
- His experience includes extensive humanitarian and development work overseas, and he has praised his congregation for being "relentless in serving people in extreme poverty in other parts of the world."

ON DIPLOMACY AND U.S. NATIONAL SECURITY:

- In a September 2026 interview, Hamilton stated that "war is a measure of last resort," adding that "if you believe in just war, which I do, war is something that you enter into either to defend yourself or to defend somebody else, or because there's… a very serious and real imminent danger."
- In an October 2026 candidate statement on the Iran war, he said, "I want to get us out of this war, use diplomacy to make sure Iran never gets a nuclear weapon, and keep us out of unnecessary forever wars."

ON U.S. INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE:

- On the campaign trail, Hamilton has referenced his experience volunteering in "countries where USAID was important." He has led multiple overseas trips to Malawi, Honduras, Israel and the West Bank, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia.
- In a February 2026 message to his congregation, he lifted up the importance of faith-based international assistance and how his church's projects had established "schools, medical clinics, agricultural projects" overseas and provided clean drinking water to "216 villages in Malawi and South Central Africa."
- Hamilton's church has been active in meeting needs and partnering with communities overseas, including Turkey-Syria earthquake relief, displaced people in Ukraine, cholera assistance in Malawi, and UNICEF-supported work for refugee children in Lebanon.

ON GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY:

- In an August 2026 podcast, Hamilton highlighted how U.S. international assistance "was purchasing 3 to 5% of Kansas grain… sharing it with other countries" and that disruptions to USAID "was not good for Kansas… and it wasn't good for those other countries."
- At the Aspen Ideas Festival, he drew attention to the reality that "somewhere between 20,000 and 30,000 children die every day of starvation and malnutrition-related diseases… but the problem isn't there's not enough food on the planet, it's distribution, and that's us, and so, you know, we're meant to be motivated to care about those things."
- In his 2026 campaign platform, he has written that "with the New World Screwworm now detected in cattle in Texas… Congress must fully fund the animal disease vaccine bank, laboratory network, and preparedness programs."

ON GLOBAL ECONOMIC ENGAGEMENT:

- In his campaign platform, Hamilton has called for policymakers to "double funding for USDA's export promotion programs" which he says is "an investment economists project would generate more than $44 billion in new agricultural exports, much of it Kansas wheat, sorghum, and beef." He adds that "Congress should re-engage in trade policy and push for new market access agreements."
- In an October 2026 interview, he argued that tariffs should be used only "strategically" and that "originally Congress was supposed to handle almost every tariff."

ON RUSSIA'S WAR IN UKRAINE:

- Hamilton has stated that he "support[s] the Ukrainians being able to defend themselves" and has argued that Ukrainians "are not the reason we have record diesel prices."
- Following Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine, he traveled to Poland to meet Ukrainian refugees and assess humanitarian needs. He wrote in a note to his congregation, "As we spoke with the refugees, I shared with them photos of the signs my mom has in her yard, with the colors of the Ukrainian flags, inviting people to pray for Ukraine."
- In an October 2026 candidate statement, Hamilton said, "I've been to Ukraine, and after the invasion I went to the Polish border to ask Ukrainians who had fled what they needed most. Our congregation provided a mobile emergency room to treat the wounded."

ON CONFLICT IN THE MIDDLE EAST:

- In an October 2026 statement to the Johnson County Post, Hamilton said success in Iran would mean "Iran never gets a nuclear weapon, the Strait of Hormuz is open so oil and fertilizer can move again, and our service members come home safely. Getting there will take diplomacy and our allies, not an open-ended war."
- During an October 2026 Senate debate, Hamilton affirmed, "I believe in providing a strong defense for Israel. They are our allies. But I also don't believe [in] using our aid to buy our weapons and then dropping them on innocent civilians."
- In a July 2025 message to his congregation, Hamilton wrote, "I am for doing whatever must be done to ensure food aid is being received by those who need it in Gaza, and for seeing that people are not starving to death."



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

A four-term member of the U.S. House of Representatives and small business owner, Senator-elect Kevin Hern has framed his view of American global leadership through the lens of peace through strength, writing in October 2024 that, "**The world needs peace through strength – anything less invites chaos.**"

In the House, Congressman Hern serves on the Ways and Means Committee and previously chaired the Republican Study Committee in the 118th Congress. Prior to his election to Congress in 2018, Hern worked as an aerospace engineer and built a restaurant business in Oklahoma. He earned an engineering degree from Arkansas Tech University and an MBA from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

ON U.S. INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE:

- Emphasizing the connection between foreign assistance and American interests, Hern wrote, "Foreign aid isn't charity, it should be working to advance American priorities."
- In a February 2025 NewsNation interview, Hern said of USAID restructuring, "bringing those particular policies that are for the good back into the agency, back into the State Department."
- Explaining his support for foreign assistance rescissions in a June 2025 statement, Hern said, "A country that's $37 trillion in debt needs to make tough fiscal decisions."
- In a July 2025 post on X, Hern said, "Countries who hate us, but take our foreign aid (which comes from the American taxpayer), should be on notice."
- Discussing worldwide COVID-19 vaccine distribution in September 2021, Hern said, "we were sending vaccinations around the world to make sure that countries like Taiwan and South America and other countries in North Africa could have vaccinations."

