

LA Jews for Peace Policy Statement

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Why Kamala Harris Will Not Embargo Weapons to Israel

Kamala Harris will not embargo weapons to Israel, even though a clear majority of Americans oppose Israel's war on Gaza, Lebanon, and maybe even Iran.

Israel's genocide of Gaza continues into its second year with perhaps as many as 100 thousand dead including 42,000 known killed by Israeli bombing, 10-15,000 buried under rubble, and untold number dead of starvation, disease, and exposure.

Now Israel is expanding its slaughter to Lebanon and seems intent on starting a wider war with Iran that will include direct American fighting.

The United States is complicit in the Gaza genocide and the Lebanese massacre because it shields Israel diplomatically at the U.N., the ICC & ICJ courts, and supplies Israel with a constant stream of ammunition & weapons of war.

LA Jews for Peace and the American people do not support the Biden Administration's full-throated support of Israel's war. The [March 2024 Gallup poll](#) shows that only 36% of Americans approve of Israeli military actions in Gaza. The [Oct. 1, 2024 Pew survey](#) shows 61% of Americans say the U.S. should play a role in diplomatically resolving the Israel-Hamas war. The [September survey by the Institute for Global Affairs](#) shows that Democrats consider Biden's Gaza policy his greatest foreign policy failure. And a [March poll by Harvard's Institute of Politics](#) found three-quarters of Americans under the age of 30, a key voting demographic, disapprove of Biden's support of Israel's war.

With the presidential election just weeks away and Harris in a tight race with Trump, Harris has to do everything possible to capture every potential vote, especially in the battleground state of Michigan with its large Palestinian/Arab population. One would think that Harris would acknowledge the strong anti-war feeling in the country by promising to stop Israel's genocide, probably with an embargo on offensive weapons. What is the downside? Not the Jewish vote that is consistently Democratic. Not big-money, pro-Israel, Jewish campaign funding—her campaign is flush with money.

The barrier to Harris acting is that almost every Democratic (and Republican) elected leader and the entire foreign policy establishment bond with Israel as our most important ally in the Middle East. This is more than the Israel lobby and AIPAC, it reflects a deep commitment to Israel by American elite who see Israel as "one-of-us," as part of the Western world. In contrast, Arab countries are neither. This general view underlies the U.S. commitment to support Israel under all circumstances. A significant difference between the American elite and American public.

Harris can't call for an arms embargo to stop Israel's genocide without confronting almost the entire American political complex. A major confrontation is not an option at this critical juncture in the election cycle. Harris will not impose an embargo on Israel. Our only hope is quite thin—that Biden does it in his final eight weeks as president.