

1 Progressive Democrats of America Sample Endorsement Questionnaire

PDA Greater Daytona Chapter  
2007 Endorsement Questionnaire  
U. S. House of Representative

Return to:  
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*Please fill out this form if you are interested in pursuing an endorsement by PDA Greater Daytona Chapter. We are part of Progressive Democrats of America a nation- wide grassroots organization of 100,000 members that works inside the Democratic Party and outside in movements for peace and justice.*

*Please return this questionnaire by the deadline: Jan 3, 2008.*

*Altering or deleting the questions on this form may lead to disqualification.*

*Please note that your answers on this questionnaire may be made public. If you need additional space to answer questions, please attach additional pages to the questionnaire. If you have any questions regarding this questionnaire, please contact Luis A. Cuevas*

**Candidate and Campaign Information:**

Candidate Name: Clint Curtis

Address: P.O. Box 1456

City, State, Zip: Titusville FL 32781

E-mail Address: ClintCurtis@ClintCurtis.com

Office for which you are running: U.S. Congress FL-24

Date of Election: Primary August 26, 2008-General November 4, 2008

Registered Political Party: DEM

Campaign Manager: Jerry Halberg Phone: 321-288-1256 Fax: 321-267-6818

Campaign Consultant: Marty Ward Phone: 321-848-4997 Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

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Campaign Address:

P. O. Box 1456 – Titusville, FL 32796 \_\_\_\_\_

List endorsements from organizations and/or individuals:

Just started collecting endorsements

How would you describe yourself politically (i.e. progressive; moderate democrat, etc.)?

Progressive Activist

List elective or political party offices you have held, including committee appointments:

None

What is your primary occupation?

Computer Programmer (presently finishing law degree specializing in stopping government fraud)

Why are you running for Congress? (100 word limit)

The nation deserve a Congressman willing to work for a prosperous economy, for you to feel secure at home and America to be respected abroad. We need to keep jobs in America by requiring balanced trade and business incentives, to revitalize NASA and return America to a position of strength both militarily and scientifically, to bring our troops home from Iraq to guard our borders and make America safer, to provide Universal, no-fault health care and eliminate the cost to business, to protect Social Security from being raided and to achieve energy independence now and reduce fuel costs by 70%.

### ***Issues Specific to Office:***

What experiences have prepared you to run for Congress?

Activist and leader in the election integrity issue.

Testified before Conyer's Commission in Ohio

Force Florida to move to paper ballots

Consulted on several of the Election Integrity bills presently before Congress.

Working on taking back the controlled media

Ran and was elected as the Democratic candidate for US Congress in FL-24

If you receive the endorsement of Progressive Democrats of America, how do you intend to use it?

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We need funding, volunteers, and issue development.

Please list the top three issues on which you will take leadership if elected:

Clean, Fair, Transparent Elections  
End the War, Redirect Funding  
Economic Justice – bring jobs back to America

Do you agree with Congress' decision to reauthorize the Patriot Act?  
Why or why not?

No, the Patriot Act must be quashed. There is nothing patriotic about spying on our citizens or torturing anyone. It has diminished this country's respect around the world and tramped on everything this country ever stood for.

If elected, which committee(s) would you prefer to serve on and why?

Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming – This is an area where I will be able to push through important legislation  
Committee on Science & Technology – Important to District 24  
Committee on Oversight and Government – Something that needs addressing in order to get the country back on track  
Committee on House Administration – necessary for finishing the battle to restore verifiable elections  
Appropriations Committee – The heart of the system, it will be useful to stop funding of the Iraq War.

#### ***Federal Issues:***

##### **1) Iraq:**

PDA supports an immediate start to a rapid and complete withdrawal from Iraq of all troops and military contractors, and has championed legislation that would withhold funding for any other military purpose there. In addition, PDA believes that the U.S. must revise its strategy for the region by removing these forces from the Mideast entirely, rather than just "redeploying" them within the region. PDA advocates a shift in U.S. foreign policy from reckless unilateralism toward cooperation and diplomacy--so that people of other countries know us more by our helping hand than our slugging arm. Furthermore, PDA supports the redirecting of resources allocated for military spending to human needs.

