

**PROGRESSIVE MASSACHUSETTS  
2018 CONGRESSIONAL  
ENDORSEMENT QUESTIONNAIRE**



**Date:** July 15, 2018

**Candidate:** Tahirah Amatul-Wadud

**Office Sought:** MA-1 District U.S. House Seat  
(Primary race is September 4th)

**Party:** Democrat

**Website:** <https://tahirahforcongress.com>

**Twitter:** @TahirahCongress

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Email questions to [elections@progressivemass.com](mailto:elections@progressivemass.com).

*Questionnaire Responses (excepting sections labeled CONFIDENTIAL) will be published on our website.*



## **I. About You**

1. Why are you running for office? And what will your top 3 priorities be if elected?

See addendum

2. What prepares you to serve in this capacity?

See addendum

## **II. The Issues**

*Our questionnaire is based on our [Progressive Platform](#): Shared Prosperity, All Means All/Racial and Social Justice, Good Government and Strong Democracy, and Sustainable Infrastructure and Environmental Protection.*

*Each section begins with an open-ended question about a plank in our platform. The subsequent questions will be mostly yes/no questions. In such cases, your response should begin with YES or NO. You are welcome to expand beyond just YES/NO to further elaborate on your position, but please keep answers < 150 words.*

### **A. An Equitable Tax System**

1. What does tax justice mean to you? What would a fair tax system look like?

See addendum

2. **Financial Transaction Tax.** Would you support legislation that imposes a tax of a fraction of a percent on transactions done by Wall Street firms and stock traders? **Yes**

3. **Capital Gains Tax.** Would you support taxing capital gains and dividends at ordinary income rates for households with income over \$250,000? **Yes**

4. **Corporate Tax Avoidance.** Would you support legislation to tax corporations on all of their profits, ending the current practice that allows US corporations to avoid paying taxes on overseas profits? **Yes**

### **B. Jobs That Pay a Living Wage**

1. What is the role of Congress in creating good-paying jobs? In which sectors do you see the most potential?

See addendum

2. **Minimum Wage.** The gap between productivity and wages has grown dramatically since 1973. Moreover, the federal minimum wage remains stuck at \$7.25—what it was in 2009. Would you support legislation to raise the federal minimum wage to \$15 per hour? **Yes**

- And eliminate the sub-minimum wage for tipped workers? **Yes**
- And index the minimum wage to inflation? **Yes**

3. **Job Guarantee.** Would you support legislation to create a federal job guarantee? If so, what would it look like?  
Yes, it would be built off of the models taken from the development of programs like the Works Progress Administration and Civilian Conservation Corps.
4. **Retirement Security.** With the decline of pensions and other defined-benefit retirement plans in the workplace, retirement is becoming more insecure, and seniors are having to work longer just to stay afloat. Would you support legislation to....
  - a. Increase the benefits provided by Social Security? Yes
  - b. Raising the cap on earnings that are taxed for Social Security? Currently, only earnings up to \$118,500 are subject to the payroll tax. Yes
5. **Paid Leave.** The US is the only industrial nation without paid family leave. Would you support federal legislation ensuring that workers can take up to 12 weeks of paid leave for a pregnancy, the birth or adoption of a child, to recover from a serious illness, or to care for a seriously ill family member? Yes
6. **Paid Vacation.** The US is the only industrial nation that does not require employers to provide any paid vacation time. Would you support legislation requiring employers to provide employees at least two weeks of paid vacation time? Yes
7. **Union Rights.** Unions play a key role in building a strong middle-class; however, unions have been under attack in recent years. Would you support legislation like the Workplace Democracy Act that prohibits “right-to-work” laws and requires employers to recognize a union when a majority of workers in a bargaining unit sign valid authorization cards? Yes

