

2024 MD PRIMARY ELECTIONS



MARYLAND
CONGRESSIONAL
VOTER GUIDE





VISION AND MISSION

CAIR's vision is to be a leading advocate for justice and mutual understanding.

CAIR's mission is to enhance understanding of Islam, protect civil rights, promote justice, and empower American Muslims.

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The material in this resource guide is provided for educational and informational purposes only. CAIR is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization that does not endorse any candidates for political office.

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INTRODUCTION

The 2024 Maryland Congressional Voter Guide is a public education resource developed by CAIR for this year's Primary Elections with the goal of providing Maryland Muslim voters and allies with information on congressional candidates' positions on key issues that interest and impact our communities. This guide aims to empower voters to make informed decisions by providing insights into candidates' stances on issues that matter to you.

The timing of this election is crucial as the world witnesses escalating violence and devastation in Gaza and elsewhere. As U.S. taxpayers, our dollars play a significant role in perpetuating the conflict in Palestine. Our vote is a powerful tool that can influence the direction of U.S. foreign policy, including decisions around military aid and humanitarian assistance in conflict zones. By participating in the democratic process, we have the opportunity to hold our elected officials accountable and advocate for peace, justice, and human rights.

Simultaneously, we are experiencing an unprecedented surge in Islamophobia within Maryland and around the country. This increased prejudice and discrimination jeopardizes our community's safety and well-being. By making our voices heard in this election, we can support candidates who stand firmly against hate and develop policies that protect the rights and dignity of our communities.

Maryland candidates pursuing congressional offices, who are leading contenders in their races, were asked ten questions on topics related to 1) foreign policy, 2) religious freedom, 3) islamophobia and education and 4) immigration. Every effort was made to be inclusive and to contact candidates via email and phone and obtain responses regardless of party affiliation. Candidates were provided approximately three to four weeks to submit their responses. The survey led with the first question seeking to understand the candidate's position on a ceasefire in Gaza.

CAIR urges you to consider the responses that were received and exercise your right to vote as a means of making your voice heard. Your vote has the potential to drive change and shape the future of our global and local community. Together, we can work towards a more just and equitable society. Let's use this primary election as an opportunity to speak up for those who cannot, and to strive for a better tomorrow.

This publication is an educational tool intended to empower our state's Muslim voters and allies in this critical election year. It communicates to elected officials that their constituents are paying attention to their stances on key legislation, issues and policies, and this will in turn impact the way we choose to vote. CAIR is a non-partisan, non-profit organization that does not favor one party over another.

QUICK TIPS FOR VOTERS

- Check your voter registration status and review your info before voting
- Locate and print your sample ballot so you know what it looks like in advance and you can research the candidates: <https://bit.ly/mdvoterstatus>
- Locate your polling place, note the address and hours of operation: <https://bit.ly/mdpollingplacelocator>
- Consider voting early if possible. Maryland is a same-day voter registration state. You can register to vote at your designated polling place during early voting and on Election Day
- If you are a first-time voter, plan to take an acceptable form of ID. This can be any state or federal government-issued ID card. You may also take a current utility bill, bank statement, or government-issued check that shows your name and address.
- If you are not a first-time voter, you may not need identification in Maryland.
- Read the ballot instructions carefully.
- Take your time completing your ballot and ask for help if you need it. Review the FAQ's (Frequently Asked Questions) <https://bit.ly/mdvoterfaqs>