ON GLOBAL ECONOMIC ENGAGEMENT:

- Linking international trade to economic opportunities at home, Hern stated on his congressional website, "Increased international trade will bring jobs and revenue to the state of Oklahoma."
- Responding to a G7 international tax agreement in June 2025, Hern stated, "America First does not mean America Alone. Good tax policy at the international level can lift us all, without penalizing American taxpayers."
- Introducing a bipartisan resolution with Rep. Brad Schneider (D-IL) to strengthen U.S.-Israel economic ties, Hern said, "This bipartisan resolution makes it clear that free trade with Israel is essential to both nations, and we must continue to nurture this economic relationship in times of peace and in times of war."
- Introducing the Supply Chain Security Act in the 118th Congress to ease tax barriers to U.S. investment in foreign markets, Hern highlighted, "The pandemic revealed vulnerabilities in the global supply chain, highlighting the importance of encouraging investment in emerging markets."

- During April 2025 testimony on trade with strategic partners, Hern said, "Trade policies should reflect not only economic interests, but also national security and ideological alignment."

ON THE GLOBAL COMPETITION WITH CHINA:

- Introducing the Countering Communist China Act in February 2024, Hern said, "the CCP poses a greater threat to American sovereignty than any modern adversary."
- Following his 2023 congressional delegation to Taiwan, Hern said in December 2023 remarks, "I was so impressed with their dedication and desire to promote democracy and strengthen their relationships with the United States and other democratic allies."
- Following a visit to Panama, Hern warned in a January 2025 CNBC interview of Chinese regional influence, saying, "If you go back and look at 2000, we were the dominant trading partner in South America where we had influence. Today, it's China."
- At a September 2026 Ways and Means hearing, Hern said of trips to Peru and Central America, "On another trip in Central America, we saw soccer stadiums built by China in exchange for ending trade relations with Taiwan."
- At a September 2026 Ways and Means hearing, Hern called for overseas critical-mineral partnerships, saying, "Building strategic partnerships with mineral producing nations across Central Asia, Africa, Latin America, and the Indo-Pacific will help ensure the U.S.'s diversified, reliable access to resources we need."

ON RUSSIA'S WAR IN UKRAINE:

- Hern voted against the 2024 Ukraine Security Supplemental Appropriations Act and the 2026 Ukraine Support Act, stating, "I have long promised never to vote for more Ukraine funding without strong border security provisions to protect Americans."
- In a March 2022 Fox Business interview, Hern supported weapons for Ukraine while opposing U.S. troops, saying, "We've got to continue giving them weapons, giving them the ability to fight. We're not going to be putting boots on the ground."
- Discussing conditions for future Ukraine assistance in October 2023, Hern said, "I ask that our commander-in-chief come forward in a classified setting, Democrat and Republican, to tell us where the money's going and how we're going to end this war, this conflict."
- After voting in March 2022 to suspend normal trade relations with Russia and Belarus, Hern said, "Today's vote further cripples the Russian economy by revoking the privileges Russia has enjoyed as a preferred trading partner of the United States."

ON CONFLICT IN THE MIDDLE EAST:

- Introducing the Max Pressure Act in April 2021, Hern said, "The Trump Administration's America First policies kept Americans safe and protected our ally, Israel." The bill sought to codify sanctions targeting Iran's nuclear program.
- Responding to the proposed release of $6 billion in Iranian assets in September 2023, Hern said, "As Chairman of the RSC, we will use all legislative options to reverse this agreement and prevent further ransom payments and sanctions relief to Iran."
- After the Biden administration withheld arms shipments to Israel in May 2024, Hern said, "This decision endangers not only Israel's security, but also the lives of Americans still held hostage by Hamas."



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

An Allagash logger who spent two decades in Maine's Legislature, including six years as Senate president, Senator-elect Troy Jackson connects foreign policy to working families' costs and security. He says U.S. foreign policy should "**keep our country safe, avoid reckless wars, stand up for working people and reflect our values**."

Jackson's northern Maine roots are especially visible in his views on the importance of America's relationship with Canada and supporting cross-border trade.

Jackson earned an associate degree from the University of Maine at Fort Kent in 2000. He lives in Allagash with his partner, Lana, and has two grown sons.

ON U.S. GLOBAL LEADERSHIP AND AMERICA'S ROLE IN THE WORLD:

- In a September 2026 interview, Jackson said the United States, "used to be something that people could depend on," adding, "I certainly don't see any reason why we can't be allies to people across the world."
- On the Iran war, Jackson believes, "the answer is diplomacy, not bombs," adding that the United States could confront Iran's nuclear ambitions and support Iranians without "sending our sons and daughters to die."
- At an October 2026 debate, Jackson said of military action, "I'm not going to write another blank check to any president, Democrat or Republican."
- In a September 2026 News Center Maine interview, Jackson said he would need the "intelligence community come in and lay out the whole reason beforehand" before supporting authorization of military force, including evidence of threats to Americans or nuclear weapons.

