

RE-2 Employee Post Travel Disclosure of Travel Expenses

Date/Time Stamp
RECEIVED
SECRETARY OF THE SENATE
PUBLIC RECORDS

Post Travel Filing Instructions: Complete this form within **30 days** of returning from travel. Submit all forms to the Office of Public Records in 144 Hart Building. **This form is a public disclosure. The form and all attachments will be made publicly available.**

2025 JUN 24 PM 3:34

Certification: In compliance with the Regulations Governing Privately Sponsored Travel, Senate Rule 35, and the Honest Leadership and Open Government Act of 2007, I certify that I accepted the following gift of privately sponsored travel:

Private Sponsor(s):
 J Street Education Fund

Travel Dates:
 05/23/2025 to 05/30/2025

Name of accompanying family member (if any):

Relationship to Traveler:

Expenses

Transportation Expenses	Lodging Expenses	Meals Expenses	Other Expenses (Amount & Description)
\$3,046.00	\$1,905.00	\$1,028.00	\$900.00

I also certify that attached to this form are all required documents for post travel disclosure, including:

- The final **Employee Pre-Travel Authorization** (Form RE-1)
- The final **Private Sponsor Travel Certification Form** with all attachments
- The final invitation
- The final approved itinerary

Finally, I certify that all trip information reflected in the attachments above accurately reflects the travel that I accepted. If there were any changes to the trip after I received approval from the Committee, the changes are described in ATTACHMENT 1.

6/24/25

Date

Carly Vandegrift

Printed Name of Traveler


 Signature of Traveler

TO BE COMPLETED BY SUPERVISING MEMBER/OFFICER

I have made a determination that the expenses set out above in connections with travel described in the Employee Pre-Travel Authorization form, are necessary transportation, lodging, and related expenses as defined in Rule 35.

6/24/25

Date


 Signature of Supervising Senator/Officer

ATTACHMENT 1 – CHANGES FROM APPROVED PRE-TRAVEL

Note: Material changes to a trip that occur after the Committee has issued an approval letter may invalidate the Committee's approval. Please contact the Committee with any questions regarding changes to an approved trip.

Were there any changes to the pre-approved travel expenses? (Transportation, Meals, Lodging, Other)?

☒ Yes ☐ No

Expense Change	Revised Amount	Explanation
Misc. Expenses	\$775.00	Various expenses came in at a slightly different amount than originally projected: On-site Logistics Coordinator - \$491 (Estimated \$370) Tour bus for duration of trip - \$568 (Estimated \$285) Meeting Room Rentals - \$300 (Estimated \$160) Speaker Honoraria - \$286 (Estimated \$160) Printing - \$64 (Estimated \$55) Security - \$251 (Estimated \$155)
Transportation	\$3,046.00	Flights were more expensive than originally projected (\$2,500) because we needed to make a last minute switch to Emirates (final cost \$5,546) after United suspended service to Tel Aviv.

Were there any changes to the pre-approved itinerary?

☒ Yes ☐ No

Explanation: Due to the airline switch from United to Emirates, the group arrived earlier in the afternoon on May 23, and left earlier in the afternoon on May 29, so we moved up the timing of programming and adjusted the farewell dinner to be a post-lunch discussion. We also added a meeting on May 25 with Lt. Col. (Res.) Peter Lerner, the former International Spokesperson for the IDF for an informal, pre-dinner conversation on his personal reflections on Israel's security landscape, public discourse, and evolving challenges post-October 7. Other than these changes, although specific dates and times of programming changed slightly due to the scheduling of Israeli and Palestinian leaders, the components of the programming stayed the same.

Were there any additional changes to the pre-approved trip?

☐ Yes ☒ No

Explanation: There were no additional changes to the pre-approved trip.





Carly Vandegrift
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Carly,

We are pleased to invite you to join a delegation of senior congressional staff for an educational trip to Israel and the West Bank sponsored by the J Street Education Fund (JSEF). The trip, which will be on the ground for six days, will depart DC in the evening of Friday, May 23, and return to the US in the morning on Friday, May 30.

Through this trip, JSEF hopes to provide an opportunity for congressional staff to see the reality of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict post-October 7th, focusing on the current crisis and plans for a path forward from what is arguably the lowest point in this conflict to date. This delegation will give congressional staff a unique perspective on what is at stake in the region and how American leadership can help bring about peace.

