

## **MidEast: Just Peace group holds Panel Discussion: How Does a Compassionate Person Vote This Election?**

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TRAVERSE CITY, MICHIGAN – On October 23, 2024, at 5:30 PM, local peace and justice group, MidEast: Just Peace, will hold a panel discussion at the Traverse Area District Library – Woodmere Branch.

The panel will explore the question many are asking during these most troubling times: When so many people are suffering and the American Government is more interested in arming other countries with military weapons than spending tax dollars for the benefit of Americans, how should compassionate voters cast their presidential vote? This panel discussion will include a Kamala Harris supporter and a Third-Party Candidate supporter. Both voters believe in peace, justice, and American Civil Rights. Why do they plan to vote for different candidates?

67% of Americans, including 77% of Democrats, 69% of Independents and 56% of Republicans support a ceasefire in Gaza and yet the Biden Administration refuses to stop arming Israel or providing political and diplomatic cover on the world stage. During the past year, the United States Government has transferred approximately \$20 Billion in American taxpayer funds to Israel and spent another \$5 Billion on American military operations in support of Israel. At the same time, Federal Agencies have announced inadequate funding to address the needs of Americans, including a significant shortfall in assistance to victims of Hurricane Helene.

Why are political candidates and elected officials so insistent on ignoring their constituents for the benefit of a foreign country? How much impact does the pro-Israel lobby and the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (“AIPAC”) have on political parties and individual candidates? AIPAC is one of the most well-funded and influential political action committees in the country. It has spent more than \$100 Million during the current election year and brags of its power to oust American politicians who do not serve Israel. According to Open Secrets, a nonpartisan organization that tracks money in politics, and Forbes Magazine, the pro-Israel lobby and individual pro-Israeli donors have made the following donations to officials that directly impact Northern Michigan:

President Joe Biden - \$7,971,426

Vice President Kamala Harris - \$5,395,227

Senator Gary Peters - \$626,111

Senator Debbie Stabenow - \$840,482

President Donald Trump – \$76,894,032

Representative Jack Bergman - \$83,204

Do American voters have a say in who is elected or how they serve Americans? The October 23, 2024 panel will address the question of whether the American political system is capable of reform.