ON GLOBAL ECONOMIC ENGAGEMENT:

- During the campaign, Jackson said his concern about tariffs reflects the border economy's longstanding connections to Canadian customers, workers, and businesses, as reported by the Bangor Daily News.
- In July 2019, while serving in the Maine Senate, Jackson supported legislation to develop a Canadian drug-importation program to lower costs and said, "Mainers deserve to experience that same relief."
- At a September 2026 community conversation, Jackson said, "just unilaterally putting blanket tariffs on Canada is idiotic." He cited lost cross-border shopping and disruptions to Maine lumber, lobster and blueberry trade, and argued that Congress should reclaim its tariff authority.
- At the same community conversation, Jackson said, "We have had a great relationship with Canada. They're our neighbors. They're our partners."
- In a September 2026 interview about the 1998 border blockade, Jackson said, "it's not the Canadian workers." He blamed large landowners for using cross-border labor to undercut wages and said Canadian businesses and workers were welcome on an equal playing field.

ON RUSSIA'S WAR IN UKRAINE:

- In an October 2026 News Center Maine interview, Jackson said U.S. assistance to Ukraine should be "at least keeping it where it is," and that he would support an increase if intelligence indicated it was needed. He warned that if Russia wins, "I don't think they'll stop."
- In the same interview, Jackson opposed a proposed U.S. diesel purchase from Russia, saying, "I certainly don't believe in buying anything from Russia, who is our enemy," citing Russia's assistance to Iran.

ON CONFLICT IN THE MIDDLE EAST:

- At an October 2026 debate, Jackson called for ending the war with Iran while protecting U.S. troops, saying, "We got to get out, and we got to get out soon." He connected energy costs to Maine livelihoods, warning that "people in the logging, fishing, and forester industry won't be able to run their equipment." The argument places military decisions alongside the fuel costs facing the state's working communities.
- Jackson's platform calls for "No U.S. tax dollars to Israel's military" and describes Israel's actions in Gaza as genocide.
- At a September 2026 town hall, Jackson said, "the United States does have to provide humanitarian aid [in Gaza]," specifying aid for starving children, hungry people and the injured.
- At the same town hall, Jackson urged the United States to use its influence to bring both governments to negotiations, saying they should "come to the table and work out... something that both sides can live with."



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

A three-term member of the U.S. House of Representatives and the first Republican woman elected to Congress from Louisiana, Senator-elect Julia Letlow has framed her view of American global leadership through the lens of peace through strength, stating that, "**The world is a safer place when America leads with confidence**."

In the House, Congresswoman Letlow has worked on national security, diplomacy, and agricultural issues as a member of the Appropriations National Security, Department of State and Related Programs (NSRP) and Agriculture Subcommittees. She has also traveled abroad during her time in office, including on congressional delegations to Israel, Qatar, and Dubai.

Letlow began representing Louisiana's 5th Congressional District in April 2021 after winning a special election to represent her late husband's seat. Prior to entering Congress, she worked in higher education at the University of Louisiana at Monroe and Tulane University. She earned bachelor's and master's degrees in speech communication from the University of Louisiana Monroe and a doctorate in communication from the University of South Florida.

ON U.S. GLOBAL LEADERSHIP AND AMERICA'S ROLE IN THE WORLD:

- At an April 2026 appropriations hearing, Letlow said that the State Department funding bill would strengthen U.S. diplomacy and global leadership, arguing, "America first does not mean America alone."
- During the same April 2026 hearing, she said, "We put American values into action by defending human rights, protecting religious liberty," adding, "Freedom and democracy are not just ideals. They are priorities we actively defend through this legislation."

ON GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY:

- Letlow has supported preserving resources for international food assistance, voting against a September 2023 amendment that would have eliminated $1.74 billion in funding for Food for Peace Title II grants, as well as voting in favor of the Global Malnutrition Prevention and Treatment Act and the Global Food Security Reauthorization Act in 2022.
- In the months after Russia first invaded Ukraine in 2022, Letlow uplifted the many Louisiana farmers "who are ready to produce and provide food assistance during international crises," and added that "In our home state, we're used to quickly providing food assistance in the face of natural disasters."
- In September 2023, Letlow also voted against eliminating funding for the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program.

ON GLOBAL HEALTH:

- Recognizing the contributions of PEPFAR and Gavi at the May 2025 State Department budget hearing, Letlow stated, "As the budget priorities evolve, it may be worth considering how the U.S. health investments align with the broader objective of supporting effective programs that address preventable infectious diseases, improve health outcomes, and save lives, and reduce long-term dependence on external assistance. Programs such as Gavi and PEPFAR, which you discussed earlier, have contributed to these types of goals."
- At the same hearing, she underscored the connection between global health and American security, saying, "I also understand the desire to refocus State Department funding towards core priorities like safeguarding our own national security by addressing the spread of infectious diseases abroad that could impact the U.S. and its citizens."