**Will you pledge to support such immediate and total withdrawal from Iraq of the military forces, including supporting legislation towards this goal?**

Yes, Additionally, I will not vote for any war authorization that does not include a withdrawal plan

**In addition, will you forswear any preemptive military attacks upon any nation?**

Yes

**Will you commit to fully support investigations into the White House's false claims justifying the invasion of Iraq, and would you support impeachment of Bush, Cheney and other administration officials for these and other high crimes?**

I would support holding those that have left office accountable after they leave office. Neither Bush nor Cheney would be in office when I am elected. Impeachment is an investigation for removal and that would not be possible by the next Congress.

**Have you participated in or spoken at any events, demonstrations, meetings or teach-ins opposing the Iraq war and occupation?**

Yes, Daytona, Port Orange, Orlando and DC in 2006. Atlanta and Miami in 2005

**Have you organized any such events?**

Wrote and Published a book "Just A Fly on the Wall" exposing the War in 2003 and 2004.

## **2) Health Care:**

There are over 46 million uninsured people living in America, the majority of which are working Americans. Every year, nearly 18,000 people die unnecessarily as a direct result of their lack of health insurance. Millions, with health insurance, maintain inadequate, overly expensive coverage and face the peril of denials of claims or termination of benefits if a family member becomes seriously ill--one of the leading causes of bankruptcy in the U.S. While spending twice as much on health care as any other industrialized country, our system performs poorly, spending more money for less coverage, maximizing profits by finding ways to deny care. The private insurance bureaucracy expends one-third of health care money on waste, administrative paperwork, advertising and corporate profits. The current Medicare program for senior citizens spends under 4% of its budget for its overhead costs. Meanwhile, poor health, escalating health insurance premiums and spiraling health care costs impair our economy and job creation in the U.S.

PDA has endorsed HR 676, the National Health Insurance/"Expanded and Improved Medicare-for-All" Act. To guarantee comprehensive health care for all, PDA supports the replacement of the current profit-driven system, publicly financed, privately provided health care program. This "Medicare for All" national plan would save more than \$350 billion per year, enough new money to provide guaranteed comprehensive health care for all. This system would insure portable and uniform benefits regardless of income. With no deductibles or co-pays, this plan would encourage preventive care and restore a doctor and patient controlled health care system affording choice of providers and fair, publicly negotiated payment for both treatment and medication.

**What is your approach to the health care crisis?**

This country has been arguing health care for almost twenty years. There are those who want socialized medicine like Canada and the opposite side that believes the best medical system can only exist in a capitalistic arena. It is time for fresh ideas.

We are the only industrialized nation that does not have a national health care plan. We also have the best health care, but only for those who can afford it.

I propose that we do not attempt a remake of our system. Right now, we have the ability to provide health care for all of our citizens and remove the cost to every individual and business. . At this time health care is treated like an ordinary expense which means that a business must absorb part of the cost. It also forces each individual to pay an ever increasing portion of their salary for health care benefits. By utilizing tariffs from imported goods and outsourced jobs, we can completely fund a universal health care system and remove the costs from our citizens. Outsourcing and loss of production have cost this country 25% of its tax base. That means that over 2.5 trillion dollars that used to be taxable is lost to non-taxed foreign jobs and tax sheltered foreign corporations. The result has been an increased in tax cost to American citizens and a drain on the revenues that could be used to finance such public benefits as a universal health care system. Restoring this tax base would allow us to fully fund healthcare without personal or business costs and reduce the tax burden on America's citizens.

By providing a single no-fault universal health plan with the cost offset by tariffs on imported goods, we can provide health care to all our citizens and still avoid the government control associated with socialized medicine.

**What is your view of Guaranteed Health Care through an Expanded and Improved Medicare-for-All system?**

Acceptable although my approach would meet less resistance from the insurance companies and effect their employment picture less. Presently they are the top five money producing companies in America and are also the top five employers. By a gradual replacement fully funded by tariffs we can achieve the goal without feeling the sting of reconstruction.

**If elected, would you support a publicly financed, privately provided national health care program, which insures access to comprehensive health care for all in the U.S.?**

Yes and I have a proposal to pay for it without requiring a tax increase.

