

2018 Candidate Questionnaire - House

Candidate Name: Derrick Crowe

Campaign Address: Box 908, Manchaca, TX, 78652

E-mail Address: dc@electcrowe.com

Office for which you are running: U.S. Congress, TX-21

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

Campaign Manager: Matthew Krausse

Phone: 512-766-9890

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

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.

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.

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

Yes.

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

No, because of this provision: "The bill also provides for a gradual reduction in the corporate income tax rate to 32% in taxable years beginning in 2018 and 28% in taxable years beginning after 2021." Carbon taxes should not be used to reduce the corporate tax rate.

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

Yes, with a caveat. This date target is too weak. A 2050 target for a net-carbon-zero economy will be far too late and guarantee we will blow the carbon budget for staying below 2°C. To hit the Paris targets in a way that is done on the basis of equity regarding poorer countries, OECD countries have to hit a 2035 target. Thus, this portion of the bill should be adjusted to hit those targets:

"The bill amends the Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 to create annual caps on fossil fuel electricity beginning in 2022 and ending in 2050 when it is phased out."

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

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.

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.

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.

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, and effective federal responses to future events? (No more than 250 words)

Under the National Disaster Recovery Framework, FEMA is tasked with working with states to implement disaster recovery plans--with states in the lead. Part of the problem with the execution of disaster recovery plans is that most states do not have a NDRF-based disaster recovery plan in place prior to a disaster, meaning the ad-hoc responses to disasters will execute along lines of privilege and power in a given community as communities scramble to get back on their feet. GAO recently found that many states' officials do not understand the NDRF, don't create NDRF-based plans, and FEMA has not done a great job monitoring the development of these plans or their implementation. So, lacking a base of shared knowledge and commitments to a pre-disaster-made set of principles and plans, states working with FEMA won't account in advance for the community and economic justice issues that are bound to emerge in times of community tension and scarce resources, and plan accordingly.

Following GAO's recommendations, Congress should force FEMA to review and report on its NDRF education outreach and require it create a set of best practices to disseminate across the network of FEMA field offices. Congress should require that these practices include community justice components and take into account the needs of marginalized or disadvantaged communities, and hold hearings with community and environmental justice advocates to learn more about what those principles should entail.

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

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.

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.

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 pf 2017
Sponsor: Rep. Suzan DelBene

Yes.

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.

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.

General

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

- Your campaign plan with some *detail*

Our general plan to win this election is to turn out falloff voters who tend to stay home during a normal midterm election to make up the margin of victory typically enjoyed by Republicans in this district. That means fighting for progressive policies like Medicare for All, climate change action, raising the minimum wage, and ending the student debt crisis.

We need to slow down the Republican vote in rural areas and in the I-35 corridor, and to do so we will offer a set of policies that can positively impact the lives of voters in those communities, including funding for rural broadband access.

To provide the grassroots power to win in this district, we are running a person-to-person, truly grassroots campaign that focuses on direct voter contact, not paid advertising, and coalition politics, not D.C.-based image handling. By doing so, we are generating a grassroots wave and reconnecting voters in this district to politics who might have otherwise stayed home.

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

We continue to raise the funds needed to execute our strategy for this race, having raised a six-figure sum thus far. We have well over 2,000 individual donors and we continue to expand that list every week.

On the other side of the primary, with the ambiguity in this race resolved, we expect to be able to increase our fundraising by an order of magnitude, reaching out to a diverse donor base that is waiting to see who wins the primary.

In the meantime, we've secured national, state, and local endorsements from progressive groups with diverse, small-dollar, grassroots fundraising bases, and we anticipate being able to reach out to those bases to seek further support in addition to building our direct fundraising bases.

Just as important as the funds we are raising are the funds we are not raising: we refuse to take corporate PAC money, and if corporate lobbyists donate to our campaign, we donate the funds to progressive causes.

- grassroots support

When Democrats get together to vote about this race, they tend to vote for us. Our grassroots support is evident not only in our weekly volunteer turnout, which is

substantial, but also in our group endorsements, which far outpace those won by any other candidate in this race:

- Blue America
- Democracy for America
- Justice Democrats
- National Nurses United
- The People for Bernie Sanders
- Our Revolution, including the Central Texas, San Antonio, Texas statewide, and national OR groups.
- Austin Young Democrats
- Left Up to US
- Circle C Area Democrats, the largest Democratic club in Travis County
- UT University Democrats
- Bexar County Tejano Democrats
- Bexar County Young Democrats
- Bexar County Young Tejano Democrats
- Northeast Bexar County Democrats
- San Antonio AFL-CIO
- San Antonio DSA
- Stonewall Democrats of San Antonio

• your campaign staff in place

Our campaign manager, Matthew Krausse, is an experienced organizer and campaign lead, having worked for Rebecca Bell-Metereau in her campaigns for the Texas State Board of Education, and he also played a key role locally in the Bernie Sanders for President campaign.

Our field director, Emily Isaac, comes to us from National Nurses United after organizing for the Sanders for President campaign.

We also have a finance director, Catina Voellinger, who is an experienced small business owner and operator, as well as a field staffer, Gary West, who has experience on a number of local campaigns.

We anticipate hiring additional San-Antonio-area staff after the primary.

2/13/2018

Derrick Crowe

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.**