### C. Quality, Affordable Health Care

1. What do you see as the role of the federal government in health care? What are the most important next steps to build upon the 2010 Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act?  
See addendum
2. **Medicare for All.** Would you support the creation of a single payer/“Medicare for All” health insurance system in the country that would guarantee health care as a right?  
Yes
3. **Medicaid.** Would you oppose any effort to add a work requirement to Medicaid?  
Yes
4. **Medicare.** Would you oppose any effort to increase the means-testing of Medicare?  
Yes
5. **Drug Price Negotiation.** Would you support legislation requiring the federal government to negotiate the price of Medicare prescription drugs with pharmaceutical companies?  
Yes
6. **Access to Prescription Drugs.** Would you support legislation to reduce monopolies for brand-name drugs and help generic competitors come to market more easily?  
Yes
7. **Reproductive Rights -- Part I.** Would you oppose any legislation that seeks to roll back a woman’s fundamental right to choose an abortion as set out in *Roe vs. Wade*? YES

8. **Reproductive Rights -- Part II.** Would you supporting legislation to repeal the Hyde Amendment, which bars the use of federal funds to pay for abortion except to save the life of the woman, or if the pregnancy arises from incest or rape? **Yes**

#### **D. Quality, Free Publicly Funded Education**

1. What role should the federal government play in guaranteeing high-quality K-12 education for all students? In guaranteeing access to affordable higher education?  
A primary role.

2. **Race to the Top.** The Race to the Top program, created in 2010, was a competitive grant program for school districts that incentivized public school districts to adopt performance-based evaluations for teachers and to increase the number of charter schools. How would you evaluate the success of the program?

I would analyze the outcomes from a "lessons learned," perspective and seek to understand both the challenges and benefits that teachers and students experienced as a result of the program.

3. **Achievement Gap.** Since 2005 alone (13 years of K-12 education), Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA), which provides funding to states and districts to improve education for disadvantaged students, has been underfunded by \$347 billion. Would you support legislation to fully fund Title I? **Yes**

4. **Special Education.** When Congress first passed the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), the federal government promised to pay 40 percent of the cost of educating students with disabilities. That promise has not been kept, with federal funding standing at just 15.7 percent. Would you support legislation to fully fund IDEA? **Yes**

5. **Student Loan Debt.** Student loan debt is holding back the economy, as graduates are unable to make important long-term investments in their future. Senator Elizabeth Warren has filed legislation to allow those with outstanding student loan debt to refinance at current, lower interest rates. Would you support such legislation? **Absolutely**

6. **Tuition-Free Higher Education.** More and more jobs are requiring a college degree, but the cost of higher education has been growing faster than wages, contributing to a ballooning student debt burden. Would you support legislation to guarantee free tuition at public colleges and universities? If so, how should such a program operate? **Yes, see addendum**

#### **E. Affordable, Decent Housing**

1. What role do you believe the federal government should play in guaranteeing affordable, decent housing for all? **See addendum**
2. **National Housing Trust Fund.** The National Housing Trust Fund was created in 2008 as part of the Housing and Economic Recovery Act to complement existing federal funding sources for affordable housing. Would you support legislation to increase funding for the National Housing Trust Fund? **Yes**
3. **Tenant Rights.** Prior to the passage of the Protecting Tenants at Foreclosure Act (PTFA) in 2009, tenants were often required to move with as little as a few days-notice. However,

the PTFA expired in 2014. Would you support legislation to reauthorize such tenant protections? Yes

4. **Foreclosure Prevention.** Would you support legislation to strengthen requirements for and increase oversight of Federal Housing Administration mortgage servicers so that every homebuyer with an FHA mortgage is given a fair chance at avoiding foreclosure? Yes

#### E. A Fair and Efficient Criminal Justice System

1. What role can Congress help deliver on the promise of “liberty and justice for all”?

See addendum

2. **Marijuana Legalization.** Do you support removing marijuana from the list of controlled substances, making it legal at the federal level?

I support decriminalization of marijuana. I would like to see more research before backing full legalization.

