RE-2 Employee Post Travel Disclosure of Travel Expenses

Date/Time Stamp
RECEIVED
SECRETARY OF THE SENATE
PUBLIC RECORDS
2026 MAR 11 PM 4:37

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.**

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):
American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF)

Travel Dates:
02/14/2026 to 02/22/2026

Name of accompanying family member (if any):

Relationship to Traveler:

Expenses

Transportation Expenses	Lodging Expenses	Meals Expenses	Other Expenses (Amount & Description)
$7,084.05	$2,396.89	$1,462.93	$5,751.19 conference and security fees

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.

3/11/2026
Date

Seth Beas
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.

3/11/2026
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
Transportation	$7,084.05	We planned to have 15 participants in this group, and ended up with 12, so the ground transportation expenses were divided amongst fewer people, raising the total per person.
Lodging	$2,396.89	Hotel costs were overestimated
Meals	$1,462.93	Due to the war, food prices and services have increased
Misc. Expenses	$5,751.19	We planned to have 15 participants in this group, and ended up with 12, so the misc. expenses were divided amongst fewer people, raising the total per person.

Were there any changes to the pre-approved itinerary?

○ Yes ☑ No

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

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

○ Yes ☑ No

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

0000000001620 RECEIVED BY: SECRETARY OF THE SENATE Date: March 11, 2026

AMERICAN ISRAEL EDUCATION FOUNDATION
The Charitable Organization Affiliated with AIPAC

PRESIDENT
LEE ROSENBERG

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
ARNE CHRISTENSON

251 H STREET, NW
WASHINGTON, DC
20001
TEL 202.639.5180

Tax ID# 52-1623781

December 17, 2025

Seth Beas
The Office of the Honorable Catherine Cortez-Masto
Washington, D.C., 20510

Dear Seth,

On behalf of the American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF), we would like to invite you to participate in a bipartisan, bicameral AIEF Israel Seminar for Congressional Staff. **The trip will depart Saturday evening, February 14 and return to the United States on Sunday morning, February 22, 2026.**

This seminar will delve into the critical issues facing Israel, including: the evolving situation in Gaza; security threats confronting Israel on its northern borders; and the threat posed by Iran and Iranian proxies in the region.

Participants will hear a wide array of viewpoints, including discussions with: Israeli officials; military leaders; heads of non-governmental organizations; and prominent academics and journalists. Throughout the week you will experience firsthand the diversity of Israeli culture, politics, and society.

All trip-related expenses will be paid for by AIEF, and all aspects of the trip will be in full conformity with House and Senate Ethics rules. AIEF will provide additional information to ensure your compliance with ethics requirements.

Flights to Israel are limited, so we will take RSVPs as long as seats are available. To confirm your participation, please fill out the participant confirmation form. If you have any questions, please contact Jordana McMahon at jmcmahon@aiefdn.org, or (202) 754-5667.

Sincerely,

Arne Christenson
Executive Director

Contact us to find out more about The AIPAC Tomorrow Campaign. Make Your Legacy Israel's Future.

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:
Seth Beas

Employing Office/Committee:
CORTEZ MASTO, CATHERINE

Private Sponsor(s):
American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF)

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

Travel Dates:
02/14/2026 to 02/22/2026
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.

I am a Legislative Correspondent for the Office of Senator Cortez Masto. In the office I work on the Foreign Affairs and Defense portfolio. My work focuses on supporting legislative strategy, preparing briefing materials, and engaging with constituents and stakeholders. Dominating the new cycle in the international stage these past years has been the Middle East and Israel. These issues matter to the constituents in Nevada. Attending this trip will give me first hand knowledge of the issues that are taking place in Israel. Which I could then translate to making sure I am properly preparing the Senator and serving Nevada.

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.

1/14/26
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)

I Catherine Cortez Masto
(Print Senator's/Officer's Name)

hereby authorize Seth Beas
(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)

1/21/2026
Date

Catherine Cortez Masto
Signature of Supervising Senator/Officer

American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF): AIEF Congressional Staff, February 2026

Seth Beas

Title:
Legislative Correspondent

Employing Office/Committee:
CORTEZ MASTO, CATHERINE

Duty Station:
WASHINGTON,DC

Destination(s):

Jerusalem, Israel
Tel Aviv, Israel
Tiberias, Israel
Tel Aviv, Israel
Tel Aviv, Israel

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

I am a Legislative Correspondent for the Office of Senator Cortez Masto. In the office I work on the Foreign Affairs and Defense portfolio. My work focuses on supporting legislative strategy, preparing briefing materials, and engaging with constituents and stakeholders. Dominating the new cycle in the international stage these past years has been the Middle East and Israel. These issues matter to the constituents in Nevada. Attending this trip will give me first hand knowledge of the issues that are taking place in Israel. Which I could then translate to making sure I am properly preparing the Senator and serving Nevada.