All trip related expenses will be paid for by JSEF in compliance with House Ethics Committee rules. At least 30 days prior to departure, participants are responsible for submitting relevant paperwork in order to join this delegation.

Prior to the trip, JSEF will conduct a briefing to provide background information and logistics for staff in preparation for their visit.

I hope that you will be able to join us on this important, thought-provoking, and educational trip. If you have any questions, please contact Cooper Boyar at (917) 312-1869, or at cooperboyar@jstreet.org, at any time to discuss the details of the sponsored trip and our organization.

Sincerely,

Jeremy Ben-Ami
President
J Street Education Fund

The J Street Education Fund (JSEF) is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization that does not hire or retain registered lobbyists. JSEF is a member of the J Street family of pro-Israel, pro-peace organizations.

CARLY VANDEGRIFT Page 4 of 20

RE-1 Employee Pre-Travel Authorization

Date/Time Stamp

Pre-Travel Filing Instructions: Complete and submit this form at least 30 days prior to the travel departure date to the **Select Committee on Ethics in SH-220**. Incomplete and late travel submissions will not be considered or approved.

Name of Traveler:
Carly Vandegrift

Employing Office/Committee:
MERKLEY, JEFF

Private Sponsor(s):
J Street Education Fund

Destination(s):
Tel Aviv, Israel Jerusalem, Israel

Travel Dates:
05/23/2025 to 05/30/2025

NOTE: If you plan to extend the trip for any reason you must notify the Committee.

Explain how this trip is specifically connected to the traveler's official or representational duties.

This trip will help inform my ability to advise the Senator on his official legislative duties related to foreign affairs and his work on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

Do you have an accompanying family member or spouse on this trip?
No

Name and Relationship to Traveler:
N/A

I certify that the information contained in this form is true, complete and correct to the best of my knowledge.

4/23/25

Date



Signature of Employee

TO BE COMPLETED BY SUPERVISING MEMBER/OFFICER
(President of the Senate, Secretary of the Senate, Sergeant at Arms,
Secretary for the Majority, Secretary for the Minority, and Chaplain)

Senator Jeff Merkley

(Print Senator's/Officer's Name)

hereby authorize

Carly Vandegrift

(Print Traveler's Name)

an employee under my direct supervision, to accept payment or reimbursement for necessary transportation, lodging, and related expenses for travel to the event described above. I have determined that this travel is in connection with his or her duties as a Senate employee or an officeholder, and will not create the appearance that he or she is using public office for private gain.

I have also determined that the attendance of the employee's spouse or child is appropriate to assist in the representation of the Senate.

☒ (signify "yes" by checking box)

4/23/25

Date



Signature of Supervising Senator/Officer

J Street Education Fund: Summer StaffDel 2025

 Carly Vandegrift

Title:
Chief of Staff

Employing Office/Committee:
MERKLEY, JEFF

Duty Station:
WASHINGTON, DC

Destination(s):
Tel Aviv, Israel
Jerusalem, Israel

Explain how this trip is specifically connected to the traveler's official or representational duties:

This trip will help inform my ability to advise the Senator on his official legislative duties related to foreign affairs and his work on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

Name of accompanying family member (if any):
Not Entered

Name and Relationship to Traveler:
None

Organization Information

Organization Name
J Street Education Fund

§501(c)(3) Organization Type
Public Charity

Address 2 (Optional)
None

Phone Number
9173121869

Is your organization classified as a §501(c)(3)?

☒ Yes ☐ No

Address
PO Box 66073

City, State Zip
Washington, District Of Columbia 20035 United States

Organization URL

History of Congressional Travel

The J Street Education Fund (JSEF) has sponsored House-side CODELs and StaffDels since 2010. We brought one senate employee on a StaffDel in 2018, and three Senators on a CODEL in 2023.

Educational Activities

JSEF serves to educate, organize, and mobilize pro-Israel, pro-peace, pro-democracy Americans by implementing a diverse slate of work—from Congressional education and student organizing to lay leadership development, strategic communications and beyond—that embodies the breadth and depth of our vision for change.