3. **Mandatory Minimums.** Do you support the repeal of mandatory minimums for non-violent drug offenses? Yes

4. **Bail Reform.** Do you support the elimination of cash bail, so that no one is held in jail solely for an inability to pay? Yes

5. **Private Prisons.** Would you support legislation to bar the federal government and state and local jurisdictions from contracting with private corporations to run prisons and detention facilities? Yes

6. **Federal Parole System.** The abolition of the federal parole system in 1984 has played a large role in the rise of mass incarceration since the 1980s, as prisoners are now required to serve at least 85 percent of their sentence. Would you support legislation to reinstate the federal parole system? Yes

7. **Price Gouging.** Would you support legislation to prevent companies from engaging in unfair practices and charging prisoners unreasonable fees for banking and telecommunications services? Yes

8. **Solitary Confinement.** Do you support limiting the use of solitary confinement to no more than 15 consecutive days, and eliminating the use of solitary confinement for at-risk populations, including pregnant women, LGBTQ people, those with mental illness, and those under age 21 or over age 65? Yes

9. **Police-Community Relations.** Recently, the US House of Representatives passed a bill to create a *federal* penalty of up to 10 years for assaulting a police officer. Such laws already exist on the books in states, and there is no lack of prosecution (some might even argue that such charges are used as a cudgel against protesters). The ACLU, NAACP, Southern Poverty Law Center, and other civil rights groups criticized this bill for pushing a statistically unproven “war on cops” narrative and threatening to do further damage to police-community relations. Would you oppose such legislation? Yes

10. **Militarization of Police.** Would you support legislation to prohibit the transfer of some of the military weapons from the federal government to state and local law enforcement? **Yes**
11. **Data Collection.** Would you support legislation to require police departments and states to collect data on all police shootings and deaths that take place while in police custody and make that data public? **Yes**
12. **Racial Profiling.** Would you support legislation to ban racial profiling by law enforcement? **Yes**

### **G. A Humane Immigration System**

1. What does “comprehensive immigration reform” mean to you?  
**See addendum**
2. **Border Militarization.** A border wall, as proposed by Trump, would be an economic, environmental, and humanitarian disaster. Would you categorically oppose any legislation that includes funding for such a border wall? **Absolutely**
3. **DREAM Act.** Would you support the DREAM Act, which would allow certain US-raised immigrant youth to earn lawful permanent residence and American citizenship? **Yes**
4. **Path to Citizenship.** Would you support legislation that creates a path for undocumented immigrants to gain US citizenship? **Yes**
5. **Keeping Families Together.** Would you support legislation to repeal the three-year, ten-year, and permanent bars of reentry for undocumented immigrants? **Yes**
6. **Protecting Immigrant Families.** Over the past few years, ICE has adopted policies that are particularly harmful to children: the practice of detaining women and children when they cross the border despite legal obligations to place families with children in the least restrictive setting possible (family detention), and the practice of separating parents and children (family separation). Would you support legislation to end both of these practices? **Absolutely**
7. **ICE Bed Quota.** Would you support legislation to end ICE’s daily bed quota, which requires the detainment of 34,000 immigrants? **Yes**
8. **ICE Detention Centers.** The Department of Homeland Security’s (DHS) Office of the Inspector General (OIG) have consistently found that ICE detention facilities undermine the rights of the individuals being held, as sexual abuse, medical negligence, and insufficient access to counsel remain rampant. (A) Would you support legislation to impose a moratorium on the construction of new ones? (B) Would you support a review of private detention centers and the termination of contracts with repeat human rights violation offenders? **Yes to both of these.**

9. **ICE.** ICE (U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement), is a fairly new federal agency, birthed in the post 9/11/2001 restructuring of the Department of Homeland Security. Since its start, ICE has operated under a harmful and erroneous paradigm: that undocumented immigrants *ipso facto* pose a fundamental security threat. Over time, ICE has operated in an increasingly unconstitutional matter, embracing practices that, according to judges, "shock the conscience" and have received condemnation from the United Nations. Would you support the elimination of the current agency in favor of a more humane alternative? See addendum