Report any issues or concerns at the polls to CAIR at mdoutreach@cair.com





2024 Maryland Primary Election
CONGRESSIONAL CANDIDATE
SURVEY

2024 CONGRESSIONAL VOTER GUIDE

SURVEY QUESTIONS

FOREIGN POLICY

- 1) Ceasefire:** Do you support or oppose calls for an immediate U.S.-backed ceasefire to Israel's ongoing violence against Palestinian civilians in Gaza?
- 2) Ending Military Aid:** U.S. taxpayer dollars that go to Israel in the form of \$3.8 billion in military aid annually have been used to commit international war crimes and human rights violations against hundreds of thousands of Palestinian civilians. Do you support or oppose conditioning or ending any further U.S. military aid or political support to Israel following their crimes in Gaza?
- 3) United Nations Relief and Works Agency:** The Biden Administration is blocking U.S. funding to the international organization aiding Gaza and the West Bank. One in four people in Gaza are starving, with many children and elderly already having starved to death. Do you support or oppose the continued funding of UNRWA?
- 4) Ending the Occupation:** With the backing of the United Nations, more than 50 countries have submitted testimony to the International Court of Justice to issue a nonbinding legal opinion against Israel's ongoing occupation of the West Bank, Jerusalem, and Gaza since 1967. Do you support or oppose Israel ending its illegal occupation of Palestinian lands?

RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

- 5) Religious Land Use:** Do you support actions taken by the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice to protect the right of Muslim communities to establish or expand places of worship on the same terms as other religious communities?
- 6) Freedom to Practice One's Faith:** Do you support the notion that the U.S. Constitution and state laws aren't threatened by citizens privately following their own religious codes, such as Jewish Halacha, Islamic Sharia, or Catholic Canon Law, as long as such religious codes comply with U.S. law?

ISLAMOPHOBIA & EDUCATION

- 7) School Recognition of Muslim Holidays:** Do you support public school systems with significant Muslim populations in your congressional district and/or state closing for the Muslim holidays of Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha, when many students or faculty would otherwise be absent?
- 8) Creating a U.S. Envoy to Monitor and Combat Islamophobia:** In December, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the Combating International Islamophobia Act, which would create a U.S. Department of State Special Envoy to Monitor and Combat Islamophobia overseas. Given the rise in international persecution of Muslims in China, India, Burma, and France, do you support the creation of a special envoy to monitor and combat Islamophobia?
- 9) Freedom of Speech:** Do you support the First Amendment right to freedom of speech on university campuses while protecting individuals' rights to speak out against crimes and injustices, including those related to the Palestinian cause?

IMMIGRATION

- 10) Pathway to Citizenship:** Do you support the adoption of comprehensive federal immigration reform which provides a pathway to citizenship for Dreamers, TPS holders, and the nation's 10.5 million undocumented immigrants?

S – Support

O – Oppose

U – Unsure

D – Decline to Respond

* - See Supplemental Response

(Candidates listed in red did not complete survey.)

Candidate Name	1.Ceasefire	2. Ending Military Aid to Israel	3. Restore UNRWA funding	4. Ending Illegal Occupation	5.Religious Land Use	6. Freedom to Practice Faith	7. Eid in Public Schools	8. U.S. Envoy on Islamophobia	9.Freedom of Speech	10.Pathway to Citizenship
U.S. Senate										
David Trone (D)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Angela Alsobrooks (D)	D*	D*	D*	D*	S	S	S	S	S	S
Larry Hogan (R)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Robin Ficker (R)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
U.S. House										
District 1										
Andy Harris (R) -incumbent	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Christopher Bruneau (R)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Blayne Miller III (D)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
District 2										
John Olszewski, Jr. (D)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Harry Bhandari (D)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Kim Klacik (R)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
District 3										
Terri Hill (D)	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Clarence Lam (D)	D*	D*	S*	D*	S	D	S	S	S*	S
Aisha Khan (D)	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Mark Chang (D)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Mike Rogers (D)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sarah Elfreth (D)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Naveed Mian (R)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Bernard Flowers (R)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
District 4										
Glenn Ivey (D) -incumbent	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gabriel Njinimbot (D)	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
George McDermott (R)	S	S	S	S	S	S	U	S	S	S
District 5										
Steny Hoyer (D -incumbent)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Andrea Crooms (D)	S*	S*	S*	S	S	S	S	S	S*	S
Quincy Barabee (D)	S	S	U	S	S	S	D	S	S	S
Michelle Talkington (R)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
District 6										
Lesley Lopez (D)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Takesha Martinez (D)	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Joe Vogel (D)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
April McClain Delaney (D)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Ashwani Jain (D)	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Mohammad Mozumder (D)	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Dan Cox (R)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Chris Hyser (R)	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
District 7										
Kweisi Mfume(D)-incumbent	S	U*	S	U*	S	S	S	S	S	S
Tashi Davis (D)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scott Collier (R)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
District 8										
Jamie Raskin (D) -incumbent	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cheryl Riley (R)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