Lobbyist and Foreign Agent Registration Information

Lobbyist Registration Status: *I certify that the sponsor is not a federally registered lobbyist and do not retain or employ a federally registered lobbyist.*

Foreign Agent Registration Status: *I certify that the sponsor is not an agent of a foreign principal and do not retain or employ an agent of a foreign principal.*

Foreign Government Involvement

Foreign Agent Registration Status:

- ☒ I certify that the sponsor is not a foreign government.
- ☒ I certify that the sponsor is not an entity that is owned or operated by a foreign government.
- ☒ I certify that the sponsor does not receive funding from a foreign government.

Comments
None Entered

4/8/22

THU V. WTH

Signature Page

The signature page is below.

Purpose and Details

Provide a brief description of the trip.

Through this trip, JSEF hopes to provide an opportunity for Congressional staff to achieve a more nuanced understanding of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Through meetings with Israeli and Palestinian political and civil society leaders and visits to strategic and holy sites, the trip will enhance participants' knowledge of the region and the dynamics behind one of the most vexing foreign policy challenges facing the United States. In addition, it will explore the essential role of active, engaged, and sustained US diplomatic leadership in bringing about a two-state solution.

Explain how the purpose of the trip relates to your organization's mission.

JSEF's travel program is the cornerstone of the work to inject nuance, empathy, and insight into a policy debate too often marked by ideology absolutism and indifference. JSEF's educational tours of Israel and the West Bank bring Members of Congress, congressional staff, and other key target audiences to the heart of the conflict, delivering first-hand knowledge and a deep, balanced understanding of the people, places, and events that shape this issue.

Is your organization the only sponsor for this trip?

☒ Yes ☐ No

Grantmaking Organizations (Optional)

There are no grantmaking organizations.

With or Without Regard for Congressional Participation

The trip is arranged or organized specifically with regard to congressional participation.

Lobbyist/Foreign Agent Involvement in Planning, Organizing, Requesting or Arranging

- ☒ The trip will not in any part be planned, organized, requested, or arranged by a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal, other than de minimis involvement.

Lobbyist/Foreign Agent Financing

- ☒ The trip will not be financed in any part by a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal.
- ☒ No funds or in-kind contributions were earmarked directly or indirectly for the purpose of financing this specific trip from a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal or from a private entity that retains or employs one or more registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal.

Lobbyist/Foreign Agent Accompaniment

Complete if all sponsors are §501(c)(3) organizations

- ☒ The trip is limited to three days (for trips inside the continental United States) or seven days (for trips outside the continental United States), and no lobbyist or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee at any point throughout the trip
- ☐ The trip is limited to a one-day event (exclusive of travel time and one overnight stay) and no registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee on any segment of the trip
- ☐ The trip is limited to a one-day event (exclusive of travel time and two overnight stays) and no registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee on any segment of the trip

Complete if any of the sponsors is not a §501(c)(3) organizations.

- ☐ The trip is limited to three days (for trips inside the continental United States) or seven days (for trips outside the continental United States), and no lobbyist or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee at any point throughout the trip
- ☐ The trip is limited to a one-day event (exclusive of travel time and one overnight stay) and no registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee on any segment of the trip
- ☐ The trip is limited to a one-day event (exclusive of travel time and two overnight stays) and no registered lobbyists or agents of a foreign principal will accompany the Member, officer, or employee on any segment of the trip

Certification of No Recreational Activity and No Alcohol

- ☒ Travel expenses paid for will not include expenditures for recreational activities.

- ☒ Travel expenses paid for will not include expenditures for alcohol, except as permitted by the Regulations Governing Privately Sponsored Travel.

Invitees

i Members and staff from the House of Representatives will receive invitations.

The list of invitees is below.

Travel Details

Trip Start Date/Time:
05/23/2025 @ 07:30 PM



Trip End Date/Time:
05/30/2025 @ 11:00 AM

Will the traveler be accompanied by a family member for whom the sponsor will pay travel expenses?

☐ Yes ☒ No

Itinerary

The itinerary is below.

