



## **2018 Candidate Questionnaire - House**

Candidate Name: Jesus "Chuy" Garcia  
Campaign Address: 3520 S. Archer, Suite 1C, Chicago, IL 60609  
E-mail Address: manny@chuyforcongress.com  
Office for which you are running: IL 4<sup>th</sup> Congressional District  
Date of Election: Primary is March 20<sup>th</sup>  
Campaign Manager: Manny Perez  
Phone: 773-376-3850 Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

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.

**The Congressional Progressive Caucus  
PDA National Endorsement Policy - 2018**

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

Yes                      No                      If not, why not?

Yes, I will join the CPC.

## **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?

Yes.

## **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.

## **Notice to Candidate:**

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The questions below refer to legislation introduced by bill number in the 115<sup>th</sup> 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 116<sup>th</sup> 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)

Yes, it is important that we have a process for ensuring the steady leadership of this country should the President be mentally or physically incapable.

## 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*

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**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)

Yes, I support Medicare for All to drive down healthcare costs and ensure that every American has healthcare.

**H.R. 771** \_\_\_\_\_ Equal Access  
**Sponsor:** \_\_\_\_\_ Rep. Barl

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

Yes, all women should be free to make their own decisions on what is best for their health and bodies regardless of their income.

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

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

Yes, there is no good reason why the U.S. pays vastly more for prescription drugs than any other country in the world. Negotiating for lower drug prices can help save money for patients and taxpayers alike.

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

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

Yes. Like Rep. Welch's bill, Rep. Schakowsky's bill would bring down the cost of prescription drugs by allowing Medicare to negotiate lower drug prices bill. This bill also has several other provisions to prevent drug companies from drastically increasing prices for needed prescription drugs.

**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)

Yes, I support having paid sick leave for all workers. As Cook County Commissioner, I helped lead the effort to pass a county ordinance allowing employees to earn one hour of paid sick time for every 40 hours worked.

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

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

Yes. The U.S. pay vastly more for prescription drugs than any other country in the world, allowing for the importation of prescription drugs can give Americans access to life saving drugs that they might otherwise not be able to afford.

## 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)

War should always be the last resort, I support every effort to try and resolve conflicts without resorting to violence and war.

**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)

Yes, the Constitution gives Congress the right to declare war and authorize the use of force and its important that Congress take this responsibility seriously.

**H.R. 608** Stop Arming Terrorists Act

**Sponsor:** Rep. Tulsi Gabbard

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

Yes, I do not believe that the U.S. should be providing funds to violent, terrorist organizations.

**H.R. 4140** No Unconstitutional Strike against North Korea Act

**Sponsor:** Rep. John Conyers

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

I do not believe that a direct attack on North Korea would be in our interests. We need to continue with current and expanded economic sanctions and diplomatic efforts to both isolate North Korea and reassure them that we will not invade them. Our current military forces in the region clearly enable us to address any provocative act by North Korea.

**H.R. 669** Restricting First Use of Nuclear Weapons Act of 2017

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**Sponsor:** Rep. Ted Lieu

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

Armed US military intervention should be used only as a last resort and in response to a direct threat to the US. Congressional oversight of military expenditures for Military operations is essential and needs to be maintained and expanded.

## 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)

Yes, I support efforts to move away from fossil fuels and towards the use of renewable energies, and the development of good paying green jobs.

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

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

Yes, Climate Change is a serious problem facing our planet. 97% of scientists agree that global warming is real and we need to do all that we can to turn it around. I support efforts to move away from fossil fuels and towards the use of renewable energies.

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

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

Climate Change is a serious problem facing our planet. 97% of scientists agree that global warming is real and we need to do all that we can to turn it around. I support efforts to move away from fossil fuels and towards the use of renewable energies.

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

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

Yes, the Deepwater Horizon oil spill showed the potential environmental consequences from drilling in our oceans.

## Election Integrity:

***Big-money domination threatens our election system. Incumbents are unfairly insulated by district gerrymandering. Voters face political and racial***

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***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)

Yes, I believe we should encourage civic participation and make voting as convenient and easy as possible for the American people. I am proud that Illinois is one of the states moving towards automatic voter registration.

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

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

Yes, too many minorities are being disenfranchised by Republican voter suppression efforts. I believe we should encourage civic participation and make voting as convenient and easy as possible for the American people.

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

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

Yes, I believe we should encourage civic participation and make voting as convenient and easy as possible for the American people. Illinois is one of many states that has Same Day Registration in the majority of state counties.

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

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

Yes, I believe we should encourage civic participation and make voting as convenient and easy as possible for the American people. Having strict voter ID requirements ends up discriminating against minority communities.

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

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

Yes, I believe we should encourage civic participation and make voting as convenient and easy as possible

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for the American people.

**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)**

Yes, I believe we should encourage civic participation and make voting as convenient and easy as possible for the American people. Early voting helps many Americans vote who might otherwise not be able to because of work, family, and other responsibilities.

## 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)

Yes, I support a financial transaction tax to help fund critical government investments in education, infrastructure and other needed public investments.

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

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

Yes, I have long supported the fight for a \$15 per hour minimum wage indexed to inflation. On the Cook County Board I introduced and secured passage of a county ordinance leading to a minimum wage of \$13 per hour by 2020 and also required paid sick leave for employees in Cook County.

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

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

Yes, I support policies that promote job growth and full employment. Investing in putting Americans back to work building roads, dams, bridges and parks will help strengthen our economy.

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

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

No. While there are many parts of this bill to support, I am concerned about regressively raising Social Security taxes on low-income workers.

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

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

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Yes, I support increasing benefits and extending the solvency of Social Security for decades more by eliminating the earnings cap and including investment in come so that the wealthiest Americans pay into Social Security at the same rate as everyone else.