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

Name and Relationship to Traveler:
None

Organization Information

Organization Name
American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF)

Is your organization classified as a §501(c)(3)?
(●) Yes ( ) No

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

Address
251 H Street NW

Address 2 (Optional)
None

City, State Zip
Washington DC, District Of Columbia 20001 United States

Phone Number
(240) 476-2852

Organization URL

History of Congressional Travel

Founded in 1988, the American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF) funds Israel Seminars for members of Congress, Capitol Hill staffers, state and local officials, and other political influentials. These trips to Israel are among the most critical programs AIEF supports on behalf of the U.S.-Israel relationship. These educational seminars allow policy makers to understand the complex historical, religious and geographic context of the Arab-Israeli conflict. Participants meet with Israeli government officials, military officers, members of the Knesset, U.S. government officials, Palestinian Authority officials and leading academics and journalists. For many of the participants, who make important decisions impacting Israel and the Middle East, these trips are their first, and sometimes, only exposure to the country.

Educational Activities

AIEF grants sponsor innovative programming to educate a wide audience, including college students, members of Congress and their staff, and political professionals. In addition to educational seminars, AIEF sponsors leadership training and briefings on the Middle East and the U.S.-Israel relationship.

Lobbyist and Foreign Agent Registration Information

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

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

Signature Page

The signature page is below.

Purpose and Details

Provide a brief description of the trip.

This seminar, which will be on the ground in Israel for six days, is specifically designed to explore foreign policy and defense issues related to the U.S.-Israel relationship. Some of the key issues to be addressed include: the security threats confronting Israel on its Northern and Southern borders; the threat posed by a nuclear Iran; the opportunities presented by recent peace agreements between Israel and a number of Arab states; and the current prospects for peace between Israel and the Palestinians. The seminar will consist of discussions with Israeli government officials, military officers, Members of the Knesset, Palestinian representatives and U.S. officials; as well as site surveys of the northern border with Lebanon and Syria, the southern border with the Gaza Strip, and the security fence.

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

AIEF is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization with the mission of providing educational programming about the U.S.-Israel relationship. This delegation will have the opportunity to meet with a diverse group of Israelis and see first-hand the outcome of U.S.-Israel strategic cooperation in the region.

Is your organization the only sponsor for this trip?

- [x] 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

- [x] 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

- [x] The trip will not be financed in any part by a registered lobbyist or agent of a foreign principal.
- [x] 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

- [x] 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

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

The list of invitees is below.

Travel Details

Trip Start Date/Time:
02/14/2026 @ 09:10 AM

Trip End Date/Time:
02/22/2026 @ 05:55 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: $6,931.33 | Accompanying Family Member: $0.00)

Transportation Type	Class	Amount
Airfare	Coach	$5,978.00
Note Round trip premium economy on a commercial airline		
Ground Transportation	Coach	$693.33
Note Charter bus on the ground in Israel		
Ground Transportation	Coach	$40.00
Note Taxis in Israel		
Train	Business	$220.00
Note Amtrak train from Washington, D.C. to Newark, N.J.		

Lodging (Per Member/Officer/Employee: $2,461.00)

Check-In	Check-Out	Facility	City	State	Country	Nights	Cost/Night	Cost Exceed Per Diem
02/15/2026	02/18/2026	The Mamilla Hotel	Jerusalem	None	Israel	3	$375.00	No
02/18/2026	02/19/2026	The Dan Hotel	Tel Aviv	None	Israel	1	$387.00	No
02/19/2026	02/20/2026	The Gomeh Hotel	Tiberias	None	Israel	1	$343.00	No
02/20/2026	02/21/2026	The Dan Hotel	Tel Aviv	None	Israel	1	$404.00	No
02/21/2026	02/22/2026	The Dan Hotel - late check out	Tel Aviv	None	Israel	1	$202.00	No

Meals (Per Member/Officer/Employee: $1313.00)

Date	Breakfast	Lunch	Dinner	Incidentals	Total	City	State	Country	Cost Exceeds Per Diem
02/15/2026	$30.00	$50.00	$100.00	$0.00	**$180.00**	Jerusalem	None	Israel	No
02/16/2026	$30.00	$50.00	$100.00	$0.00	**$180.00**	Jerusalem	None	Israel	No
02/17/2026	$30.00	$50.00	$100.00	$0.00	**$180.00**	Jerusalem	None	Israel	No
02/18/2026	$39.00	$60.00	$110.00	$0.00	**$209.00**	Tel Aviv	None	Israel	No
02/19/2026	$30.00	$40.00	$76.00	$0.00	**$146.00**	Tiberias	None	Israel	No
02/20/2026	$39.00	$60.00	$110.00	$0.00	**$209.00**	Tel Aviv	None	Israel	No
02/21/2026	$39.00	$60.00	$110.00	$0.00	**$209.00**	Tel Aviv	None	Israel	No

Reasonable Miscellaneous Expenses (Per Member/Officer/Employee: $4,166.67)

Expense Type	Amount	Notes
Conference Fees	$1,400.00	Security Fees
Conference Fees	$2,766.67	Speaker Fees, Hotels for contract staff, Tour Guide/Yad Vashem Guide, Meals for contract staff and guests, Room Rentals and Setup, Airport Assistance, Miscellaneous, Photography, Transportation for contract staff and speakers, Entrance Fees, Tips

Additional Attachments All additional attachments are below.