Transportation (Per Member/Officer/Employee: \$2,785.00 | Accompanying Family Member: \$0.00)

Transportation Type	Class	Amount
Airfare	Coach	\$2,500.00
Note Departing from DC in the evening of 5/23, and returning in the morning of 5/30		
Ground Transportation	Coach	\$285.00
Note Bus for duration of trip		

Lodging (Per Member/Officer/Employee: \$1,905.00)

Check-In	Check-Out	Facility	City	State	Country	Nights	Cost/Night	Cost Exceed Per Diem
05/24/2025	05/26/2025	Renaissance Hotel	Tel Aviv	None	Israel	2	\$360.00	No
05/26/2025	05/29/2025	Dan Panorama Hotel	Jerusalem	None	Israel	3	\$395.00	No

Meals (Per Member/Officer/Employee: \$1028.00)

Date	Breakfast	Lunch	Dinner	Incidentals	Total	City	State	Country	Cost Exceeds Per Diem
05/24/2025	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$98.00	\$0.00	\$98.00	Tel Aviv	None	Israel	No
05/25/2025	\$0.00	\$121.00	\$147.00	\$0.00	\$268.00	Tel Aviv	None	Israel	No

Date	Breakfast	Lunch	Dinner	Incidentals	Total	City	State	Country	Cost Exceeds Per Diem
05/26/2025	\$0.00	\$40.00	\$105.00	\$0.00	\$145.00	Tel Aviv and Jerusalem	None	Israel	No
05/27/2025	\$0.00	\$68.00	\$124.00	\$0.00	\$192.00	Jerusalem	None	Israel	No
05/28/2025	\$0.00	\$40.00	\$115.00	\$0.00	\$155.00	Jerusalem	None	Israel	No
05/29/2025	\$0.00	\$40.00	\$130.00	\$0.00	\$170.00	Jerusalem	None	Israel	No

Reasonable Miscellaneous Expenses (Per Member/Officer/Employee: \$900.00)

Expense Type	Amount	Notes
Other (Logistics Coordinator fee)	\$370.00	
Other (Meeting room rentals and AV)	\$160.00	
Other (Speaker honoraria)	\$160.00	
Other (Printing)	\$55.00	
Other (Security)	\$155.00	

Additional Attachments

Document Name
There are no additional attachments.

PRIVATELY SPONSORED TRAVEL

SPONSOR SIGNATURE PAGE

I hereby certify that the information submitted in connection with the trip listed below is true, complete, and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Trip Name: May StaffDel 2025

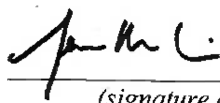
Travel Date(s): May 23 - May 30, 2025

Travel Destination(s): Israel and the West Bank

Sponsor: J Street Education Fund (JSEF)

Jeremy Ben-Ami
(printed name of sponsor representative)

President
(title)


(signature of sponsor representative)

4/10/2025
(date)

Zephrañie Buetow, office of Sen. Angela Alsobrooks (D-MD)
Neil Campbell, office of Sen. Jack Reed (D-RI)
Veronica Duron, office of Sen. Cory Booker (D-NJ)
Elisa Ewers, office of Sen. Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH)
Scott Fairchild, office of Sen. Catherine Cortez Masto (D-NV)
Mike Henry, office of Sen. Tim Kaine (D-VA)
Allison Herwitt, office of Sen. Chris Murphy (D-CT)
Mark Libell, office of Sen. Raphael Warnock (D-GA)
Alison MacDonald, office of Sen. Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH)
Amy Pfeiffer, office of Sen. Andy Kim (D-NJ)
Tricia Russell, office of Sen. Chris Van Hollen (D-MD)
Carlos Sanchez, office of Sen. Ben Ray Luján (D-NM)
Jacqueline Sanchez, office of Sen. Lisa Blunt Rochester (D-DE)
Carly Vandegrift, office of Sen. Jeff Merkley (D-OR)



The Len Hill Education Program

Dedicated to providing American policy makers and opinion leaders with balanced information that lays the groundwork for pursuing Israeli-Palestinian peace through diplomacy.

May 23 - May 30, 2025

ITINERARY

Friday, May 23

Early Evening

Flights Depart DCA/Dulles

Saturday, May 24

Afternoon

Flights arrive in Tel Aviv. Drive to the hotel and check in

6:30 PM

Drive to dinner

6:45 - 8:15 PM

Welcome Dinner: Overview of the War and Current Moment
A leading Israeli journalist will provide an overview of the current political moment in Israel in light of the Israel-Hamas war.

Speaker: Amir Tibon (TBC)

Location: Porter & Sons

8:15 - 8:30 PM

Drive to Hostages Square

8:30 - 9:00 PM

Rally to Bring Home the Hostages
The group will stop by to observe the rally calling for continued implementation of the ceasefire and hostage deal to return all of the hostages.