ON INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION AND REFUGEES:

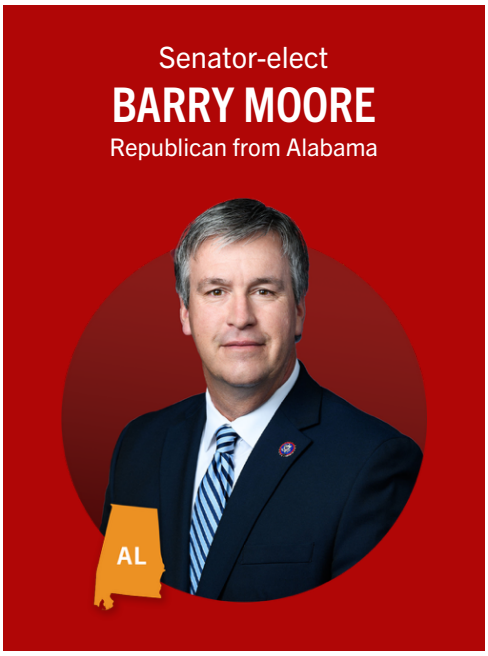
- Emphasizing the importance of combatting human trafficking at a May 2025 hearing, Letlow said, "It remains an urgent and devastating human rights issue worldwide. It disproportionately targets women and children, trapping them in cycles of forced labor, sexual exploitation, and modern-day slavery. Combatting this crisis requires sustained commitment to prevention, prosecution, and survivor support."
- Letlow also voted in support of legislation in the 117th Congress to strengthen U.S. efforts to combat trafficking abroad by integrating prevention into global health, education, food security, and humanitarian assistance programs.

ON RUSSIA'S WAR IN UKRAINE:

- Her record on Ukraine assistance has shifted in recent years. Immediately after Russia's invasion, she called for sanctions and diplomatic pressure against Russia. However, she later voted against the 2024 Ukraine Security Supplemental Appropriations Act and the 2026 Ukraine Support Act.
- During a 2026 Senate Republican Primary debate, she explained that after voting for the first Ukraine security package, she listened to constituents who opposed further funding: "I came back to Louisiana, and I listened to my constituents and my voters, and they said, 'Absolutely, no more of our tax money should go over to fund Ukraine.' And so, I never voted for it again."
- In March 2022, Letlow called Putin "a war criminal" and backed a resolution urging the United Nations to remove Russia from the Security Council.

ON CONFLICT IN THE MIDDLE EAST:

- Following U.S. strikes on Iran in June 2025, she said, "Military action should never be taken lightly," but supported the strikes to prevent Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons, calling them "the right call."
- Before a February 2022 congressional delegation to Israel, Letlow described Israel as "one of our nation's most critical allies" and highlighted shared democratic values and strategic objectives.



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

A native Alabaman, three-term member of the U.S. House of Representatives, and a veteran of the Alabama National Guard and Reserves, Senator-elect Barry Moore comes to the U.S. Senate advocating that "**peace through strength works**," and that "**the world is calmer when America leads with conviction and not confusion**."

Congressman Barry Moore joins the U.S. Senate after serving in the House since 2021, representing Alabama's 2nd Congressional District and, following redistricting, its 1st District. Before entering Congress, Moore served in the Alabama House of Representatives and was a small-business owner. He attended Enterprise State Community College and earned a bachelor's degree in agricultural science from Auburn University.

ON U.S. INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE:

- In a September 2023 statement supporting the House State-Foreign Operations bill, Moore praised funding "to counter China, support Israel, increase oversight of taxpayer dollars that have been sent to Ukraine," alongside support for religious freedom programs abroad.
- In a June 2025 column, Moore endorsed eliminating USAID development funding, writing, "We're working with President Trump to eliminate $2.5 billion earmarked for foreign development assistance under USAID."
- Moore cosponsored legislation in February 2022 to suspend U.S. funding to the United Nations for two years and redirect the money toward a wall on the U.S.-Mexico border.

ON GLOBAL HEALTH:

- In a July 2025 column, Moore backed ending U.S. funding for the World Health Organization, saying the WHO "has consistently failed the American people and cozied up to the Chinese Communist Party."

ON GLOBAL ECONOMIC ENGAGEMENT:

- In support of the July 2025 reconciliation bill, Moore applauded that "one of the biggest investments is reducing barriers through trade deals and investing in export promotion to sell more agricultural goods abroad."
- In a January 2023 statement on European Union restrictions on U.S. peanut exports, Moore said American farmers "must not be forced to suffer trade policies that disadvantage domestic producers."

ON THE GLOBAL COMPETITION WITH CHINA:

- Referring to China, Moore said that "America does not need to be dependent on one of our biggest enemies globally."

- In a January 2023 statement supporting the creation of the House China Select Committee, Moore said, "we are serious about challenging the CCP and holding them accountable for their actions on the world stage."
- In a September 2024 statement supporting sanctions on senior CCP leaders, Moore said, "Sanctioning the most trusted members of President Xi's inner circle condemns these atrocities and holds the CCP accountable," citing abuses involving Uyghurs, Taiwan, and Hong Kong.
- In a March 2025 statement, Moore called for recognizing Taiwan's right to govern itself, stating, "It is time for the United States to show the people of Taiwan that we recognize their right to self-governance."

