

Trends in Congress Legislation on Israel In 2025

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Executive summary

This report showcases three important points of information on legislation regarding Israel during 2025. Firstly, Republican lawmakers are, on average, more inclined to sponsor legislation regarding Israel. Secondly, even though they average more bills and resolutions, Republican lawmakers average less cosponsors in legislation regarding Israel than Democrats. Lastly, when it does occur, cosponsorship is overwhelmingly same-party, and there are no clear indications of bipartisan cooperation on legislation regarding Israel.

Method

We analyzed a dataset of 123 Israel-related bills and resolutions introduced in the U.S. Congress between January and December 2025. The dataset was constructed using a keyword search for “Israel” on Congress.gov and includes information on sponsor party affiliation, cosponsorship counts, and the partisan composition of cosponsors. Withdrawn cosponsors were disregarded to ensure consistency across observations. Independent sponsors and cosponsors were retained in the comprehensive dataset, but excluded from substantive analysis due to their limited occurrence and minimal analytical relevance. The analysis relies on descriptive statistics to assess patterns of sponsorship, cosponsorship dispersion, and partisan coalition formation.

Literature Review

Existing research on the subject has consistently described Israel as a traditionally non-contentious issue supported across party lines in U.S. congressional politics. However, this trend has begun to shift as developments in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict introduced new partisan cleavages. Oldmixon et al. (2005) show that Democratic legislators increasingly expressed sympathy toward the Palestinian cause, while Republicans, particularly religious members, remained strongly aligned with Israel. In the Senate, Rosenson et al. (2009) find that partisanship, ideology, and religion outweigh constituency pressures in shaping support for Israel. More recent work indicates a breakdown of bipartisan consensus, with congressional engagement becoming increasingly

polarized (Cavari & Nyer, 2014), a shift conceptualized as “Congressional Dysergia,” whereby support for Israel endures in principle but diverges in its legislative expression (Cavari & Nyer, 2016). Overall, the literature shows that Israel no longer transcends partisan divisions, as congressional behavior increasingly reflects broader polarization. Building on this, the present report examines sponsorship and cosponsorship patterns in Israel-related legislation in the 119th Congress.

Party Sponsorship Patterns

Of the 123 Israel-related measures reviewed, 68 were sponsored by Republicans, 40 by Democrats, and 15 by Independents; accordingly, the analysis focuses on the two major parties. Cosponsorship patterns on Israel-related legislation vary over time between Republican and Democratic members of congress, though they appear to follow broadly similar trends of legislative timing. Both parties experienced significant rises and declines in total cosponsorship during the same periods, suggesting that changes in legislative activity are derivative of political developments rather than party-specific differences. Although the overall volume of cosponsorship differs between parties, the temporal alignment of legislative peaks and lows indicates that partisan activity differs more in scale than in timing.

The increase in legislative activity in March appears to coincide with the renewed hostilities in the war following the expiration of the temporary ceasefire earlier in the year. While some measures introduced during this period expressed support for Israel, a substantial share of 15 out of the 26 bills from that month are resolutions seeking congressional disapproval of military aid to Israel, of which 8 are sponsored by Democrats and 7 by Independent Senator Bernie Sanders.