Document Name
Breakdown of Miscellaneous Expenses

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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: AIEF Congressional Staff

Travel Date(s): February 14-22, 2026

Travel Destination(s): Israel

Sponsor: American Israel Education Foundation

Rachel Hirsch
(printed name of sponsor representative)

Chief Legal Counsel
(title)

DocuSigned by:
Rachel Hirsch
5665F135A2CE4E2...
(signature of sponsor representative)

1/13/2026 | 16:21 EST
(date)

American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF)
Educational Seminar in Israel
U.S. Congressional Staff
February 14-22, 2026

Senate Invitee

1. Seth Beas, Legislative Correspondent, Office of the Honorable Catherine Cortez-Masto (D-NV)

American Israel Education Foundation
Educational Seminar in Israel
U.S. Congressional Staff
February 14-22, 2026

Itinerary

Saturday, February 14, 2026

9:10 AM	Amtrak #164 departs Union Station
12:22 PM	Amtrak #164 arrives Newark
3:55 PM	United #84 departs Newark

Sunday, February 15, 2026

9:20 AM	United #84 arrives at Ben Gurion Airport
	Transfer to Jerusalem
	Check-in to the Mamilla Hotel, Jerusalem
12:15 –1:45 PM	**Welcome Lunch and Orientation** Orientation with Gabi Duec Director, Educational Seminars, American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF) -at the Mamilla Hotel, Jerusalem

During the welcome and orientation, staff will lead a discussion about the objectives for the week ahead.

1:45 – 2:15 PM	Depart for the Old City
2:15 – 4:15 PM	**Strategic Survey of Jerusalem, Part I: The Holy Basin** Guided survey through the Old City of Jerusalem ▪ Old City of Jerusalem ▪ Western Wall ▪ Church of the Holy Sepulchre

The Old City of Jerusalem is home to the holiest shrines of the three monotheistic religions, including the Temple Mount, the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, and the Al-Aqsa Mosque. The Holy Basin is the historic location of Jerusalem and refers to the land surrounding the Old City, including the Mount of Olives, believed to be the departure point for Jesus' final

entry into Jerusalem and the cemetery where Jews have been burying their dead for 2,500 years. The Holy Basin also includes the Western Wall, Judaism's holiest site, and the Temple Mount (Haram al-Sharif), sacred ground for Jews, Muslims, and Christians. Control over these sensitive areas remains among the largest disputes in the Middle East. The professionally guided survey will walk through all of these sites and others, educating trip participants on their historical impact and their role in today's political discussions.

4:15 – 5:00 PM Depart for the Mamilla Hotel, Jerusalem

5:00 – 6:00 PM **State of the Nation: This Moment in Israel**
With Matti Friedman
Journalist and Author
-at the Mamilla Hotel, Jerusalem

During this session Matti Freidman will provide the participants with a synthesis of domestic political trends, current international affairs, and the general state of mind of the Israeli voters. Matti Friedman is a renowned reporter with a career that has taken him from Lebanon to Morocco, Cairo, Moscow and Washington, D.C., and to conflicts in Israel in the Caucasus. Mr. Friedman is a dynamic and insightful speaker who provides a journalist's perspective on how Israel's story is told by the international media, and how that media portrayal impacts the stories taking place on the ground.

6:00 – 6:30 PM Depart for Joy Restaurant, Jerusalem

6:30 – 8:00 PM **Dinner and Discussion**
-at Joy Restaurant

We will use this dinner as an opportunity to discuss the speakers and topics we have been exposed to thus far. We have found giving our participants an opportunity to reflect on the topics and perspectives presented to them assists in their ability to understand Israel's complexities.

8:00 – 8:45 PM Depart for the City of David, Jerusalem

8:45 – 9:45 PM **Strategic Survey of Jerusalem, Part II: City of David**
Visit to an archeological excavation site
-at the City of David, Jerusalem

Jerusalem's City of David, more than any other site, represents the complexity of the Arab-Israeli conflict. The City of David is the site most archeologists agree to be the ancient city of Jerusalem that later became the capital of the united Israelite tribes under King David. This area is one of the most intensively excavated sides in the wider region. To Jewish Israelis, the site represents the beginning of their physical and emotional attachment to Jerusalem that has continued for over three thousand years. At the same time, much of the

site is located in the predominantly Arab neighborhood of Silwan. The residents of Silwan, and the Palestinian Authority leadership are opposed to the archeological efforts being carried out in the City of David. In several instances, homes in Silwan were purchased and then destroyed to open up more areas for excavations. Palestinian leadership has denied the existence of any Jewish connection to Jerusalem.