ON RUSSIA'S WAR IN UKRAINE:

- Following the invasion of Ukraine, Moore declared the maneuver "unprovoked and evil," calling for the Administration to "hold Putin accountable for this heinous aggression."
- He cosponsored legislation directing proceeds from seized Russian assets toward humanitarian relief, rebuilding infrastructure, defense assistance, and supporting neighboring EU nations who take refugees, saying "it would only make sense that those assets be put towards assisting the Ukrainian people, who have already suffered so much."
- At the same time, Moore has opposed several major assistance packages for Ukraine including the 2024 Ukraine Supplemental Appropriations Act. He has expressed concerns about the cost and oversight of U.S. assistance, stating that "Ukraine is a young democracy, and we are sending American taxpayer money over there with no oversight."
- Following Russia's decision to sanction him in April 2022, Moore said, "it won't change my position that we need to continue supporting the Ukrainian people. It is in America's best interest to deter Russian aggression in the region."
- During a January 2026 interview, despite opposing U.S. aid without adequate oversight, Moore said, "I don't think Russia taking over Ukraine is in our interest."
- Moore traveled with a congressional delegation to Kyiv in August 2021 to meet Ukrainian government, business, and civic leaders and examine economic development and border security challenges.

ON AMERICA'S ALLIANCES:

- Moore has been a staunch supporter of Israel. Following the October 7 attacks, he declared "any threat to Israel is a threat to the United States and our freedoms."
- In supporting additional security assistance for Israel in 2024, Moore said, "it is imperative we support and supply Israel with resources and demonstrate strength on the world's stage in a time of grave danger."
- Following the withdrawal from Afghanistan in 2021, Moore called it "a painful betrayal of our Afghan allies."

ON CONFLICT IN THE MIDDLE EAST:

- During a May 2026 interview on Iran, Moore described military pressure followed by sanctions as a negotiating strategy, saying, "So he's going through a process that first was military. Now it's sanctions and economics. And hopefully we'll get them to the table."



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

A native of the Granite State and four-term member of the U.S. House of Representatives, Senator-elect Pappas comes to the Senate emphasizing that **"American leadership on the world stage is non-negotiable,"** and that we must **"never shrink from our responsibilities as a global force for good."**

With humanitarian crises deepening around the world, Pappas advocates that America's leadership should reflect core values of "democracy, support for NATO and our alliances." Looking ahead to his Senate service, Pappas has pledged to "keep working to ensure the United States remains a leader in defending democratic values, upholding human rights, and addressing global challenges responsibly."

Born and raised in Manchester, Pappas will become New Hampshire's first openly gay Senator. In the House, he serves on the House Veterans' Affairs Committee and Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. Before entering Congress, he served three terms on the New Hampshire Executive Council and in the New Hampshire House of Representatives. Pappas graduated from Harvard University with a degree in government.

ON U.S. INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE:

- During a February 2025 town hall on the international assistance freeze, Pappas said, "I think the real blunt instrument that this administration is using is not legal and it's not the way to get at the kind of savings that are going to be consistent with our needs, the needs of our partners and allies, and our national security."
- In a June 2025 statement opposing a rescissions package, he said, "These sweeping cuts undermine public media, our ability to foster democracy, and stop the spread of diseases."

ON GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY:

- During a February 2025 telephone town hall, Pappas defended Food for Peace, saying, "It helps us serve individuals in countries that are going through famine where kids are experiencing hunger." He added, "It's a way that we can counter the growing influence of China around the world."

ON GLOBAL HEALTH:

- In a January 2025 statement, Pappas said, "PEPFAR has provided lifesaving HIV/AIDS treatment for 20 million people over the last two decades… Halting this program, which has wide, bipartisan support, is cruel and irresponsible."
- In a July 2020 speech urging joint U.S.–Israel research to combat COVID-19, Pappas said, "America can't go it alone in this fight. We are stronger when we join forces with countries that share our values to confront our shared challenges."

ON RUSSIA'S WAR IN UKRAINE:

- Pappas has consistently supported security and humanitarian assistance for Ukraine. In voting for the 2024 national security supplemental, he stated that "U.S. leadership is needed at this critical moment to support our allies and our shared security interests."
- He is a cosponsor of the Ukraine Support Act and the Sanctioning Russia Act which provide security assistance, reconstruction funding, and diplomatic cooperation for Ukraine while including additional sanctions on Russia.
- In an April 2022 statement after Russia's attacks on Ukrainian civilians, Pappas said, "There is no doubt war crimes have been committed and more are in progress, and these atrocities cannot go unanswered."

ON GLOBAL COMPETITION WITH CHINA:

- He introduced the Stop Chinese Fentanyl Act, which would crack down on foreign drug trafficking and sanction Chinese suppliers of key fentanyl ingredients, and led the STOP CCP Act, which would require financial and visa sanctions on members of the CCP for human rights violations.