**Would you support a not-for-profit, doctor-patient controlled system which would eliminate the private health insurance industry (with protection for eliminated workers) as the intermediary determining access and the level of care?**

I can accept almost any plan that achieves the goal. Eliminating profit in the healthcare industry will be very problematic. My approach allows us to achieve our goal without the battle of trying to take away someone's cash cow. While such may be the end result, it

could be phased in slowly and thus be more likely to pass quickly. People are dying while debate the methodology.

**Would you support the government's ability to negotiate fair prices for treatment as well as drugs, as it does for those covered by the Veteran's Administration's plan?**

That is exactly my proposal. Each entity can bid on the right to provide services. Those doctors that wish to stay outside the system are equally free to do so. This is similar to the system presently in Germany. It has resulted in universal healthcare without the long waits and high taxes associated with systems such as Canada or the UK. It can also be coupled with incentives to provide new doctors in the areas they are needed.

### **3) Economic Justice:**

The current generation has seen unprecedented levels of economic disparity, both among individuals (the richest 1% of Americans own almost 35% of all wealth; the bottom half, only 2.5%) and in the ratio of CEO pay to employee wages. Thirty-seven million people (equal to the population of California) are living in poverty in the U.S. These immoral levels of poverty, which disproportionate impact communities of color and women, can be significantly reduced through concerned legislative effort - including a living wage for all workers, expanded earned income tax credits, childcare assistance and housing vouchers. Specifically, the federal government must fulfill its promise of resources to Hurricane Katrina survivors so they can return to rebuild their communities in the Gulf Coast.

Tax burdens on the middle class can be eased if the wealthy pay their share. In addition to working to roll back Bush's tax breaks for the wealthy, PDA endorses the Equity in Income Act, limiting the amount of CEO compensation afforded federal corporate tax deductions. In emphatically supporting the workers' right to organize, we also endorse the Employee Free Choice Act, which establishes unions in any workplace where a majority of workers sign union cards to join. In the global arena, PDA supports anti-sweatshop legislation and fair trade agreements which protect workers' rights as well as the environment, while opposing wage-reducing "free trade" agreements that protect only corporate rights to exploit unprotected labor. PDA also advocates for humane and comprehensive immigration reform, which insures a fair, attainable path to citizenship and the rights of undocumented workers in the workplace, affirming the dignity and integrity of immigrant families.

**What is your position on "Fair Trade" versus "Free Trade" agreements?**

It is paramount that we rebuild America's economic independence. The huge trade deficit, coupled with trade agreements like Bush's CAFTA or Clinton's NAFTA have robbed this country of its strength. The growth in the trade deficit, which now exceeds \$300 billion, has destroyed millions of high-wage, high-skilled manufacturing jobs in the U.S. and has pushed workers into other sectors, such as restaurants and health service industries, where wages are lower. Just as important is the constant push to outsource both the office worker job and professional technical jobs.

Trade deficits have a direct impact on wages. The average real wage for U.S. production workers peaked in 1978, and has been declining since (an exception being the upswing in Clinton's second term). The steady growth in our trade deficits over the past two decades has eliminated millions of U.S. manufacturing jobs. At the present rate it will not be long before America makes nothing.

If we return this country to the tariff policies of the 50's, we can restore America to its past greatness. By applying tariffs on imported goods and outsourced jobs that do not match American standards, we can level the playing field. We can bring their standards up to us rather than forcing our standards down to them.

America needs to be a leader of the world and not in a race to become another third world country. At present our dollars spent on outsourced jobs and untaxed goods exceed 25% of our national tax base. This practice has resulted in moving the tax burden from foreign corporations, where it belongs, to the backs of working Americans. Today 25% of America's tax base has disappeared through outsourced foreign jobs and tax sheltered foreign corporations. The loss of those additional dollars has made Americans pay more of the burden while getting less services for their money. By practicing fair trade we can greatly increase revenues while simultaneously lower taxes on our citizens.

We can no longer allow an unchecked globalized economy to continue to weaken America.

**Will you have pledge to reverse the tax cuts on the wealthiest Americans?**

Yes although by recouping the tax base we have presently lost we can eventually fund SS, universal healthcare, and restoring our infrastructure and still reduce taxes to all our citizens.

**Do you support the right of workers to organize, in any situation?**

Yes, I have even lobbied for the Employee Free Choice act in both DC and Tallahassee.

**What is your relationship to labor nationally and in your district?**

I am a member of Local 295 and registered with the AFL/CIO as a lobbyist. This is a volunteer position rather than as a paid lobbyist.

