



2018 Candidate Questionnaire - House

Candidate Name: Chetan Panda

Campaign Address: PO Box 29416 Austin TX 787555

E-mail Address: info@panda2018.com

Office for which you are running: US Congress, TX25

Date of Election: Primary is Mar. 6, 2018; General is Nov. 6, 2018

Campaign Manager: Sean Briscoe

Phone: 512-790-2656 Fax: N/A

Progressive Democrats of America (PDA) was founded in 2004 to transform the Democratic Party and our country. We seek to build a party and government controlled by citizens, not corporate elites - with policies that serve the broad public interest, not just private interests. As a grassroots PAC, PDA operates inside the Democratic Party, and outside in movements for peace and justice.

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The Congressional Progressive Caucus

Do you pledge, if elected to this office, to immediately join the Congressional Progressive Caucus?

Yes No If not, why not?

Contingent on meeting with leadership of Caucus and answering any questions from voters of the district.

Lobbyist

Do you pledge, if elected to this office, to NOT become a paid lobbyist for at least 5 years after you leave Congress?

Yes No If not, why not?

PDA Issues

PDA focuses on fundamental issues of concern to voters. The questions are grouped, but all issues are equally important. Your answers to the questions below will be used to help determine whether to endorse you in the race for this office.

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Notice to Candidate:

The questions below refer to legislation introduced by bill number in the 115th Congress. By checking YES as your answer, you pledge that, if elected, you will immediately co-sponsor the reintroduced version of these bills in the 116th Congress.

Presidential Fitness

H.R. 1987 To establish the Oversight Commission on Presidential Capacity, and for other purposes.

Sponsor: Rep. Jamie Raskin

Yes **No** **If not, why not??** (50 word limit)

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Healthcare:

Millions of Americans have no reliable access to health care and millions more have inadequate or overly expensive coverage. Despite spending twice as much as other developed nations on health care, our system performs poorly. Private U.S. insurance gatekeepers soak up one-third of expenditures. Pharmaceutical interests overcharge Americans by avoiding price competition.

H.R. 676 Expanded and Improved Medicare for All Act
Sponsor: Rep. John Conyers

Yes **No** **If not, why not??** (50 word limit)

I am supportive of quality affordable healthcare for all Americans. I want to amend the bill to further clarify how we plan to transition hundreds of millions of people to such a system as well as the funding and reimbursement rates.

H.R. 771 Equal Access to Abortion Coverage in Health Insurance
Sponsor: Rep. Barbara Lee

Yes **No** **If not, why not??** (50 word limit)

H.R. 242 Medicare Prescription Drug Price Negotiation Act of 2017
Sponsor: Rep. Peter Welch

Yes **No** **If not, why not??** (50 word limit)

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H.R. 1776 Improving Access to Affordable Prescription Drugs
Sponsor: Rep. Jan Schakowsky

Yes **No** **If not, why not??** (50 word limit)

H.R. 947 Family and Medical Insurance Leave Act (The Family Act) of 2017
Sponsor: Rep. Rosa DeLauro

Yes **No** **If not, why not??** (50 word limit)

H.R. 934 Personal Drug Importation Fairness Act of 2017
Sponsor: Rep. Keith Ellison

Yes **No** **If not, why not??** (50 word limit)
Our goal is to lower prescription drug prices, but we must also protect consumer safety. Importing prescription drugs could lead to adulterated, counterfeit, or substandard drugs. A better approach is HR1776 (allow CMS to negotiate prices).

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War and Peace

Terrorism should be treated as a crime, not as a pretext for war and global military expansion. Nuclear weapons are too dangerous to serve the strategic interests of any country and must be abolished. Initiatives to promote peace, disarmament, and the rule of international law will allow the US military budget to return to the 1998 peacetime level. We must bring our troops home to their families and redirect wasteful military spending to reinvest in America.