ON ALLIANCES:

- Pappas has emphasized the importance of multilateral cooperation and strong alliances, saying that "at a time when democracy and global security are being tested, American leadership and strong alliances are indispensable."
- As a Co-Chair of the Congressional Hellenic Caucus, Pappas has championed closer security cooperation with Greece, which he has called "an essential partner to the United States in ensuring regional security and prosperity."
- Pappas has consistently voiced support for Taiwan, stating he is "committed to standing with all our democratic allies against threats to their security and sovereignty, and we must continue to strengthen our diplomatic partnership with our democratic ally Taiwan."

ON CONFLICT IN THE MIDDLE EAST:

- In an October 2026 interview on the war with Iran, Pappas said, "We don't need boots on the ground. We don't need continued open-ended military engagement in the region."
- At an October 2026 Senate forum, Pappas opposed Iranian nuclear capabilities but called for a negotiated approach, saying, "I think we have to get back to serious diplomacy."
- In support of a security supplemental to Israel in November 2023, Pappas stated, "Israel is our steadfast democratic ally and needs our unwavering support in the wake of the brutal Hamas terrorist attacks that shocked the world," adding that Congress should focus on "the destruction of Hamas and the humanitarian needs of those in the region."
- In a September 2026 debate, Pappas was asked about his support of the U.S.-Israel alliance in the face of growing dissatisfaction among some Democrats, and he responded, "I think what's important is both Israelis and Palestinians have security and an opportunity to live in peace... I support a two-state solution. I support increasing aid to the Palestinians right now," and added opposition to certain military sales to Israel, the need for Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu to go, and for Hamas to lay down its arms.



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

A Chicago native and attorney who has served as Illinois Lieutenant Governor since 2019, Senator-elect Juliana Stratton connects America's global engagement to economic opportunity and security at home saying, **"Comprehensive, strategic foreign policy is essential to strengthen our economy, sustain national security, and successfully advance diplomatic relationships abroad."**

Stratton is a graduate of the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and DePaul University College of Law. She has served as lieutenant governor since 2019 and previously represented Illinois's 5th House District, home to 750,000 residents. Her public record includes trade engagement with Japan and support for international public-health cooperation.

ON DIPLOMACY AND GLOBAL ECONOMIC ENGAGEMENT:

- In April 2025, during an Illinois trade mission to Mexico City focused on agriculture and private investment, she said, "Illinois and Mexico share more than trade—we share values… We took representatives from soybean, beef, from corn, and made sure that we built those relationships directly." She also led an Illinois delegation to Japan in 2023.
- In a February 2026 Chicago Sun-Times/WBEZ candidate questionnaire, Stratton argued that "the Senate must take decisive action to take back tariff authority from the President and reinstate Congress' power of the purse."
- In a 2026 WTTW TV interview, Stratton stated, "tariffs haven't strengthened our economy – they've put a tax on working families."
- In a February 2026 Chicago Sun-Times/WBEZ candidate questionnaire, she argued that the "trade war with China isn't working," saying China had redirected exports to other countries while the trade war raised costs for Illinois farmers and disrupted their overseas sales.

ON GLOBAL HEALTH:

- When Illinois joined the World Health Organization's Global Outbreak Alert and Response Network in February 2026, following the Trump Administration's formal withdrawal of the U.S. from WHO, Stratton said the state would continue to rely on "evidence, data, and medical expertise" to guide decisions and that the state government "will always choose the health of our people over political grandstanding or misinformation."

ON RUSSIA'S WAR IN UKRAINE:

- In a February 2026 Capitol News Illinois candidate questionnaire, Stratton expressed support for Ukraine, stating, "An attack on one NATO ally is an attack on us all…We should work with our allies to end the war in Ukraine; our combined initiatives to support the economic and military strength of the sovereign nation of Ukraine are critical."
- In the same questionnaire, she expressed support for sanctions on Russia, stating, "If elected, I would support continued sanctions against Russia to assert economic pressure for them to negotiate a peace agreement with Ukraine."

ON GLOBAL COMPETITION WITH CHINA:

- In a February 2026 Chicago Sun-Times/WBEZ candidate questionnaire, Stratton said, "We should invest in American infrastructure, advanced technology, and workforce in order to compete with China."
- She expressed support for strengthening ties with Taiwan, saying, "We must continue to bolster bilateral ties with Taiwan by supporting its self-defense capabilities and helping to secure its semiconductor manufacturing and significant global supply chain implications."

ON CONFLICT IN THE MIDDLE EAST:

- While Stratton has said, "I certainly don't want to see a nuclear Iran," in a February 2026 candidate questionnaire, Stratton said about the Iran war, "I will not support any supplemental funding for this war and will be a check on this president…I support legislation that ensures foreign military intervention is authorized by Congress, not a single individual."
- In an August 2025 interview, Stratton said the U.S. and Israel should "be very focused on getting humanitarian aid, food, and whatever is needed" into Gaza and called for a "ceasefire to bring peace and end the violence in that region."
- In an October 2025 Evanston Roundtable candidate statement, Stratton said, "We need a two-state solution that allows dignity and self-determination for Palestinians and Israelis. I want to see additional humanitarian aid to Gaza and U.S. assistance in the rebuilding process." She also called for normalizing regional partnerships between Israel and its neighbors and said Hamas "has to be removed from power and demilitarized."
- In an October 2026 interview, Stratton said, "I believe Israel is an important ally, and I believe that Israel has a right to safety and security," but that she does not believe Prime Minister Netanyahu shares her goal of a two-state solution and said she would have supported a resolution to halt certain military support to Israel.



