



2018 Candidate Questionnaire - House

Candidate Name: Sameena Mustafa

Campaign Address:

Mailing Address: 4422 N. Ravenswood Ave., Chicago, IL 60640

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E-mail Address: info@sameenaforcongress.com

Office for which you are running: U.S. House of Representatives,
IL-05

Date of Election: Primary: March 20, 2018

Campaign Manager: Talha F. Basit

Phone: 872-210-4930 **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

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

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:

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

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

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

Yes

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

Yes

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

Yes

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

Yes

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

Yes

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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

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

Sponsor: Rep. Barbara Lee

Yes

H.R. 608 Stop Arming Terrorists Act

Sponsor: Rep. Tulsi Gabbard

I've read this bill and agree with its main proposition. I believe the bill in its current form contains language that is incomplete and open to interpretation. If elected, I will work to refine and pass this bill so that US taxpayer money is never used to fund terrorist activity.

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

Yes

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

Yes

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

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

Yes

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

Yes

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

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Yes

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

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

Yes

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

Yes

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

Yes

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

Yes

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

Yes

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

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

Yes

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

Yes

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

Yes

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

Yes

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

Yes

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

Yes

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

Yes

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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

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

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)

The government's poor response to natural disasters that disproportionately impact low-income regions and people of color, from hurricane Katrina to Maria, is a consequence of our unwillingness to invest in these communities, to fight climate change, and to assist those who need relief with the dignity all Americans deserve.

Congressional oversight of FEMA should demand transparency and accountability and ensure our response to natural disasters is not ad hoc, follows best practices and is carried out equitably. We must provide the necessary resources and funding for FEMA. As of September 1, 2017, more than a third of FEMA leadership positions remained vacant.

Congress should fully fund and support research efforts to prepare for future climate events. Many of our agencies, including FEMA, are operating with outdated information and responding to situations based on that information. Analysis of urban flooding and the impacts of climate change that would update flood maps must be completed by FEMA as requested in the Urban Flooding Awareness Act.

Natural disasters are a matter of national security, and we must respond to them with the same resolve and urgency. Providing basic services such as housing, electricity, access to clean water and medical care to Americans in crisis should never be a partisan decision, and the structural racism evident in our priorities must be openly addressed and eliminated.

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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

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

Yes

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

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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

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

Yes

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

Yes

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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

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

Yes

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

Yes

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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

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

Yes

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

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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.

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

Yes

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

Yes

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General

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

- **What is your campaign Plan?**

Our campaign plan is predicated on data from our polling that clearly demonstrates a preference for Sameena on both the candidate profiles and their positions on the issues among likely primary voters. We know the total votes needed to win and our inclusive platform, which addresses both economic and social issues, speaks to a broad base of voters in the district. We are also making a concerted effort to activate voters who have been consistently ignored by establishment Democrats.

We have a volunteer base of hundreds of engaged supporters and are canvassing and phone-banking everyday.

We are direct mailing a series of informational and policy pieces to educate voters on the candidate, the difference between Sameena and incumbent on the issues, and the historical importance of this race.

We have implemented digital strategies including social media, email, and texting campaigns.

Sameena attends every candidate forum for the 5th district, meets voters at neighborhood and issues-based events, and has organized additional community forums to speak with voters throughout the district.

She continues to earn media as a first-time woman candidate running for office in 2018. Most recently, she was featured on ABC7 news.

We have assembled a staff of experienced leaders with political-, community-, and issues-based organizing backgrounds for our GOTV efforts and are bringing new people on board every day.

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- **What is your fundraising plan?**

Our campaign budget is \$200,000. We are funded 100% by grassroots donations and have 1000+ unique donors. Sameena routinely holds fundraisers, house parties, and meet & greets, and dedicates hours a day to call time. Due to our endorsement by the grassroots progressive group, Justice Democrats, the campaign has received national exposure and raised money across the country. Justice Democrats have also provided the campaign with fundraising and field resources at cost.

Sameena is accepting no money from corporate PACs or special interest groups. We are aware of the unequal playing field this creates in relation to the resources available to the incumbent, and the optics a shoestring budget creates. But we know that, to quote Margaret Mead, a group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world.

We have found that because our message resonates with voters and because our candidate, staff, and volunteer base come from strong nonprofit and grassroots backgrounds, a dollar goes a long way on our campaign. We have a fully-operational campaign office, are heavily staffed with a hardworking and organized team, have earned media and endorsements, and have not had to forego any vital campaign resources.

We are in this to win.

- **Grassroots support**

Sameena has been endorsed by national and local grassroots organizations. She earned the endorsement of Northside Democracy for America on her first attempt, which is notable not only because of the difficulty of earning their endorsement (ex: Daniel Biss did not have the organization to win their endorsement on his first attempt as a candidate for Governor) but also because NDFA had endorsed the incumbent against whom she is running when he originally ran for the seat in 2009. Sameena flipped a grassroots endorsement.

Our campaign gathered three times the number of signatures necessary to get on the ballot and did so without a challenge, which is unheard of for a first-time candidate.

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The majority of the people working on our campaign are volunteering their time and energy in addition to their full-time jobs, internships and course loads. These volunteers are not just coming in for an hour a week to volunteer, but keeping late nights and early mornings, assisting with everything from policy and legal consulting to web and social media updates. We have everyone from excited college students and longtime activists to professors, librarians, social workers, veterans, and emergency responders contributing their time to our campaign.

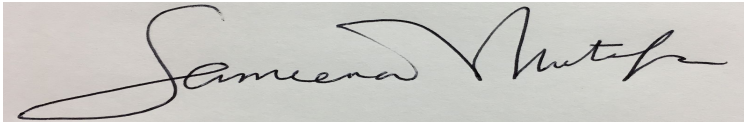
Whether it is knocking on doors and making phone calls or just going to a local restaurant or getting on the bus in a Sameena for Congress t-shirt, the grassroots support we have been shown is humbling and motivating.

- **your campaign staff in place**

The Committee to Elect Sameena Mustafa has 8 paid staff members and over 50 volunteer staffers. In addition to a Campaign Manager, we have a Campaign Coordinator, Outreach Director and well-staffed Field (10), Communications (6), Finance (8) and Data (6) teams. We also have legal and strategy consultants, policy advisors and media and IT personnel on staff.

We are proud of the fact that we not only have a grassroots campaign, but a diverse campaign. Women, people of color, LGBTQ, and first and second generation immigrants hold campaign leadership positions.

We have sought the smartest people available with progressive political organizing, issues advocacy, and community service backgrounds to create a campaign with a diverse pool of knowledge, experiences and perspectives that are shared across the campaign. We have a collaborative and inclusive campaign work environment and an open door policy. Everyone on our staff is encouraged to contribute to the decision-making process on their team and share their feedback, insights and ideas with campaign leadership. Our goal is to win, and along the way, provide countless progressives the skills and experience to lead future political campaigns.

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in black ink. The signature appears to read "Samuela Nuteka".

Signature of Candidate

Date 1/24/2018

**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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