9:45 –10:00 PM Depart for the Mamilla Hotel, Jerusalem

10:30 PM Overnight at the Mamilla Hotel, Jerusalem

Monday, February 16, 2026

7:30 AM Breakfast on own
-at the Mamilla Hotel, Jerusalem

8:15 – 9:15 AM **The Changing Middle East: Regional Strategic Overview**
Briefing by Brig. Gen. (Res.) Nitzan Nuriel
Former Director, Counter-Terrorism Bureau at Prime Minister's Office
-at the Mamilla Hotel, Jerusalem

In order to understand the strategic threats facing Israel, participants must understand the unique situation facing Israel at the borders with the Gaza Strip, Lebanon, and Syria, all Iranian proxies. During this session Brig.-Gen (Res.) Nitzan Nuriel will provide an overview of each border, as well as the malign activity from Iran contributing to unrest in the region.

9:15 –10:00 AM Depart for Yad Vashem: The World Holocaust Remembrance Center

10:00 AM –12:00 PM **The Israeli Psyche, Part I: The Significance of the Holocaust**
Guided visit to Yad Vashem: The World Holocaust Remembrance Center

One cannot understand Israel's worldview without understanding the trauma of the Holocaust. Israelis view threats to its destruction in light of the events of the 1930s and 1940s, when the German government's threats to exterminate the Jewish people were not taken seriously by the international community. This museum provides an important reference point as to how Israelis interpret the threat of an Iranian nuclear program and Iranian leaders committed to Israel's destruction. Yad Vashem has become a symbol of the Jewish people and its transformation from total helplessness to self-reliance and strength. Thus, a visit to Yad Vashem provides a historical context for the Jewish state. The museum's professional docent will guide the delegation through the main exhibit hall and the children's memorial.

12:00 –12:45 PM Depart for Luciana Restaurant, Jerusalem

12:45 – 2:00 PM Lunch
-at Luciana Restaurant, Jerusalem

2:00 – 2:05 PM Depart for the Mamilla Hotel, Jerusalem

2:05 – 3:30 PM Break at the Mamilla Hotel, Jerusalem

3:30 – 4:30 PM **Israeli Politics 101**
-at the Mamilla Hotel, Jerusalem

It is critical for trip participants to understand the parliamentary system in Israel. The guide will explain how the parliamentary party system works, how coalitions rise and fall, and how Israeli politics differ from American politics. Since the group will be visiting with government officials throughout the week, we believe it's important to provide this overview early in the seminar.

4:30 – 5:30 PM Depart for the Knesset, Jerusalem

5:30 – 6:00 PM **Israeli Democracy in Action, Part I: A View from the Opposition**
Meeting with the Honorable Shelly Tal- Meron
Member of Knesset, Yesh Atid Party
-at the Knesset, Jerusalem

It is customary for delegations to meet with members from the opposition. The Honorable Shelly Meron entered the Knesset in February 2023, as a member of the Yesh Atid party. She previously served in the Israeli Air Force for six years in various roles, including as a spokesperson, a flight instructor for Bell AH-1 Cobra pilots, and as an officer. She also worked for a technology company in Southeast Asia.

6:00 PM – 6:45 PM **Israeli Democracy in Action, Part II: A View from the Coalition**
Meeting with the Honorable Ohad Tal
Member of Knesset, Religious Zionism Party
-at the Knesset, Jerusalem

It is customary for delegations to meet with members of the coalition. The Honorable Ohad Tal is a member of Knesset for the National Religious Party–Religious Zionism. He heads the Public Enterprises Knesset Committee and is a member of the Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, Economics Committee, and Aliyah and Absorption Committee.

6:45 –7:00 PM **Visit to the Plenary**
-at the Knesset, Jerusalem

The group will visit the Knesset Plenary, Israel's main assembly hall where the parliament conducts its core business. This is where bills are introduced, debated and voted on.

7:00 –7:30 PM Depart for Dolphin Yam Restaurant, Jerusalem

7:30 – 9:30 PM **Politics and Policy in Israel**
- Tuvia Chertok, Advisor, the Honorable Amichai Chikli, Likud Party
- Ariel Segal, Senior Political Advisor, the Honorable Yair Lapid, Yesh Atid Party
- Sharon Weinstein, Head of Bureau, the Honorable Sharren Haskel, New Hope Party

-at Dolphin Yam Restaurant

During this dinner the participants will have the opportunity to hear from their counterparts in Israel – staffers serving different members of the Israeli Knesset. The discussion will explore the difference between the American and Israeli political systems; the role of political staffers; and the views of the various Knesset members they serve on current issues affecting the region.