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

A former San Antonio public school teacher first elected to the Texas House in 2018, Senator-elect James Talarico connects international engagement to Texans' security and livelihoods, saying "**For Texans, foreign policy isn't foreign**," adding the importance of "**Restoring American leadership on the world stage with smart diplomacy, strong alliances, and a foreign policy that keeps Texans safe**." He rejects efforts to shut America off from the world, arguing that isolation makes the country weaker and less secure.

Talarico grew up in Round Rock, Texas and holds degrees from the University of Texas at Austin, Harvard University, and the Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary.

ON DIPLOMACY AND U.S. INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE:

- On his campaign website, Talarico pledges to "Ensure the State Department is fully funded and staffed, reverse the unlawful dismantling of the U.S. Agency for International Development, and restore investments in programs that combat violence, famine, disease, and human suffering — recognizing that these investments are strategic to America's interests."
- "I'm committed to working in partnership with our foreign allies and engaging in diplomacy that will help us prevent attacks on American soil and avoid unnecessary wars," he says, describing development investments as "strategic to America's interests."
- In a Rio Grande Valley forum, Talarico urged diplomatic and economic pressure on Mexico over cross-border water obligations, saying, "We should use our diplomatic leverage and lean on our trade relationship to ensure that Mexico, our neighbor, is upholding its part of our water treaty agreement."
- Drawing on his seminary background Talarico said, "I believe democracy is a Christian value…and that umbrella is the idea that people should be able to govern themselves and that we should be able to resolve our conflicts non-violently."

ON U.S. NATIONAL SECURITY:

- On Venezuela, Talarico has been critical of the Trump Administration's military action, stating on MSNBC, "This new war is just the latest example of how billionaires run this country, run this economy, run this government, and now run our foreign policy. As U.S. Senator, I will never vote to send someone's son or daughter to war to make billionaires richer."
- On security and relations in the Western Hemisphere, Talarico said, "The metaphor I've used is that our southern border should be like our front porch. There should be a giant welcome mat out front and a lock on the door. We can both welcome the stranger, welcome immigrants who want to contribute to this economy, who want to live the American dream, who want to make us stronger and richer, and we can keep people out who mean to do us harm."

ON GLOBAL ECONOMIC ENGAGEMENT:

- His rural platform calls for removing tariffs on agricultural equipment and fertilizer and addressing retaliatory tariffs affecting agricultural exports. His foreign-policy platform also supports trade partnerships with "strong protections for American workers."
- In a July 2026 speech, Talarico expanded on his opposition to tariffs, saying, "Higher tariffs mean fewer jobs. It also means higher prices for working people. And I think we have to repeal these crazy tariffs. We've got to get some common sense back into our trade policy, back into our economic policy."

ON RUSSIA'S WAR IN UKRAINE:

- Talarico calls for "more — not less — cooperation" with NATO, the European Union, and other allies. On Ukraine, he supports measures allowing the United States, Ukraine, and European partners to "negotiate from a position of strength," protect Ukraine's long-term security, and "hold Russia accountable for the cost of its aggression."
- At an October 2026 CNN Town Hall, Talarico said about Ukraine, "I think we learned back in the Second World War that when we failed to stand up to an aggressor in Europe that comes back to haunt us and we need to strengthen Ukraine. We need to strengthen our NATO allies as they stand up to Russian aggression… I think what we're doing in Ukraine is a good investment. I think it will save us money in the long run." He added that the prospect of resuming Russian oil purchases, "to enable and appease Vladimir Putin is a mistake."

ON CONFLICT IN THE MIDDLE EAST:

- In a March 2026 interview, criticizing the Iran war, Talarico said, "We can support the democracy movement in Iran. We can prevent Iran from getting a nuclear weapon. Both should absolutely be priorities of our foreign policy. But it should be done through our partnerships with allies. It should be done using our economic strength through our intelligence community. But this kind of military intervention, without much forethought, without much explanation, to me, just reminds me of the forever wars."
- Talarico said on MSNBC, "I would vote to end this disastrous war in Iran as quickly as possible. You know, as a millennial, I saw how military disasters, like the Iraq war, robbed this nation of young lives, of billions of dollars, and of our moral standing around the world. And I think this administration is making the exact same mistakes in Iran."
- In an October 2026 CBS News interview, Talarico urged rebuilding regional alliances "to bring Iran back to the negotiating table, open up the Strait of Hormuz, and ensure that Iran doesn't get a nuclear weapon."
- In October 2023, Talarico voted for Texas House Resolution 10, "reaffirming Texas' support for Israel and its right to defend its citizens" following Hamas' October 7 attack.
- Talarico's platform states "Israel has the right to defend its people," and calls for using "all of America's financial and diplomatic leverage to secure a two-state solution that disarms Hamas, establishes a democratic Palestinian state, halts Israel's illegal settlements, and respects the sovereignty of both nations," and calls for "stopping offensive weapons sales to the Netanyahu government while supporting defensive systems like the Iron Dome."