Location: Hostages Square, Tel Aviv

Hotel:

Renaissance Hotel | 121 Hayarkon Street, Tel Aviv | +972 3 521 5555

Sunday, May 25

8:00 - 9:30 AM	Conflict 101 <i>This session will serve as an orientation, with the goal of framing the week ahead in light of the history, geography, and political dynamics in the region.</i> Speaker: Dr. Dahlia Scheindlin Location: Renaissance Hotel
9:30 - 9:45 AM	Short break
9:45 - 11:15 AM	Israeli Politics and Public Opinion 101 <i>An introduction to the Israeli political system, including structure, political parties, and political trends.</i> Speaker: Dr. Dahlia Scheindlin Location: Renaissance Hotel
11:15 - 11:30 AM	Drive to the HaKiryat Base
11:30 AM - 1:00 PM	IDF + COGAT Briefing on the Israel-Hamas War <i>The security briefing by the IDF and COGAT will acquaint us with the major security threats Israel faces today, IDF goals and priorities for the ongoing war in Gaza and other fronts, as well as for addressing the humanitarian crisis in Gaza.</i> Speakers: TBC Location: HaKiryat Base - IDF Headquarters
1:00 - 1:15 PM	Drive to lunch
1:15 - 2:45 PM	Lunch Briefing with Commanders for Israel's Security (CIS) <i>We will hear from a member of Commanders for Israel's Security about their policy recommendations for ensuring Israel's long-term security while addressing developments in the region, particularly the policy approaches towards the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, their Arab neighbors, and Iran.</i> Speaker: Dr. Nimrod Noviki, Leadership Team, Commanders for Israel's Security Location: Link Hotel
2:45 - 3:00 PM	Walk to Hostages Square
3:00 - 4:30 PM	Conversation with Relative of Hostage and Tour of Hostage Square <i>We will hear from Israelis who have family members held hostage in the Gaza Strip about the condition of their loved ones and advocacy for their release. Hostage Square, located outside of the Tel Aviv Museum, was established by the Hostages Families Forum and is used as a hub to</i>

protest, showcase exhibitions and express solidarity in support of the families.

Speaker: Maya Roman

4:30 - 4:45 PM

Drive to hotel

4:45 - 6:15 PM

Executive time

6:15 - 7:00 PM

Meeting with Israeli Member of Knesset - TBC

We will meet with a Member of the Israeli Knesset to discuss the current state of affairs in Israel, their vision regarding the future of the Israel-Hamas war, and the US-Israel relationship.

Location: Renaissance Hotel

7:00 - 7:30 PM

Drive to dinner

7:30 - 9:00 PM

Dinner discussion: The Impact of October 7 on Israeli Society

We will explore the Israeli political dynamics in the aftermath of the war in Gaza, as experts and insiders provide their insights into the evolving strategies, alliances, and challenges shaping Israel's path forward.

Speakers:

Ibrahim Abu Ahmad, Unapologetic Podcast

Prina Pfeuffer, Ultra Orthodox Feminist Activist

Omer Lubaton-Granot, Chief Executive Officer, "Democrats" Party

Noam Vidan, CEO, IDEA

Location: Malka

Hotel: Renaissance Hotel | 121 Hayarkon Street, Tel Aviv | +972-3-521-5555

Monday, May 26

7:30 - 8:00 AM

Bring Luggage to lobby

8:00 - 9:30 AM

Drive to Gaza border

9:30 - 11:00 AM

Tour of the Gaza Envelope: Witnessing the Destruction of Israeli Border Communities

We will be led on a tour by a resident of Kibbutz Kfar Aza to hear firsthand about the October 7 attacks and how the community has fared since.

Location: Kibbutz Kfar Aza

Guide: Chen Kotler

11:00 - 11:15 AM

Drive to NOVA site

11:15 - 12:00 PM NOVA site visit
We will visit the site where the Nova music festival took place. Since the massacre on Oct. 7, the site has become a memorial to those killed.

12:00 - 2:00 PM Drive to Jerusalem - Boxed lunch on the bus

2:00 - 4:00 PM Hotel check in and Executive time

4:00 - 5:30 PM Israeli Policy toward Gaza and Obligations under International Law
Discussion on Israeli policies toward Gaza during the Israel-Hamas war and Israel's obligations to the civilian population of Gaza.