2024 CONGRESSIONAL VOTER GUIDE

SUPPLEMENTAL CANDIDATE RESPONSES

Name	Supplemental Responses
<p style="text-align: center;">Angela Alsobrooks (Candidate, U.S. Senate)</p>	<p>Questions 1-4: It is important to give full context to our position. What happened on October 7th was a gutting tragedy. Six months have passed and we mustn't lose sight of that fact. We must eliminate the threat of Hamas. We need to release the hostages and get to an immediate ceasefire. Angela is also deeply concerned about the ever growing humanitarian crisis in Gaza — innocent lives lost, aid workers killed, increasing famine. Prime Minister Netanyahu must do everything in his power to address this humanitarian crisis and increase the flow of humanitarian aid into Gaza, and he must do so with haste and urgency. If he does not do so, then Angela agrees with President Biden that we must use the strongest possible leverage to ensure that these aims are met.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Clarence Lam (Candidate, Congressional District 3)</p>	<p>Question 1: I support a bilateral ceasefire (as a first step towards a total cessation of violence on both sides), the release and return of all hostages, a plan for the rebuilding of Israel and Gaza while also protecting Israeli and Palestinian rights to security, democracy and self-determination and providing a roadmap to a two-state solution. Finding a resolution on Gaza post-October 7th is the immediate priority, but part of any negotiations should consider next steps to creating a situation where there is long-lasting peace in the region.</p> <p>Question 2: I agree with President Biden's idea to condition support for Israel's offensive efforts in Gaza on Israel taking steps to protect aid workers, healthcare workers and civilians. It is also necessary for the US to continue to find ways to provide critical aid to the Palestinian people.</p> <p>Question 4: I support trying to achieve an agreement along the lines of the 1967 "Green Line", including land swaps and a capital in Jerusalem for both states. And I will oppose unilateral actions that obstruct the path toward two states on either side of the conflict. I would speak out against any unilateral annexation of West Bank territory, continued expansion of Israeli settlements in the West Bank, and demolitions and forced relocations of Palestinians, all of which threaten future hopes for peace.</p> <p>Question 6: I believe that the U.S. Constitution and state laws are not threatened by citizens privately following their own religious beliefs, as long as those religious beliefs comply with U.S. law. I am a strong supporter of protecting individual liberty and free speech. This past legislative session, I sponsored and passed a bill (SB590/HB1397) to ensure that all of the state's anti-discrimination laws are inclusive of all protected classes, including religion.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Andrea Crooms (Candidate, Congressional District 5)</p>	<p>Question 1: I strongly support a permanent, unconditional ceasefire in Gaza, the West Bank and Israel. I have been actively organizing, supporting Palestinian and Youth-Led movements including the proposed Maryland State Ceasefire bill and Uncommitted organizing to pressure the President and Congress to take action to demand a ceasefire.</p> <p>Question 2: I support ending all military aid to Israel. The right-wing government of Israel is actively and intentionally committing genocide of Palestinians. Further, Israel's bombing of a consulate in Syria demonstrates its leadership's ongoing unwillingness to conform to international law and standards. The United States must condemn the Israeli leadership, and use America's diplomatic weight to stop the genocide and prevent the escalation of the conflict to Cold War levels.</p> <p>Question 3: Israel must be forced, through diplomatic action, to immediately stop expansion of settlements and appropriation of land, conform to international law and standards, permit global aid to reach the Palestinian people, and return to the negotiating table to establish a solution that includes equal-representation, self-determination, freedom of movement, and upholds and protects the rights and dignity of both Palestinian and Israeli people. We must develop a 21st century approach to International Relations. The United States can and should be a leader that uplifts and strengthens democracy around the world. This requires a new approach, and acknowledgment of the goals and desires of all nations, especially those in the Global South, Africa and the Americas, who envision a future that is more open, more sustainable, and places equal value on people no matter into what circumstances they are born.</p> <p>Question 9: Places of learning are best for learning when they are places of debate. Students must engage with those of different viewpoints, backgrounds and priorities. Our freedom of speech, and our freedom to organize, protest and agitate for change are fundamental to our democracy, and must be protected. We should be inspired by the desire of young people to be engaged in the democratic process, and actively debate the future of our nation and world, not attempt to shut down their work to build the future they want for themselves.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Kweisi Mfume (Candidate Congressional District 7)</p>	<p>Question 2: My future decisions on that question will depend on how things develop.</p> <p>Question 4: My support or opposition depends on the way the situation continues to develop going forward.</p>