**Do you have union endorsements and supporters in your district?**

I have many union supporters and contacts locally. Since the DLC has hand picked a non-progressive candidate to run against me in the primary the unions have not officially endorsed. This was in itself an indication of my union support. Since I showed how vulnerable Feeney was in the last election, the DCCC has targeted my district as one of their featured races. They pushed the endorsement meeting forward (only in my race) and fixed the usual endorsement process to a county where the person in charge is controlled by the FDP. Even with everything lined up in their favor, we were able to stall the endorsement which allows the individual unions to make their own decisions rather than being guided by the Central Labor Council. We have already received \$5000 from the Plumbers / Pipe-fitters and a promise of support from the Transportation Workers at

NASA.

**What is your approach to bringing communities "out of poverty"?**

Through the institution of Fair Trade and removing all the remnants of NAFTA, funding will be available that will allow for funding of educational and training programs. Providing opportunity and education is the only thing that bring people and their communities out of poverty.

**Would you support the legislation of the "out of poverty" caucus?**

Maybe. Mr. Baca is a blue dog democrat and his efforts tend to be pseudo- Republican in nature. If the caucus provides meaningful solution and real funding rather than just awareness programs, that is something I would support.

**What efforts would you support to provide meaningful resources to Katrina survivors?**

Yes, although I would not support any no-bid projects.

**Do you support comprehensive and humane immigration reform as outlined above?**

Yes

**Have you reached out to immigrant communities and advocates in your district?**

Yes, although most of the Hispanic community in Orlando is actually Puerto Rican rather than from Mexico. Their issues are very different. We also have a very small Haitian population and undocumented status is also not a major priority with them.

#### **4) Clean, Fair, Transparent Elections:**

The U.S. election system is in crisis. Not only are the usual corrupting factors of money and corporate lobbying as rampant as perhaps at any time in U.S. history, but the new millennium – along with the fallout from the contested 2000 election - have ushered in a qualitative change in the conduct of our elections: Centuries of tradition in which citizens, government officials and Party representatives oversaw physical evidence of voter intent have fallen to the rise of the machines. This sea change, from paper to ephemeral electrons, brings much more than the implicit demand to trust the invisible: the move to computers means that 85% of America has ceded control of its elections to third-party vendors, whose legal claims regarding proprietary software bring corporate control of the entire voting process. PDA thus supports federal legislation that would ban the use of touch-screen ("DRE") voting machines.

**Will you pledge, if elected, to support only voting methods in which ballots are cast on paper?**

I am actually a national leader on this issue. I testified before the Conyers Commission in Ohio as well as championed the issue in the last election. After the numbers did not match the polls, my campaign organized the various Florida candidate and canvassed door to door to prove the machines did not count correctly. We contested the election as well as followed up with legal action and forced Florida to address the problem. Florida will have paper ballots for the 2008 election.

In this election we will be bringing in election groups from around the country to develop and demonstrate the way that elections held with paper ballots must be audited. Just having paper ballots does no good if we do not make certain that they are properly counted. This final step can allow people to know that their vote actually counts.

**Do you pledge to support “Clean Money” public financing of public elections?**

Yes. Prefer the Arizona approach.

**Would you accept public financing for your current campaign?**

Yes

**Do you support the restoration of voting rights to past felony offenders?**

Yes

**Do you support same-day voting registration?**

Yes

**Would you oppose the onerous requirement of official photo identification before affording citizens access to the polls?**

Yes. It is prejudicial to the elderly and poor.

**5) Environment/ Global Warming:**

No issue reveals more clearly the flaws of the U.S. political-economic system than global warming - the dominance of greed and corporate power over the public good, and the near-sighted focus on the short-term over the welfare of future generations. It is known that the U.S. has the natural resources to power the entire country solely from clean, “alternative” sources of power- whether with solar cells that would require a miniscule fraction of the California desert, or from wind turbines on the Great Plains and in the Great Lakes. It has also often been said that we need a new Apollo Program for clean energy (if not Manhattan Project), in which science, industry and government would cooperate on a crash course to produce novel results in a limited period. Immediate action would include raising the auto fuel economy and impose mandatory caps on carbon pollution while investing in public transportation, energy conservation technologies and alternative energy development--in the process, creating new jobs which pay well. .

