



## **2018 Candidate Questionnaire - House**

Candidate Name: Ryan Khojasteh  
Campaign Address: 211 Hugo Street, San Francisco  
E-mail Address: jackie@khojastehforcongress.com  
Office for which you are running: House of Representatives, CA-12  
Date of Election: 6/5/18  
Campaign Manager: Kristen Janson  
Phone: (415) 753-9482 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**

No

If not, why not?

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## 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?

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## 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 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)

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## 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)

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

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

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

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

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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)

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**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)

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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)

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

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**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)

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

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

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**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)

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## 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)

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

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

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

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

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**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)

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

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

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

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

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**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)

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**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)

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## 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)

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

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

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

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

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**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)

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**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)

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

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

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**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)

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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.2095**            Assault Weapons Ban of 2017  
**Sponsor:**        Sen. Dianne Feinstein

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

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**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)

I would support legislation raising FEMA’s annual budget to \$20 billion and mandating that Congress maintain a minimum balance of \$5 billion in a fund dedicated to reimbursing residents for 100% of the value of the damages they suffer.

I would also support Senator Blumenthal’s call for a Congressional investigation into the response to Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico, so that the results of that investigation may be made public, compared to the results of the investigation into the response to Hurricane Katrina, and used to formula effective policy solutions that ensure future federal responses are more effective and equitable.

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

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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)

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**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)

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

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

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

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**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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## 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)

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

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

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

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

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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)

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

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

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**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)

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

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**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)

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## General

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

- Your campaign plan with some *detail*

On my 24<sup>th</sup> birthday, November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017, I announced my candidacy to represent California's 12<sup>th</sup> Congressional District with a [speech](#) in front of the US Capitol and an [announcement video](#). I had spent the past several months meeting with local progressive leaders to assess the viability of my candidacy and assembling a campaign team.

Since announcing, I have begun going out into the community to engage with voters and share my vision for the progressive policies that will shape the future of the Democratic Party and the United States. I have grown close with my amazing campaign staff, without whom none of this would be possible. I have had the honor of speaking to a number of local Democratic clubs, earning the pre-endorsements of the Bernal Heights, Richmond, and San Francisco Black Young Democratic clubs as well as the endorsements of the San Francisco Young Democrats and the San Francisco Latina/o Young Democrats.

Last month, we opened our campaign office at 211 Hugo Street, begun ordering bulk amounts of literature, window signs, and buttons and begun hitting the streets with volunteers every Saturday and Sunday to canvass various precincts, as well as hand out literature and speak with voters at various busy intersections. We intend to continue turning out our staff, interns, and volunteers every day to get our message out and engage with as many voters as possible.

Our team also attended the California State Democratic Convention where we hosted an exhibitor booth and I spoke to a number of different caucuses. This Sunday, my team and I will host a booth at Sunday Streets, which we will continue to do at every Sunday Streets event through the election.

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This month, I am scheduled to speak to the Harvey Milk LGBTQ Democratic Club, the San Francisco Berniecrats, the Alice B. Toklas Democratic Club, the League of Pissed off Voters, the Brownie Mary Democratic Club, and ILWU Local 10.

Though I will continue to compete for endorsements and engage with reporters as I have so far, above all else my commitment in this campaign is to reaching as many voters as possible.

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

Though the incumbent in this race obviously has a financial advantage of David versus Goliath proportions, I am proud to have the second most cash on hand in the race by a fair margin. I am the only candidate in this race who has been able to raise enough money, and spend it wisely enough, to open up a campaign office out of which we run our field strategy.

I have been extremely encouraged by the number of individual contributions I've received from donors online who resonate with my story and believe in the policies we stand for; without which we would not be operating at the level we are today. Additionally, I have hosted several fundraisers throughout the Bay Area at friends' and supporters' houses where I've had the opportunity to earn the support of various progressive activists working to take back our Congress.

- grassroots support

No other candidate in this race has come close to mobilizing as many diverse, young people as we have. I would be nowhere today if it weren't for the support of a large part of the progressive community in San Francisco who have mentored me and provided me with the knowledge and resources necessary to get my message out as effectively as possible. I am honored to have the support of activists who have worked on various different local campaigns in the city and bring a unique variety of experiences that we are able to draw from.

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One reason I believe we have built up such strong grassroots support is that I'm not seeking to frame this candidate about one district, one candidate, or one incumbent, I'm framing it as a referendum on the future of the Democratic Party. I'm posing the question of whether we will continue to be the party of corporate, beltway neoliberalism, or whether we will make room for the voices that have been silenced in our national debate? In the process I'm encouraging anyone else out there with a passion for the issues that they have lived first hand to run for office, because if I can do it here in San Francisco, against such a powerful incumbent, they can do it anywhere. I'm working with my team to launch a series of videos titled "How to Run For Office" that documents our journey and teaches other potential candidates how to run themselves. I believe that a true grassroots campaign is one focused not on an individual their personality, but on a movement the ideas behind it.

- your campaign staff in place

<https://www.khojastehforcongress.com/meet-our-team>

Our senior campaign staff currently consists of Kristen Janson, campaign manager; Nicolette Lafranchi, deputy campaign manager; Jackie Thornhill; communications director, Kara Zarkades; Field Director, and Anoop Chaganty, creative director.

*Ryan A. Khojasteh* [Signed Electronically]

3/10/18

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**Signature of Candidate**

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**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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