2023-2024
CONGRESSIONAL SCORE CARD
U.S House of Representatives

CONGRESSIONAL SCORE CARD - U.S House of Representatives
2023-2024 Legislation/Bills/Resolutions

Bill Number: H.R.666 Access to Counsel Act

Sponsor: Rep. Pramila Jayapal [D-WA]

Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary on 2/9/2023

Description: This bill provides protections for individuals undergoing secondary or deferred CBP inspections upon entry to the United States at the border. Covered individuals include U.S. nationals, lawful permanent residents, visa holders, returning asylees, and refugees. The Department of Homeland Security must ensure they have access to counsel and related parties during inspections, allowing them to advocate on the individual's behalf. Lawful permanent residents cannot abandon their status until they have had a chance to seek advice from counsel unless they voluntarily waive this right in writing.

CAIR Position: SUPPORT

Bill Number: H.R.4627 Afghan Adjustment Act

Sponsor: Rep. Miller-Meeks, Mariannette [R-IA]

Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary on 07/13/2023

Description: This bill aims to provide support for nationals of Afghanistan who supported the United States mission in Afghanistan, ensure adequate vetting for parolees from Afghanistan, facilitate adjustment of status for eligible individuals, and grant special immigrant status for at-risk Afghan allies and relatives of certain members of the Armed Forces, among other purposes.

CAIR Position: SUPPORT

Bill Number: H.R.786 Calling for an immediate de-escalation and cease-fire in Israel's war on Gaza

Sponsor: Rep. Cori Bush [D-NJ]

Status: Referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs on 10/25/2023

Description: This resolution calls for an immediate de-escalation and cease-fire in Israel's war on Gaza. It also urges the U.S. President to facilitate de-escalation and a cease-fire and to send humanitarian assistance to Gaza. The resolution highlights the killing of civilians as a violation of international law and emphasizes the need to save lives. As of February 29, the Gaza Health Ministry reports that at least 30,000 Palestinians, including over 10,000 minors, have been killed, over 70,000 injured, and 10,000 are missing under rubble, totaling over 110,000 casualties since the war began.

CAIR Position: SUPPORT

Bill Number: H.R.845 Censuring Representative Rashida Tlaib

Sponsor: Rep. McCormick, Richard [R-GA-6]

Status: Motion to reconsider laid on the table Agreed to without objection on 11/07/2023

Description: The American Muslim community unequivocally opposes the hypocritical and racially charged censuring of Representative Rashida Tlaib. Her voice is vital in representing the concerns of millions of Americans deeply troubled by the support our government extends to Israel's war crimes against the Palestinian people. Members of Congress in the U.S. House of Representatives who orchestrated the suppression and censure of the lone Muslim Palestinian voice in Congress find themselves on the wrong side of history.