PDA calls on the Democratic majority in Congress to lead boldly in reducing our country's oil dependence and use of fossil fuels.

**Will you pledge to take an uncompromising leadership role on legislation to enact the enormous changes and sacrifices that will be required to stem Global Warming?**

Yes, I have a proposal that will make the country 100% energy independent immediately and reduce emissions by 50%.

This country gives an average of \$233 million per day to oil rich countries to provide for our energy needs.

I propose an energy policy that gives the power to control our own destiny back to America. It is possible today, with existing technology, to make America 100% energy independent. Even better, America can become 100% energy independent with a constantly renewable energy supply.

By switching this country from fossil fuels to bio-diesel this country could fill all its fuel needs - both now and into the future. It would reduce pollutants and deny the Middle Eastern countries any control over us our world politics. We can achieve full energy independence without the need to occupy the Middle East or any other country for economic reasons.

Americans have always equated diesel power with the huge slow work trucks and 18-wheelers. Existing technology can provide a bio-diesel car than gets 40 miles per gallon and yet has sports car speeds of 0-60 in 8.4 seconds. That is faster than a BMW325, a Buick Regal with a 455hp engine, a 1967 Camaro SS350, or a new top of the line Honda. Mass production of bio-diesel has been estimated as low as 27 cents per gallon. By the time the oil companies have transported and dispensed it through the existing fuel network, the cost will probably be a little higher.

Can you imagine filling your tank for \$3 dollars instead of \$50? Imagine how that can reduce other consumer prices by reducing transportation cost. Beyond the simple dollars and cents of energy independence, think of the savings of human life and suffering if we are not put in the position of invading oil rich countries and guarding pipelines that are not even really ours.

It is in our national security interest to migrate toward energy independence.

**Will you pledge to enact an Apollo Program for clean energy?**

Yes. See Above. We have the ability and technology today that can utilize the existing infrastructure (liquid fuel delivery). We could have a pilot program in Florida within six months.

**What kind of personal vehicle do you currently drive? Is it rated ZEV, or PZEV?**

Corvette. It is American made and gets 30 miles per gallon. Utilizes the 4+3 transmission. Also own a vehicle that has tested bio-diesel with no fossile-fuel additives.

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The ZEV and PZEV ratings are the wrong direction to take vehicle development. A zero rated vehicle is purely electric, hydrogen, or natural gas at this point and none of those are supported by our present delivery structure. That means that other than large corporations or governmental bodies which are capable of funding their own delivery system, they are impractical for general use.

Many studies have shown that "Zero Emission Vehicles" are really just "Elsewhere Emission Vehicles" that move pollution from the tailpipe to a power plant somewhere. Even hydrogen-powered vehicles used to fill the as battery electronic vehicle's the benefits are less than spectacular. An internal-combustion-engine vehicle that burns hydrogen has nearly zero tailpipe emissions, and a fuel cell vehicle emits only water vapor. However, generation of hydrogen from fossil fuels, whether by "re-forming" natural gas (or methanol, or even gasoline) or by electrolysis of water using fossil-fuel-generated electricity, is not as efficient and used more thermal units than in initial burning of the fuel in a fuel efficient vehicle(PZEV's)

The PZEV are essentially hybrid and while they produce less air pollution, the entire car becomes a landfill issue in approximately seven years. That is the life expectancy of the fuel cell system and at that point massive amounts of polluting metals must be thrown away. They can not be recharged and the cost of replacement will be more than the hybrid car is worth. The likely result is that the entire car will end up in the landfills (junkyards would not want them because of the added hazardous waste and they would have no part value as the entire vehicle will be worthless when the cells wear out.

### **Finance:**

Please estimate your campaign costs:

Primary Election: \_\_\$150,000\_\_\_\_\_ General Election: \_\_\$500,000\_\_\_\_\_

How much money have you raised to date? \_\_\$35,000\_\_\_\_\_

Please list independent expenditures that may impact your race:

We are very frugal. Our staff is volunteer and a great majority of our volunteers are on-line from across the nation. Since I have a national reputation, we have an ability to get a lot of blog and on-line support. For us every dollar is equivalent to ten.

This race is one of the top three targeted in the country. We expect that once we win the primary, many donation will become available.