H.R. 1111 Department of Peacebuilding Act of 2017

Sponsor: Rep. Barbara Lee

Yes **No** **If not, why not??** (50 word limit)

H.R. 1229 Repeal of the Authorization for Use of Military Force

Sponsor: Rep. Barbara Lee

Yes **No** **If not, why not??** (50 word limit)

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H.R. 608 Stop Arming Terrorists Act

Sponsor: Rep. Tulsi Gabbard

Yes **No** **If not, why not??** (50 word limit)

I need to consult with the state department so as to understand what the diplomatic consequences will be.

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H.R. 4140 No Unconstitutional Strike against North Korea Act
Sponsor: Rep. John Conyers

Yes **No** **If not, why not??** (50 word limit)

H.R. 669 Restricting First Use of Nuclear Weapons Act of 2017
Sponsor: Rep. Ted Lieu

Yes **No** **If not, why not??** (50 word limit)

The Obama Administration considered a “no first usage” commitment but decided against it because it may undermine allies or weaken the nuclear deterrent. I would like to consult with experts including the state department and military

Global Warming/The Environment

Environmental degradation and global warming threaten human civilization. Science conclusively demonstrates that global warming results from human activity. Greed and corporate power dominate US policy imposing a nearsighted focus on short term profits instead of serving the welfare of future generations of Americans

H.R. 3671 Off Fossil Fuels for a Better Future Act (OFF Act)
Sponsor: Rep. Tulsi Gabbard

Yes **No** **If not, why not??** (50 word limit)
I want to add the best features of HR 3314 to this bill.

H.R. 2014 Tax Pollution Not Profits Act
Sponsor: Rep. John Delaney

Yes **No** **If not, why not??** (50 word limit)

H.R. 3314 100 by '50 Act
Sponsor: Rep. Jared Polis

Yes **No** **If not, why not??** (50 word limit)
I would prefer to have 100% by 2035.

H.R. 2242 Keep it in the Ground Act
Sponsor: Rep. Jared Huffman

Yes **No** **If not, why not??** (50 word limit)

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Election Integrity:

Big-money domination threatens our election system. Incumbents are unfairly insulated by district gerrymandering. Voters face political and racial obstacles to voting and getting their votes counted. Digital voting systems and internet voting are vulnerable to error and manipulation and defy verification. Only an auditable paper ballot can protect our right to vote.

HR 2840 Automatic Voter Registration Act
Sponsor: Rep. David Cicilline

Yes **No** **If not, why not??** (50 word limit)

HJ Res. 74 Constitutional Right to Vote
Sponsor: Rep. Mark Pocan

Yes **No** **If not, why not??** (50 word limit)

HR 1044 Same Day Registration Act of 2017
Sponsor: Rep. Keith Ellison

Yes **No** **If not, why not??** (50 word limit)

HR 607 The Voter Access Protection Act of 2017
Sponsor: Rep. Keith Ellison

Yes **No** **If not, why not??** (50 word limit)

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H.R. 12 Voter Empowerment Act of 2017
Sponsor: Rep. John Lewis

Yes **No** **If not, why not??** (50 word limit)

H.R. 787 Streamlined and Improved Methods at Polling Locations and Early
(SIMPLE) Voting Act of 2017
Sponsor: Rep. Steve Cohen

Yes **No** **If not, why not??** (50 word limit)

Economic and Social Justice:

The enormous wealth disparity between the top 1% and the rest of America is an unsustainable economic and social injustice. Will you work for an economic recovery that employs all those willing and able, that houses all those needing shelter, and that imposes the cost based on the ability to pay.

H.R. 1144 Inclusive Prosperity Act of 2017
Sponsor: Rep. Keith Ellison

Yes **No** **If not, why not??** (50 word limit)

As a person with a career helping retirees, the transaction tax will have harmful effects on pensions and retirements. If the approach is to ensure financial stability, a tax on banking may be a better approach.