Speakers: Adv. Michael Sfard, Human Rights Lawyer
Location: Dan Panorama Hotel

5:30 - 6:15 PM Meeting with Member of Knesset Mansour Abbas - Chairman of the United Arab List
Location: Dan Panorama Hotel

6:15 - 6:30 PM Short break

6:30 - 7:15 PM Meeting with a Member of Knesset - TBC
We will meet with a Member of the Israeli Knesset to discuss the current state of affairs in Israel, their vision regarding the future of the Israel-Hamas war, and the US-Israel relationship.

7:15 - 7:30 PM Walk to dinner

7:30 - 9:00 PM Dinner: Iran and the Gulf
This session will explore Iran's role in the region and its impact on Israeli and Gulf security, including missile threats, proxy activity, and nuclear ambitions. We'll examine how Gulf countries are responding—through normalization, defense cooperation, and shifting alliances—and what it means for U.S. interests.

Speakers: Eran Erzion, Former Deputy Head of NSC
Location: Sea Dolphin

Hotel: Dan Panorama Hotel | 39 Keren HaYesod St, Jerusalem | +972-2-569-5695

Tuesday, May 27

8:00 - 9:00 AM Drive to Jalazone Refugee Camp

9:00 - 10:30 AM UNRWA Site Visit: Briefing on Humanitarian Crisis in Gaza and the West Bank

We will hear from UNRWA representatives at the Jalazone Refugee Camp about the services UNRWA provides in the camp. The discussion will also shed light on the challenges UNRWA faces in providing services both in the West Bank and in Gaza, and the impact of recent Israeli legislation on UNRWA operations.

Speakers: TBC

Location: Jalazone Girls School, UNRWA Jalazone Camp

10:30 - 10:45 AM

Drive to Palestinian Political Meeting

10:45 AM - 12:00 PM

Palestinian Authority Political Meeting (TBC)

We will discuss the current state of affairs in the West Bank and the Palestinian Authority's interests and priorities regarding the war in Gaza, the US-Palestinian relationship, and creating a political horizon for Palestinians.

12:00 - 12:30 PM

Drive to Millenium Hotel

12:30 - 1:30 PM

Palestinian Politics 101

We will discuss the history of the Palestinian national movement, the post-Oslo system of governance in the West Bank, and the current state of Palestinian politics.

Speaker: Sam Bahour

Location: Millenium Hotel

1:30 - 1:45 PM

Short break

1:45 - 3:00 PM

Lunch: Palestinian Public Opinion

We will learn about the state of Palestinian public opinion regarding the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Palestinian politics, and internal Palestinian social and cultural issues.

Speaker: Dr. Khalil Shikaki, Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research, Director

Location: Millenium Hotel

3:00 - 3:30 PM

Drive to Sha'ar Binyamin

3:30 - 4:30 PM

Meeting with Binyamin Regional Council

We will have an opportunity to hear directly from Israeli settlers living in the West Bank. We will learn what drives them, why they have chosen to make their homes where they have, and what their hopes are for the future.

Speakers: TBC

Location: Sha'ar Benyamin Industrial Zone

4:30 - 5:30 PM

Drive to hotel

5:30 - 7:00 PM Executive time

7:00 - 7:30 PM Walk to dinner

7:30 - 9:00 PM Dinner Discussion: Day After: Creating a Political Horizon and Revitalizing the Palestinian Authority
Speakers will discuss steps towards establishing a political framework post-war while delving into strategic insights and visionary perspectives shared by experts and leaders, aiming to chart a course for a sustainable and constructive future in Israel and Palestine.

Speakers:
Shira Efrom, Policy advisor, Israel Policy Forum
Bashar Azzeq

Location: Piccolino

Hotel: Dan Panorama Hotel | 39 Keren HaYesod St, Jerusalem | +972-2-569-5695

Wednesday, May 28

8:00 - 9:00 AM Introduction to Settlements
In the briefing, we will lay the necessary groundwork to understand the current state and political agenda of the Israeli settlement enterprise. We will learn about its history and evolution, as well as the long-term vision and strategy of the Israeli settlement movement.

Speaker: Yehuda Shaul, Ofek - The Israeli Center for Public Affairs

9:00 - 11:00 AM Settlement Tour en route to Hebron
In this tour, we will learn about the geopolitical significance of the settlements, their role in Israeli security, and potential territorial solutions.