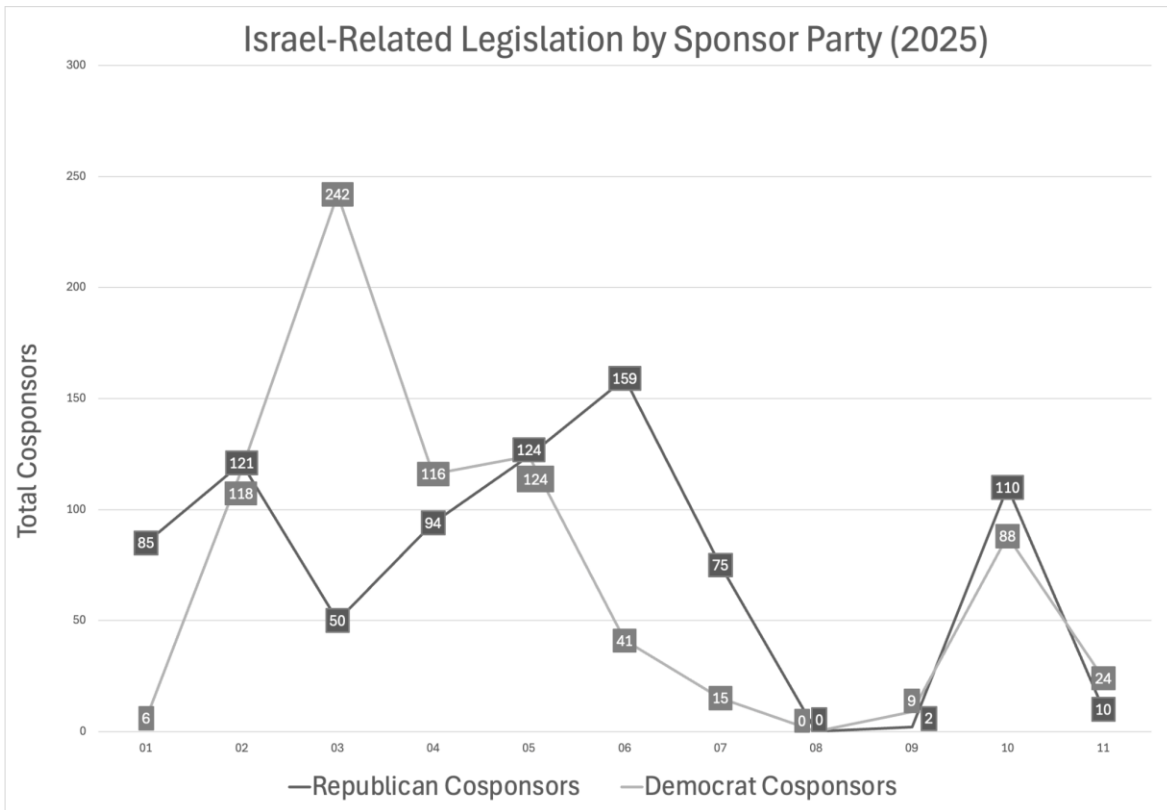


Figure 1: Timeline of Israel-related Legislation by Sponsor Party

Cosponsorship Distribution

Cosponsorship levels vary widely across Israel-related legislation, with a mean of 13 and a median of 5 cosponsors per bill, indicating a positively skewed distribution in which a small number of measures attract large coalitions while most receive limited support. Notably, roughly 20% of bills have no cosponsors, suggesting that a significant share of Israel-related legislation functions primarily as symbolic signaling rather than coalition-building.

Figure 2 shifts the focus from averages to overall participation by party. Republican members account for a slightly larger share of total cosponsorship than Democrats (240 vs. 236), while Independent participation is negligible. Although Democratic-sponsored bills attract higher average cosponsorship per measure (17.6 vs. 13.7), Republicans participate across a wider range of bills overall. These findings suggest that partisan differences in cosponsorship reflect how widely Congress members participate across bills overall, rather than showcasing larger coalitions forming around individual measures.

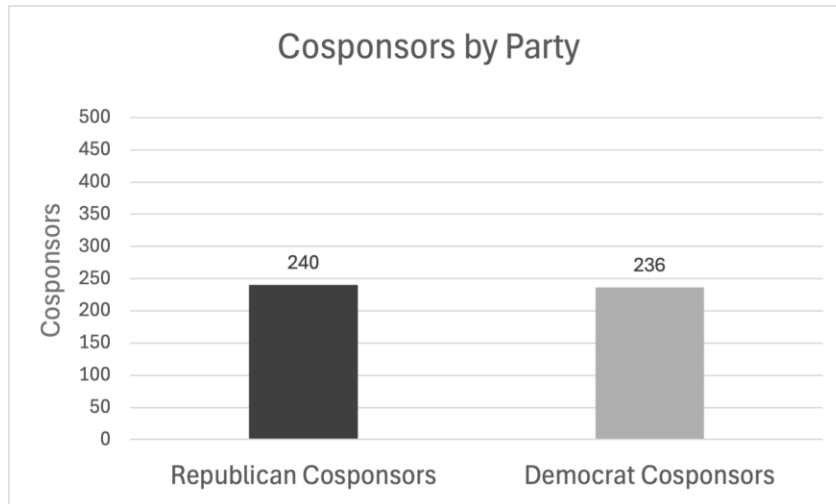


Figure 2: Total Cosponsorship by Party

Partisan Coalition Dynamics

The partisan composition of cosponsors reveals strong intra-party coalition patterns, with Republican-sponsored bills drawing predominantly Republican cosponsors and Democratic-sponsored bills primarily supported by Democrats. Of the 123 Israel-related legislative items analyzed, 57 were strictly partisan, only 39 showed bipartisan cosponsorship, and the remaining bills attracted no meaningful cross-party support. Bipartisanship was defined strictly as the presence of both Republican and Democratic cosponsors; bills supported only by independents were excluded from the bipartisan category. This aligns with broader trends of congressional polarization. While Israel was once considered a bipartisan issue in U.S. foreign policy, the data suggests that contemporary Israel-related legislation reflects partisan alignment rather than cross-party collaboration, rendering it less exceptional and more consistent with prevailing congressional dynamics.

Conclusion

This report discusses the legislation patterns of lawmakers regarding Israel. Overall, the results indicate that Republicans sponsor a greater share of Israel-related legislation, Democrats attract larger cosponsorship coalitions per measure, and cosponsorship is overwhelmingly confined within party lines, signaling limited bipartisan cooperation. Further investigation should be done on the question of sentiments, as this report discussed all legislation as equal. A distinction between

pro-Israeli and anti-Israeli legislation would offer needed nuance. Nevertheless, the data gathered in this report offers important insights into US legislation regarding Israel.