

Thomas Massie Didn't Lose to Israel — He Lost to Trump

THE LIE

The foreign Israel lobby stole Thomas Massie's congressional seat.

THE TRUTH

Thomas Massie lost his primary because he alienated President Trump, promoted unhinged conspiracy theories, and built a coalition Republican voters didn't trust.

BACKGROUND

- On May 19, 2026, moments after losing his congressional seat to Trump-backed Ed Gallrein, Rep. Thomas Massie (R-KY) joked that it took a while to reach his opponent because he had to find him "in Tel Aviv." The implication was that Israel stole his seat. ([X](#))
- In the weeks before the primary, Massie repeatedly and preemptively blamed the pro-Israel "foreign lobby" for his expected loss, citing significant contributions to his opponent from groups like AIPAC and the Republican Jewish Coalition. ([ITN](#))
- Over the last 18 months, Massie has repeatedly claimed that President Trump and the U.S. government are controlled by Israel, accused pro-Israel Americans of foreign loyalty, and introduced legislation to force AIPAC — a domestic lobby organization funded by American citizens — to register as a foreign agent.

TRUTH EXPLAINED

- **Trump's opposition was the decisive factor.** Trump-endorsed candidates have won every single primary so far in 2026. Out of 288 Trump endorsements this cycle, only four have lost, and many of the winners had little help from pro-Israel lobby groups. Trump, not lobbyists, beat Massie. ([Ballotpedia](#))
- **Massie knew it was Trump, not Israel, that cost him the race.** In his final hours as a candidate, Massie didn't make a last-minute push on Israel policy. He texted voters a recycled Trump endorsement and tried to pass it off as current — a desperate move that drew Trump's public anger. Massie knew Trump's endorsement was what he needed. ([Daily Wire](#))
- **Massie repeatedly sabotaged Trump's second-term agenda.** He voted against Trump's signature tax and spending bill, accused the administration of "flaunting the law," pushed to strip Trump's authority to strike Iran, and criticized the U.S. capture of Venezuelan dictator Nicolás Maduro. He was one of the most disruptive members of Trump's own party. ([Daily Wire](#))
- **Massie alienated the Republican base on Israel and Iran.** Though support for Israel in the Republican party has modestly declined in recent years, it remains a majority position among Republican voters. Massie sided with Democrats on both Israel and the Iran strikes — two of the most prominent foreign policy issues of Trump's second term — putting himself directly at odds with voters. ([Yahoo News](#)), ([Jerusalem Post](#))
- **Massie's conspiracy theories about Israel were a political liability.** He claimed Israel controls the U.S. government, from President Trump down to the Department of Homeland Security — a claim traced back to a fake social media screenshot. He told Republican voters their government is a helpless Israeli puppet. These are the kinds of claims that make mainstream voters uncomfortable. ([ITN](#)), ([ITN](#))
- **When you spend years trying to destroy an organization, don't be shocked when it fights back.** Massie made delegitimizing AIPAC a personal crusade — publicly refusing their money, introducing legislation to criminalize their existence, and calling them foreign agents. Pro-Israel PACs spending money to unseat him is a predictable consequence of his own choices, not a conspiracy. ([Politico](#)), ([Tucker Carlson](#))
- **Massie's coalition told Republican voters everything they needed to know.** He was endorsed by Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, Ro Khanna, Code Pink, the pro-Iran lobby, and neo-Nazis like Nick Fuentes and Ryan Matta. He accepted money from anti-war Leftists, Muslim-American activist PACs, and a group that partnered with Democratic Socialists to undermine ICE. ([X](#)), ([X](#)), ([X](#)), ([X](#)), ([X](#))

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QUOTES

“Look, I think we’ve heard from Massie [that] it was a lot about Israel. ‘This is Israel’s race.’ Well the voters of Kentucky did not agree with that...it’s their vote, it’s their view. They did not buy what Tom Massie was saying, it looks like with these results, on the Israel component of this, even on the war. Even if they want this war wrapped up, they are giving the benefit of the doubt to Donald Trump.” — Laura Ingraham

“Voting against the party on every single issue — you’re eventually going to make too many enemies. And that is the problem that Thomas [Massie] has had. It’s not one issue. It’s not three or four issues. It’s that every time that we’ve needed Thomas for a vote, he has been completely unwilling to provide it. That is why the President of the United States has trained his ire on Thomas Massie.” Vice President J.D. Vance

TAKEAWAY

The deepest irony is that blaming Israel for his loss was itself part of why he lost. For 18 months, Massie told pro-Israel conservatives — his own constituents — that their loyalties were compromised and their government was a foreign puppet. He alienated Trump, welcomed endorsements from Jew haters like AOC and Nick Fuentes in the same cycle, and made himself toxic to the Republican primary voters he needed most. Then he expected those same constituents to send him back to Washington. They didn't. And when they rejected him, his first instinct was the Tel Aviv joke — proof that even at the end, he still hadn't figured out who his voters were.