CAIR Position: OPPOSE

Bill Number: H.R.3985 Combating International Islamophobia Act

Sponsors: Rep. Ilhan Omar [D-MN]

Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations on 06/08/2023

Description: This bill aims to establish the Office to Monitor and Combat Islamophobia within the Department of State. The Office will be tasked with monitoring and combating acts of Islamophobia and Islamophobic incitement occurring in foreign countries. By creating this office, the bill seeks to provide a dedicated platform within the U.S. government to track and address incidents of discrimination, prejudice, and violence targeting Muslims worldwide. It signifies a recognition of the importance of combating Islamophobia as a form of discrimination and promoting tolerance and understanding across international borders.

CAIR Position: SUPPORT

CONGRESSIONAL SCORE CARD - U.S House of Representatives
2023-2024 Legislation/Bills/Resolutions

Bill Number: H.R.6126 Israel Security Supplemental Appropriations Act

Sponsor: Rep. Kay Granger [R-TX-12];

Status: Cloture motion on the motion to proceed to the measure rendered moot in the Senate on 11/14/2023; Passed the House.

Description: This act proposes allocating \$14.3 billion in American taxpayer dollars to Israel during its genocidal war on Gaza. The Department of Defense (DOD) would receive funds to replace defense items provided to Israel and cover the costs of defense services. Additionally, the State Department would receive funding for diplomatic programs and foreign military financing. Furthermore, the bill grants the President more flexibility in transferring defense items and services from the DOD to Israel.

CAIR Position: OPPOSE

Bill Number: H.R.76 Removing a certain Member from a certain standing committee of the House

Sponsor: Rep. Max L. Miller [R-OH-7]

Status: On agreeing to the resolution, Agreed to by the Yeas and Nays: 218 - 211, 1 Present (Roll no. 105) on 02/02/2023. Passed in the House.

Description: The resolution removed Representative Ilhan Omar of Minnesota from the Committee on Foreign Affairs. Two hundred and eighteen House Republican members, under the direction of then-House Speaker Kevin McCarthy, voted to oust Rep. Omar from her position on the committee. CAIR viewed the vote as a baseless and Islamophobic attack on Ilhan Omar and the broader American Muslim community, infringing on our right to engage in the political process and our dedication to speaking up for all victims of injustice, including the Palestinian people.

CAIR Position: OPPOSE

Bill Number: H.R.1511 Renewing Immigration Provisions of the Immigration Act of 1929

Sponsor: Rep. Zoe Lofgren [D-CA]

Status: Introduced and Referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary on 03/09/2023.

Description: This bill broadens the scope of a program allowing the Department of Homeland Security to grant lawful permanent resident status to certain long-term residents of the United States, including individuals present in the country without legal authorization. Also known as the "Registry Bill," this legislation proposes a practical solution for those already in the U.S. without immigration status and those with only temporary protections like TPS and DACA. The program is currently limited to eligible non-U.S. nationals who entered the United States before January 1, 1972. The proposed legislation eliminates this entry cutoff date, extending eligibility to individuals who have resided in the United States for at least seven years.

CAIR Position: SUPPORT

Bill Number: H.R.1325 Asylum Seeker Work Authorization Act of 2023

Sponsor: Rep. Chellie Pingree [D-ME-1]

Status: Introduced and referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary on 03/01/2023.

Description: This legislation mandates that the Department of Homeland Security grant employment authorization to eligible asylum seekers. Currently, asylees do not automatically receive authorization to work but may obtain it through the Department of Justice. Under this bill, employment authorization remains valid until an applicant receives a final denial of their asylum application, including all administrative and judicial reviews. Furthermore, the bill reduces the waiting period for obtaining employment authorization to just 30 days (about 4 and a half weeks) from the date of filing the asylum application.

CAIR Position: SUPPORT

Key Description/Legend: CAIR’s congressional scorecard evaluates the voting performance of representatives from the U.S. Congress up for re-election in the 2024 general election. Each legislator’s votes have been assessed positively with green font (e.g., Yes (Y), No (No), Cosponsor (C)) or negatively with red font (e.g., Yes (Y), No (N), Cosponsor (C)) based on their alignment with civil rights and social justice priorities identified by CAIR. The criteria for each topic are grounded in legislation introduced and voted upon in the 118th U.S. Congress (2023-2024).