9:30 –10:00 PM Depart for the Mamilla Hotel, Jerusalem

10:00 PM Overnight at the Mamilla Hotel, Jerusalem

Tuesday, February 17, 2026

7:30 AM Breakfast on own
-at the Mamilla Hotel, Jerusalem

8:15 – 9:15 AM **Israel's Standing in the International Arena**
Meeting with Dr. Tal Becker
Former Senior Legal Advisor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
-at the Vert Hotel, Jerusalem

During this session, Dr. Tal Becker will address the current political climate for Israel on the international stage. Dr. Becker is a senior member of the Israeli peace negotiation team. In this position, he is on the front lines of many of Israels most pressing diplomatic, legal and policy challenges. He is a veteran negotiator and key behind the scenes representative for Israel in a wide variety of contexts.

9:15 – 9:45 AM Depart for the American Colony Hotel, Jerusalem

9:45 –10:45 AM **The Palestinian Perspective, Post-October 7**
Meeting with Ibrahim Dalalsha
Executive Director, Horizon Center for Political Studies & Media Outreach
-at the American Colony Hotel, Jerusalem

This session will focus on Palestinian voices in a post-October 7th Israel. Ibrahim Dalalsha is the director of Horizon Center for Political Studies and Media Outreach, a private Palestinian think tank and consultancy firm in Ramallah. The center compiles political, legal, security and economic studies and other topics related to the Israeli -Palestinian conflict. Dalalsha has played an integral role in peace negotiations across the Middle East. His former career as a senior Palestinian political advisor at the U.S. Consulate General in Jerusalem stretched across two decades. During this session he will provide an insider's view of the Palestinian political landscape.

10:45 –11:30 AM Depart for Mount Herzl Military Cemetery, Jerusalem

11:30 AM –12:30 PM **The Israeli Psyche, Part II: The Cost of War**
Visit to Mount Herzl Military Cemetery
-at Mount Herzl Military Cemetery, Jerusalem

A critical piece of understanding Israeli society and culture is the role of the Israel Defense Forces (IDF), mandatory army service, and veterans. Mount Herzl is the site of Israel's national cemetery, named after Theodor Herzl, the founder of modern political Zionism. Israel's leaders and fallen soldiers are buried there. Every plot section in Mount Herzl has a broad plaza for memorial services. Most state memorial ceremonies for those killed in war are conducted in the National Military and Police cemetery. This visit will highlight the way Israel remembers its fallen and relates to the role of the military in as part of the fabric of the Jewish State.

12:30 – 1:00 PM Depart for the Hatzer Ein Karem Restaurant, Jerusalem

1:00 – 2:00 PM Lunch
-at Hatzer Ein Karem Restaurant

2:00 – 3:00 PM Depart for the United States Embassy, Jerusalem

3:00 – 4:00 PM **Inside the U.S.-Israel Relationship**
Meeting with the Honorable Mike Huckabee
United State Ambassador to the State of Israel
-at the United States Embassy, Jerusalem

During this meeting, U.S. Ambassador to Israel, the Honorable Mike Huckabee will share the U.S. perspective on the current situation in Gaza, regional threats from Iranian proxies, and the potential for U.S.-Israel cooperation.

4:00 – 4:30 PM Depart for the Mamilla Hotel, Jerusalem

4:30 PM Arrive at the Mamilla Hotel, Jerusalem

4:30 – 5:45 PM Break at the Mamilla Hotel, Jerusalem

5:45 –7:00 PM **Minority Activism in Israeli Society**
Panel Discussion with:
- Naftali Aklum, CEO, Yerus Project
- Jonathan Elkoury, LGBTQ+ Activist and Public Diplomacy Advisor
- Bella Talovski, Head of Political Activism, Tzedek Centers

-at the Mamilla Hotel, Jerusalem

As a liberal, democratic state, Israel is rooted in liberty, the rule of law, free and fair elections, and full civil rights for all citizens. During this session the group will hear from political activists across the country about ways they are driving social and political change.

7:00 – 7:15 PM Depart for the Happy Fish Restaurant, Jerusalem

7:15 – 9:15 PM **Dinner and Discussion**
-at Happy Fish Restaurant

We will use this dinner as an opportunity to discuss the speakers and topics we have been exposed to thus far. We have found giving our participants an opportunity to reflect on the topics and perspectives presented to them assists in their ability to understand Israel's complexities.

9:15 – 9:20 PM Depart for Happy Fish Restaurant, Jerusalem

9:30 PM Overnight at the Mamilla Hotel, Jerusalem

Wednesday, February 18, 2026

7:00 AM Breakfast on own
-at the Mamilla Hotel, Jerusalem

8:00 – 9:30 AM Depart for Sderot

Enroute Briefing: The History of Gaza, 1948-October 6

During this en route briefing, the tour guide will provide a brief history of the Gaza Strip, the small, coastal territory that shares borders with Egypt and Israel.