## H. A Diverse and Welcoming Society

1. What do you believe are the most important factors in building an inclusive community, and what role can Congress play in advancing them? See addendum
2. **LGBTQ Rights.** Over the past several years, we have seen numerous states try to deny trans individuals the right to exist in public spaces as well as conservative lawsuits seeking to legalize discrimination against LGBTQ individuals. Would you support legislation to add sexual orientation and gender identity to the Civil Rights Act of 1964? Yes
3. **Sexual Harassment.** Would you support legislation to end the use of forced arbitration clauses in sexual harassment cases? Yes
4. **Indigenous Rights.** Would you support legislation to ensure that tribal cultures and sacred places are federally protected? Yes
5. **Gun Safety.** A welcoming society is one in which people feel safe. Would you support the reinstatement of the federal assault weapons ban? Yes

## I. Good Government and Strong Democracy

1. What does democracy mean to you? See addendum
2. **Diversity in Leadership.** How can the Democratic Party better work to improve a pipeline of young and diverse candidates for elected office and party leadership? See addendum
3. **Ethics.** What do you see as the role of Congress vis-a-vis the Trump presidency with regard to ethics enforcement? See addendum
4. **Voting Access.** Would you support legislation to...
  - a. Require states to provide same day registration? Yes
  - b. Require states to offer automatic voter registration through the Registry of Motor Vehicles and other agencies as appropriate? Yes
  - c. Make Election Day a federal holiday? Yes



- d. Prohibit states from adopting discriminatory laws that require select photo identification in order to vote? **Yes**
5. **Voting Rights Act.** Would you support restoring the “pre-clearance” formula under the Voting Rights Act, which extended protections to minority voters in states and counties with histories of discrimination, as well as further expanding the law? **Yes**
6. **Prisoner’s Rights.** Would you support legislation to prohibit states from taking away the franchise from anyone because of a criminal offense? **Yes**
7. **Citizens United.** Would you support a constitutional amendment to overturn the Citizens United decision and allow limits on corporate political spending?

Yes, as a candidate who has pledged not to take a single dollar from corporate PACs I unequivocally support this

#### **J. Sustainable Infrastructure & Environmental Protection**

1. The current administration in Washington has overturned, or is seeking to overturn, a number of Obama-era environmental regulations, setting the US up for years of just playing catch up. What are your top priorities on environmental protection? How can the US avoid falling even further behind? **See addendum**
2. **100% Clean Energy.** Would you support legislation to put the US on a pathway to replacing fossil fuels with 100 percent clean energy generation and use by 2035, with support for transitioning workers? **Yes**
3. **Carbon Pricing.** Would you support putting a price on carbon emissions and investing the revenue in clean energy and green infrastructure? If so, how should such a pricing scheme operate? **Yes**
4. **Keep It in the Ground -- Part I.** Would you support legislation to prohibit new leases for coal, oil, and gas on all federal lands and waters? **Yes**
5. **Keep it in the Ground -- Part II.** Would you oppose any legislation that authorizes, or expedites the permitting or approval of, new fossil fuel pipelines? **Yes**
6. **Clean Water.** Would you support legislation the to require natural gas drillers to disclose the chemicals that go into the ground during the hydraulic fracturing (“fracking”) process and to close the so-called “Halliburton loophole,” which prevents the EPA from conducting rigorous oversight? **Yes**
7. **Environmental Justice.** Would you support legislation to codify environmental justice into law; require federal agencies to address environmental justice through agency actions and permitting decisions; and strengthen legal protections against environmental injustice for communities of color, low-income communities, and indigenous communities? **Yes**

8. **Fuel Efficiency.** Would you support legislation to increase fuel economy standards to 65 miles per gallon by 2025? Yes
9. **Public Transportation.** Would you support greater investment in public transportation? Yes
10. **Science and Policy.** Would you oppose any effort to restrict the ability of federal policymakers from incorporating peer-reviewed science in the decision-making process around new environmental regulations? Yes