H.R. 15 Raise The Wage Act of 2017
Sponsor: Rep. Robert C. "Bobby" Scott

Yes **No** **If not, why not??** (50 word limit)

H.R. 1000 Jobs For All Act
Sponsor: Rep. John Conyers

Yes **No** **If not, why not??** (50 word limit)

I would like to have a better understanding of impacts and costs. Also, I have concerns regarding this being a state run operation (see Texas refusing to expand Medicaid) and on the FTT (see above)

H.R. 1902 Social Security Act of 2017
Sponsor: Rep. John Larson

Yes **No** **If not, why not??** (50 word limit)

I will cosponsor one of HR1902 or HR1114. Both strengthen Social Security, albeit in different ways. I will need to ascertain which is best.

H.R. 1114 Social Security Expansion Act
Sponsor: **Rep. Peter DeFazio**

Yes **No** **If not, why not??** (50 word limit)

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I will cosponsor one of HR1902 or HR1114. Both strengthen Social Security, albeit in different ways. I will need to ascertain which is best.

H.R. 40 Commission to Study Reparation Proposals for African Americans Act
Sponsor: Rep. John Conyers

Yes **No** **If not, why not??** (50 word limit)

H.R. 4396 ME TOO Congress Act
Sponsor: Rep. Jackie Speier

Yes **No** **If not, why not??** (50 word limit)

H.R. 4152 Fair Employment Protection Act of 2017
Sponsor: Rep. Rosa DeLauro

Yes **No** **If not, why not??** (50 word limit)

Do you support, and would you pledge to author and introduce legislation in the House of Representatives identical to current Senate bill as shown below:

S.2165 The Puerto Rico and Virgin Islands Equitable Rebuild Act
Sponsor: Sen. Bernie Sanders

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Yes **No** **If not, why not??** (50 word limit)

Do you support, and would you pledge to author and introduce legislation in the House of Representatives identical to current Senate bill as shown below:

S.2095 Assault Weapons Ban of 2017
Sponsor: Sen. Dianne Feinstein

Yes **No** **If not, why not??** (50 word limit)

EMERGENCY AID FOR NATURAL DISASTERS

The climate change-intensified natural disasters of 2017 have laid bare the federal government’s current response as both politicized and racist. How would you identify and legislatively fix underlying structural flaws in federal disaster relief and preparedness funding to ensure more timely, equitable, a effective federal responses to future events? (No more than 250 words)

I support automatic triggers for disaster funding. I support measures to increase coordination with local and regional bodies; they should determine what the need is and the federal government should procure and deliver assistance. I want to allocate resources to ensure that claims are processed faster and in a more transparent fashion.

Corporate Rule

Big corporations and banks dominant our political process, spending billions to lobby for programs against the public interest, and to privatize public services for profit. This erodes the middle class, destroys vital services, increases poverty, and undermines our nation. Congress must work to

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return our government to the people, improve services, stand up to corporate lobbyists, and stop the privatization of public services. We need a constitutional amendment to establish that corporations are not people and that money does not equal speech.

H.R. 2585 21st Century Glass-Steagall Act of 2017

Sponsor: Rep. Michael Capuano

Yes **No** **If not, why not??** (50 word limit)

A better way to regulate financial institutions is to increase capital and liquidity buffers and increase training for regulators to ensure that regulations are being enforced. A tax on banking may also be necessary.

HJ Res 88 Constitutional Amendment to regulate corporations

Sponsor: Rep. Jim McGovern

Yes **No** **If not, why not??** (50 word limit)

HJ Res 31 Proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relating to contributions and expenditures intended to affect elections

Sponsor: Ted Deutch

Yes **No** **If not, why not??** (50 word limit)

Mass Criminalization

The United States houses 25% of the world's inmates despite having only 5% of the world's population. The prison industrial complex has a vested interest in keeping people locked up. The growth of private, for-profit

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prisons has placed incarceration beyond public view. The administration of justice system is prejudiced against the poor and minorities.