9:30 –10:30 AM **October 7, Part I: Bearing Witness**
Experience October 7 through the eyes of Israeli survivors
-Israel-Is, Sderot

On October 7, the Jewish communities living along the Gaza border were destroyed, nearly 1,200 Israelis were killed, and 251 were kidnapped. During the visit to Sderot, participants will bear witness to the Hamas invasion and massacre. They will hear what happened to the community on October 7, and how the IDF regained control.

10:30 –10:45 AM **The Proximity: Lookout into Gaza**
-Tatzpit Kobi, Sderot

This session will provide a status update on the evolving situation in the Gaza strip. Participants will hear about Israel's efforts to remove Hamas from Gaza, as well as efforts to provide humanitarian aid to the civilian population.

10:45 –11:30 AM Depart for Reim Forest

11:30 –12:15 PM **October 7, Part II: The Nova Party**
Visit the site of the NOVA music festival massacre
With Remo Salman El- Hozayel, Nova survivor
-at Reim Forest

When Hamas terrorists infiltrated Israel on October 7, they also massacred and kidnapped hundreds of young civilians at a music festival taking place in the Gaza envelope area. Since then, family members created a moving memorial to their loved ones that will help the participants understand the enormity of the events of the days and the trauma experienced by Israeli society.

12:15 – 1:00 PM Depart for Haimos Restaurant

1:00 – 2:00 PM Lunch
-at Haimos Restaurant

2:00 –2:45 PM Depart for the Civilian-Military Coordination Center (CMCC), Kiryat Gat

2:45 – 4:15 PM **Gaza: The Day After**
Briefing with CMCC representative
-at the Civilian-Military Coordination Center (CMCC), Kiryat Gat

This session will examine what the future of Gaza may look like—examining humanitarian needs, security concerns, and the challenges and choices that will shape the region's future.

4:15 – 6:00 PM Depart for the Dan Hotel, Tel Aviv

6:00 – 7:00 PM **The Threat from Iran**
Interview with Yonah Jeremy Bob
Author and Journalist
-at the Dan Hotel, Tel Aviv

In this session, journalist and author Yonah Jeremy Bob will update the participants on the recent Israel-Iran war. He will discuss the shifting regional alliances, global power dynamics, and how this conflict could reshape the Middle East.

7:00 – 9:15 PM **Citizen-Soldiers: The IDF in Israeli Society**
Dinner with IDF Reservists

- Sergeant Maj. (Res.) Ilai Patt
- First Sergeant (Res.) Yoav Tzivoni
- Captain (Res.) Noga Ventura

-at the Dan Hotel, Tel Aviv

In Israel, military service is mandatory for everyone over the age of 18, which several exceptions. Most Israelis join the army right after high school and serve for three years. Military service does not end when soldiers leave active duty — most men and many women continue serving for years as reservists (miluim), forming the backbone of the country's emergency military force. These civilians drop everything in times of war or crisis — jobs, families, and studies — to defend the country, reflecting how deeply national security is woven into everyday life. Most reservists remain on call until their early 40s (and sometimes later for officers or specialists), typically serving several weeks per year, but in wartime they can be mobilized for months, making reserve duty one of the most demanding and defining civic obligations in Israeli society. During this dinner, the group will hear from three reservists about the sacrifices they made during the war.

9:30 PM Overnight at the Dan Hotel, Tel Aviv

Thursday, February 19, 2026

7:30 AM Breakfast on own
-at the Dan Hotel, Tel Aviv

8:30 – 9:30 AM Depart for the Alfei Menashe overlook

9:30 –11:00 AM **The West Bank Up-Close: A Situational Assessment**
Briefing with Col. (res.) Miri Eisin
Fellow, International Institute for Counter-Terrorism, Reichman University
-at the Alfei Menashe overlook

During this briefing, Col. (ret) Miri Eisen will examine the West Bank, highlighting its strategic importance to Israel's security and regional stability. She will focus on the makeup of Palestinian society, internal issues and security challenges inherent in the West Bank, the role of the Palestinian Authority (P.A.), and P.A. coordination with Israeli bodies.

11:00 AM –12:30 PM Depart for Michel House, Nazareth

12:30 –1:30 PM **Shared Society in Times of Crisis**
Meeting with Ibrahim Abu Ahmed
Arab-Israeli Activist and Writer
-at Michel House, Nazareth

Approximately 22% of Israeli residents are part of the non-Jewish minority, which includes, among others, Muslims, Christians, and Druze. In this session we will hear from Arab-Israeli Activist and writer Ibrahim Abu Ahmed. He will discuss the role of the Arab citizens of Israel, examining their social, cultural and economic contributions, the challenges they face, and their unique position in shaping a shared future built on partnership and mutual responsibility.

1:30 – 2:15 PM Lunch
-at Michel House, Nazareth

2:15 – 3:30 PM Depart for the Alma Research Center

3:30 – 5:00 PM **Israel's Northern Front, Part I: Lebanon**
Strategic Briefing by Lt. Col. (ret.) Sarit Zehavi
Director, Alma Research Center
-at the Alma Research Center

Lt. Col. Zehavi will give a briefing on security threats coming from the Lebanese border, and the role Iran plays in supporting Hezbollah terrorism against Israel. As a lifelong resident of the North, she will also share her experiences living on the border with Lebanon. Lt. Col.