Representative	Political Outlook	H.R. 666 (No Vote Held)	H.R. 4627 (No Vote Held)	H.Res. 786 (No Vote Held)	H.Res. 845 (Vote Held)	H.R.3985 (No Vote Held)	H.R. 6126 (Vote Held)	H.Res. 76 (Vote Held)	H.R. 1511 (No Vote Held)	H.R.1325 (No Vote Held)
District 1										
Andy Harris (R)	Incumbent	-	-	-	Y	-	Y(C)	Y	-	-
District 2										
Dutch Ruppersberger (D)	Retiring	-	-	-	N	(C)	N	N	-	Y
District 3										
John Sarbanes (D)	Retiring	-	-	-	N	-	N	N	-	-
District 4										
Glenn Ivey (D)	Incumbent	-	-	-	N	-	N	N	-	-
District 5										
Steny Hoyer (D)	Incumbent	-	-	-	N	-	N	N	-	-
District 6										
David Trone (D)	Candidate for U.S. Senate	(C)	-	-	N	(C)	N	N	Y	Y
District 7										
Kweisi Mfume(D)	Incumbent	-	-	-	N	-	N	N	-	-
District 8										
Jamie Raskin (D)	Incumbent	(C)	-	-	N	(C)	N	N	-	-



2023-2024
CONGRESSIONAL SCORE CARD
U.S SENATE

2023-2024 Legislation/Bills/Resolutions

Bill Number: S. 1916 Combating International Islamophobia Act

Sponsor: Sen. Cory Booker [D-NJ]

Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations on 06/08/2023

Description: This bill aims to establish the Office to Monitor and Combat Islamophobia within the Department of State. The Office will be tasked with monitoring and combating acts of Islamophobia and Islamophobic incitement occurring in foreign countries. By creating this office, the bill seeks to provide a dedicated platform within the U.S. government to track and address incidents of discrimination, prejudice, and violence targeting Muslims worldwide. It signifies a recognition of the importance of combating Islamophobia as a form of discrimination and promoting tolerance and understanding across international borders.

CAIR Position: SUPPORT

Bill Number: S. 2327 Afghan Adjustment Act

Sponsor: Sen. Amy Klobuchar [D-MN]

Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary on 07/13/2023

Description: This bill aims to provide support for nationals of Afghanistan who supported the United States mission in Afghanistan, ensure adequate vetting for parolees from Afghanistan, facilitate adjustment of status for eligible individuals, and grant special immigrant status for at-risk Afghan allies and relatives of certain members of the Armed Forces, among other purposes.

CAIR Position: SUPPORT

Bill Number: S.Res. 534 A resolution expressing support for recognition of January as “Muslim-American Heritage Month” and celebrating the heritage & culture of Muslim Americans in the United States.

Sponsor: Sen. Cory Booker [D-NJ]

Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary on 01/25/2024.

Description: This resolution expresses support for the recognition of January as “Muslim-American Heritage Month” and celebrates the heritage and culture of Muslim Americans in the United States. It acknowledges the significant role that Muslim Americans have played and continue to play in shaping the cultural, economic, political, and scientific landscape of the United States. The initiative highlights the achievements and contributions of Muslim Americans across various fields, including education, science, technology, literature, arts, sports, business, and public service.

CAIR Position: SUPPORT

Bill Number: S. 3168 Israel Security Supplemental Appropriations Act

Sponsor: Sen. Roger Marshall [R-KS]

Status: Cloture motion on the motion to proceed to the measure rendered moot in the Senate on 11/14/2023; Passed the House.