**K. US in the World.**

1. **Foreign Policy.** What are the principles and priorities you would bring to discussions of US foreign policy? See addendum
2. **Trade.** Will you oppose any trade deal that allows corporations to sue governments in private tribunals, that fails to include binding requirements to implement both the Paris climate agreement and adopt living wages, or that otherwise fails to support a clean environment, healthy communities, and good union jobs? Yes

7/15/2018

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sahil Qureshi", is written on a light-colored rectangular background.

## **I. About You**

### **1. Why are you running for office? And what will your top 3 priorities be if elected?**

I am running for the First Congressional District of Massachusetts because our district needs leadership that understands that things are increasingly desperate for our families. We have higher than average unemployment, the lowest median income of the state, rural populations that have no access to high-speed Internet, and inner-city communities for whom the Internet is overpriced. We see decision makers trying to resolve the opiate crisis without an honest analysis of how the “War on Drugs” impacted the crisis while remaining silent on the ongoing drug crisis in the black and brown communities within the district. The victim of gerrymandering, this geographically vast and demographically diverse district needs a leader who is able to unite and serve all of the people.

If elected my campaign platform will center “Medicare for All,” a strong social safety net, and civil rights protections as top priorities.

### **2. What prepares you to serve in this capacity?**

I have spent most of my life as a Springfield, MA area resident and am a trained civil rights and matrimonial rights attorney with my own legal practice that has been in existence since 2009. My legal work includes civil rights advocacy for the Council on American-Islamic Relations, as well as my being appointed as a Commissioner on the Massachusetts Commission on the Status of Women where I regularly advocate for the adoption of public policy initiatives that help support

the lives of women and girls in Massachusetts. I also serve as a member of the Boston Children's Hospital Family Advisory Council. I take my advocacy work very seriously and believe each one of these aspects of my background help prepare me for serving my community in a congressional capacity. If elected I will be the first African American Muslim woman to fill a U.S. House seat. But at the end of the day my campaign isn't focused on my identity. It's focused on my unapologetically people-centered progressive politics and my dedication and willingness to fight for those progressive values in my district.

### **A. An Equitable Tax System**

1. What does tax justice mean to you? What would a fair tax system look like?

Tax justice means blocking problematic corporate consolidation (including stricter anti-trust enforcement measures and blocking of mergers) and breaking up monopolistic economic powers in defense of consumers and workers. And it means raising the federal income tax on the top 5% of Americans to ensure a more just equitable distribution of wealth.

### **B. Jobs That Pay a Living Wage**

1. What is the role of Congress in creating good-paying jobs? In which sectors do you see the most potential?

I see the technology and renewable energy sectors as areas of significant potential. For Massachusetts to continue to lead the nation in energy efficiency we must continue to invest federal funds in increasing research and development for renewable energy technologies and jobs. Programs such as the Department of Energy's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE), Advanced Research Programs Agency-Energy (ARPA-E) and the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) have contributed to increased clean energy output, improved grid reliability and resiliency as well as technological breakthroughs for solar panels, wind turbines, biofuels, geothermal systems, energy storage systems and electric vehicles. These key investments are paying off in creating new jobs while saving taxpayers and consumers money. A June 2017 report by the U.S. Congress Joint Economic Committee found that with a full transition to clean energy, Massachusetts would gain 53,490 jobs in construction and another 37,950 jobs in operations. More must be done to create jobs in solar energy for this congressional district.

### **C. Quality, Affordable Health Care**

1. What do you see as the role of the federal government in health care? What are the most important next steps to build upon the 2010 Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act?

As the parent of a 6 year old daughter who received life-saving heart surgery as a newborn I deeply understand the need to prioritize healthcare for every person in this country and am thus an avid supporter of a single payer health care platform. I am planning to support

and co-sponsor legislation to help adopt Medicare for all so that every American can access health care for their families without fear of economic burden and would be supporting bills such as HR 676 Expanded and Improved Medicare for All Act to help make that a reality.