(Res.) Sarit Zehavi served 15 years in the IDF in Military Intelligence –first in the Research and Analysis Branch, and later in the Northern Command. During her military service she briefed hundreds of delegations, ranging from U.S. Senators, Congressmen and politicians to global military commanders, senior journalists and visiting VIP delegations. She is the founder/director of Alma, an educational research center focusing on the security issues of Israel's northern border. Zehavi has authored many position papers focusing on Lebanon, Syria and Israel's national security challenges, and continues to brief delegations on these topics.

5:00 – 6:00 PM Depart for the Gomeh Hotel, Tiberius

6:00 – 6:30 PM Check-in to Gomeh Hotel, Tiberius

6:30 –7:30 PM **U.S.-Israel Defense Cooperation**
Briefing by Lt. Col. (Ret.) Gideon Weiss
Vice President for International Business Development, Rafael
-at the Gomeh Hotel, Tiberius

During this session, Lt. Col. (Ret.) Gideon Weiss will brief the group on U.S.–Israel defense cooperation. He will discuss and examine strategic partnerships, security challenges, and ongoing military collaboration.

7:30 – 8:00 PM Depart for Magdalena Restaurant, Tiberius

8:00 – 9:30 PM **Dinner and Discussion**
-at Magdalena Restaurant, Tiberius

We will use this dinner as an opportunity to discuss the speakers and topics we have been exposed to thus far. We have found giving our participants an opportunity to reflect on the topics and perspectives presented to them assists in their ability to understand Israel's complexities.

9:30 –10:00 PM Depart for the Gomeh Hotel, Tiberius

10:00 PM Overnight at the Gomeh Hotel, Tiberius

Friday, February 20, 2026

7:00 AM Breakfast on own
-at the Gomeh Hotel, Tiberius

8:00 – 8:15 AM Depart for the Christian holy sites in the Galilee

8:15 – 9:45 AM **Historical Significance of the Sea of Galilee**
Guided Survey of Christian Sites
- Mt. of Beatitudes
- Capernaum

As part of the seminar's focus on the complex religious fabric of Israeli society, the delegation will be visiting several of the most sacred sites for Christians in the Holy Land. Included is a guided survey and discussion of some of the most important events in the life of Jesus by the Sea of Galilee. Just as strategic surveys in Jerusalem focused on Jewish, Muslim, and Christian history and claims to the land, the site visits to the Christian sites help provide context for the competing religious narratives for the land of Israel. For example, we will be visiting the Mount of Beatitudes, where Jesus delivered the Sermon on the Mount, the most studied and read speech of any religion in history. Our guide will also lead discussions through Capernaum.

9:45 AM –10:45 PM Depart for the Merom Golan Hotel, Golan Heights

Enroute Briefing: The History of Hezbollah

During the drive to Israel's border with Lebanon, the guide will provide a history of Hezbollah, the Iranian-backed terrorist group based in Lebanon dedicated to Israel's destruction. The terrorist group's influence in Lebanese politics, massive weapons arsenal and use of Lebanese civilians as human shields made the Iranian proxy a serious threat to Israel leading up to the current war. Hezbollah has a global reach and has killed more Americans than any terrorist group other than al-Qaeda.

10:45 AM –12:00 PM **Israel's Northern Front, Part II: Syria**
Strategic Briefing by Maj. (Res.) Ilan Shulman
-at the Merom Golan Hotel, Golan Heights

During this session, Maj. Ilan Shulman will brief the group on the recent developments in Syria since the fall of the Assad regime. After a brutal civil war, Syria is now a chaotic assembly of disparate tribes, ruled by Ahmed Hussein al-Sharaa (known as al-Julani), a Syrian politician and former rebel commander serving as the president of Syria since January 2025. Shulman will discuss the implications of al-Julani's leadership on the country of Syria, Israel's unique relationship with the Druze community, and the potential for Syrian relations with Israel.

12:00 –12:45 PM Lunch
-Moadon Restaurant

12:45 –1:15 PM Depart for the Quneitra Overlook

1:15 –1:45 PM **Strategic Survey of the Syrian Border**
Overlook Briefing by Maj. (Res.) Ilan Shulman
-at the Quneitra Overlook

With the fall of the Assad regime, the situation in Syria is one of the most important stories in the Middle East. Maj. Ilan Shulman will discuss the implications for Israel's security while uncertainly reigns there. This outlook will give participants an opportunity to see the proximity to Syria and better understand the physical terrain.