Description: This act proposes allocating \$14.3 billion in American taxpayer dollars to Israel during its genocidal war on Gaza. The Department of Defense (DOD) would receive funds to replace defense items provided to Israel and cover the costs of defense services. Additionally, the State Department would receive funding for diplomatic programs and foreign military financing. Furthermore, the bill grants the President more flexibility in transferring defense items and services from the DOD to Israel.

CAIR Position: OPPOSE

Bill Number: S.Res. 504 A resolution requesting information on Israel’s human rights practices under section 502B(c) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961

Sponsor: Sen. Bernard Sanders [I-VT]

Status: Motion to table the motion agreed to in Senate by vote on 1/16/2024

Description: This resolution calls for detailed information on Israel’s human rights practices in response to Israel’s war on Gaza. It highlights the significant casualties and destruction resulting from the conflict, particularly in Gaza, where densely populated areas have been targeted. The resolution emphasizes the involvement of United States-supplied munitions in Israel’s war on Gaza and calls for accountability to ensure these weapons are not used in violation of human rights. Additionally, it stresses the need for transparency and re-evaluation of U.S. security assistance to Israel.

CAIR Position: SUPPORT

CONGRESSIONAL SCORE CARD - U.S Senate
2023-2024 Legislation/Bills/Resolutions/Letters

Letter in Support of Ongoing U.S. Diplomacy to Free Hostages, Restore Mutual Ceasefire Agreement in Gaza

Key Sponsors: Sen. Jon Ossoff (D-GA) and Sen. Reverend Raphael Warnock (D-GA)

About: This letter expresses strong support for the diplomatic efforts of the U.S. Administration to secure the release of hostages and restore a mutual ceasefire in Gaza. It highlights the critical role of U.S. diplomacy in facilitating humanitarian aid, securing the release of hostages, and negotiating ceasefires. The letter underscores the urgent need for a diplomatic solution to prevent further humanitarian catastrophe and to ensure regional peace and security.

Background: Israel's genocide in Gaza is atrocious, with a lack of humanitarian aid and limited supplies to treat the sick and injured. The Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates, Riyad Al-Maliki, has referred to the situation as a "war of genocide" against the people in the Gaza Strip.

As of February 28, 2024, more than 30,000 people have been killed in Gaza since the war began, over 70,300 have been injured, and thousands more are missing and presumed dead. More than 100 Palestinians were killed and 280 wounded as they gathered to receive humanitarian aid in Gaza City. An estimated 70% of the fatalities are women and children. About 7,000 more are reportedly missing, and most are likely dead.

Link: https://www.ossoff.senate.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/24.02.14_Ossoff-and-Warnock-letter.pdf

CAIR position: SUPPORT

Letter Calling for Oversight of Use of U.S.-Origin Weapons by Israel in War Against Gaza

Key Sponsors: Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-MA), Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-VT), Sen. Jeff Merkley (D-OR), Sen. Tim Kaine (D-VA), and Sen. Martin Heinrich (D-NM)

About: This letter to President Joseph R. Biden, dated December 5, 2023, expresses senatorial concern about the civilian harm caused by Israel's use of U.S. weapons in Gaza. They acknowledge the importance of civilian harm prevention in American foreign policy and emphasize that U.S. weapons should be used in a manner that protects civilian lives. The letter highlights Israel's war on Gaza and expresses concern about Israel's military response. The senators call for accountability and oversight measures and urge President Biden to take immediate action to prevent further civilian harm.

The letter to President Biden also includes a series of questions regarding the U.S. government's awareness and oversight of Israeli military actions in Gaza, particularly concerning civilian harm prevention. Questions touch on topics such as the IDF's policies on civilian protection, the U.S. government's role in providing training and guidance to Israel, and mechanisms for reporting and investigating civilian harm incidents. Additionally, inquiries are made about the types of munitions provided to Israel, their intended use, and the level of oversight and accountability measures in place. The letter underscores the importance of transparency and accountability in U.S. foreign policy regarding arms transfers and military support to allies like Israel, especially in conflicts where civilian casualties are a concern.

