



2018 Candidate Questionnaire - House

Candidate Name: Kathi Thomas

Campaign Address: PO Box 503, Dripping Springs, TX. 78620

E-mail Address: kathi@KathiThomasDesign.com

Office for which you are running: TX CD25

Date of Election: Nov. 6, 2018 (primary Mar. 6, 2018)

Campaign Manager: Casey Prichard

Phone: 512-860-2325 Fax: 512-860-2229 (please email if fax, it is faxmail, so we need to know to check it.)

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?

I'll join it, not because of this pledge to you, but because the principles of the Caucus, as laid out on their website, are the same principles I support.

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?

Once I've served my terms, I'll be glad to get back home to our home outside of Austin. No interest in staying in Washington.

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)

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)

This bill's really about **Universal** healthcare, that's different from Medicare.

Can't move everyone at once, Medicare'll be overwhelmed. I'll introduce bill for opt-in Medicare, starting at 55, lowering qualifying age yearly, till all in. Then start moving to Universal Healthcare, funded like Rep. Conyers proposes.

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

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

All women need safe & legal access to this service, shouldn't only be available to more wealthy. It is a racist policy. I don't say my tax dollars don't go to war, why should anti-choice people get to choose where their tax dollars go? Separation of church & state!

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

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

ABSOLUTELY!

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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)

I had concerns about a small company's ability to pay this leave AND pay a temp to do the work while the parent is home, but reading it, see it would be a government fund that would guarantee at least 2/3 of one's pay makes it doable for small employers.

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

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

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)

H.R. 608 Stop Arming Terrorists Act

Sponsor: Rep. Tulsi Gabbard

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

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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)

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)

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

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

[Given that corporations just got a big tax cut, I'd prefer to go the route of the Climate Change Lobby's Carbon Fee + Dividend program.](#)

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

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

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)

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

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

[I could support this, but think it would better to have a livable wage bill, based on regional differences. \\$15 hr in NYC or San Francisco isn't livable, but in some towns, it's a huge number.](#)

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

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

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

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

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

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

I've concerns about collecting off of all income, want to see economics of this- make sure richest won't still get far more. I support "6.2% Social Security tax on investment income for high-income households, collecting more revenue for the program" from this bill.

Need to raise salary cap to \$250,000.

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

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

I could support this if the reparations are in the form of scholarships, loans to start business and other aid that would truly help close the wealth gap, not sure cash does that. Good to study history so all have understanding of institutional racism.

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)

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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

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)

Hurricanes, floods and fires caused record damage in 2017. As climate change progresses, these disasters will become more intense and frequent. We urgently need to improve both our preparation and response to natural disasters. Legislative priorities I support include:

Preparation:

1. Update flood risk data (much of which is obsolete,) use that data in infrastructure, housing, insurance and response planning decisions.

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2. Invest in more resilient infrastructure in disaster-prone areas. This saves money in the long run, creates jobs and stimulates the economy.
3. Improve standards for petrochemical plants in hurricane zones. Hurricane Harvey resulted in the release of 4.6 million pounds of hazardous chemicals, low income populations were the often most affected.
4. Encourage distributed energy generation (e.g solar) and storage. This reduces the risk of widespread outages and allows for faster recovery.
5. Develop plans in advance to evacuate the most vulnerable populations.
6. Increase and protect wetlands, which serve as a buffer against storms and floods.
7. Include representatives from disadvantaged communities in the planning process.

Response:

1. Work with FEMA and other agencies to accelerate disbursement of aid. Disaster relief shouldn't be held hostage to budget fights.
2. Prioritize disaster relief for low income areas, (generally hardest hit and least able to recover.) Puerto Rico is a glaring example – four months after Hurricane Maria, 1/3 of Puerto Rico residents still do not have electricity.
3. Build back better, learning from what did not perform well during the most recent natural disasters.

Sources:

Policy paper from the Center for American Progress:

<https://cdn.americanprogress.org/content/uploads/2017/10/02135613/HurricaneResponse-report4.pdf>

Urban Institute Analysis: <https://www.urban.org/urban-wire/still-learning-what-hurricanes-harvey-and-irma-reveal-about-us-disaster-policy>

Puerto Rico: <https://www.theatlantic.com/photo/2018/01/after-four-months-much-of-puerto-rico-still-dark-and-damaged/551756/>

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 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.

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H.R. 2585 21st Century Glass-Steagall Act of 2017
Sponsor: Rep. Michael Capuano

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

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

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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 and expect that our endorsed Candidates will sponsor, co-sponsor, and/or

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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)

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

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

I see loan forgiveness as a way to recruit teachers, doctors & nurses to underserved rural and urban areas. I'd forgive 100% of their loans for working in those areas for 6-8 years, so I'll need to speak with Rep. Wilson and see if we can make a compromise to help these areas.

General

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

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- Your campaign plan with some *detail*
- **Attached- please do not share outside this process. I do not want it posted online.**

- **Your capacity to raise the necessary capital to fund the campaign,**

It has been difficult to raise money this time with so many in the primary. Once we're past the primary (or even in a runoff for it), people have told me they'll donate. We'll work with candidates who didn't make the runoff, should we receive make it, and call their donors. We are all running against Roger Williams, and there is great energy to beat him this time. We are very frugal, and working hard to make every dollar count. I've never spent money frivolously, and take my donors contributions very seriously. I like to say that I'm rich in very dedicated volunteers, and people are better than money.

- **grassroots support**

We've got supporters all over the District, making phone calls, and, where possible, knocking doors. Once we're past the primary, we'll be able to work more with the County Chairs, in marshalling their County Parties for block-walking and phonebanking. Nearly everywhere I go, people are coming up to me and telling me they want to help.

- **your campaign staff in place**

Casey Prichard, campaign coordinator

Rick Taylor, Communications Director

Heidi Gibbons, fundraising

Ames O'Boyle, Youth outreach

David Overton, research

Advisory Council:

Dr. Kathryn Kortrla (Veterans, mental health issues)

Scott Burns (financial)

David Overton (financial, business)

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Rick Taylor (Veterans)



Signature of Candidate

2-5-2018
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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