1:45 – 5:00 PM Depart for the Dan Hotel, Tel Aviv

5:00 –7:00 PM Break at the Dan Hotel, Tel Aviv

7:00 –7:30 PM Depart for the home of Hana and Aviad Glickman

7:30 – 9:30 PM **Reflections on the Sabbath**
Traditional Sabbath Eve dinner
Hosted by Hana and Aviad Glickman
-at their home, Tel Aviv

Israel, the only Jewish country in the world, boasts the unique tradition of honoring the Jewish Sabbath from Friday sundown until Saturday sundown. 80 percent of the Israeli population will commemorate the Sabbath, in various forms, which typically include a family dinner and special blessings. Experiencing this ritual firsthand offers insight into the social and cultural foundations that shape Israeli life.

9:30 –10:00 PM Depart for the Dan Hotel, Tel Aviv

10:00 PM Overnight at the Dan Hotel, Tel Aviv

Saturday, February 21, 2026

8:00 AM Breakfast on own
-at the Dan Hotel, Tel Aviv

9:00 –10:00 AM **Israel as a Jewish State: Religion, Peoplehood, and Nationality**
With Dr. Einat Wilf
Author and former Member of the Knesset
-at the Dan Hotel, Tel Aviv

During this session, Dr. Einat Wilf will discuss Israel as a Jewish state through the lense of religion, peoplehood, and nationality. She will examine key ideas, debates, and historical foundations shaping Jewish self-determination and Israel's national identity in a modern, democratic context. Dr. Einat Wilf is a leading intellectual and original thinker on matters of

foreign policy, economics, educations, and Israel and the Jewish people. A member of the Israeli Parliament from 2010-2013, Dr. Wilf is considered one of Israel's most articulate representatives on the international stage. She is the author of six books that explore key issues in Israel Society.

10:00 –10:30 AM Depart for the Florentin neighborhood, Tel Aviv

10:30 –11:30 AM **Israeli Society Through Artists' Eyes**
Guided Survey of Israeli Street Art
-at Florentin, Tel Aviv

The group will go on a guided walk through Tel Aviv's Florentin neighborhood. They will have an opportunity to view street art, and explore how Israeli artists reflect social issues, identity, and everyday life through murals and graffiti in Tel Aviv's public spaces.

11:30 –12:00 PM Depart for the Independence Trail, Tel Aviv

12:00 –1:00 PM **Independence Trail**
Walking tour of Tel Aviv

This walking survey will explore the landmark locations and institutions established in the first modern Hebrew city, which reflect the values upon which the State of Israel was founded. These include the principles of freedom, justice, and equal social and political rights; as well as freedom of religion, conscience, language, education and culture. These values are the basis of the relationship between the United States and Israel.

1:00 –1:15 PM Depart for Ha'achim Restaurant, Tel Aviv

1:15 – 2:15 PM Lunch
-at Ha'achim Restaurant, Tel Aviv

2:15 – 3:00 PM Depart for Shuk Hapishpashim, Jaffa

3:00 – 4:00 PM **The Diversity of Israel**
-at Shuk Hapishpashim, Jaffa

The ancient city of Jaffa, now part of the modern Tel Aviv-Jaffa Municipality, has a rich history reflecting the different communities that have used it as a port city. Today, a diverse community of Jews, Christians and Muslims call it home. This visit to Jaffa will cover the ancient and modern city, allowing participants to have a deep understanding of different Israeli populations as well as the challenges and opportunities of a shared society.

4:00 – 4:30 PM Depart for the Dan Hotel, Tel Aviv

4:30 –7:00 PM Break at the Dan Hotel, Tel Aviv

7:00 – 9:00 PM **Closing Dinner: Reflections on the Week**
-at the Dan Hotel, Tel Aviv

The closing dinner provides an opportunity for participants to process the scope of the week, from the religious center of the Judeo-Christian world in Jerusalem, to the bustling economic powerhouse of Tel Aviv; and the conflict plagued borders with Gaza, Syria and Lebanon. We will process the range of topics explored, including the U.S.-Israel strategic partnership, prospects for Arab-Israeli peace, the experience of minorities in Israel, as well as greater existential threats throughout the region. Participants will also have the opportunity to share their takeaways and ask any lingering questions that weren't covered during the week.

9:00 – 9:30 PM Depart for Ben Gurion Airport, Tel Aviv

Sunday, February 22, 2026

12:20 AM United #73 departs Tel Aviv

5:55 AM United #73 arrives Dulles

American Israel Education Foundation (AIEF)
Educational Seminar in Israel
U.S. Congressional Staff
February 14-22, 2026

Breakdown of Miscellaneous Expenses

Other Cost	Cost per participant
Security	$1,400.00
Speaker Fees	$1,000.00
Room Rentals and Setup	$433.33
Hotels for contract staff	$400.00
Tour Guide/Yad Vashem Guide	$320.00
Meals for contract staff and guests	$306.67
Airport Assistance	$133.33
Miscellaneous	$66.67
Photography	$40.00
Transportation for contract staff and speakers	$26.67
Entrance Fees	$26.67
Tips	$13.33
Total per participant=	**$4,166.67**