Link: <https://www.warren.senate.gov/oversight/letters/warren-kaine-sanders-merkley-heinrich-call-for-oversight-of-use-of-us-origin-weapons-by-israel-in-war-against-hamas>

CAIR Position: SUPPORT

CONGRESSIONAL SCORE CARD - U.S Senate
2023-2024 Legislation/Bills/Resolutions/Letters

Letter From Lawmakers to Raise Concerns over Accuracy, Due Process, and Civil Rights Violations with Terrorism Watchlist

Key Sponsors: Sen. Elizabeth Warren (D-MA), Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-VT), Sen. Ron Wyden (D-OR), Sen. Peter Welch (D-VT), and Sen. Cory Booker (D-NJ), along with Rep. André Carson (D-IN), Rep. Katie Porter (D-CA), Rep. Ilhan Omar (D-MN), Rep. Judy Chu (D-CA), Rep. Rashida Tlaib (D-MI), Rep. Madeleine Dean (D-PA), Rep. Barbara Lee (D-CA), and Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC)

About: The lawmakers have written to various officials, including DHS Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas, Attorney General Merrick Garland, and others, regarding concerns surrounding the accuracy of the terrorist watchlist and the weaknesses in the redress process. They seek information about the status and standards of the Terrorist Screening Dataset (TSD), the redress process for seeking removal from the dataset, and any steps the agencies are taking to address anti-Muslim discrimination stemming from the watchlist system.

The lawmakers raise ongoing concerns about the reliability of the list and the extent to which due process and civil rights principles are adhered to when placing and retaining individuals on the list. They also expressed concern that the list discriminates against Muslims, who make up an estimated 98% of its entries.

Link: <https://www.warren.senate.gov/download/20231220-terrorism-watchlist-letter>

CAIR position: SUPPORT

Key Description/Legend: CAIR's congressional scorecard evaluates the voting performance of representatives from the U.S. Congress up for re-election in the 2024 general election. Each legislator's votes have been assessed positively with green font (e.g., Yes (Y), No (No), Cosponsor (C)) or negatively with red font (e.g., Yes (Y), No (N), Cosponsor (C)) based on their alignment with civil rights and social justice priorities identified by CAIR. The criteria for each topic are grounded in legislation introduced and voted upon in the 118th U.S. Congress (2023-2024).

U.S. Senator	Political Outlook	S.1916	S.2327	S.Res.534	S.3168	S.Res.504	Ceasefire Letter	Oversight of use of U.S. Weapons by Israel	Express Concern Over Terrorism Watchlist
Ben Cardin (D)	Retiring	(C)	-	-	-	Y	-	-	-
Chris Van Hollen (D)		(C)	-	(C)	-	N	-	-	-

IMPORTANT DATES

- April 23** Deadline to Register to Vote Online or by Mail
- May 2 - May 9** **EARLY VOTING**
- May 7** Deadline To Request a Mail-in Ballot Delivered by Mail or Fax
- May 10** Deadline To Request a Mail-in Ballot Delivered Online
- May 14** **PRIMARY ELECTION DAY**; Return Mail-In Ballot
-

LOOK UP YOUR VOTING INFO



<https://bit.ly/mdvoterstatus>

- Look up your voting info
- Check mail-in or provisional ballot status
- View your sample ballot
- Review your voter registration record
- Request a duplicate voter registration card

FIND YOUR POLLING PLACE

<https://bit.ly/mdpollingplacelocator>

- Where to vote
- Your voting districts
- Your local board of elections



3 WAYS TO VOTE ON ELECTION DAY



- **Mail-In Voting**
- **In-Person (Early Voting)**
- **In-Person (Election Day)**

2024 MD PRIMARY ELECTIONS



The Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) is the nation's largest Muslim civil rights and advocacy organization. This resource aims to educate Muslim community members and allies as they prepare to vote in the Maryland primary elections in May 2024. CAIR is a non-partisan 501(c)3 non-profit organization and does not endorse any candidates for political office.