#### **D. Quality, Free Publicly Funded Education**

6. **Tuition-Free Higher Education.** More and more jobs are requiring a college degree, but the cost of higher education has been growing faster than wages, contributing to a ballooning student debt burden. Would you support legislation to guarantee free tuition at public colleges and universities? If so, how should such a program operate?

Yes. In 2016, the Joint Committee on Taxation estimated that there was \$2.6 trillion in “earnings of foreign subsidiaries of U.S. corporations held offshore” - up from \$2.3 trillion in 2012. This was before the Trump tax plan cut the already ridiculously low corporate tax rate. Repatriating this money would go a long way toward funding free tuition for public colleges and universities in the years ahead.

#### **E. Affordable, Decent Housing**

1. What role do you believe the federal government should play in guaranteeing affordable, decent housing for all?

I believe the federal government should play a primary role in guaranteeing that policies are in place to ensure fair and equal housing opportunities, as well as policies to oppose housing discrimination based on actual or perceived race, sex, age, health status, economic status, veteran status, ability, sexual orientation, gender identity and any and all other categories.

#### **F. A Fair and Efficient Criminal Justice System**

1. What role can Congress help deliver on the promise of “liberty and justice for all”?

Massachusetts has led the nation in protecting the civil liberties of its citizens, and our Congressional delegation needs to reflect that leadership going forward. Under the current presidential administration and Congress, these hard-fought gains are being threatened by racist, sexist, Islamophobia, and anti-LGBT policy changes, executive orders and proposed legislation which affect the daily lives of citizens in areas such employment, immigration, housing and family law. The sheer number of federal judges appointed by this President, and confirmed by this Congress, poses a significant threat to maintaining civil liberties enumerated by the Court in past decisions. Trump’s Supreme Court nominations are even more concerning. As a result, it is up to Congress to pass legislation that is in line with the promise of freedom and equality for all Americans.

## **G. A Humane Immigration System**

1. What does “comprehensive immigration reform” mean to you?

I support comprehensive immigration legislation that advocates for Dreamers & protects DACA recipients. To mean this means advocating for the passage of bills such as HR 1036, American Families United Act, to help keep dedicated hardworking families together, authorizing parents of U.S. citizens/lawful permanent residents to apply for a waiver of inadmissibility for unlawful presence to ensure families are not unjustly separated. And supporting bills like HR 1006 designed to clarify the rights of all persons held/detained at a port of entry or at any detention facility overseen by U.S. Customs and Border Protection or U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

**9. ICE.** ICE (U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement), is a fairly new federal agency, birthed in the post 9/11/2001 restructuring of the Department of Homeland Security. Since its start, ICE has operated under a harmful and erroneous paradigm: that undocumented immigrants *ipso facto* pose a fundamental security threat. Over time, ICE has operated in an increasingly unconstitutional matter, embracing practices that, according to judges, "shock the conscience" and have received condemnation from the United Nations. Would you support the elimination of the current agency in favor of a more humane alternative?

I am not in favor of the outright elimination of ICE (just to have the same problematic immigration enforcement structure replaced with a new one but under a different name). I don't believe a slogan alone (“abolish ICE”) is going to effectively resolve this. However, I am in strong support of looking at the entire system and reworking it through policy overhaul in a way that doesn't punish children, that doesn't separate children from their families and that unequivocally respects the human rights of everybody that interacts with our government and our governmental agencies.

## **H. A Diverse and Welcoming Society**

1. What do you believe are the most important factors in building an inclusive community, and what role can Congress play in advancing them?