**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)

Slavery and racial discrimination has had lasting harmful effects on the African American community. I believe we should focus on eliminating government policies that negatively impact African Americans and by investing in the African American community.

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

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

Yes. No women should be subject to harassment in the workplace and I support Congress taking action to ensure that women have a fair process to report and address workplace harassment.

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

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

Yes, no person should be subject to harassment in the workplace.

**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)

Yes. Many Puerto Ricans have had to flee from the island to Chicago because of debt crippling the island and the devastation of Hurricane Maria. I support efforts to forgive Puerto Rico's debt, give disaster relief aid and invest in the long term economic development of the island.

**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

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

I support reasonable gun controls on the sale and ownership of guns, such as assault rifles, that is clearly within the bounds of the Constitution. Such controls include a unified federal background check system for gun sales and limits on certain kinds of rifles that are not designed for sport use. The 2nd Amendment guarantees rights for sport uses and militias, such as the National Guard. Constraints on the sale and ownership of certain types of guns will not compromise our constitutional rights or our safety.

### **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)

To help Puerto Rico we need to do four things. First, we need to help the island recover from Hurricane Maria with disaster aid. Congress has still not passed an aid bill for Puerto Rico. This should be a priority for Congress to immediately act on. The aid package must be adequate to address the estimated \$100 billion of damages. The administration's initial request is not even close to sufficient to help the island recover from Hurricane Maria.

Second, we need to changes laws that discriminate against Puerto Rico. Third, Puerto Rico's current debt is an anchor dragging down Puerto Rico's chances for an economic recovery. We need to forgive this debt burden. Finally, we must invest in the island's long-term economic development. There are more than 5 million Puerto Ricans living on the mainland and we must not turn our back on the 3 million Americans on the island.

## **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.***

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

**Sponsor:**      Rep. Michael Capuano

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

The financial crisis demonstrated the dangers of letting the financial industry operate unregulated. We need prevent Banks from becoming too big to fail.

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**HJ Res 88** Constitutional Amendment to regulate corporations  
**Sponsor:** Rep. Jim McGovern

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

Corporations are accumulating too much power in our current system. I support an overturn of the Citizens United decision, campaign finance reform, and other measures to limit corporate power.

**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)

Campaign finance reform is critical challenge facing our democracy. I support public financing of elections and have introduced legislation at Cook County to start that at County elections. Removing corporate funding of elections and keeping individual contributions limited and transparent is important.

## **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.***

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

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

Yes, it is wrong to have corporations profit from detaining immigrants and other people. These corporate, for-profit prisons are less safe and more costly.

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

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

I oppose racial profiling and the devastating impact it has on minority communities.

**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)

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I believe it is better to invest in the future of your youth than in jails. My most significant accomplishment in my recent term on the Cook County Board is my leadership around the reform of the Cash Bail system, which has already resulted in a nearly 40% reduction in the jail population at Cook County Jail.

## 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 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)

I support the equal rights amendment to prohibit discrimination on account of sex.

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

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

I fully support paycheck fairness.

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

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

The seperation of Church and State is fundamental to our democracy. I oppose efforts to allow churches to become political and also oppose diverting public education funds towards religious schools.

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## 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.***

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

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

It is unacceptable that we have not secured the status of the 800,000 Dreamers through incorporating DACA into regular legislation. It will be my priority to do this in Congress.

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

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

America has always been a nation of immigrants, and in that tradition I do not believe we need to accept the false choice of either family unification or skilled labor immigrants. The U.S. needs both family unification and skilled labor migrants.

**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)

No one should be held or detained without having basic rights and protections.

## 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)

I support Free College For All.

**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)

The Federal Government should not be making a profit off of students, we should help graduates refinance and reduce their student debt burden.

## General

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

- Your campaign plan with some *detail*

A new Public Policy Polling survey of the Democratic primary in Illinois' open 4<sup>th</sup> Congressional district finds that Chuy Garcia is the overwhelming favorite to replace Luis Gutierrez in the House. 53% of voters support Garcia, with no other

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candidate even registering a double digit level of support. Carlos Ramirez-Rosa is at 7% and since the poll was taken has dropped out of the race and endorsed Chuy.

Richard Gonzalez and Proco 'Joe' Moreno are each at 4%, Sol Flores is at 3%, and Raymond Lopez is at 2%. Garcia is particularly dominant with Latinos, who make up the majority of the voters in the district. He's at 65% with them with no one else getting more than 8%. He also has majority support from women (53%) and men (52%) alike, and voters who live in the city of Chicago (54%) and elsewhere in the district (50%) alike.

Both of the high profile endorsements Garcia has already received in his campaign are likely to pay big dividends with voters. 65% are more likely to vote for him knowing that he's been endorsed by Bernie Sanders, including 47% who say that makes them much more likely to vote for him. Similarly 59% are more likely to vote for him knowing that he's been endorsed by Luis Gutierrez, including 41% who say that makes them much more likely to vote for him.

It's pretty unusual for somebody in an open seat Congressional primary to start out with a 46 point lead like Garcia has. He has such a formidable advantage that, particularly in a field with lots of candidates, it will be difficult for anybody to catch up with him.

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

So far we have raised more than \$225,000.

- grassroots support

Endorsements include:

Senator Bernie Sanders

Rep. Luis Gutierrez

Congressional Progressive Caucus PAC

Illinois State Federation of the AFL-CIO

SEIU State Council

Democracy for America

Our Revolution Illinois

Cook County Clerk David Orr

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- your campaign staff in place

5 Paid Staffers plus consultants; (b) Over 400 volunteers collected over 15,000 signatures in 5 days to get us on the ballot.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jesus G. Garcia". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and "G".

**Signature of Candidate**

1/24/18

**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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