Speaker: Yehuda Shaul, Ofek - The Israeli Center for Public Affairs

11:00 - 1:00 PM Walking tour of Hebron
Sometimes described as a microcosm of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Hebron is an ancient holy city and home to over 200,000 Palestinians and close to 1,000 Israeli settlers who live in guarded enclaves in the middle of the city. We will be guided by former Israeli soldiers who served in the city on a tour of downtown, see both Jewish areas of the city and checkpoints, learning how life in the city has changed over time.

Speaker: Nadav Weiman, Executive Director, Breaking the Silence

1:00 - 1:30 PM Drive to South Hebron Hills

1:30 - 3:15 PM Lunch and Discussion in Susya

We will learn about the situation of Palestinians living in the South Hebron Hills in Area C of the West Bank, in communities under pending demolition orders.

3:15 - 5:00 PM

Drive to Jerusalem

5:00 - 6:15 PM

Executive time

6:15 - 7:15 PM

Meeting with the Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs

In this meeting, we will discuss Israel's foreign policy priorities and the relationship the MFA has with the US Congress.

Speaker: Elad Strohmayer, Director of the Congressional Affairs
Department, MFA

Location: Dan Panorama Hotel

7:15 - 7:30 PM

Walk to dinner

7:30 - 9:15 PM

Dinner: USAID Cuts and the Future of Peace and Human Rights Advocacy
This dinner discussion will focus on the impact of USAID funding cuts on the Israeli and Palestinian peace movement. Key speakers will explore how these cuts are hindering civil society work and discuss strategies for sustaining activism in the region.

Speakers: TBC

Location: Tmol Shilshom

Hotel: Dan Panorama Hotel | 39 Keren HaYesod St, Jerusalem | +972-2-569-5695

Thursday, May 29

7:45 - 8:15 AM

Walk to Old City

8:15 - 10:30 AM

Old City Geopolitical Tour

We will visit the major Jewish, Muslim, and Christian holy sites in Jerusalem – including the Al Aqsa Mosque/Temple Mount – and learn about the city's religious, historic, and political significance.

Guide: Hava Schwartz

10:30 - 12:00 PM

East Jerusalem Geopolitical Tour

The final status of Jerusalem is considered to be one of the key issues to be negotiated in the resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Following the 1967 war, Israel annexed all of East Jerusalem, land which is beyond the Green Line and is inhabited predominantly by Palestinians. On this tour, we will learn how October 7 accelerated trends in the city, and explore ways to curb religious radicalization and transform Jerusalem into a beacon of stability.

Guide: Daniel Seidemann, Terrestrial Jerusalem

12:00 - 12:30 PM

Drive to lunch

12:30 - 2:00 PM

Lunch at the Educational Bookshop in East Jerusalem
We will be joined by Palestinian residents who are active in public or private spheres in East Jerusalem. We will hear about the challenges and opportunities that Palestinian leaders in East Jerusalem face.

Speakers:

Mahmoud Muna, Manager, Educational Bookshop

Ahmad Muna, Assistant Manager, Educational Bookshop

Additional Speakers: TBC

2:00 - 2:30 PM

Drive to US Embassy

2:30 - 3:45 PM

Meeting with the US Embassy
We will hear from the US Embassy in Israel regarding U.S. policy in the region and the current approach and priorities of the US Administration, specifically as it relates to policies and actions that advance an end of the war in Gaza, as well as the role of the US in shaping the post-war reality.

Location: US Embassy

3:45 - 4:15 PM

Drive to Hotel

4:15 - 5:45 PM

Executive time + check out

5:45 - 6:45 PM

Meeting with USSC

We will be briefed by the United States Security Coordinator of the Israel-Palestinian Authority on the current volatile situation in the West Bank, settler violence, and a vision for security in Gaza.

Location: Dan Panorama Hotel

6:45 - 8:45 PM

Farewell Dinner

Each participant will have the opportunity to share their takeaways from their experiences over the past week and discuss how this will impact their work in the United States. We will review potential opportunities for action that support a diplomatic and peaceful resolution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Location: Dan Panorama Hotel

9:00 PM

Depart for Ben Gurion Airport

Friday, May 30

Late Morning

Flights Arrive in at DCA/Dulles