I believe creating inclusive communities means ensuring just and equitable access to economic opportunities, to civic participation, to educational opportunities, and to career opportunities-- and advocating for all of these things through legislation and strong progressive public policy. It means that congressional candidates actually listen to the constituents in their own districts and bring back the concerns of those constituents to Congress when deciding on that legislative advocacy and policy-making. An inclusive community is one where all of the community feels empowered, seen, and recognized and that happens by having congressional members of each district actually show up in their communities. This is something I am working hard to do for my constituents in District 1 and it is something which very clearly differentiates me from my opponent.

## **I. Good Government and Strong Democracy**

1. What does democracy mean to you?

Democracy means everyone has an equal voice and is given opportunity and access to opportunities to engage in civic participation, to expressing their voice and taking part in decision making processes that affect them, their families, and communities. It means people feeling like their voice matters and, when they express it, knowing that their voice, their vote, and their participation counts.

That democratic atmosphere will be fostered most effectively through passage of legislation such as H.R. 2840 the Automatic Voter Registration Act expanding voter access and political participation, especially among traditionally marginalized communities. We need more policy measures like this to help remove barriers to participation and that is something I will fight for when elected.

2. **Diversity in Leadership.** How can the Democratic Party better work to improve a pipeline of young and diverse candidates for elected office and party leadership?

I am committed to increasing the number of young diverse candidates elected to public office and the number of young people inspired to become directly engaged in the democratic process so we can get more of them around that policy-making table. I believe my candidacy itself has been very inspiring to many young people, particularly young women of color and if elected that impact I hope would only grow. In general, I believe the party has to do more to support bringing fresh blood to the table and to those leadership positions it needs to fill and we must do this by making room and space for the diverse voices of young people within the party, actively listening to those voices and encouraging democratic participation, mentorship, cooperation, and debate. When each of us steps into a position of power within the party we also need to be asking ourselves how we can immediately begin supporting, preparing and making way for the younger ones standing beside us.

3. **Ethics.** What do you see as the role of Congress vis-a-vis the Trump presidency with regard to ethics enforcement?

Congressional representatives must be brave enough to stand up for what is right, what is ethical, and what is just, regardless of party affiliation or any other label, and not only when the tide of public opinion favors it, but when inappropriate, illegal, and unethical behavior means that it is called for. Congress must utilize its power of congressional investigatory oversight to enforce strict ethics oversight. There have been numerous ethics violations on the part of the President which need to be further addressed and investigated by Congress.

## **J. Sustainable Infrastructure & Environmental Protection**

1. The current administration in Washington has overturned, or is seeking to overturn, a number of Obama-era environmental regulations, setting the US up for years of just

playing catch up. What are your top priorities on environmental protection? How can the US avoid falling even further behind?

We need to fight hard to reinstate the protections and regulations that were previously in place and are being dismantled under the current regime. We need to adopt legislation like H.R. 3671 Off Fossil Fuels for a Better Future Act and similar pieces of legislation that advocate enacting strong measures to protect our clean air and clean water, and transition away from fossil fuel energy to cleaner healthier energy sources (e.g., energy efficiency, energy conservation, and renewable energy).

In addition to those policy efforts when it comes to environmental regulation Congress should also focus on reforming FERC. Between 1999 and 2016, FERC approved more than 400 pipeline projects amounting to 180 billion cubic feet per day in natural gas capacity while rejecting only two projects.

FERC needs to stop considering individual pipeline applications in isolation without understanding how these proposals cumulatively affect local natural resources, ratepayer prices and climate change. The agency also needs to ensure meaningful public participation in FERC proceedings so that all stakeholders can fully participate, including the incorporation of voices from environmental justice communities.

## **K. US in the World.**

1. **Foreign Policy.** What are the principles and priorities you would bring to discussions of US foreign policy?

There is a great deal of reparative work to be done in this area but first and foremost I would focus on repairing our standing in the international community and restoring our ability to conduct successful international diplomacy and development work. To do this I would utilize my congressional position to focus on ensuring that we had a fully-functioning State Department staffed with appropriate and competent sub-cabinet appointees as well as a qualified ambassador corps at American embassies.