H.R. 3227 Justice Is Not For Sale Act
Sponsor: Rep. Raul Grijalva

Yes **No** **If not, why not??** (50 word limit)

H.R. 1498 End Racial Profiling Act of 2017
Sponsor: Rep. John Conyers

Yes **No** **If not, why not??** (50 word limit)

H.R. 65 Youth Prison Reduction through Opportunities, Mentoring, Intervention, Support and Education (RAISE Act)
Sponsor: Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee

Yes **No** **If not, why not??** (50 word limit)

Equality Issues

The belief in equality, including religious equality, is a part of the founding documents of our nation and an important part of our national identity. Equality still has not been achieved by most groups in this country. We hope

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and expect that our endorsed Candidates will sponsor, co-sponsor, and/or support legislation that furthers the reach of equality to any and all groups seeking equal status.

HJ Res 53 Removing the deadline for the ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment
Sponsor: Rep. Jackie Speier

Yes **No** **If not, why not??** (50 word limit)

H.R. 1869 Paycheck Fairness
Sponsor: Rep. Rosa DeLauro

Yes **No** **If not, why not??** (50 word limit)

H.R. 489 No Religious Registry Act pf 2017
Sponsor: Rep. Suzan DelBene

Yes **No** **If not, why not??** (50 word limit)

Immigration

We strongly support Comprehensive Immigration Reform that promotes fairness, equality, labor rights, family unification, integration, a program for legal residency and a path to citizenship for undocumented immigrants.

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H.R. 3440 Dream Act of 2017
Sponsor: Rep. Lucille Roybal-Allard

Yes **No** **If not, why not??** (50 word limit)

H.R. 1036 American Families United Act
Sponsor: Rep. Beto O'Rourke

Yes **No** **If not, why not??** (50 word limit)

H.R. 1006 To clarify the rights of all persons who are held or 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.

Sponsor: **Rep.** Pramila Jayapal

Yes **No** **If not, why not??** (50 word limit)

Education

Education in the USA is unaffordable for the majority of Americans. The securitization of student debt has placed our students at the mercy of corporate predators. Minorities are denied equal access to education. We work to make our education system accessible and affordable to all.

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H.R. 1880 College For All Act
Sponsor: Rep. Pramila Jayapal

Yes **No** **If not, why not??** (50 word limit)

a student should not be forced to bear a large student loan burden. I support dramatic reforms of the college financing process.

H.R. 3630 Student Loan Borrowers' Bill of Rights Act of 2017
Sponsor: Rep. Frederica Wilson

Yes **No** **If not, why not??** (50 word limit)

General

Please provide us with information in the sections provided below, some information about your campaign:

- Your campaign plan with some *detail*
 - raise funds to compete with Roger Williams. He has over 1 million dollars. We believe we will need at least \$500L to compete (see more below)
 - Fight for every vote by traveling all over the district and canvassing
 - social media targeting
 - Highly digitalized field program in both rural and urban Texas
 - appeal to people aged 22-44 (~50% of population) and people of color (~30% of population); both groups are needed to turn out.
- Your capacity to raise the necessary capital to fund the campaign,

We are the only campaign in this race to have raised a significant amount of funds without self-funding our efforts. We will be able to continue our fundraising levels and beyond upon entering the general election with our fantastic support on the field and within our national contacts.

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- grassroots support

Over the year of planning and actively working to benefit the citizens of our district, we have established an immense level of contacts with day to day voters and citizens within Congressional District 25. This has lead to almost daily meet and greets with groups of voters that are extremely confident that we will win in November.

- your campaign staff in place
 - Campaign manager
 - field program coordinator
 - fundraiser
 - treasurer
 - social media lead
 - regional field program leads (x4)
 - Media consultant
 - brigades of volunteers



Signature of Candidate

2-5-18
Date

**Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire.
We believe that an informed electorate is
the greatest assurance of a strong democracy.**

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