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

A two-term Iowa State Representative and two-time Paralympic gold medalist in wheelchair basketball for Team USA, Senator-elect Josh Turek said "**I was not only representing my family or my community or my state... I am representing my entire country**."

He has emphasized access to overseas markets for farmers and supported state assistance for refugee resettlement. Turek has served since 2023 as a member of the Iowa House of Representatives where he is Ranking Member of the Health and Human Services Appropriations Subcommittee and a member of the Natural Resources and Veterans Affairs committees. He has a degree from Southwest Minnesota State University and an MBA from DeVry University.

ON U.S. GLOBAL LEADERSHIP AND AMERICA'S ROLE IN THE WORLD:

- On foreign policy, Turek has said, "Whether it's from the agriculture industry, economic industry, veterans, foreign affairs, I'm willing to sit down with anyone to have a conversation about ways that we can put together bipartisan policy to move the ball forward."

ON U.S. INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE:

- On the ability for Iowa farmers to feed the world, Turek said, "As you look at the world's population continuing to grow... we have an enormous opportunity to be the breadbasket and the breadwinners along with energy."
- Turek emphasized his own experience running a non-profit with programs in the U.S. and overseas, saying, "One thing is that I had been doing for more than a decade, myself and my best friend Ryan Martin, we had been running a nonprofit for disabled kids and running adaptive sports camps for kids. We ran camps both in the U.S. and then out of the country, just to try to be a role model to the next generation."

ON GLOBAL HEALTH:

- On domestic and global health systems, Turek said, "I've lived in multiple places and seen different things. I've seen how different health care systems operate, how that affects, you know, the disabled communities and the community at large."
- In an August 2026 interview, Turek described seeing people with disabilities "completely ostracized" in parts of North Africa, the Caribbean, and South America because of a "complete and total lack of infrastructure," adding that these experiences "fundamentally altered and shaped my political ideology."

ON GLOBAL ECONOMIC ENGAGEMENT:

- Asked about tariffs, Turek said, “Our farmers need, more than any other group, need open trade, need open markets... We certainly need strategic tariffs and tariffs to protect American jobs and to protect American manufacturing, but not off the backs of the agricultural industry and not off the backs of small family farms.”
- In a September 2026 interview, Turek called for congressional authority over tariffs, saying, “The power of the tariffs were meant to be by the Constitution in the hands of the legislature,” and “I think that we should repeal the tariffs.”
- At an October 2026 debate, he identified tariffs he would oppose, saying, “One I’m against, the chaotic tariffs that we’ve seen with Canada,” citing imported fertilizer inputs and adding, “one I would really like to see end is the 10% tariffs on soybeans.”
- In a June 2026 interview, he criticized U.S. financial support for Argentina in the context of China’s soybean purchases, stating, “The Trump administration gives 20 billion dollars to Argentina so the Chinese can buy their soybeans. Meanwhile, our Iowa soybean farmers are upside down and it’s bad federal policy.”

ON RUSSIA'S WAR IN UKRAINE:

- Asked about a U.S. role in Ukraine, Turek said, “That is a sovereign country that has been invaded by a foreign power... and that is an area where we should support.”
- At an October 2026 Senate debate, Turek opposed buying Russian diesel even to reduce fuel costs, stating, “I don’t think it should be at the expense of benefiting the economy of someone like Vladimir Putin who we clearly cannot trust.”

ON CONFLICT IN THE MIDDLE EAST:

- In a May 2026 debate, Turek said, "In the United States Senate, I will do everything that I can to prevent us from going into these unnecessary forever wars. We're spending $1 billion a day in this conflict with Iran. Meanwhile, we've got closing schools and hospitals and roads here in Iowa, a real America first approach, a real Iowa first approach is, let's take care of our citizens here."
- On Iran, Turek added, "I think we need to end this war in Iran. And let's get back to diplomacy. I certainly don't want to see Iran have a nuclear weapon, but we have to end this war. And one of my primary goals, I'm going to fight to end this war in the U.S. Senate day one,” and has said he wants to “pass the War Powers Act immediately.”
- Asked about U.S. support for Israel, Turek said, “The events of October 7th were horrific, and Hamas is certainly a terrorist organization. Israel is one of the few functioning democracies in the Mideast. But I think that one thing that we can all agree upon, regardless of where we sit on the political spectrum, is that you do not want to see any unnecessary killing of civilians and children... And my thought is that there should be no taxpayer dollars going to any organization, group, regime that is not abiding by international law."
- Turek added during an interview that Israel “certainly had the right to defend itself,” but described its response in Gaza as “disproportionate,” arguing that “any sort of support or arm sales comes with the insurance that we’re adhering to international law,” particularly for “offensive weapons.”