



2018 Candidate Questionnaire - House

Candidate Name: Ricardo "Rico" Franco
Campaign Address: PO Box 27830 Fresno, CA 93729
E-mail Address: contact@ricofranco.com
Office for which you are running: US House
Date of Election: 5 June 2018
Campaign Manager: Sarah Bentley
Phone: 559-259-8899 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.

PDA National Endorsement Policy - 2018
Candidate Questionnaire – House – FINAL

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?

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.

PDA National Endorsement Policy - 2018
Candidate Questionnaire – House – FINAL

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)

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)

PDA National Endorsement Policy - 2018
Candidate Questionnaire – House – FINAL

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)

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)

PDA National Endorsement Policy - 2018
Candidate Questionnaire – House – FINAL

H.R. 4867 No Unconstitutional Strike against North Korea Act
Sponsor: Rep. Ro Khana

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)

While I fully support a tax on pollution to help reflect long overlooked external costs to society, I see no reason to couple this with a corporate income tax cut.

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

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

Note: I am for H.R. 3314 OR H.R. 3671 as I fear enacting both at the same time may limit what our environmental goal is.

We should choose between HR 3671 and HR 3314

PDA National Endorsement Policy - 2018
Candidate Questionnaire – House – FINAL

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

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

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)

PDA National Endorsement Policy - 2018
Candidate Questionnaire – House – FINAL

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

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

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 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)

PDA National Endorsement Policy - 2018
Candidate Questionnaire – House – FINAL

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

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

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

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

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)

PDA National Endorsement Policy - 2018
Candidate Questionnaire – House – FINAL

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

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)

PDA National Endorsement Policy - 2018
Candidate Questionnaire – House – FINAL

"I believe all states must have a comprehensive plan to address disasters on all levels that can be audited and drilled by the federal government. This plan will include direct assistance from the federal government or private agencies when and where necessary at the discretion of states. Public-Private partnerships are crucial in order to save lives in times of disasters. I have created emergency preparedness plans for many clients in the field of security and know that each situation and location is unique. This is why local authorities must take the lead in creating plans, but the federal government must ultimately support those needs with either funding or equipment and personnel.

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)

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

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

PDA National Endorsement Policy - 2018
Candidate Questionnaire – House – FINAL

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.

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)

PDA National Endorsement Policy - 2018
Candidate Questionnaire – House – FINAL

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 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)

PDA National Endorsement Policy - 2018
Candidate Questionnaire – House – FINAL

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.

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)

PDA National Endorsement Policy - 2018
Candidate Questionnaire – House – FINAL

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.

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

PDA National Endorsement Policy - 2018
Candidate Questionnaire – House – FINAL

General

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

Your campaign plan with some detail

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

grassroots support

your campaign staff in place

PDA National Endorsement Policy - 2018
Candidate Questionnaire – House – FINAL

Our campaign plan is to take our progressive message directly to the voters by making phone calls and knocking on doors. We have volunteers knocking on all doors throughout the district every single day! They are local, they are passionate, and they are very skilled. I've used my expertise from the private sector to manage a very lean campaign that is still effective. I have not only refused to take corporate money, I also refused to spend money on political favors. Our money raised goes directly to assisting our dedicated volunteers.

We have shown thus far that we are able to raise the money needed to keep our campaign going. It is from our strong message that we have attracted so many passionate volunteers and allowed ourselves to run on a budget that is very lean. We are smart enough to know that both major political parties want to fundraise simply so they can funnel that money back into their own political machine and their own pockets. I have always had to be responsible for my spending and in this campaign will be responsible to all of my donors on how I'm spending their money.

Our supporters have not been bought, but rather have been inspired and driven to channel their passion into our campaign. We have volunteer coordinators, canvas operation leads, data specialists, flier production managers, visual graphic artists, and countless canvassers. Some are veterans of campaigns past and some are being politically active for the first time. All of them, however, live in the Central Valley and have skin-in-the-game.

We welcome any support and assistance from organizations like PDA, but also understand that we are not dependent on it. Most of us on the campaign have been underrepresented, underserved, and even forgotten so much in our lives that we know how to power through it and still be successful. If you want to join the only campaign in this race with the sheer determination and will to win that can defeat Nunes in November and truly bring some progress to our area I invite you to come walking with me!

Signature of Candidate

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.



Signature of Candidate

3/17/18
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.**