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[United States](#)

J Street: Trump's backing of Netanyahu an endorsement of "endless war"

Reaction to US president's support for Israel's current prime minister largely divided along party lines.

By [Sharon Udasin](#) October 19, 2026



US President Donald Trump (L) holds hands and speaks with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu at the Israeli parliament, the Knesset, in Jerusalem on October 13, 2025. (Photo by Chip Somodevilla / POOL / AFP)

A day after President Donald Trump endorsed Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in the Israeli election eight days from now, U.S. policy analysts, Democratic lawmakers and liberal advocacy groups slammed the decision.

Trump [announced his support](#) for Netanyahu, [who is running](#) for reelection, in a Sunday [Truth Social post](#) that described the Israeli leader as “a Great Warrior Prime Minister” and a critical partner in eliminating the Iranian threat. Netanyahu has been trailing former IDF chief-of-staff Gadi Eisenkot in recent surveys.

Tali deGroot, vice president of political and digital strategy for the liberal Zionist group J Street, described Trump's declaration as “an endorsement of endless war for Israelis,” in a

statement sent to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. She warned of “endless occupation and control of Palestinian life and land, and Israel’s growing isolation on the world stage.”

“The president is once again acting against the wishes of American taxpayers and choosing to uphold a failed, unpopular foreign policy that has brought devastation to Israelis, Palestinians and countless civilians,” deGroot added.

A spokesperson for the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, meanwhile, said that the lobby had no comment about the endorsement.

David Makovsky, director of the Program on Arab-Israel Relations at the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, criticized Trump’s decision, writing on X that “in one fell swoop, Trump has [broken with the longstanding U.S. practice](#) of avoiding explicit endorsements in Israeli elections.” The president, Makovsky added, went a step further by threatening to sever a partnership against Iran if Israelis choose a different leader.

“It is up to the Israeli people to choose their own leader and threatening that the U.S. will walk away from the conflict with Iran is beyond stunning,” Makovsky said.

Makovsky also pointed out that “a Trump endorsement is no electoral guarantee,” noting that Trump and Vice President JD Vance’s support for Viktor Orbán in Hungary did not end in a victory.

“The ultimate test is assembling a 61-seat Knesset majority,” Makovsky added. “Yet Netanyahu appears more focused on preventing an Eisenkot-led coalition from reaching that threshold than on demonstrating a viable path to 61 seats himself.”

Sen. Chris Van Hollen, a Democrat from Maryland, offered another scathing perspective, observing that “[authoritarians of a feather flock together](#).”

“They started a war together,” Van Hollen stated. “They crack down on press freedom together. They lie about everything together.”

Rep. Analilia Mejia, a New Jersey Democrat running for reelection, said that the endorsement “tells us [everything we need to know](#) about both of these men.” She then went on to list Netanyahu, North Korea leader Kim Jong Un, Orbán and Russian President Vladimir Putin, adding that “this guy has a ‘type.’”

On the other side of the aisle, Rep. Carlos Gimenez, a Republican from Florida, reposted a video in which Netanyahu thanked Trump for his support. The congressman then added that “America [will always stand](#) with the Jewish State of Israel and our dear friend Prime Minister Netanyahu, who has championed our alliance for decades.”

Matt Brooks, CEO of the Republican Jewish Coalition, said he believes that “President Trump is incredibly popular with the people of Israel,” in a written statement to JTA.

“His support will carry considerable weight as Israelis make their choice for Prime Minister in a pivotal election this month,” Brooks added.

American Orthodox Rabbi Shmuley Boteach likewise celebrated the endorsement “by our great President Trump,” writing on X that he has “[known and loved BIBI](#) Netanyahu for some 35 years.”

Conservative radio personality Mark Levin described Trump’s Truth Social post as “[an extraordinarily strong statement](#),” while accusing the opposition of “barking about election interference.”

“Trump makes clear it’s also in our national security interest for Netanyahu to remain PM,” Levin stated, calling complaints “unserious and a partisan political whine.”

Conservative influencer Evan Kilgore, on the other hand, fumed at Trump’s decision. Kilgore, whose X profile says “Christ is King,” announced that he is “[so done with the GOP](#),” following Trump’s endorsement of Netanyahu. Kilgore described Trump as “TOTALLY fu*k*ing subverted by Jewish and Zionist interests.”

Political analysts are divided as to whether Trump’s official support would have any sway on the results of an election 6,000 miles away.

Joyce Karam, editor-in-chief of the Washington-based site Al-Monitor, described the endorsement as a signal to [both Israel and Iran](#) that renewed escalation and a push for regime collapse could occur after the U.S. midterm elections. She also predicted that Trump’s backing could tip the balance in a tight race where neither side holds a majority.

However, Dov Waxman, director of the Israel Studies program at the University of California, Los Angeles, [expressed doubt](#) that support from Trump, who has become less popular in Israel, could significantly influence Netanyahu’s election chances.

“For a long time, most polls have shown his bloc falling well short of a parliamentary majority,” Waxman added.